



ENGSO Forum 2013 Conclusions

16th ENGSO Forum was organised in Strasbourg, France on 21-22 October. Beside the update on current European sport policy and a panel discussion on upcoming European elections with MEPs and candidates, the topic of ENGSO Forum was good governance. ENGSO Forum included a session on good governance of sport organisations and another one on integrity of sport. According to the discussions ENGSO concluded the following:

Good Governance

- The importance of good governance in sport and its basic principles were acknowledged.
- There is not just one definition of good governance. It can be a decisive tool to be used to increase effectiveness, inclusiveness and reputation. Furthermore, good governance can be used as a condition for better cooperation among different stakeholders and as a model for enhancing the development of a sports organisation. Even though there is no precise definition of good governance, there are clear principles (transparency, accountability and participation etc.), according to which a common understanding on good governance can be defined.
- Sport Organisations have to work on good governance. On one hand it is the basis for the autonomy of sport. On the other hand it is also a way to strengthen and develop the organisation itself e.g. through better inclusiveness and efficiency.
- There is no “one size fits for all” model as sport organisations vary e.g. with regard to their size and level of professionalisation. However, a common understanding on good governance in an organisation should be defined on clear principles.
- Good governance is a “state of mind” and constant work to improve the governance of an organisation. It is an on-going process.
- Thanks to the ‘Sport 4 Good Governance’ (S4GG) project, financed by the EU Preparatory Actions 2011 and lead by the EU Office of the European Olympic Committees, in which ENGSO was a partner, a toolkit was produced based on the IOC Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance, with the help of which sports organisation have an opportunity to evaluate their level of good governance.
- ENGSO recommends its members and other sport organisations to develop their own governance within their sport organisations. [S4GG Toolkit](#) is one tool to help in this process and to gain an in-depth understanding on good governance in one’s sports organisation.



Integrity of Sport

- Match-fixing is considered to be the biggest threat to sport. Information on the reasons, risks, and seriousness of match-fixing, as well as on the development of sport betting and organised crime in the last centuries, was shared in the ENGSO Forum. Also possible solutions and ways to fight this problem were presented.
- In the last decades, the number of betting companies has risen significantly from around 250 in the 1990's to around 7.500 today. The gross gaming revenue extends today to around €16 billion compared to €4 billion prior to 1995. Parallel to the rise of the sports betting market, the number of criminal activities has risen dramatically. It is estimated that one third of the worldwide sports betting market is illegally producing hundreds of millions of euros annually. Money collected through bribery can add up to €40.000-600.000 per game.
- Cooperation between different stakeholders (governments, sport movement, betting organisers, regulators etc.) is extremely important to win this battle. Furthermore, coordination of the different ongoing processes of e.g. Council of Europe, EU and sport organisations is needed.
- Education, awareness-raising and prevention activities are crucial. It is important that these activities reach also youth and young athletes.
- In the fight against match-fixing, ENGSO promotes awareness raising, education, prevention, cooperation and active stakeholder participation with the help of existing good practice examples, such as the [European Lotteries Sports Integrity Action Plan](#) or the [Norwegian Action Plan Against Match-Fixing](#).
- ENGSO is a partner in a project of the Institution of International and Strategic Relations (IRIS) 'What national networks to fight against match-fixing?' which is a great opportunity to gain information about the specific risks in the country of residence and to identify good practices at national level. ENGSO supports the participation of its member organisations in the IRIS project, in the framework of which national seminars are organised in 22 EU countries.