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Tweets of the month



SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 21 September

#SIGGS Strategic Workshop for National Sport Federations on #GoodGovernance with @DOSB and #LeadershipAcademy today

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 16 September

Sport Clubs are invaluable partners in a #BeActive society! #EuropeanWeekOfSport #EWoS @EuSport @TNavracsicsEU

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 15 September

Niels Nygaard President @DIFidraet contributes to panel on #GoodGovernance at #EWoS Flagship Event #BeActive

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 9 September

Check out the #SIGGS Project exhibition stand at European Week of Sport #BeActive Flagship Event on #GoodGovernance 15/09 Brussels @EuSport

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

In June, we reported on two decisions of the European Court of First Instance regarding state aid for non-profit sport organisations. In both cases, “Deutscher Alpenverein” and “Hamr-Sport”, the judgement of the Court was not only in favour of grassroots sport in Europe, it also provided an impressive justification for its future promotion, therefore paving the way for a different treatment of profit and non-profit actors in sport and highlighting the important role of grassroots sport in our societies. Both, the incorporation of sport in the new block exemption regulation on state aid in 2014 and the judgements of highest European Courts have clarified the legal situation and allowed a preferential treatment of grassroots organisations in Europe.

The next challenge that sport federations have to face in these days is the application of European antitrust law. A few days ago, the European Commission sent a “Statement of Objection” to the International Skating Union (ISU). Apart from the question if in this single case ISU has breached EU law or not, we should better explain the important role of federations in the “European Sport Model” in general and exemplify why the pyramidal structure of sport is justified and in line with European laws. In previous judgements (e.g. MOTOE case), the European Court came to the conclusion that EU competition rules do not preclude in principle that sports associations may be given special rights to monitor and authorise sports events, even where they themselves have a direct commercial interest in the matter. The key issue lies in the manner in which the sports associations exercise these special rights in practice.

In this context, it is important to underline that there is a direct link between grassroots sports, as promoted by the European court in the above mentioned cases, and the activities of federations to develop their respective sport. Without the existing solidarity mechanisms established by federations, their investments in youth sport, in education of referees or in the development of women sport, grassroots sport in Europe would not be on the same level as today. A pure economic assessment of sport federations would neglect their important contribution to grassroots sport in Europe that is based on voluntary work in sport clubs.

The adoption of the new Work Plan of Sport Ministers will be on the agenda of the upcoming Maltese Council Presidency in the first semester of 2017. As reported, the EOC EU Office has already entered into discussion with different stakeholders at European level. After having assessed the current Work Plan, the EOC EU Office is convinced that a more “solution-driven approach” is needed. European Sport Policy should only take up issues where the European level can provide an added value in order to contribute to solutions for existing challenges in sport. The current model of producing legally not-binding deliverables without any implementation and follow-up should no longer be followed. More concrete actions, more flexibility regarding policy fields and better coordination with relevant stakeholders are necessary changes.

In the meantime, the SIGGS Project of the EOC EU Office, dealing with the implementation of Good Governance in Sport, just held a successful Strategic Workshop in Germany. With the remaining Workshop in Luxembourg and the Final Conference on 29 November in Brussels, two important activities are still ahead of us, before the project is running out at the end of 2016. But even without European funding the SIGGS self-evaluation tool will remain open and the EOC EU Office intends to continue the concrete implementation of good governance principles with National Olympic Committees and related federations in 2017.

Enjoy your read,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund'.

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

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EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

European Commission publishes proposals on copyright and transmissions

On 14 September, the European Commission published several proposals on the modernisation of copyright at the occasion of President Juncker's State of the Union speech. The proposals are part of the Digital Single Market Strategy (DSM), adopted in May 2015. Regarding Copyright, the Commission had set out its strategy and timeline in a communication and published a first legislative proposal regarding cross-border portability of online content last December (see previous Monthly Reports).

The aims of the modernisation of copyright are twofold: adapting rules to a new environment of digital technologies and services, as well as giving consumers a wider choice and access to content online and across borders. These developments would have a large impact on the broadcasting of sport events, and call the predominant practice of territorial licences in question.

The new proposals build on the principles of the [Satellite and Cable Directive](#), which facilitates cross-border satellite broadcasting and retransmission by cable of TV and radio programmes from other Member States, and tries to apply similar principles to online transmission. As such, the Commission proposes to apply the "country of origin" principle, which establishes that the necessary rights only need to be cleared for the broadcaster's country of principle establishment. Similarly, the system of compulsory collective management for cable transmissions would also be applied to online services, making it easier to clear rights for retransmission operators. This is supposed to

cover online services such as the simultaneous online transmission of the broadcast, the possibility to catch up the broadcast programme afterwards for a period of time and the online provisions that complement the broadcast.

For sport broadcasts, a realisation of these changes would mean the de-facto end of territorial exclusivity as broadcasters in other EU Member States would not be obliged to block their programs online. This could eventually lead to the establishment of pan-European licenses only.

Discussions of the proposals in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU are to begin by the end of 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission: Press release \(14/09/2016\): "State of the Union 2016: Commission proposes modern EU copyright rules for European culture to flourish and circulate"](#)

[European Commission – Fact Sheet \(14/09/2016\): "State of the Union 2016: Questions and answers on the modernisation of EU copyright rules for the digital age"](#)

[Proposal for a Regulation laying down rules on the exercise of copyright and related rights applicable to certain online transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes](#)

[Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on copyright in the Digital Single Market](#)

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European Commission sends Statement of Objections to ISU on its eligibility rules

On 27 September, almost one year after having launched a formal investigation into the International Skating Union (ISU) eligibility rules, the European Commission has decided to send a Statement of Objections to the ISU.

With this Statement of Objections, the Commission informed the ISU that, following its preliminary views and assessments, the ISU eligibility rules seem to be in breach with EU Competition rules. The Commission referred to the ISU rules preventing skaters to take part in events not approved by the ISU, under threat of being permanently banned from competitions such as the Winter Olympics and the World and European Championships.

Margrethe Vestager, European Commissioner for competition policy, recalled that *“International sports governing bodies play a unique role in setting the rules of the game and ensuring standards of conduct. They are responsible for both the health and safety of athletes and for the integrity of competitions”* before adding that the Commission has *“concerns that the penalties the ISU imposes on skaters through its eligibility rules are not aimed at preserving high standards in sport but rather serve to maintain the ISU’s control over speed skating”*.

In June 2016, during its annual Congress, the ISU has amended the system of penalties related to its eligibility rules by including more proportionality in

sanctions. However, the Commission is still concerned that sanctions remain disproportionately punitive and would prevent non-ISU affiliated players from participating in international speed skating competitions.

The ISU expressed its surprise concerning the decision taken by the Commission and reiterated *“that independent organisers are able to organise international tournaments on the ISU international calendar”*. Furthermore, the Federation stated that *“the European Commission has failed to take adequate account of the importance of the legitimate objectives pursued by the ISU’s eligibility rules”*.

A Statement of Objections is a formal step in Commission investigations into suspected violations of EU antitrust rules and does not prejudice the outcome of the investigation. The ISU has two months to review Statement of Objections and to respond to the allegation of anti-competitive conduct.

There is no legal deadline for the Commission to complete antitrust inquiries into anti-competitive conduct.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of the European Commission](#)

[ISU press release](#)

European Week of Sport 2016: Flagship event on Good Governance in Sport

From 10 to 16 September, the European Commission organised the second edition of the European Week of Sport #BeActive. The EOC is an official European partner of the Week. Besides the EOC, a number of European federations have

become official partners of the European Week, including European Athletics, European Handball Federation (EHF) and UEFA. In addition, a number of National Olympic Committees are directly involved in the delivery of the European

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Week in their countries, in the role of National Coordinating Body (e.g. Czech Republic, Slovenia, France and the Netherlands) or in support of their national Ministries. In the Partner Corner of this Monthly Report, the NOC of the Czech Republic reports on how the European Week of Sport was organised in their country.

This year's European Week of Sport was officially opened on 10 September with an Opening Ceremony in Košice, Slovakia. Throughout the European Week, many events have been organised at national level in the various countries of the EU.

In addition to the Opening Ceremony in Košice, the European Commission organised the EWoS Flagship event, on 15 September, in Brussels. The main topic of this year's Flagship was "Good Governance in sport".

The first part of the Flagship event allowed participants to discuss some key elements of Good Governance in Sport during a number of workshops discussing current challenges as well as future scenarios of sport governance. In parallel, an interactive networking session on the EWoS focus themes (Education, Workplace, Outdoors, Sport Clubs and Fitness Centres) was organised.

Following these activities, Martine Reicherts, Director General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, opened the afternoon session by underlining the growing interest of citizens to be involved in the European Week of Sport, highlighting the increasing number of registered events and participants for the edition 2016. Then, Simon Greenberg, Global Head of Rights at News Corp and Head of Dow Jones Sport, provided a keynote speech on Good Governance in sport titled "there is no monopoly on integrity of sport" in which he provided examples of governance failures in other sectors and explained how sport could learn from these experiences: "Don't wait to see what the ramifications of sport's current crises will be. Take the learnings from the financial and the UK newspaper industries, how one significant event at one company can quickly ensnare an entire

industry." He added that "Good initiatives are emerging: Olympic Agenda 2020, ASOIF's Governance Task Force, the previously mentioned EU Good Governance principles, the FIFA and IAAF reform programmes. This is setting sport on the right path by trying to institutionalise good corporate disciplines, but still more can be done and more quickly. There should be a more co-ordinated approach where we can all learn from each other and work together."



Following this keynote speech, Good Governance was discussed during two panel discussions gathering perspectives of various stakeholders from the sport world.

The first panel included Christa Prets, former MEP and Board member of ASKÖ Sport and Physical Education Committee, Jean Gracia, Vice President of European Athletics and interim CEO of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), Simona Kustec Lipicer, Associate Professor of Policy Analysis, University of Ljubljana and Pál Schmitt, IOC member. During the panel, it was discussed how sport federations can restore trust from stakeholders and the general public. In this regard, Jean Gracia stated that this can only be done by acts and concrete reforms. Jean Gracia and Pál Schmitt stressed that top-level scandals in sport can "endanger the whole system, masking the positive activities conducted by sport actors every day".

During the final debate, Niels Nygaard, President of the Danish NOC (DIF) and Member of the EOC Executive Committee, exchanged views on good

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governance and the autonomy of sport with Martine Reicherts, Lars-Christer Olsson, President of the Swedish Professional Football League, Chairman of European Professional Football Leagues, and Richard Parrish, Professor of Sports Law of the Edge Hill University. Niels Nygaard acknowledged the urgency to review the governance of sport organisations while referring to existing reforms within the world of sport.

The Flagship event was also an opportunity for the SIGGS (Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport) project, managed by the

EOC EU Office, to provide information on its upcoming tools and outcomes to the participants. For this purpose, the EOC EU Office had foreseen an information stand at the exhibition area.

The Flagship event was concluded by the announcement of a “Pledge to implement Good Governance in European Sport” proposed by the European Commission. With this pledge, interested sport organisations “pledge to promote and, where appropriate, to implement and follow-up the principles of good governance in sport”.

Commission gives guidance on public support not constituting state aid

On 21 September 2016, the European Commission (DG COMP) published five decisions on local support measures, which were not deemed to constitute state aid. One of these decisions, regarding the support of the BLSV Sportcamp Nordbayern in Germany, involves the funding of sport infrastructure. DG Competition took the occasion to clarify, which public support measures can be implemented by Member States without prior scrutiny by the Commission.

This publication follows similar clarifications through a notice in May 2016 and similar decisions in April 2015 that helped to clarify the situation since the adoption of the General Block Exemption Regulation in May 2014, which allows Member States to grant State aid in a wide range of sectors, without having to notify it to the Commission.

In the German case, Germany intends to support the construction of several sports facilities at the Sportcamp Nordbayern, in the region of Oberfranken. It will be open principally for

schools, non-profit sports clubs and social or educational activities and will not provide classic hotel services. The Commission found that this public investment would have no effect on trade between Member States and therefore involves no state aid, because it is targeted at a regional customer base.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission press release \(21/09/2016\): “State aid: Commission gives guidance on local public support measures that do not constitute state aid”](#)

[European Commission press release \(19/05/2016\): “State aid: Commission clarifies scope of EU State aid rules to facilitate public investment”](#)

[European Commission press release \(29/04/2015\): “State Aid: Commission gives guidance on local public support measures that can be granted without prior Commission approval”](#)

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Sport Intergroup meeting: Youth and Sport: “Team-up for inclusive societies”

On 27 September 2016, the Sport Intergroup of the European Parliament organised a meeting under the title of “Youth and Sport: Team-up for inclusive societies” together with the Youth Intergroup of the Parliament. The main aim of the meeting was to discuss how to include young people in society through sport and youth work.

After a general introduction by MEP Marc Tarabella as Co-Chair of the Sport Intergroup, the meeting was opened by Rein Haudenhuyse (VUB University) who stressed the importance to recognise that the inclusion in sports first requires an inclusion into society in general. In this regard, he outlined that regardless of economic or social background, every child should have the right to participate into sport activities and thus, have equal rights and conditions to grow and develop through sports.

Following these introductory statements, the agenda features two different panels. The first panel focused on the “Sport and Youth sector working on inclusive learning”. A number of good practice examples were presented including the Reading Stars project of the Leicester City Football Club and the Kicks Project of the Manchester City Kicks Programme. Furthermore, Laurent Petrynka, President of International School Sport federation, addressed the importance of promoting the values and interests of education through sport.

The second panel discussed “Sport and Youth Organisations as champions of social inclusion”.

Again a number of good practice examples were presented in addition to the ongoing Sport4Employability research project of the VUB University. The second panel also featured Lora Lyubanova as Board member of the European Youth Forum and Michael Leyendecker, representing ENGSO Youth and the German Sports Youth. Both the European Youth Forum and ENGSO Youth played an active part in the preparation of the meeting.

The Sport Intergroup was closed by Antonio Silva Mendes, Director of Youth and Sport of the European Commission, who outlined the uniqueness of interconnection among different groups, such as Sport and Youth, as the only way to succeed with gathered efforts. In addition, he addressed the need to make space for active participation of young people into sports through better education and moving sports into schools, which would contribute to developing healthy habits and life styles.

The EOC EU Office welcomes this initiative by the Sport Intergroup as it puts the mainstreaming of sport into practice by organising such a meeting together with the respective other body within the European Parliament. In this regard, the EOC EU Office hopes that this initiative serves as a good example of how sport can be discussed in a wider context together with relevant bodies not dealing directly with sport and thus how sport can be better mainstreamed into other relevant policy fields.

European Parliament Workshop on New Skills Agenda for Europe

On 8 September 2016, a common workshop for the Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and the Culture and Education (CULT) Committees was organised at the European Parliament in

Brussels. This Workshop is part of the preparation of the own-initiative report of the European Parliament on the New Skills Agenda for Europe.

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This Agenda was adopted by the European Commission on 10 June 2016.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss those ongoing and upcoming legislative procedures that are of particular relevance for the work of both Committees. During the first part of the workshop, the Commission presented the New Skills Agenda including: the Skills Guarantee, the revision of the European Qualifications Framework and the upcoming proposal for a revision of the Europass Framework. Furthermore, the Commission elaborated on modernisation of Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems with a view to make it more attractive. In a second part, experts presented their assessment based upon lessons learnt from research in these four areas to support the ongoing European Parliament work.

The speakers highlighted that while on one side in Europe there are more and more graduated

people, on the other side the percentage of unemployment is increasing significantly. Nowadays, another challenge that Europe is facing is that apart from the European citizens who need definitely help with their employability's skills, refugees and immigrants need to enter as well in the labour market, demonstrating the urgency for the European Union to take action.

The sport sector was not mentioned explicitly in the workshop. However, the New Skills Agenda for Europe contains several elements that are interesting in terms of employability within the sport sector including this revision of the European Qualifications Framework and the recognition of non-formal and informal learning.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study of the European Parliament on the New Skills Agenda](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

European Commission publishes annual work programme 2017 for the implementation of Erasmus+

On 5 September, the European Commission adopted its annual work programme for the implementation of Erasmus+. The document provides detailed information on the objectives, eligibility and award criteria of the different kinds of projects that can be financed under Erasmus+. The annual work programme for Erasmus+ is covering all actions, including the sport chapter.

For 2017, 39,246,400 EUR will be dedicated to the sport chapter under Erasmus+. With 5 Mio EUR of this total amount dedicated to Small Collaborative Partnerships, the Commission reiterated its willingness to give direct support to grassroots sports actors.

In addition, 22,841,400 EUR will be dedicated to the regular Collaborative Partnerships with 5.3 Mio EUR of this amount allocated to finance activities in the framework of the European Week of Sport 2017. The call for projects related to the European Week of Sport, which in 2015 and 2016 was handled separately, would be fully included in the general call of Erasmus+ Sport. And finally, 4 Mio EUR has been budgeted to finance non-for-profit European sport events.

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While the eligibility and award criteria remain similar, the priorities regarding the Collaborative Partnerships are the following:

- 25% of the budget for projects supporting participation in sport and physical activity including the European Week of Sport;
- 25% of the budget for projects supporting education in and through sport, with special focus on skills development, as well as implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes and projects supporting voluntary activity in sport;
- 25% of the budget for projects supporting the integrity of sport such as anti-doping, fight against match-fixing and good governance in sport;
- 25% of the budget for projects aiming at combatting violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport, projects aiming at encouraging social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport.

Similar to previous years, the work programme 2017 also foresees specific cooperation agreements with two international organisations “with highly recognised expertise that will strengthen the impact of sport initiatives at European level”. The Commission will support initiatives of the Council of Europe in the field of Gender equality as well as the fight against violence in sport while the EU will also join forces with World Health Organisation for tackling the pandemic of physical inactivity in Europe”.

Finally, the Commission announced the creation of a European Award for social inclusion in sport, with the organisation of a first event in the first half of 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[2017 annual work programme for the implementation of 'Erasmus+': the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport](#)

EPP Group organises hearing on the implementation of Erasmus+

On 29 September, the European People's Party (EPP) group in the European Parliament's organised a hearing on the implementation of Erasmus+. Accompanying the work of MEP Milan Zver (EPP, Slovenia), who is the responsible Rapporteur on the implementation of Erasmus+, this second hearing on the programme focused on the funding lines of youth, volunteering and sport.

The draft report by Zver had been published on 21 September (see link below) and criticises aspects such as low success rates, complexity of applications and the barriers for small organisations. The final Report is expected to be adopted in December or January.

The hearing was opened by Sabine Verheyen (Germany), EPP-Group coordinator for the CULT



Committee, and Milan Zver, who both insisted on the general success of Erasmus+ and the important role that the programme plays to engage young people in Europe with the EU and invest in their development. However, both also pointed to the current short comings and urged

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the European Commission to improve and simplify conditions for application and implementation.

In a first panel, moderated by Michaela Svojdova (Czech Republic), representatives of the Slovenian and the German National Agency, as well as of the European Youth Forum discussed the situation for the youth sector, before a second panel focused on volunteering and sports.

The latter was moderated by Santiago Fisas Aixelá (Spain), who reminded the attendees of the relative novelty of the sport programme and mentioned the small collaborative partnerships as a positive development. Felix Schäfer represented the EOC EU Office and presented the office's analysis of the results of the 2015 call for proposals. He emphasised the low share of the organised sport as project partners (30 %) and criticised the prevalence of large projects, explaining the barriers that grassroots sport organisation face concerning co-financing and administrative burden. He also pointed out positive developments like the introduction of a budget line for projects under 60.000 € with a minimum of only three partners from three Programme countries and recommended further improvements for the future.

Michal Rynkowski, who is responsible for Erasmus+ in the Sport unit of the European Commission (DG EAC), then explained that "Erasmus+ is a living instrument", and would be adapted year by year regarding the funded priorities, but also conditions, if necessary. He reported that the newly introduced Small Collaborative Partnerships had created major interest. Furthermore, he announced further changes for 2017 with the introduction of simplified grants, which should significantly

decrease the administrative and financial burden for sport organisations. In addition, he announced that the application deadline would be on 6 April 2017 and that the Sport Info Day would be organised at the end of January 2017.

The EOC EU Office has worked intensively over the past years to improve the conditions for grassroots sport organisations to get involved in the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. For instance, the EOC EU Office made a number of recommendations on the future implementation (see more information below). In this regard, the EOC EU Office welcomes the announced changes by the European Commission and is looking forward to the practical implementation of these simplified grants. The Office will closely follow developments and report on these changes in the upcoming months.

Readers will also find details of the Commission Work Programme for Erasmus+ in a separate article in this report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Agenda of the Hearing "Implementation of the Erasmus+ Programme from the aspect of youth, sport and volunteering" \(29/09/2016\)](#)

[EPP Group: Video report on the Hearing \(30/09/2016\)](#)

[Draft Report on the implementation of Regulation \(EU\) No 1288/2013 establishing 'Erasmus+': the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport' \(21/09/2016\)](#)

[Background paper EOC EU Office on Erasmus+ Sport 2015](#)

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SIGGS Project: Strategic Workshop and Steering Committee in Germany

The SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”), which started in January and which is coordinated by the EOC EU Office together with 11 partner organisations, is nearing its end with a Final Conference which will be organised on 29 November 2016 in Brussels. Nevertheless, a number of important project meetings will still take place before the Final Conference.

In that perspective, two important meetings were organised in September: the Strategic Workshop in Germany and the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee. Both meetings were organised in Frankfurt.

On 21 September, the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) welcomed over 30 participants for the German Strategic Workshop. Gathering representatives of the DOSB as well as national and regional sport federations, the Strategic Workshop provided the opportunity to present the SIGGS Project to a number of federations that did not take part in the self-evaluation yet as well as discussing the national results of the second evaluation round, which has been closed on 1 September. Around 15 national federations took part in this evaluation round in Germany.



Following a general presentation of the SIGGS tool as well as the results of the self-evaluation round by the SIGGS Project Management, the DOSB provided an update on their recent activities on Good Governance, with a focus on the Brochure on Good Governance in German

Sports. Then, following a presentation of a good practice example by the German Equestrian Federation, a discussion moderated, by Veronika Rucker, Director of the Leadership Academy of DOSB, enabled participants to discuss Good Governance at the German level and notably the exemplary Code of Conduct for Integrity in Federation Work recently published by DOSB.

On 22 September, the Steering Committee (SteerCo) of the SIGGS project met for the fifth time. Several topics featured on the agenda including a presentation of results of the second consultation phase and a discussion on the mid-term internal evaluation conducted by the European Observatory for Sport Employment (EOSE). In addition, a brief summary of each National Strategic Workshop was provided by the NOCs that are partners of the project.



Besides these presentations, the main element discussed by the SteerCo was the sustainability of the project. Florian Kaiser, from Leadership Academy of DOSB, explained the activities that will be conducted in term of sustainability during the upcoming months within the Work Package sustainability with notably the objective to prepare a report available for partners and external stakeholders with the aim to create recommendations for sport federations on how to improve their good governance strategies.

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The upcoming events within the SIGGS Project include the Strategic Workshop in Luxembourg, which will take place on 27 October, and the Final Conference will be organised in Brussels, on 29 November. The SIGGS Project management is currently finalising the agenda of the Conference.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website SIGGS Project](#)

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO organised Hearing on “The Way Forward for Grassroots Sport in Europe”

On 6 September, ENGSO organised a Hearing “The Way Forward for Grassroots Sport in Europe” at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event was hosted by MEP Hannu Takkula (ALDE, Finland), who is the Vice-Chair of the European Parliament’s Sport Intergroup. The aim of the event was to discuss the implementation of the Recommendations drafted by High-Level Group on Grassroots Sport. This High-Level Group was set up by Commissioner Navracsics last year and Co-Chaired by EOC Executive Committee Member Niels Nygaard.



In the discussions, it was clear that grassroots sport is and needs to remain an integral part of the EU sport policy. In his remarks, Deputy Director General of the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission, Jens Nymand

Christensen, highlighted the importance of mainstreaming sport into other policy areas, mentioning health policies as a good example. He said that the discussions with other sectors need to be deepened. MEP Virginie Rozière (S&D, France) agreed and raised social inclusion through sport as another good example where grassroots sport can contribute to tackling societal challenges.

Furthermore, several speakers underlined that supporting grassroots sport and improving its conditions need to be high on the agenda of the future Council Work Plan for Sport, which is planned to be adopted by the EU Member States during the first half of 2017.

In his conclusions, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, Szabolcs Horvath, said that the discussion was very fruitful with an excellent timing as the Commission is evaluating the next steps to implement the Recommendations on Grassroots Sport and he promised to pass on some ideas to the Commissioner.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[The Outcome of the ENGSO Hearing "The Way Forward for Grassroots Sport in Europe"](#)

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Czech Olympic Committee: European Week of Sport 2016 the Czech way

The Czech Olympic Committee, National Coordinator of the European Week of Sport (EWOs) in the Czech Republic, and one of the only 4 NOCs throughout the EU, which assume this position, has successfully concluded the 2016 edition with a great increase of registered events, new initiatives taking place, and BeActive messages reaching a wider audience than expected.

The most important tasks of National Coordinators are to motivate stakeholders to take part in the EWOs, to communicate about the Week, and to organise a national (opening) event. We have decided to build on last year's events and reinforce the link of the EWOs to our regular activities. At first glance, this model seems to have born fruits:

- We have managed to motivate 82 events to take part in EWOs with an expected number of 57 247 participants (over 150% increase compared to last year). We have put together a special motivational programme for that purpose;
- Almost 700 pupils from the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Hungary, together with tens of teachers, famous Czech Olympians and show business stars took part in the competitive part of our opening event, finals of a school-based completion OVOV (Olympic Winners' Badge);
- The BeActive village, organised for the first time at the fringes of the Finals of OVOV by the Czech Olympic Foundation (charity supporting children from a disadvantaged social environment), provided both general public and the competing pupils with the opportunity to try various sports such as korfbal, climbing, or surfing as well as some

Paralympics disciplines, and, at the same time, support the Foundation.

- We have closely cooperated with major Czech sport umbrella organisations and interlinked activities and communications campaigns with them;
- Thanks to an active, cooperative and innovative communications campaign, we have been able to reach a wide range of target groups, including parents on parental leave or the business community.



Even though we still need to do a proper assessment of all our activities, we can already say that this year's edition has been a great improvement over the last year's one and that we would like to build on this success also next year.

Why, you may ask, what does the involvement in the Week mean for our organisation? The EWOs is a good opportunity to highlight some of our priorities: promotion of sport and healthy lifestyles and motivating children to be active in and beyond the school setting. Thanks to the EWOs, we have also gained experience in EU project management, which we had been lacking before.

All in all, even though, a lot still needs to be improved, we consider our involvement as positive and enriching.

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NEXT MONTH

Dates in October 2016

4 October	<i>European Week of Sport Advisory Board meeting, Brussels</i>
5 October	<i>Meeting of the EOC EU Commission, Brussels</i>
20 October	<i>EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Minsk, Belarus</i>
21-22 October	<i>EOC General Assembly, Minsk, Belarus</i>
25 October	<i>Meeting Council Expert Group on Human Resources, Brussels</i>
27 October	<i>Strategic Workshop SIGGS Project, Luxembourg</i>