

– The House of European Sport –

Tweets of the month



SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 26 October

#SIGGS Strategic Workshop in Luxembourg tomorrow - Evening session on #GoodGovernance with #NOCLuxembourg @EOCEUOffice @FolkerF @EOCmedia

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 22 October

Director @EOCEUOffice @FolkerF reports on #EU activities at #EOCGA2016 covering @SIGGS_EU @EUErasmusPlus and future #EU Work Plan for Sport

EurOlympic

@EOCmedia 20 October

The new EOC logo has been revealed at the General assembly in Minsk. A mosaic of 50 pieces representing our 50 members! #EuroSportsFamily

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 4 October

On 13 October #SIGGS Project will feature at @EuroAthletics Member Federation Governance Workshop in Funchal #GoodGovernance

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 5 October

Tomorrow @EOCEUOffice is welcoming @EOCmedia #EOC EU Commission for their annual meeting - Agenda includes exchange with @EuSport @lelosy

Table of contents

Editorial 2

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Advisory Board discusses European Week of Sport 2016 3

Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport approaching the finish line 4

Study on Sport Qualifications published 5

Study on the contribution of sport to regional development through the Structural Funds finalised 6

European Commission publishes Work Programme 2017 6

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Erasmus+ Sport: Call for Proposals 2017 includes significant simplifications for sport 7

SIGGS evaluation tool presented and tested at European Athletics Convention 9

SIGGS Project: National Strategic Workshop in Luxembourg 10

INTERNALS AND VISITS

EOC EU Commission meets with European Union representatives in Brussels 12

European Olympic Committees' 45th General Assembly in Minsk 13

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO Forum 2016 took place in Sofia 14

NEXT MONTH

Dates in November 14

– The House of European Sport –

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The last months have seen several developments around Erasmus+, the EU funding programme that includes the funds dedicated to supporting grassroots sport around Europe. Since its start in 2014, the EOC EU Office has continuously worked to improve the programme's conditions and consequently achieve a better accessibility to sport organisations, and has supported its partners with their applications. Many of you will have read about our efforts, both in the Monthly Report, but also in dedicated publications, like our background papers analysing the results of the last calls.

In September, the last round of results were published and I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our office's partners from FIBA Europe, ENGSO and the Czech Olympic Committee, as well as the organising committee for the European Youth Olympic Games (EYOF) in Győr, Hungary, for their successful applications. We are interested to follow your efforts closely and readers will hopefully even have the opportunity to hear about the projects in our dedicated Partners' Corner.

Of course, we will again analyse the full results regarding the representation of organised sport and present the results in a future background paper as soon as the necessary data is published. In the meantime, the European Commission published the new call for proposals with deadline in April 2017 on 21 October, and we are happy to see that after the first step of introducing the small collaborative partnerships in 2016, further simplifications will be implemented. The simplified grants for both small and large collaborative partnerships mean that project applicants will be able to create and manage their budgets more easily and we are confident that this will make applications easier and more accessible for many grassroots sport organisations.

Looking at our very own Erasmus+ project, SIGGS, preparations are underway for the Final Conference, which will be organised on 29 November in Brussels. This will conclude the project on Good Governance, especially by presenting the outcomes, including the final version of the self-evaluation tool. We are pleased to announce that the conference will feature high-level speakers, such as Pierre-Olivier Beckers, IOC Member and President of NOC Belgium, Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the IOC, and Janez Kocijancic, acting President of the EOC to discuss good governance and the developments around SIGGS. It will also be a good moment to talk about the future of the self-evaluation tool and meetings in the frames of, for example, the EOC General Assembly and the 2016 European Athletics Convention (see dedicated articles in this report) have already indicated a high interest in the tool.

Enjoy your read,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund', written in a cursive style.

Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

– The House of European Sport –

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Advisory Board discusses European Week of Sport 2016

On 4 October, the Advisory Board for the European Week of Sport (EWS) met to discuss the implementation of the 2016 edition and look forward to 2017.

Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission reported that the Week had developed nicely in its second edition. He especially pointed towards the good cooperation with the current Slovak Council presidency, which culminated in the opening taking place in Košice creating a good atmosphere. He indicated that the flagship event was a bigger challenge, as two different subjects (sport and physical activity as well as good governance) were covered, but considered that it had generated “a good dynamic”.

Florence Mondin, the responsible Policy Officer for EWS, explained that 31 countries and 35 European Partners had taken part during the 2016 edition and praised the improved cooperation between the Commission and these key partners. She especially pointed out the better alignment of key messages that boosted the central message #BeActive.

She indicated that over 8.000 events had already been reported across Europe and that the Commission expected around 15.000 overall. Regarding online communication, the hashtag was considered very successful, especially as the own Twitter account of the Sport Unit increased the reach.

Partners and Coordinators are to receive a survey in the next weeks to give feedback on the week and the Commission will publish an evaluation report by mid-November.

In the following feedback round, the partners generally felt that the development was positive. Some considered that the topic of good governance for the flagship event did not fit the overall aims of the week as it distracted from the message of motivating citizens to be active. It was also proposed to strengthen the links between National Coordinators and European Partners further to enhance cooperation.

For the next edition in 2017, the Commission already informed that the dates would not be flexible anymore, but that the week would take place from 23-30 September. The week would continue having an opening event and a central flagship event or conference on a chosen topic. Regarding the focus theme, sport clubs and fitness centres will not share a day or topic anymore, but will be separated.

The National Coordinators will be asked to apply for funding by 15 December with the funding period meant to start in March 2017. For next year, the funding per country will increase to up to 100.000 €. The European partners are asked to submit their commitments by mid-January.

Meetings for partners and national coordinators are planned during the EU Sport Forum (8-9 March, Malta) and for May.

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Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport approaching the finish line

Members of the Council Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport (XG HR) met in Brussels on 25 October 2016 for their 5th meeting. The agenda was very full as the experts still have to finalise a number of deliverables before the end of the XG's tenure in the second quarter of 2017.

“Qualifications in sport” was the core topic of the morning session. To open the deliberations, representatives of the European Commission's contractor “PwC” presented the main conclusions of the Study on Sport Qualifications Acquired through Sport Organisations and (sport) Educational Institute. Fresh out of the press, the study presents the qualifications landscape in all EU Member States, both in formal education setting and in non-formal (sport organisations) environment, and draws general conclusions and recommendations (more information on page 5). Using the study as one of their main sources, lead experts (Andy Grant, Sports Coach UK, and Sergio Lara-Bercial, European Coaching Council) had prepared a draft of the XG's main output in this area – Report on the state of play concerning the inclusion of sport qualifications in NQFs with a reference to EQF – which was scrutinised by the experts after the first presentation. The final version of the Report will be presented to the Member States' representatives sitting in the Council Working Party on Sport in December.

Bridging the two main topics of the meeting - qualifications and employability - experts discussed the 2012 EU Dual careers guidelines and their implementation. The XG HR is expected to deliver a Report on the state of the implementation in all Member States. To facilitate the reporting exercise, the lead experts prepared a draft questionnaire which will be in circulated among Member States and observers in the first phase (deadline half-November) and among coaches and athletes in the second phase. The

report will draw from both the replies to the questionnaire and the recently published Study on the minimum quality requirements for dual careers. The report is due to be presented to the Council in the first quarter of 2017.

The afternoon session was dedicated to the issue of “employability.” Following the International Labour Organisation's presentations on its activities in this area and the progress report on the Study on the Contribution of Sport to the Employability of Young People in the Context of the Europe 2020 Strategy which is to be published in the first semester of 2017, members of the XG held a deliberation on the draft Recommendations on the contribution of sport to the employability of young people. The text, prepared by Marc Theeboom, lead expert from Belgium, provides a general outlook while narrowing down the scope of the topic to the NEETs (not employed and not in education and training) target group, it lists specific challenges and proposes a number of recommendations. In the following discussion, experts focused primarily on the draft recommendations which address stakeholders and organisational approaches as well as mapping, monitoring and evaluation, as more data and good practise examples in this areas are needed. The draft document will be finalised at the last meeting of the XG, which will take place on 1 December 2016 in Malta.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study on Sport Qualifications Acquired through Sport Organisations and \(sport\) Educational Institute.](#)

[Study on the minimum quality requirements for dual careers](#)

[Study on the Contribution of Sport to the Employability of Young People in the Context of the Europe 2020 Strategy](#)

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Study on Sport Qualifications published

The **Study on Sport Qualifications Acquired through Sport Organisations and (sport) Educational Institute** presents and analyses the very complex landscape of sport qualifications in the EU. Its main objectives are to (1) collect quantitative and qualitative data related to the qualified sportspeople in all EU Member States; (2) analyse the state of play of the inclusion of sport qualifications in the NQF/EQF, and (3) identify and assess the mechanisms which match the needs of the sport sector and the educational providers.

Result of an extensive data collection and thorough analysis, the following main findings are presented in the study:

- A substantial number of EU citizens obtain a qualification in sport every year: 3.9 million coaches, 3.7 million sport managers, and 1.5 million referees.
- Flanders can be given as a good practice example in terms of validation of non-formal and informal learning in sport. Several other countries have also adopted good systems.
- Based on the raw data from Eurostat, 500 000 workers were active in the sport economic sector in 2014 (narrow definition). If we consider all sport and fitness workers together with managers in the sport sector (under ISCO 342 and ISCO 143 codes), the total number of sport workers will be about 920 000.

Based on this analysis, the research team came to a number of general conclusions:

- There is no systematic approach across the EU in terms of collecting data on sport qualifications figures.
- There are no homogeneous educational paths and denominations of sport-related degrees, having impact on transnational employment of sport professionals.
- A higher level of detail is needed to understand the actual volume of people working in the sports sector.
- There is a good progress on NQF inclusion of sport qualifications but the process registers a high complexity in type, coverage and competent bodies involved at each national level.
- There are big difference and discrepancies among Member States in regulating sport professions.

Detailed information on the situation in each Member State (qualitative and quantitative data analysis, numbers of qualified people per segment, employment data, information on the recognition mechanisms) form a substantial part of the 1000 pages long study. The country info sheets serve as a good reference point for further work in this area.

MORE INFORMATION

[Study on Sport Qualifications Acquired through Sport Organisations and \(sport\) Educational Institute](#)

– The House of European Sport –

Study on the contribution of sport to regional development through the Structural Funds finalised

On 18 October 2016, the European Commission published the final report of the **Study on the contribution of sport to regional development through the Structural Funds** (ESIF) on their website. The study was commissioned by DG EAC of the Commission and implemented by the Centre for Strategy & Evaluation Services (CSES) and Blomeyer & Sanz – it looks at how sport projects can contribute to the political priorities of the structural funds.

The study analysed a wide range of projects from the last funding period in order to create a typology of successful contributions of sport to the structural funds. It hereby focused on “the economic and social benefits of sport”. The report provides a summary of this information from 229 projects, as well as 33 good practice cases in the following areas:

- Direct impacts on employment
- Innovation
- Sport Infrastructure & Regional Strategy
- Sport & Regional Strategy – General
- Sport & Urban Regeneration & Development
- Sport & Rural Development
- Integration with Tourism Strategy
- Integration with Cultural & Creative Industries
- Training of Sport Staff – Direct Skills Development

- Employability & Transversal Skills
- Contributions to Health Improvements
- Contributions to the Environment
- Social Cohesion & Reconciliation

Furthermore, an additional document gives practical guidance to organisations willing to develop own projects under the ESIF.

In addition, the study team has proposed to form a Sport Action Network as a self-help group to exchange information or provide mutual support in developing sport-based proposals under the ESIF. The EOC EU Office is following the developments of this network.

MORE INFORMATION

[European Commission: Press release \(18/10/2016\): “Study on the contribution of sport to regional development through the Structural Funds published](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

[Final report](#)

[Good Practice Case Studies](#)

[Mapping of Sport-based Initiatives – Project Fiches](#)

[Practical Guidance on Developing Sport and Physical Activity Projects under the European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\)](#)

European Commission publishes Work Programme 2017

On 25 October 2016, the European Commission presented its work programme for the upcoming year 2017. The document outlines the priorities for

the Commission’s work and is planned as a basis for discussions on a Joint Declaration on commonly agreed objectives and priorities with

– The House of European Sport –

the Council and European Parliament. The document is published with several annexes, outlining **21 key initiatives**, **18 so-called REFIT proposals** to improve existing legislation and **34 pending proposals** from the last two years, which should be swiftly adopted.

Even though the EU Sport Policy itself is not part of these priorities, several initiatives with potentially far-reaching effects on sport are part of these documents.

Included in the new initiatives is a comprehensive proposal “for the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework beyond 2020”, which will inter alia build the basis for funding programmes such as Erasmus+ Sport. Furthermore, the “implementation of the VAT action plan a definitive VAT system and on VAT rates”, expected for the third quarter 2017, could have an impact on the possibility of tax exemptions for sport clubs. As part of its comprehensive “Youth Initiative”, the Commission also plans “to improve tracking of outcomes for graduates but also young people who have followed vocational education and training”, which could have effects for the recognition of work, including voluntary in the sport sector.

Six of the 34 pending proposals highlighted for priority implementation also affect sport. This is especially true for the initiative under the “Connected Digital Single Market” headline, which includes cross-border portability, copyright, audio-visual media services and geo-blocking, and could all have profound effects on the licensing of sport broadcasting rights. Furthermore, the mid-term review of the current Multi-Annual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020 and proposed changes in financial regulations could have an impact on the accessibility of EU funding (see article in this report). The “Directive on Firearms”, which could have effects on competitive shooting, is also highlighted.

The EOC EU Office will follow and report on the discussions with the other EU institutions and the individual initiatives.

MORE INFORMATION

[European Commission: Press release \(25/10/2016\): “Juncker Commission presents third annual Work Programme: Delivering a Europe that protects, empowers and defends”](#)

[European Commission: Work Programme – key documents](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Erasmus+ Sport: Call for Proposals 2017 includes significant simplifications for sport

On 21 October, the European Commission published the 2017 Call for Proposals and the corresponding Programme Guide for Erasmus+ covering all actions, including the sport chapter. Organisations and institutions seeking funding in the framework of this call must comply with the

conditions for participation and funding expressed in this Guide. The document provides detailed information on aims, eligibility and award criteria of the different kinds of projects and is therefore the main background document for all applicants.

– *The House of European Sport* –

During the first years of funding, the EOC EU Office has continuously pointed out shortcomings in the implementation of the sport programme of Erasmus+ preventing grassroots sport organisations from benefiting from funding. After the positive signal through the introduction of small collaborative partnerships in 2016, the EOC EU Office is happy to **announce that further simplifications have been included for 2017**. These should make both the application and implementation of projects easier through **the wide application of unit costs**.

This will simplify the drafting and implementation of the budgets for small and large collaborative partnerships, as applicants will choose different budget points from a pre-set “menu of grant items” according to the activities they plan. For that they can choose from four categories of budget items:

1. **Project management and implementation** (unit cost covering project management, basic learning/teaching/training materials, tools, local project activities, information, promotion and dissemination);
2. **Transnational project meetings** (unit cost covering participation in meetings between project partners);
3. **Intellectual outputs** (unit cost covering intellectual outputs and tangible deliverables of the project);
4. **Multiplier events** (unit costs covering costs linked to national and transnational conferences, seminars, events, sharing and disseminating the intellectual outputs realised by the project).

All application and funding rules including the amounts for the different unit costs can be found on pages 226 to 244 of the Erasmus+ programme guide.

Regarding the **collaborative partnerships** (minimum of 5 partners from 5 countries, maximum funding of 400.000 EUR), the budget allocation looks as follows:

- approximately 25% to projects supporting the participation in sport and physical activity (priorities 1 and 2);
- approximately 25% to projects supporting the 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 (priorities 3 and 4);
- approximately 25% to projects supporting the integrity of sport such as anti-doping, fight against match-fixing and good governance in sport (priorities 5, 6 and 7);
- approximately 25% to projects aiming at combatting violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport, projects aiming at encouraging social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport (priorities 8 and 9).

The **small collaborative partnerships** (minimum of 3 partners from 3 countries, maximum funding of 60.000 EUR) should aim to:

- Encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport;
- Promote European traditional sports and games;
- Support the mobility of volunteers, coaches, managers and staff of non-profit sport organisations;
- Protect athletes, especially the youngest, from health and safety hazards by improving training and competition conditions;
- Promote education in and through sport with special focus on skills development.

The **Not-For-Profit Sport Events** are to support the same objectives as in the last call:

- Volunteering in sport;
- Social inclusion through sport;
- Gender equality in sport;

– The House of European Sport –

- Health-Enhancing Physical Activity;
- Implementation of the European Week of Sport.

In 2017, the deadline for applications is put earlier than over the last years – the call ends at 6 April 2017, 12.00 (noon), Brussels time.

The table below provides an overview of the actions, their budgets and specific criteria. The EOC EU Office will provide further information on the changes in the Erasmus+ sport chapter together with an analysis of the results of this year's call in its upcoming publications.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Erasmus+ Call for Proposals 2017](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme guide 2017 2017 annual work programme for the implementation of 'Erasmus+'](#)

[Commission Decision of 13.9.2016 amending Commission Decision C\(2013\)8550 authorising the use of lump sums, reimbursement on the basis of unit costs and flat-rate financing under the "Erasmus+" Programme](#)

Budget (EUR)	Number of grants	Max. EU grant (EUR)	Project duration (months) / Timeframe for events	Start of eligibility period	Deadline for application
Collaborative Partnerships					
22 841 400	78	400 000	12-36	1 January 2018	6 April 2017
Small Collaborative Partnerships					
5 000 000	85	60 000	12-24	1 January 2018	6 April 2017
Not-for-Profit Sport events					
4 000 000	12	organised during EWoS 300 000; Not related to EWoS: 500 000	Event in 2018, overall 1 year	1 November 2017	6 April 2017

SIGGS evaluation tool presented and tested at European Athletics Convention

On 13 October, European Athletics organised a Member Federations Workshop in the framework of the annual European Athletics Convention which was organised in Funchal, Madeira. For this year's Workshop, European Athletics decided to put good governance and more precisely the

implementation of good governance by the national federations, at the centre of the discussions. With athletics at various levels going through a reform process, it was a call to their member federations to engage in the topic at national level as well. The Workshop sparked a

– The House of European Sport –

keen interest among the national athletics federations as over 60 participants from 32 national athletics federations participated.

The keynote speech of the Workshop was provided by Alex McLin, former-CEO of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) and CAS Arbitrator. McLin is also part of both the IAAF and the ASOIF Governance Task Force. Especially on the latter, he updated the participants on the recent developments in terms of principles, guidelines and tools for International Federations. His keynote speech was titled “Worthiness” referring to the need to build legitimacy as autonomy and the right of self-government can only be guaranteed when a sport organisation is governed well in line with sound governance principles. In this regard, he stressed the importance of introspection and regular self-evaluation as crucial activities for sport organisations.



Following the keynote speech, Curt Högberg of the Swedish Athletics Federation, provided the example of how one national athletics federation had dealt with the implementation of good governance. He also included a comparison with other Nordic athletics federations. One particular

element that sparked an interesting discussion was the use of an election committee that is evaluating suggested candidates for Board positions and subsequently is providing advice to the General Assembly on these candidates.

As the importance of self-evaluation became clear in the presentations of these two speakers, Matthias Van Baelen presented the self-evaluation tool that was developed in the framework of the SIGGS Project and which is targeting national sport organisations (NOCs and national sport federations). Following this introduction, the participants were able to fill in the self-evaluation and consult their own Action Plan. In particular, the ability to get customised guidance and Action Plan, which is generated automatically and tailor-made to the situation of national federations, was highly welcomed by the participants.

To conclude the Workshop, Bill Glad of European Athletics raised the question on “*what’s next*” for good governance in the national athletics federations and how European Athletics can support the federations. In this regard, several proposals were mentioned including the organisation of similar meetings in the future building on the current results of the SIGGS self-evaluation. Finally, Jean Gracia, interim-CEO of the International Athletics Federation (IAAF) and Vice-President of European Athletics, urged all member federations to assess their strengths and weaknesses by using the SIGGS tool. He also stressed that this Workshop is the beginning of a continuous conversation between European athletics and the member federations.

SIGGS Project: National Strategic Workshop in Luxembourg

On 27 October, the SIGGS Project organised the national Strategic Workshop in Luxembourg, together with the National Olympic Committee of Luxembourg (COSL). The Workshop was attended by over 20 participants from around

eight different federations, the Ministry of Sport, the Athletes’ Commission of COSL and the COSL itself.

– The House of European Sport –

During a first part of the Workshop, the second version of the self-evaluation tool was presented. The different Luxembourgish federations had already taken part in the first evaluation round, which was organised in October-November last year. With the second version now fully developed, many representatives were keen on consulting their Action Plan and starting discussions and exchanging points of view of how some of the suggested activities could be implemented within their federation.

Consequently, the results of the first consultation round, to which 13 Luxembourgish sport organisations took part, were presented. Even though the results were based on self-declared data, which means that no major conclusions can be drawn from comparing countries or organisations, the results sparked an interesting discussion on elements that could be improved in Luxembourgish sport and on how for instance the SIGGS tool can be used to support this process. It was clear that especially the size and the voluntary nature of most of the federations in Luxembourg should be taken into consideration when developing certain strategies on how to implement good governance and how to professionalise the structures, for instance by pooling resources.

In the concluding remarks, Daniel Dax, Secretary General of COSL, thanked the participants for attending the Workshop and for taking part in the evaluation. Furthermore, he stated that: *“the NOC of Luxembourg is reaching out its hand to the federations with this tool. This hand it there to be taken. We hope that this experience inspires also other federations in Luxembourg to use the*

SIGGS tool and to exchange views on the implementation of good governance in Luxembourg”.



The Workshop in Luxembourg was the sixth national Strategic Workshop that was organised in the framework of the SIGGS Project. In addition, the SIGGS Project was presented at various conferences and seminars including: the European Athletics Convention in Funchal (see previous article), the “Sport Management and Leadership Training Programme” of the SUCCESS Project in Rome and the ENGSO Forum in Sofia. These dissemination activities are part of the run-up to the Final Conference, which will be organised on 29 November in Brussels. On this occasion, the final version of the self-evaluation will be presented and officially opened for all 50 countries of the EOC. The Final Conference will also feature a keynote speech by Pierre-Olivier Beckers, IOC Member and President of the NOC of Belgium, and a high-level panel discussion on how to implement good governance in sport.

– The House of European Sport –

INTERNALS AND VISITS

EOC EU Commission meets with European Union representatives in Brussels

On 4 October 2016, the 3rd meeting of the EOC EU Commission took place in Brussels. The Commission members had the opportunity to discuss recent activities in EU sport policy and to meet European Union's sport policy officials. Another objective of this meeting was to allow members of the EOC EU Commission to exchange on the future activities and organisation of the Commission.

The day prior to the actual Commission meeting, the members of the Commission met with Bart Ooijen, representative of the Dutch permanent representation and former Chair of the Working Party on Sport under the Dutch Presidency, for a working dinner. The discussion focused on the activities that had been undertaken under the Dutch Presidency, including the adoption of Council conclusions on Major Sport Events and the accompanying declaration with the sport movement. In addition, the upcoming EU Work Plan for Sport was discussed.

On the next day, Juri Tamm, Chair of the EOC EU Commission officially welcomed all participants. Following this welcome, the EOC EU Office updated the Commission members on different EU policy fields including Erasmus+ Sport, good governance and the Digital Single Market. In addition, Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, stressed the increasing number of challenges that sport organisations are facing in relation to EU competition policy.

The second part of the morning session was dedicated to discuss the future of EU sport policy and to explore ways to develop the EOC EU Commission's activities, influence and visibility.

Following lively and fruitful discussions, the Commission adopted the upcoming recommendations:

- Increase the number of meetings and link them with EU Presidencies
- Increase the visibility of the Commission at EU level
- Improve relations between NOCs and EU officials
- Increase the visibility of the Commission within EOC and encourage NOCs to use financial opportunities that the EU can bring (e.g. Erasmus+ Sport)
- Support activities of EOC Athletes at the EU level

During the last part of the meeting, an exchange with Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, took place. Apart from discussing recent developments of EU sport policy including the new call for Erasmus+ Sport and the European Week of Sport, the meeting enabled the Commission to present its work and to exchange views on future activities in EU sport policy.

The next meeting of the EOC EU Commission is scheduled to take place in March, in connection with the EU Sport Forum, with a second meeting to be organised in the second half of 2017.

– The House of European Sport –

European Olympic Committees' 45th General Assembly in Minsk

On 21 and 22 October, the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Belarus hosted the European Olympic Committees' (EOC) 45th General Assembly. Organised in the capital city of Minsk, the EOC General Assembly gathered representatives of the 50 NOCs as well as delegates from the IOC, WADA, European federations and hosting entities of upcoming Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and European Youth Olympic Festivals (EYOF).

Several major topics were on the agenda of the General Assembly, including the selection of the host for the Second edition of the European Games, the unveiling of the new EOC visual identity and progress reports on next editions of the EYOF and Olympic Games. This event was also the opportunity to celebrate the 25th anniversary of both the EYOF and of the National Olympic Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

The first day was dedicated to the selection of host cities for upcoming EOC events. While the candidacy of Minsk has been approved for the organisation of the 2019 edition of the European Games, Vuokatti (Finland) and Kosice (Slovakia) have been selected to organise respectively the Winter and Summer edition of EYOF, in 2021.

The topic of EU Sport policy was also high on the agenda with presentations by Juri Tamm, Chair of the EOC EU Commission, and Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office. Juri Tamm started by reporting on the meeting of the EOC EU Commission (see previous article). Furthermore,

he presented the five recommendations discussed by the Commission to shape their future activities and underlined the importance of having a good cooperation with EU institutions, stressing the role of the EOC EU Office in this regard.

Then, Folker Hellmund, updated participants on the work done by the EOC EU Office as well as recent EU activities. He notably outlined the increasing number of challenges faced by organised sport at the European level, in relation with EU Competition policy and the governance of sport organisations. Folker Hellmund also announced some positive developments at the EU level including the simplification of the implementation of the Erasmus+ Sport chapter which should facilitate the access of grassroots actors to the programme. Finally, he announced the upcoming activities of the SIGGS project which will officially present the final version of its self-evaluation tool during its Final Conference, on 29 November, in Brussels. The SIGGS tool will be accessible to all the NOCs member of the EOC and their national federations.

Finally, Janez Kocijančič, acting EOC President, announced that the EOC will organise the next General Assembly, in Croatia, in the second half of 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC press release](#)

– The House of European Sport –

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO Forum 2016 took place in Sofia

The annual ENGSO Forum was held in Sofia, Bulgaria on 28-29 October 2016. The programme included an EU seminar, as well as sessions on good governance, gender equality, and security of sport facilities. In the EU Seminar, the Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, Yves Le Lostecque, gave an update on the EU sport policy as well as on the developments in the Erasmus+ Sport programme. He underlined that the recently published call for 2017 includes some simplifications such as the introduction of unit costs. The EOC EU Office is very pleased for this development, as it has actively asked for simplifications to make the programme more accessible for grassroots sport.

The second day started with a session on good governance. Policy Officer Valentin Capelli from the EOC EU Office presented the SIGGS project and gave information on its main project outcome, the SIGGS self-evaluation tool, which will be launched at the end of November at the SIGGS Final Conference. Furthermore, the session on good governance had a special focus on gender equality. The ENGSO Forum 2016 and its active discussions finished with a session on security of sport facilities.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.engso.eu>

<http://www.siggs.eu/>

NEXT MONTH

Dates in November 2016

4 November	<i>Working Party on Sport, Brussels</i>
11 November	<i>Armistice Day, EOC EU Office closed</i>
15 November	<i>European Parliament Sport Intergroup meeting on Dual Careers, Brussels</i>
22 November	<i>Sport Ministers' Council Meeting, Brussels</i>
25-27 November	<i>Seminar: Paths to success - Preparing Leadership on Good Governance by DOSB and ICSSPE, Berlin, Germany</i>
28 November	<i>Final meeting of the SIGGS Steering Committee, Brussels</i>

– The House of European Sport –

29 November

Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport, Budapest, Hungary

29 November

Final Conference SIGGS Project, Brussels

30 November

Special Competence Seminar EOC EU Office, Brussels