

The House of European Sport

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 31 January

[@DiFonzoLuciano](#) [#EACEA](#) explains new simplified grants [@EUErasmusPlus](#) Sport: "to increase participation by sport clubs and grassroots sport"

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Small Collaborative Partnerships also part of [@EUErasmusPlus](#) Sport in 2017 - great way to reach out to grassroots sports [@EuSport](#)

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In 2016, the success rate for [@EUErasmusPlus](#) Sport applications has risen from 13% to 34% [@EuSport](#) [#ErasmusPlus](#)

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 27 January

[#SIGGS](#) activities also continue in 2017 incl. information stand at [@EuSport](#) Forum in Malta 8-9 March [#GoodGovernance](#) [@EU2017MT](#) [@cutajar_mark](#)

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

I hope you all had a great start to the New Year. The keyword for the overall political situation at the European Union for 2017 is uncertainty. By listing just a few of the actual challenges, the dimension of the critical situation becomes evident: the upcoming Brexit negotiations, the difficult relationship to the new US administration, the open security and refugee questions and the upcoming elections in countries such as France and Germany.

For the Olympic Movement, 2017 is a crucial year as well. The further implementation of the Olympic Agenda on all levels will be one of the priorities aiming at better governance and less bureaucratic and financial burdens for future hosts of Olympic Games. The fight against doping and manipulation of sport competitions will remain on the agenda and will require additional efforts in the future. The second "International Forum for Sports Integrity" organised by the IOC on 15 February in Lausanne will definitely contribute to these efforts by bringing together representatives from governments, the Council of Europe, the European Union, INTERPOL, Europol, sports betting operators and Olympic Movement stakeholders.

Apart from this initiative on international level, the European Union Sports Policy proceeds as well as good governance and anti-doping will feature on the agenda of the upcoming Sport Forum on 8 and 9 March in Malta. Acting EOC President Janez Kocijancic will be one of the keynote speakers and the EOC EU Office is invited to showcase the outcomes of its SIGGS Project on Good Governance.

By the End of May, the European Sport Ministers will adopt their new Work Plan on Sport 2017-2020. The EOC EU Office has already published an assessment of the current Work Plan 2014 -2017 last autumn and received a lot of positive feedback. More flexibility of the working structures, a "solution driven approach" of the activities generating a real added value for the sport in Europe and the setting up of smaller experts groups have been only some of our recommendations.

The deadline for Erasmus+ Sport projects is fixed for 6 April. The EOC EU Office hopes that the new simplified grants encourage more sport organisations and grassroots sport actors to submit an application or to partner in a collaborative partnership. The simplified grants are an excellent example of how the European Commission, through the advice of the EOC EU Office, continues to improve the financing conditions to make its programme accessible and favourable to grassroots sports. In June, the EOC EU Office will organise its "European Evening of Sport" that gathers key stakeholders from sport and politics in Brussels.

As for the EOC, this non-Olympic year features further important activities. The two editions of the Youth Olympic Festivals in Erzurum (TUR) and Győr (HUN) will take place. The summer edition in Győr will be officially supported by the European Commission through Erasmus+ Sport. In November, the General Assembly will take place in Zagreb with elections for the EOC President and Executive Committee.

Last but not least, the decision on the host of the Summer Olympics 2024 will happen in September and in Paris and Budapest, Europe puts forward two strong candidates! With other words, even though 2017 might present itself as a politically challenging year, it will definitely be an exciting year for all stakeholders in sport.

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

First meeting 2017 of Advisory Board on European Week of Sport

On 19 January 2017, the Advisory Board for the European Week of Sport (EWOs) came together for its first meeting in 2017 to discuss aspects of the third edition of the week.

Susanne Hollmann, Deputy Head of the Commission's Sport Unit, and Florence Mondin, EU policy officer responsible for the EWOs, reported on the results of the 2016 edition, which was considered a success. The Commission has also published an evaluation report on the implementation.

For the first time, in 2017 the week will take place at a common date for all participating countries (23/09/2017 – 29/09/2017). Additionally, Sweden will participate as well, meaning that all EU Member States will take part in the 2017 edition.

Regarding specific dates and events, Florence Mondin reported on the Commission's plan to launch this year's media and communications campaign on the Olympic Day, 23 June, and to adapt the structure in 2017. The opening event

would be upheld and organised in cooperation with the Estonian Council Presidency in Tartu on Saturday, 23 September. This will include a High-Level Roundtable on Healthy Lifestyles.

Instead of a central flagship event, the Commission is considering to organise a number of different workshops and seminars on the different focus themes of the week. The week would potentially be rounded up by a #BeActive Awards Gala on 29 September. Additionally, this year's evaluation will be executed externally and the Sport Unit plan the launch of a new Eurobarometer regarding sport in the course of 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[European Commission evaluation report on EWOs 2016](#)

[Website of the European Week of Sport](#)

EP: Zver report on implementation of Erasmus+ adopted in EP plenary

In its plenary session in Brussels on 2 February 2017, the European Parliament (EP) adopted an own initiative report (INI report) prepared by MEP Milan Zver (EPP, SI) on the implementation of the Erasmus+ funding programme. This programme includes the funding line for sport collaborative partnerships and not-for-profit sport events.

The report takes the first half of the seven year funding period 2014-2020 as occasion to analyse the implementation so far and propose

improvements where needed. To prepare the report, MEP Zver had organised a hearing on the Erasmus+ implementation in December, in which the EOC EU Office had presented its findings regarding the last calls for Erasmus+ Sport.

Regarding the sport chapter, the report adopted in the parliament, criticises that small grassroots sport organisations are underrepresented in the first project years and asks the European Commission to verify the benefit of the

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programme for grassroots sport as well as implement changes to improve the programme's impact. The report especially refers to the acceptance of the work of volunteers as own contribution, but praises the implementation of small collaborative partnerships in 2016 and the simplifications in 2017 as positive steps.

The report furthermore demands to “*guarantee increased and more long-term structural support to European civil society organisations [...] in the form of operating grants*” and to keep the

separate chapters of Erasmus+ for future funding periods.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Report on the implementation of Regulation \(EU\) No 1288/2013 establishing ‘Erasmus+’: the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport \(INI\) as tabled for the plenary session](#)

EP: Plenary adopts report on “integrated approach to sport policy”

On 2 February 2017, the plenary session of the European Parliament adopted the report on “*an integrated approach to Sport Policy: good governance, accessibility and integrity*”. Own initiative report of the European Parliament, this report has been prepared by Hannu Takkula (ALDE Group, Finland) who confirmed during his presentation that this report will be the only document entirely dedicated to sport during the current legislative period. The report shapes the position of the European Parliament on the new EU Council Work Plan of Sport.

Divided in three main areas, objective of the Takkula report was to promote the role of grassroots sport and the development of physical activities in the EU. The economic contribution of sports to society, integrity and good governance in sport as well as accessibility has also been covered by the European Parliament.

Whereas issues facing by sport organisations are stressed – MEPs call for a zero-tolerance policy towards doping and ask sport organisations to put forward concrete proposals to improve their governance – the report also recalls the specific nature of sport and underlines positive aspects of sporting activities.

The EOC EU Office and its partners worked hard to get several recommendations included, e.g. on

the specific nature of sport, on the European sport model and the societal role of grassroots sport.

The Takkula report notably contains the following positive elements:

- Acknowledgment of the specific nature of sport based on voluntary structures;
- Support for the European sport model including the principle of one federation per sport and the high importance of solidarity mechanisms;
- Support to CAS system of arbitration;
- Call for the signing and ratification of the Council of Europe Conventions on the manipulation of sports competitions and security during sport events;
- Stress the societal role of sport and the importance of gender equality, dual career, protection of athletes and minors;
- Call to maintain the current system of TV rights on a centralised, exclusive and territorial basis.

Aiming at the new EU Council Work Plan on Sport, the MEPs also produced direct recommendations to the European Commission and the Council, e.g. the necessity to increase

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funds allocated to Erasmus+ Sport, reflexions regarding VAT exemptions for grassroots sport and activities to develop the notion of the specificity of sport.

MORE INFORMATION

[Final text of EP report: "An integrated approach to Sport Policy: good governance, accessibility and integrity"](#)

Commission publishes consultations on VAT and state aid

When developing policy and legislation the European Commission regularly seeks the views of citizens and stakeholders. Therefore, individuals, businesses and other organisations like sport governing bodies with an interest in or expert knowledge on a given topic have the opportunity to shape the European Commission's draft proposal before it goes to the Council and European Parliament for discussion and adoption. A public consultation is held for a minimum of 12 weeks. Currently the following public consultations are ongoing and may be relevant for sport:

[Consultation on the Code of Best Practice on the conduct of State aid control proceedings](#)

This consultation deals with the application of State aid control proceedings that have been adopted in 2009. By contributing to the consultation the sports movement could have an impact on the new Code of best Practice. However it should be noted, that this Code has no legal influence or impact on the current regulations on state aid, it rather provides guidance on the conducts of state aid procedures only. The public consultation was opened on 25. November 2016 and will be closed on 25. February 2017

[Public Consultation on the reform of VAT rates](#)

On 7 April 2016 the Commission adopted an action plan on VAT towards a single EU VAT area. Since the VAT rate for the [use of sport facilities](#) varies among the different member states, this public consultation (proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the Common system of value added tax as regards the rules governing the application of VAT rates) is a great opportunity for the sport movement to demand or keep a reduced VAT rate in the future single EU VAT area. The period of consultation is already ongoing and will be closed on 20 March 2017.

Public consultations by the European Commission are checked daily by the EOC EU Office and will be part of the weekly update and the monthly report, if related to sport. You can furthermore find an overview of currently running consultations on the EOC EU Office's intranet.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Open Consultations](#)

[Consultations in the policy area of sport](#)

[Consultation on the Code of Best Practice](#)

[Public Consultation on the reform of VAT rates](#)

Antonio Tajani elected as new President of the European Parliament

On 17 January Antonio Tajani of the European People's Party (EPP) was elected as new President of the European Parliament. He followed Martin Schulz from the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (SPE), who has led the European Parliament for the past five years. President Tajani mandate ends mid of 2019 when the current parliamentary period comes to an end.

The election was influenced by the fact that the two largest groups EPP and SPE have cancelled their agreement to support one common candidate. SPE candidate Gianni Pittella lost the race after Guy Verhofstad (ALDE) stepped down from candidature and agreed to vote with his political group for Antonio Tajani. In the first three rounds of ballots no candidate got the absolute majority of votes. For the last round 2 candidates left, Tajani collected 351 votes and Pitella 282 votes.

Antonio Tajani, 63, is a politician from Italy. He has been a Member of Parliament from 1994 until 2008. During 2008-2014 Tajani hold the position as Vice-President of the European Commission. Since 2014 he has been one of the Vice-Presidents of European Parliament. Now representatives of the EPP are chairing the main three EU-Institutions: European Commission, European Parliament and European Council.

For the background: The President oversees all of the Parliament's work, its governing bodies and plenary debates. He or she represents the Parliament in all legal affairs and external

relations. At the beginning of every European Council summit he/she introduces the Parliament's point of view about the items on the agenda. The President also signs the final EU budget and co-signs legislation with the President of the Council.

In addition, the Committees of Parliament have elected new chairs for the rest of the parliamentary period. The CULT-Committee, dealing with sport, is now lead by the German Petra Kammerevert, (S&D).

Chairs of the committees:

- Culture and Education: Petra Kammerevert, S&D, GER
- Budgetary Control: Ingeborg Grässle, ALDE, GER
- Employment and Social Affairs: Thomas Händel, GUE/NGL, GER
- Environment, Public Health and Food Safety: Adina-Iona Valean, EPP, RO
- Internal Market and Consumer Protection: Vicky Ford, ECR, UK
- Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs: Claude Moraes, S&D, UK
- Regional Development: Iskra Mihaylova, ALDE, BUL
- Transport and Tourism: Karima Delli, Verts/FR

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Commission and Council publish documents on EU Work Plan for Sport

Both, the Sport Unit of the European Commission and the current Presidency of the Council of the EU published documents on the future EU Work Plan on Sport this January. The EU Work Plan for Sport is a multi-annual framework, by which the Council establishes the priorities and objectives of sport policy at European level. The current Work Plan for the period 2014-2017 is ending after the first half of this year and the framework for the next years is being discussed in the Council Working Party on Sport.

The EOC EU Office had published an assessment of the last Work Plan in September last year, which came to the conclusion that the Council Expert Groups did not always focus on topics, where the EU provided a real added value, and were generally inflexible regarding the working structures and questionable in impact. Subsequently, the EOC EU Office proposed the introduction of more flexibility of the working structures based on a solution-driven approach, a limitation of observers and the mainstreaming of sport in other policy areas.

In preparation for the third EU Work Plan for Sport, the European Commission published its final report on the last Plan's evaluation on 23 January 2017. This evaluation is based on a questionnaire sent to Member States and Member States' experts as well as to observers participating in the Expert Groups. According to the Commission's evaluation, the second Work Plan has met expectations, although some areas for improvement can be identified. The vast majority of answers to the questionnaire agreed that the Work Plan focused on the right priorities (91%), while 61% of respondents agreed the Work Plan led to fruitful outcomes for the policy process. 46% of contributors agreed that the Work Plan improved cooperation between Member States and the sport movement at national level, compared to 38% of respondents who disagreed. The Commission outlines four general improvements: adapting the time frame to

coincide with the end of the financial period in 2020, more flexibility during the implementation of the Work Plan, increased interaction with other policy fields, and a reinforcement of synergies with the Erasmus+ programme. The Commission also recommends a stronger focus on implementing the practical outcomes and existing results of the first two EU Work Plans, which has not been achieved in the past. It furthermore proposes a better coordination and clearer connection between the work done under the EU Work plan for Sport and the rotating EU Presidencies.

Continuity of priorities from the previous plans should be considered, while stronger links with the current problems in the sport world should also be sought. A more focused scope of the work of Expert Groups would be beneficial. The EU structured dialogue with sport organizations could also be improved from its current form. The Commission further suggests to better link the priorities included in the future EU Work Plan with the political priorities set out by the European Union, in order to increase the political impact of the Work Plan.

The discussion paper published by the Maltese Council presidency picks up the basic outlines of the Commission's evaluation and poses a number of questions related to this to the EU Member States.

The new EU Work Plan for Sport is expected to be adopted during the Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council on 23 May 2017.

MORE INFORMATION

[Report from the Commission on the implementation and relevance of the European Union Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017](#)

[Presidency Paper: Towards a new Work Plan in the field of sport](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

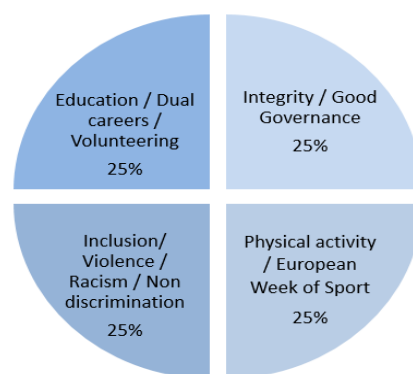
The EU Commission organised the Sport Info Day 2017

On 31 January, the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organised the Sport Infoday, in Brussels. The objective of the day was to inform potential applicants about the Erasmus+ Sport programme and to facilitate exchanges between potential partners.

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, opened the meeting by underlining the success of the first two years of Erasmus+ Sport programme as well as stating his important expectations for the upcoming years.

After that the Sport Unit of the European Commission presented the results of the 2016 call for proposals and the evolution of the budget for 2017 (see table below). In 2017, the main evolution regarding call for proposals concerns projects and events linked to the European Week of Sport which will not be financed by a separated call anymore. In addition, the Commission announced its satisfaction regarding the implementation of the small collaborative partnerships (SCP) in the 2016 call and invited all grassroots sport organisations to apply for 2017.

Following a round table on the functioning of Erasmus+ Sport, Luciano Di Fonzo, from EACEA, explained the submission and selection process for the **collaborative partnerships** (minimum of 5 partners from 5 countries, maximum funding of 400.000 EUR), the **small collaborative partnerships** (minimum of 3 partners from 3 countries, maximum funding of 60.000 EUR) and the **Not-For-Profit Sport Events**. Following this presentation Viera Kerpanova, EACEA, introduced the priorities for the collaborative partnerships in 2017:



The afternoon was divided between different activities with a first session allowing potential partners to exchange on project ideas following by workshops on the different aspects of an Erasmus+ Sport project. One of the workshops was notably dedicated to the financial simplification proposed in the call 2017. Luciano Di Fonzo introduced the simplified grants with unit costs setting up for collaborative partnerships.

The budget will be divided in 5 main categories:

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); Not for SCP
4. **Multiplier events** (unit costs covering costs linked to national and transnational conferences, seminars, events, sharing and

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disseminating the intellectual outputs realised by the project). Nor for SCP

5. **Exceptional costs** (real costs mainly for subcontracting, max 50.000 EUR)

The end of the programme was dedicated to other EU funding opportunities for sport including EU Youth programmes, Horizon 2020, Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme and EU Regional Funds.

The deadline for application for Erasmus+ Sport projects is 6 April 2017, at 12.00 PM CET (Brussels time).

MORE INFORMATION:

[Website Erasmus+](#)

[Website on Sport Info Day](#)

[Erasmus+ Sport Call 2017](#)

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

INTERNALS AND VISITS

EOC EU Office organises seminar with German regional sport federations

On 23 and 24 January 2017, the EOC EU Office welcomed representatives of regional sport federations (Landessportbünde) and youth sport federations (Landessportjugenden) for a two-day seminar in Brussels. Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, and Felix Schäfer, policy officer for the German Olympic Sport Confederation (Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund, DOSB), presented the latest developments of EU sport policy, including anti-trust and state aid cases, the new EU Work Plan for Sport, Good Governance and highlighted the changes to the Erasmus+ sport programme.

The participants furthermore presented their organisations' European and international



activities and exchanged their experiences with different funding methods. In this context Céline Babic and Ferdinand Rissom presented the activities of DOSB and the German Sport Youth (Deutsche Sportjugend, DSJ) respectively.

PARTNERS' CORNER

Czech NOC: Zátopek in Belgium: example of sport diplomacy in practice

Belgium and the Czech Republic are countries that have a lot in common, that nurture a good relationship and cooperate in various fields, from business through science to culture. However, in sport-related terms there is not a whole lot that would be bringing the two countries and their peoples together. There is an exception to every rule, though, and this exception has just become more known and prominent. It is called "[Zátopek Magazine](#)".

For over 10 years now, Belgian, French, Canadian and Swiss sport fans, especially runners, can find in their newsstands a



specialised magazine proudly bearing the name of legendary Czech long-distance runner and

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four-time Olympic champion Emil Zátopek. It has not come unnoticed by the Czech community in Belgium, but it was not until the [celebration of the 10th anniversary of the magazine](#) when a real spark of interest and, perhaps more importantly, new ties between the Belgian and Czech communities were created.

The magazine's editorial board, in cooperation with the Czech Olympic Committee, Czech Embassy in Brussels, and the Czech Centre and officially supported by the Belgian Olympic Committee decided to organise a celebration truly worth of Zátopek's name. On 17 January 2017, at a Brussels stadium Trois Tilleuls, in a temperature more than a couple degrees below zero, over 100 runners, split up in several relays, repeated the 10k run in which Zátopek established a world record in June 1954 at the very same stadium. He was the first person to run this distance in under



29 minutes. With 69.36 seconds per lap, it was "heck of a pace" also for Šárka Kašpárková, former Czech triple jumper, Olympic medallist and World Champion, who came to Brussels on the invitation of the Czech Olympic Committee.



Despite the hard conditions, participants, including the Czech ambassador to Belgium, journalists, former professional athletes, and other sport fans succeeded in repeating Zátopek's record. They celebrated in style not only the anniversary of one of the most read French-language magazines about running and with it the legend of Zátopek, but also the newly created cooperation and partnership between Czech institutions, Olympic Committees and local grassroots sport initiative.

The event has proven, once again, how powerful sport can be in bringing people together and in creating lasting ties and cooperation. For the Czech Olympic Committee, it was a great experience which it aims to repeat, in one way or another, as a part of its growing sport diplomacy activities.

Pictures credit: Filip Kubík

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CNOSF: Handbook on EWoS published by Sport for Everyone Project

Since July 2015, the “Sport for Everyone” project team has been working on a Handbook on European Week of Sport (EWoS). This Erasmus + co-funded project – led by the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) and gathering 5 National Olympic Committees, NOC, (France, Italy, Lithuania, Republic of Macedonia and Portugal) and the think tank Sport and Citizenship - aim to increase the participation in EWoS and therefore to raise awareness among EU citizens on the benefits of sport.

This Handbook on joining in with European Week of Sport provides sport movement and more especially NOC with tangible ideas and tools to implement their own action in this framework. The latter is composed of two main elements: innovative initiatives and a practical guide.

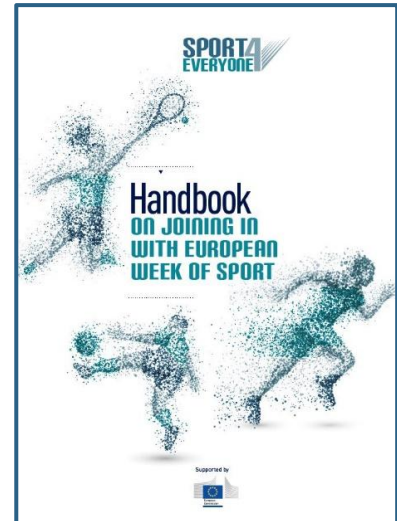
A total of 12 initiatives for the 4 Focus Days (named Workplace, Education, Outdoor, Fitness centres) were thoroughly selected. It includes a large panel of projects implemented in Europe - which could differ from one to another by their nature and their purpose: organisation of sport events or challenges, conception of awareness campaign and of training sessions on specific topics.

The practical guide, entitled 8 steps to taking part in EWoS, describes how to create a project during this Week of Sport. From conception to completion, relevant and easy-to-use tools are recommended such as

management tools (Social lean Canvas, User scenarios, Trello) and communication tools (Mailchimp, Canvas).

Two online versions of the Handbook (French and English) are available on the website: <http://sportforeveryone.franceolympique.com>.

The 2017 EWoS – which will take place all over Europe from the 23rd to the 30th of September - will be the occasion to mobilise the sport movement and to make people [#BeActive](#).



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Dates in February 2017

8-9 February 2017

Kick off Meeting - ASPIRE Project, ENGSO, Brussels

15 February 2017

International Forum for Sports Integrity (IFSI), Lausanne, Switzerland

17 February 2017

Meeting Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, Brussels