

– The House of European Sport –

## Tweets of the month



Team Belgium

@teambelgium 24 March

Thank you to everyone in the big Olympic Family for your heartwarming messages and support

[#BetterWorldThroughSport](#)

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 9 March

Start of high-level panel discussion on

[#GoodGovernance](#) of sport at

[#eusportforum](#) with

[@EOCmedia](#) Pres Patrick

Hickey

EUSport

@EuSport 9 March

Can use [#EuropeanSocialFund](#) towards the [#SocialInclusion](#) of

[#refugees](#) [#FolkerHellmund](#)

[@EOCEUOffice](#)

[#EUSportForum](#)

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 8 March

Next step: Practical Guidance

document for sport-based

proposals in [#StructuralFunds](#)

as outcome of [@EuSport](#) study

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 3 March

Novelty to [@EUErasmusPlus](#)

Sport 2016: small collaborative

partnerships - great opportunity

grassroots sport [@EuSport](#)

## Table of contents

Editorial 2

### EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

EU Sport Forum 2016 in The Hague 3

Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport in full swing 5

The European Commission presents the EU-US Privacy Shield, the new framework for transatlantic data flows 6

Third meeting of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport to discuss informal learning and volunteering 6

### FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Study on Sport and Regional Funds – Workshop in The Hague 7

### PARTNERS' CORNER

CNOSF: “Sport for Everyone” – European project promoting grassroots sport 8

### NEXT MONTH

Dates in April 2016 10

– The House of European Sport –

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

I would like to start my editorial with some words on the situation in Brussels. The terrorists attacks at Zaventem airport and close to the Schuman area where the EOC EU Office is located has shown how vulnerable our societies and all of us are. In this regard and on behalf of the EOC EU Office I would like to thank all friends, partners and colleagues for their compassion in the last two weeks. I would like to especially express my gratitude to those that spontaneously donated for our former colleague Karen Northshield, who was seriously injured at Zaventem airport. We wish her all strength to recover completely and to find her way back to normal life.

Due to the situation in Brussels, the Dutch EU Presidency has cancelled a range of meetings. In this regard it remains to be seen if the Dutch Presidency will preserve the planned agenda.

In the field of sport the first reflections on the new Work Plan of the European sport Ministers 2017-2020 has started. The EOC EU Office will contribute to the upcoming discussions by presenting a catalogue of proposals on topics and structural questions later on this year.

At 25 and 26 April the EOC EU Office is organising a seminar for representatives of international, European and national Athletes Commissions in Brussels. Apart from meetings with the European Institutions, the seminar will focus on better communication strategies and professional structures of Athletes Commissions in Europe.

Furthermore, the deadline for the next Erasmus+ Sport call is approaching. Applications for collaborative partnerships and grass roots sport events can be submitted until 12 May. For the first time the EU Commission has earmarked a separate budget for smaller projects up to 60 000 Euro. By providing more than 3,3 Mio. €, the EU Commission intends to finance around 55 small projects around Europe. The EOC EU Office has requested a special funding scheme for local or regional actors for a long time. We do hope that the new call will be better accessible for grass roots sports actors. The EOC EU Office will publish an analysis of the last Erasmus+ Sport call in the upcoming weeks. A first look on the results has already shown that the share of purely grass roots sports actors is still low.

Sincerely yours,

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

### EU Sport Forum 2016 in The Hague

On 9-10 March 2016, the European Commission, together with the Dutch Council Presidency, organised the annual EU Sport Forum in The Hague, Netherlands. In the course of the two days, the participants discussed current topics, including good governance in sport, sport's role in the integration of migrants, and the Digital Single Market (DSM) initiative, but also future activities like the 2016 European Week of Sport (EWOs) and the future EU Work Plan on Sport.



After the Mayor of The Hague, Jozias van Aartsen, welcomed participants in his city, the Deputy Director-General of DG EAC of the European Commission, opened the Forum. He insisted that sport could help the EU solve problems for people, but also pointed to a need for improved governance in sport to create a stronger sport community in Europe. Dutch Minister for Health, Welfare and Sport, Edith Schippers subsequently pointed to the Dutch focus on integrity of sport in its current Council Presidency agenda. EOC President Patrick Hickey, opening the Forum on behalf of the organised sport in Europe, expressed his expectations on a fruitful dialogue with governments and the European Commission aiming at a better understanding of sport issues.

He also agreed regarding the challenges of good governance that sport is facing and promoted in this context the EOC EU Office's SIGGS project.

During a first parallel workshop, panellists including Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, discussed the integration of migrants and refugees and in particular what answers European grassroots sport can provide. Folker Hellmund stressed in particular the challenges that local clubs are facing in terms of financing, skills and facilities when contributing to integration. In this regard, he added that support, expertise and better networks with specialised stakeholders are needed to have a common contribution. In terms of financial support, he referred to the European Social Funds as well as the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, although he remarked that considerable challenges remain for sport clubs to receive support from either of these two Funds.



In a parallel workshop, a panel including IOC Head of Legal & Business Affairs, Kevin Groome and Holger Blask of Bundesliga, discussed the new EU initiatives concerning the Digital Single Market and its effects on sport right owners. The

– The House of European Sport –

panel generally agreed that the current model was providing the European citizens with content tailored to their interests and that an erosion of the principle of territoriality would essentially destroy a functioning market. Regarding possible solutions for temporary access of purchased rights from other EU Member States (portability), Kevin Groome stressed that while the technical verifications would be important, the definition of “temporary access” is crucial. For an event like the Olympics, a one month period of access per year would have other effects than for a league season.

Furthermore, an interesting panel debate was organised on the subject of good governance in sports. Among the panellists were EOC President Patrick Hickey, President of the Dutch FA Michael Van Praag, European Commissioner Tibor Navracsics and Director of Play the Game Jens Sejer Andersen. During an open discussion, the current state of play in terms of the implementation of good governance principles by sport organisations as well as the way forward was discussed. Patrick Hickey stressed the commitment of the Olympic Movement to implement good governance, for instance through the 20+20 recommendations of the Olympic Agenda 2020 of the IOC and initiatives such as the SIGGS project of the EOC EU Office.

Another topic on the Forum’s Agenda was the European Week of Sport (EWoS). After a general introduction and presentation of the results of the last year’s and of the plans for this year’s edition, three separate sessions took place.

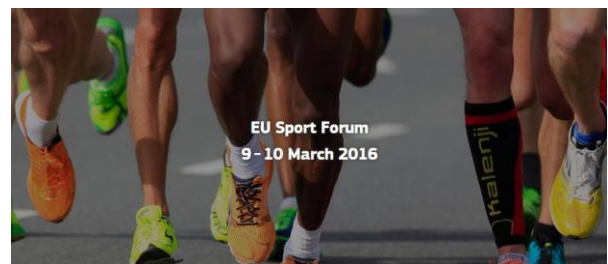
National Coordinating Bodies met to discuss the activities they have in the pipeline to promote the EWoS at national level in the 31 countries where the initiative will take place.

In the meeting with the EWoS partner organisations, the European Commission announced that the commitments with existing partners would be renewed in March/April 2016, while other organisations can still contact the Commission’s Sport Unit in this timeframe as well.

The third parallel session was then dedicated to the presentation of activities by leaders of Projects which have been awarded a grant under the Erasmus + Sport EWoS 2015 call (January 2015).

Set up by Commissioner Navracsics with the aim to provide him with recommendations and new ideas, High-Level Groups (HLG) on Sport Diplomacy and on Grassroots sports have been intensively working on the respective deliverables, the framework of which was presented at Forum.

The chair of the HLG on Sport Diplomacy, IOC member, Pal Schmidt, noted in his intervention that sport is “at the core of the international life” while the co-rapporteurs, Valerie Fournayron, former French Sport Minister, and Belgian professor, Thierry Zintz, presented the outline of the group’s recommendations which will be based on the notions of soft power and public policy and will be supported by good practice examples.



Regarding the HLG on Grassroots Sport, EOC Executive Committee member and President of the Danish Olympic Committee, Niels Nygaard, as co-chair of the Group, was one of the speakers to report on the development of the work. In his intervention, he stressed the key role of sport clubs at grassroots level. “Where there is a high participation in sport clubs, there is a high participation in sport and physical activities in general”, he said. Furthermore, he said that the focus needs to be to get kids and youth involved, to ensure their physically active lifestyle throughout their lives.

In the final session, first thoughts on the new EU Work Plan for Sport were discussed. For the European Commission, Yves Le Lostecque mentioned that discussions were open now and asked for input how to proceed – he especially referred to the aspects of duration of the work

– The House of European Sport –

plan, working methods and priorities. From the member state perspective, Harri Syväsalmi, Finish Director Sport, pointed to a reduced work load per expert group, a better cooperation between groups and the presence of experts for discussed topics as first developments.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

[All presentations and a short video from the EU Sport Forum](#)

[List of participants](#)

## Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport in full swing

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The 5th meeting of the EU Council Expert Group on Human Resources Development in Sport (XG HR) was held in Brussels on 17 March 2016.

A presentation by the rapporteur and an exchange of views on the draft report on the “Contribution of sport to employability of young people” opened the meeting. The main theme of the discussion was the word “focus” as the topic of youth employability can be addressed from many different angles at various levels. It was agreed that the document should primarily focus on the NEETs (young people who are not in education, employment or training) and on the potential of sport in the context of wider society. In other words, the organised sport’s structures and activities should be addressed as one of the tools which can be used to boost the employability of young people, alongside other sport-related initiatives.

The afternoon agenda was dedicated to a discussion on documents which are to assess the current situation and state of play in two areas where EU-level recommendations had been issued in the past: (1) Inclusions of sport qualifications in National Qualification Frameworks (NQFs) with a reference to European Qualification Framework (EQF), and (2) Dual careers. The Expert group participants agreed that the former report would reflect on what has changed over the past 3 years since the adoption by the Expert Group “Education and Training in Sport” of the Mid-term report “Inclusion of Sport

Qualifications in NQF’s, and would re-assess the recommendations presented therein. Andy Grant representing Sport Coach UK was appointed lead expert for this deliverable. The forthcoming Study on Sport Qualification which is to be published by summer 2016 should feed into the document.

In case of the latter - Report on the Implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers - participating experts decided to employ a two-step approach. First, the state of play in EU Member States will be assessed, with the help of both questionnaires and results of the recently published European Commission Study on the Minimum Quality Requirements for Dual Careers. The questionnaires will be addressed not only to the relevant institutional and sport sectors stakeholders, but also to athletes. The collected information, will then serve, in the second step, as a basis for an analysis and review of the 2012 Guidelines. The aim of the XG is to finish the Report by January 2017 as to be able to feed its recommendations into the discussion on the new EU Work Plan for Sport.

Next meeting of the XG HR will take place in late June in Brussels.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study on the Minimum Quality Requirements for Dual Careers.](#)

[Study on Sport Qualification](#)



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## The European Commission presents the EU-US Privacy Shield, the new framework for transatlantic data flows

On 29 February 2016, the European Commission presented a communication detailing the actions taken to restore the trust in transatlantic data flows. The Communication notably stresses the importance of the new EU data protection reform and the recently negotiated “EU-US Privacy Shield”.

Even if the discussion on this “Privacy Shield” started two years ago, the necessity to reach a new agreement for transatlantic data flows has drastically increased since October and the decision of the European Court of Justice to declare the previous agreement (“Safe Harbor”) invalid (more detailed in our article on the Monthly report of November 2015).

Indeed, the potential consequences of this court ruling on the transfer of personal data to the US created unclear situations for European companies and organisations, including sports organisations, as the transfers to the U.S. could not take place anymore on the basis of the invalidated Safe Harbour decision. Uncertainties notably come from the fact that EU data protection authorities have therefore to deal with related cases and complaints on a case-by-case basis.

This new “EU-US Privacy Shield”, negotiated directly between the European Commission and the United States, aims to increase responsibilities of US companies to protect the personal data of Europeans as well as reinforcing the cooperation between US and European Data

Protection Authorities. According to the Commission, this new framework should ensure:

- Stronger obligations on companies handling Europeans' personal data and robust enforcement.
- Clear safeguards and transparency obligations on U.S. government access;
- Effective protection of EU citizens' rights with several redress possibilities;
- Annual joint review mechanism.

The process toward a final adoption of this agreement is still ongoing with the consultation of a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and the EU Data Protection Authorities (Article 29 Working Party) before a final decision by the College.

Sport organisations must follow carefully the upcoming developments on the “EU-US Privacy Shield” as well as on the final adoption of the EU Data Protection Reform to evaluate and to prevent negative impacts on the necessary transfer of personal data in the frame of international competitions or fight against match-fixing and doping.

### MORE INFORMATION

[Press release of the European Commission](#)  
[FAQ : EU-US Privacy Shield](#)

## Third meeting of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport to discuss informal learning and volunteering

On 16 March 2016, the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport, set up by Commissioner Tibor

Navracsics, hold its third meeting in Brussels. After having discussed social inclusion in and

## – The House of European Sport –

through sport, and health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA) during the previous meeting, two other topics covered by the group were on the agenda: informal learning and skills development as well as volunteering.

Before entering into these topics, a very fruitful discussion concerning methodological and technical aspects of the final report took place. Members of the group discussed notably the necessity to demonstrate that they have taken into account the work already done at the EU level by establishing recommendations not only on new elements by also on the implementation of previous documents and decisions.

Regarding the structure, members of the group agreed to put the focus on 5 or 6 main concise recommendations, completed within the report, by further arguments and sub-recommendations.

Niels Nygaard, President of the Danish NOC and co-chair of the group, chaired the discussion on informal learning and skills development. The European Commission gave a comprehensive introduction on the situation at the EU level notably via a presentation of its New Skills Agenda, which should be adopted by the end of May. The Commission aims to include, in its new agenda, provisions that could cover hidden skills and competencies notably physical and emotional skills.

In addition, a study focusing on these topics “*Study on the Contribution of Sport to the Employability of Young People in the Context of*

*the Europe 2020 Strategy*” has been launched by the beginning of this year.

Thereafter, Marc Theeboom, Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), opened an interesting debate with his presentation underlining the limit of scientific evidences supporting the developmental and societal potential of grassroots sport.

The afternoon session was dedicated to volunteering with a general introduction made by the European Commission on the different initiatives and actions taken at the EU level including the functioning of the European Voluntary Service (EVS).

Following this introduction, a tour de table allowed all members to expose the situation in their respective countries as well as the main elements that should, according to them, figure in the session of the final report dedicated to volunteering. This discussion illustrated the huge differences existing between Members States but provided also the opportunity to define common perspectives, including the promotion and sharing of good practices, the existence of financial tools that could encourage volunteering and the necessity to adapt volunteering offers according to the expectations of new generations.

The final report of the High Level Group should be presented to the Commissioner in June. The next meeting of the group will be hold on 8 April, in Brussels.

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## FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

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### EU Study on Sport and Regional Funds – Workshop in The Hague

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The consortium led by CSES and Blomeyer & Sanz that is working on the study on sport's contribution to structural funds' priorities,

commissioned by DG EAC of the European Commission, organised a workshop on 8 March 2016 in The Hague. This was deemed as an

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occasion to discuss preliminary findings of the study, take first conclusions for sport organisations and policymakers and look forward to future activities.

First project director Mike Coyne presented first findings. He pointed out that there was a large amount of evidence that sport and physical activity contributed to the priorities of the structural funds, with particular effectiveness in some areas. He described the range of projects and amount financing is large and pointed to national differences in which funds were primarily used in sport. He also presented a detailed typology of interventions.

Subsequently, representatives from the Portuguese region of Anadia, the Winter Sports Research Centre in Sweden and of a Dutch-German INTERREG project on fitness in the job place presented their projects and the way that they used structural funds.

In a final panel discussion the main findings as well as an outlook to how to use the study in the

future were discussed. Felix Schäfer represented the EOC EU Office and emphasised that the different treatment of sport related applications in EU member states posed a problem and should be tackled by clear communication to managing authorities. He also recommended actions on both sides, i.e. advice on the application for and use of funding, but also an increased effort by the European Commission to inform and communicate the benefits of sport projects to managing authorities. Additionally, in the next funding period, sport should be explicitly included in the regulations for Structural and Investment Funds.

The next steps of the study are the finalisation of the report until the beginning of April and the structure for the Sport Action Network that is intended to connect interested parties and strengthen sport's case in the structural funds.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

[Workshop materials](#)

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

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### CNOSF: "Sport for Everyone" – European project promoting grassroots sport

Sport for Everyone is an Erasmus+ co-funded project whose main objective is to promote grassroots sport and more especially the European Week of Sport (EWOs). The French NOC is the leading organisation and works with 5 partners representing the sport movement and the civil society. 4 other NOCs (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal) and the think tank "Sport and Citizenship" take part in this collaborative project.

From July 2015 to December 2016, 6 seminars will be organised and will focus on specific areas related to the EWOs such as "Sport and

Education" and "Sport at the workplace". These meetings will be the occasion for the participants to share their knowledge and experiences. Partners of this project as well as experts will be invited to present important studies as well as successful and innovative initiatives occurring in their own country. At the end, the idea is to collect good practices which will be listed in the "Handbook for organising the EWOs".

After 2 meetings in Paris, the "Sport and Education" seminar took place on March 2016, in Rome. The seminar hinged on academic and experience-based presentations. After an



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overview of the values of sport given by Rose-Marie Repond, Professor at the University of Lausanne, experts shared their experience in education. The Inclusive National Programme developed by the British Youth Sport Trust and the School Sport Day implemented by the French School Sport Federation (UNSS) were presented as well as education programmes from NOCs partners to the project. In addition, a guided tour offered the participants the opportunity to discover some emblematic sporting venues, such as Foro Italico, the Olympic Stadium and the Stadio dei Marmi.

The next Seminar, on the 30th of May to 1st June in Brussels, will aim to define the main factors to be implemented in order to organise successfully the EWoS. Workshops and exchanges with major stakeholders, such as the Sport Intergroup of the EU Parliament and the European Olympic Committees, will be organised.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

[Twitter Account of the project](#)

[Project website](#)

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## NEXT MONTH

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### Dates in April 2016

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<b>6 April</b>	<i>EP Sport Intergroup on Match-Fixing, Brussels</i>
<b>8 April</b>	<i>High-Level Group Grassroots Sports, Brussels</i>
<b>12 April</b>	<i>5<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting, HEPA, Limassol, Cyprus</i>
<b>13 April</b>	<i>SIGGS Strategic Workshop, Vilnius, Lithuania</i>
<b>14 April</b>	<i>European Week of Sport Advisory Board Meeting, Brussels</i>
<b>19 April</b>	<i>Meeting Expert Group Economic Dimension, Brussels</i>
<b>25-26 April</b>	<i>Athletes' Seminar, EOC EU Office, Brussels</i>
<b>28 April</b>	<i>Meeting Expert Group Good Governance, Brussels</i>