

– The House of European Sport –

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 17 December

12th Executive Board meeting of the @EOCEUOffice successfully concluded! With @EOCmedia @DOSB and @olympijskytym

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 15 December

The @EU_Commission publishes Evaluation Report of first European Week of Sport #BeActive
http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/2015/1211-ewos-evaluation-report_en.htm ...

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 7 December

Full room for the opening of the Special Competence Seminar 2015. Thanks to all partners and colleagues #SCS2015

Český olympijský

@olympijskytym 21

November

Final day of the 44th EOC General Assembly in Prague just started. Follow us:

<http://bit.ly/115ywwM>
@EOCmedia @iocmedia

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 12 November

Project Manager

@VanBaelenM and Professor @ThierryZintz just presented @SIGGS_EU to the #IFForum2015 #GoodGovernance

Table of contents

Editorial 2

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Sport Ministers adopt recommendations on sport for children 3

First Meeting of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport 3

Council Expert Group meeting on Good Governance in Sport 4

Meeting of XG Human Resources and Conference on Dual Careers 5

European Parliament discusses visa code and touring visa 6

Court of Justice invalidates Commission's Safe Harbour decision 7

Alcohol Strategy: Council demands follow-up from Commission 8

Sport Intergroup discusses role of sport for inclusion of refugees 8

Compromise agreement on the new data protection package 9

Sport diplomacy in the spotlight of High-Level Group 9

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Regional Policy 2014-2020: Towards implementation phase 10

SIGGS Project well on schedule 11

Focus on Good Governance with SIGGS presentation at IF Forum 12

INTERNALS AND VISITS

Executive Board Meeting of the EOC EU Office 13

European Olympic Committees' 44th General Assembly in Prague 14

EOC EU Office: Special Competence and NOC Funding Seminar 15

Meeting with the Sport Unit of the European Commission 16

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO: Training Sessions of SCORE Project kick-off in UK 17

CONI: Project Erasmus+ Sport "Gold in Education and Elite Sport" 17

NEXT MONTH

Dates in December/January 19

– The House of European Sport –

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

We are quickly approaching the festive period and the end of the year – time for both a review of what has happened over the last twelve months and for an outlook to the upcoming tasks and activities.

2015 has been a busy and eventful year for EOC and the EOC EU Office in Brussels and we were happy with the developments we have seen for the European sport movement. In June we witnessed the first European Games in Baku, a new concept that enriches the organised sport with a continental multi-sport event. A new event was also introduced on the EU level, where September saw the first ever European Week of Sport. There is still room for improvement regarding its implementation and we still think that a closer connection to the Olympic Day would make sense. The respective report was published by the European Commission a couple of days ago and plans for 2016 are shaping up already – with a joint opening of the week as central piece.

The last 12 months also gave the first opportunity to implement projects started under the still new Erasmus+ Sport Programme. This included our very own project SIGGS (“Support Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”), which has made impressive progress, culminating in the presentation of its development including the evaluation tool at the IF Forum in Lausanne last month (see article in this Monthly Report). Now the work on the connected roadmaps continues with another milestone foreseen at the Mid-term Conference on 3-4 February 2016 in Lisbon.

Considering the overall situation of Erasmus+ Sport, our analysis of the first calls has shown that there are still important questions left unanswered, especially regarding the lack of focus on and opportunity for grassroots sport organisations. The new budget line for small projects with less administrative requirements and fewer partners are a positive step in this regard and we are looking forward to its first application next year.

Just in time for the end of year celebrations, the European institutions also just finalised their compromise agreement on the Data Protection reform, which will be adopted at the beginning of next year and enter into force in 2018. In this regard we have to encourage the adoption of an appropriate definition of public interest in the Member States – needed to safeguard the fight against doping and match-fixing in sport.

All of us at the EOC EU Office wish you merry Christmas and all the best for 2016! And let me tell you one last time in the “old” year: Enjoy your read and, please, do contact us with questions or feedback.

Sincerely yours,

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

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

– The House of European Sport –

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Sport Ministers adopt recommendations on sport for children

On the 23 and 24 November 2015, the Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Council brought together the Member States' Sport Ministers in Brussels. The ministers notably addressed the promotion of physical and sport activities for children and the educational potential of sport.

The Council deplored the decrease of children's physical and sport activities over the past twenty years, as well as the increasing rates of childhood overweight and obesity. In this context, the Council stressed the important role of the educational environment, which has to work hand in hand with the sport movement.

The Council conclusions particularly recommended the implementation of cross-sectoral policies in the Member States and the setting up of a close cooperation framework between schools and relevant sports organisations in order to promote extracurricular activities and to develop sport infrastructures for children. Moreover, the Council directly invited the sport movement to offer non-competitive activities for children, to

support the promotion of school-based activities and motor skills in childhood, and to develop close partnerships with municipalities and national authorities.

European Ministers have also approached the question of the European representation within WADA. They called for a more regular involvement by the EU institutions in WADA meetings and their preparation and for an increase of the scientific expertise and a better coordination of European positions.

Regarding the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, no agreement has been found on its signature, mainly due to Malta's opposition for 'economic reasons'.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council, 23-24/11/2015](#)

[Presidency of the EU – Sport Council: Debate on the educational potential of sport for young people](#)

First Meeting of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport

As an initiative of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, two High Level Groups on Sport have been set up: one on Sports Diplomacy and the other on Grassroots Sport. The latter met for the first time in Brussels on 9 November 2015. The task of the Group is to discuss and come up with recommendations on how to improve the conditions of grassroots

sport in Europe as well as how to increase the participation of Europeans in sport. The Group will hold four meetings and draft a report with recommendations by the end of June 2016.

In the first meeting the Group elected two co-chairs and rapporteurs. Niels Nygaard, EOC Executive Committee member and President

– *The House of European Sport* –

of the NOC of Denmark will lead the discussions together with Graham Watson, President of EuropeActive, representing the European fitness industry. Furthermore, ENGSO President Carlos Cardoso and Secretary General of TAFISA Wolfgang Baumann were elected as rapporteurs. In the discussions of the meeting, the Group agreed on the definition of grassroots sport as follows: *"grassroots sport is physical leisure activity, organised and non-organised, practised regularly at non-professional level for health,*

educational or social purposes". They also delineated the scope of their work as including health benefits, social inclusion, informal learning, skills development and volunteering, economic dimension and sustainable funding.

The next meeting of the High Level Group on Grassroots Sport is planned to take place on 22 January 2016 in Brussels.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Report by the European Commission](#)

Council Expert Group meeting on Good Governance in Sport

On 10 November 2015, the Council Expert Group on Good Governance in Sport (XG GG) met for their fourth meeting. The main topics on the agenda were: guiding principles for the awarding of major sport events (MSE), children's rights and recommendations on gender equality. The EOC EU Office participated as an observer.

Major sport events

To facilitate the discussion on guiding principles for MSE, written contributions to a second draft of the text had been asked beforehand. On the basis of these contributions, including the one of the EOC EU Office, the discussion revolved around 8 key issues including: autonomy of sport and the scope of the Expert Group, the status of the deliverable and the entities to be covered by the deliverable. The EOC EU Office, supported by the IOC, had in particular asked for a discussion on the scope of the deliverable given that the draft touched upon various aspects directly linked to the autonomy of sport. In this regard, it was remarkable that the autonomy of sport was not even mentioned once in the current draft.

A lively discussion also took place regarding the "event bubble". It was agreed that the best option is to look for joint solutions and a joint approach between sport organisations, governments and other stakeholders

Following this discussion, the lead Expert Jan Loorbach will work on a revised version that will be circulated for a last round of written consultation. The deliverable will be finalised by the end of the year.

Children's rights

Alexander Husting of the Luxembourg EU Presidency presented the mandate and objectives for the deliverable on children's rights. The idea is to come up with recommendations to protect young athletes and to safeguard children's rights in sport. The target group are minors under the age of 18, unless national legislation defines minors differently. Following an initial discussion, the deliverable will be further developed in the beginning of 2016.

Gender Equality

During the afternoon, the XG GG discussed the latest draft of the Recommendation on

– The House of European Sport –

Gender Equality in Sport. The document follows the structure and the logic of the [Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014-2020](#), focusing on 4 main topics – decision-making, coaching, gender-based violence, and the media - and recommends that Member States adopt comprehensive action plans on gender equality in sport.

It was furthermore decided that the recommendations would be divided into two categories in each chapter - “minimum standard measures” and “other actions to aim higher” – in order to assist stakeholders with priority setting at national and organisational level. These will be further supported by examples of good practice, including a summary of the EOC and IOC initiatives in the area of gender equality, which will be annexed to the document. In its comments, the

EOC EU Office mainly stressed that if the recommendations were to be implemented, above all their targets needed to be realistic. The Recommendation should be finalised by the end of the year and presented to the Council Working Party on Sport in January.

Pledge boards

And finally, the Expert Group discussed the issue of Pledge boards. Based on the proposal of the European Commission, it was decided that a small working group will be set up to come up with a concrete proposal on how the envisaged pledge boards would be structured, operated and promoted. Pledge boards are considered as a possible voluntary follow-up to strengthen the implementation of the deliverables on MSE, good governance and gender equality.

Meeting of XG Human Resources and Conference on Dual Careers

The Expert Group on Human Resource Management in Sport (XG HR) had its third meeting on 19-20 November in Luxembourg. The group discussed three deliverables and attended a Conference on Dual Careers organised by the Luxembourg Presidency.

In its introduction, the Commission shared news regarding three studies: the study on minimum standards for dual career services will be published at the end of 2015; a workshop regarding the study on sport qualifications was organised on 3 December and will probably organise another one by March 2016; and finally, a call for a study on sport's role in the employability of young people has been published and evaluated.

In a detailed discussion on the first deliverable focusing on volunteering in sport, the text was structured into three parts: definitions, benefits and challenges. Subsequently it was decided

to include best practice examples on benefits and focus recommendations on the challenges identified. The final draft should be circulated before the end of 2015 and is to be presented to the Council Working Party in March 2016.

This was followed by a presentation of a representative of DG Employment, who introduced ESCO (a classification of “European Skills/Competence, qualifications and occupations”). Its aim is to identify and categorise skills needed for certain occupations. Currently categories for 11 sectors have been finalised, 16 further sectors exist in a draft format. Drafts for sport occupations have been introduced under the heading of non-formal education by a small group of representatives, mainly building on the fitness sector. An online consultation is open until the end of December 2015 to finalise the content. The experts criticised the

– The House of European Sport –

lack of consultation of the sport sector or communication with the expert group.

Regarding the deliverable on “Compliance of national qualifications with international qualification standards of international sport federations”, the group finally decided to create an orientation how to link international and national federations’ qualifications systems and combine this with the methodology of the European Qualifications Framework. It was also agreed to use the text to open discussions for the future work plan.

On the second day of the meeting, experts started work on the deliverable on the contribution of sport to the employability of young people. In three working groups, the scope and aims of the deliverable were discussed. It was mainly agreed to focus on NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) as most vulnerable group and that it would be necessary to gain an overview of activities before issuing recommendations. Considering partnerships with other actors and collecting evidence of sport’s beneficial contributions were seen as other priorities.

The next meeting of the expert group will be on 17 March 2016 in Brussels.

On the afternoon of the 20 November 2015 the experts attended a Conference on “The European Dimension of Dual Careers in Sport”, organised by the Luxembourg presidency. Romain Schneider, Minister for Sport, called for European cooperation in the field to provide the best chances to athletes, while Antonio Silva Mendes, Director of Sport and Youth at the European Commission, provided an overview of the work done.

This was followed by three presentations: Dr Cees Vervoorn (Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences) presented the study on minimum requirements for dual career services, Guy Taylor (Chair of XG HR) presented key principles of the "Sport England Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme" and Pascal Schaul, Deputy Director of Sportlycée Luxembourg, talked on the needs of small countries, before two panels discussed the situation regarding dual careers in Europe and in Luxembourg specifically.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Information of European Commission on ESCO](#)
[ESCO Consultation Portal](#)
[Report of the Luxembourg Presidency on Conference on Dual Careers](#)

European Parliament discusses visa code and touring visa

On 19 November, the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs committee (LIBE) of the European Parliament discussed two legislative proposals aiming to renew the legal framework of the EU visa policy.

Launched by the European Commission in 2014, this process aims to shorten and simplify the procedures to obtain short stay visas within the EU by a recast of the visa code, and to create a new touring visa. These proposals contain two sport-related aspects:

- On the visa code, the Commission’s proposal maintained procedures facilitating the issuing of visas to members of the Olympic family participating in the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.
- The new touring visa could provide a legal basis for athletes to stay more than 90 days within the Schengen area, if they are included in the list of beneficiaries.

– The House of European Sport –

Currently, third-countries athletes are facing many difficulties to be engaged in high level competitions taking place within the EU. Indeed, the current short-stay visa only covers a maximum of 90 days during any 180 days period, which prevents third-countries athletes to fulfil the requirements of high-level competitions, including training session and qualification stages.

The European Commission's proposal is currently in the hand of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. The EOC EU Office is in contact with MEPs dealing with both proposals in order to raise their awareness on the necessity to include high-level athletes and their entourage in the scope of the touring visa.

In this regard, latest developments within the LIBE committee of the European Parliament went in a positive direction as the rapporteur of the text, Brice Hortefeux, proposed to reduce the scope of this touring visa to two categories including high-level athletes and their entourage.

In case of an agreement, the European Parliament could vote the text in the first semester of 2016.

The Council of the EU should hold its first discussions on the subject at the beginning of next year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament procedure file on the touring visa](#)

Court of Justice invalidates Commission's Safe Harbour decision

On 6 October, the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ) published its decision on the case Maximilian Schrems vs. Data protection Commissioner. The ECJ ruled the 15-year-old agreement illegal on the basis of the inadequate protection given to Europeans' data once it's transferred to the US. Safe Harbour agreement allows companies to transfer consumers' personal data from Europe to the US, if they vouch for adequate privacy standards.

In reaction to this decision, the European Commission has announced that negotiations with the U.S. have already started in order to implement a renewed and safe framework on the transfer of personal data. Vice-President Andrus Ansip, in charge of the Digital Single Market, precised it was expected "in the next three months" emphasizing that "the EU and the US are each other's most important trading

partners. Data flows between our continents are essential for people and businesses".

Following the judgement, Vera Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, indicated the Commission would "continue to work closely with national data protection authorities (DPA), who are responsible for the enforcement of data protection law in the Member States" in order to ensure a uniform application of the ruling.

The concrete impact of these developments on sport is difficult to predict. The EOC EU Office will follow the follow-up of this decision, together with the ongoing reform of the data protection framework conducted by the EU carefully.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press conference of the European Commission on Safe Harbour](#)

– The House of European Sport –

Alcohol Strategy: Council demands follow-up from Commission

The health ministers of the 28 EU Member States in their meeting on 7 December 2015 demanded that the European Commission (Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food safety, is responsible) bring forward a new strategy on alcohol-related harm by the end of 2016. The first Alcohol Strategy ran out in 2012 and has not been replaced since. Sport could be affected by possible regulation of alcohol advertising, which funds sport at different levels.

In course of their discussions, ministers agreed with the Commission that the main role has to be played by member states, but stressed the importance of a coordinated approach on EU

level. They also endorsed the Parliamentary Resolution for a new strategy that was published in April.

The Commission has considered addressing alcohol related harm in a wider strategy on health risk factors and sees the main responsibility in the field with national governments.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Draft Council Conclusions on "An EU strategy on the reduction of alcohol-related harm"](#)

Sport Intergroup discusses role of sport for inclusion of refugees

The third meeting of the Sport Intergroup took place at the European Parliament on 8 December 2015. Gathering several MEPs and stakeholders, this meeting dealt with questions of the role of sport in the social inclusion of refugees.

Tibor Navracsics, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, introduced the discussion by recalling the recent measures taken by the European Union to foster the welcoming and the integration of the important number of refugees that have arrived in the EU over the last few months. The Commissioner stated that sport could be a driving force for social integration, health and cultural exchanges.

Underlining the fact that the High-Level Group on Grassroots Sport would discuss the subject of refugees and their integration through

grassroots sport activities in an upcoming meeting, Tibor Navracsics recalled that local actors have a major role to play.

Following this introduction, a panel discussion allowed eight speakers to present their different views and activities linked to the inclusion of refugees.

Furthermore, Mila Andreeva, member of the High-Level Group on Grassroots Sport, took the opportunity to introduce the activities of the group. She detailed the setting-up of the group as well as the first discussions, including on the definition of grassroots sport.

In January, members of the Intergroup are planning to visit a Belgian sport centre organising activities for refugees. The next meeting will be held on 26 January on the topic of third party ownership (TPO).

– The House of European Sport –

Compromise agreement on the new data protection package

On 15 December, representatives of the EU institutions found a political agreement on the EU data protection reform, following the last round of talks between negotiators of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission (“trilogue” meeting). The data protection reform, which was launched in 2012 by the European Commission, aims to modernise the current data protection framework of the EU, which dates back to 1995.

The EOC EU Office has followed the topic very actively, notably by expressing its concerns to EU officials about the reform’s unintended negative consequences for the fight against match-fixing and doping.

This political agreement is not the final step for the reform as the final texts must now be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council. This process will start on 17 December with the confirmation vote of the

LIBE committee of the European Parliament and the confirmation by the permanent representatives of EU governments, in COREPER, before the end of the year.

The final adoption of the reform and its official publication is expected for the first semester 2016.

Unlike the traditional EU procedure, the regulation will not directly enter into force. A two-year transition phase has been scheduled, allowing Member States to adapt their national laws or pass new ones in order to comply with the regulation as well as to define some elements at their discretion.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release European Commission](#)
[Press release European Parliament](#)
[Press release Council Presidency](#)

Sport diplomacy in the spotlight of High-Level Group

On 8 December the European Commission hosted the second meeting of the High-Level Group on Sport Diplomacy. Gathering renowned personalities of the world of sport, politics and academics, the Group was set up by Commissioner Navracsics in September 2015 and given the main task to come up with a set of recommendations, which would assist him in making sport an integral part of EU’s external affairs and diplomacy.

That sport does not have to be a minor subject in foreign affairs was demonstrated by Mr. Jean Levy, former French Ambassador for Sport, who presented the main orientations

and concrete actions of French sport diplomacy. A practical example of how sport can help in development policy was given by a representative of Danish NGO “Cross Cultures”. Its “Open Fun Football Schools” project was first introduced to war-torn Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1998 to facilitate intra- and inter- community communion and collaboration through football-related activities.

A fruitful discussion with the speakers and with a representative of the EU’s foreign affairs chief’s cabinet gave members of the Group a good basis for determining the form and the content of the Report. It was agreed that the

– The House of European Sport –

recommendations would be divided in four basic categories - EU's neighbourhood, development policies, major sport events, and capacity building within the EU institutions – and that each of these areas would be supported by a number of good practice examples. Members of the HL Group further stressed that rather than one of the target groups, the organised sport sector should be seen as an important partner and a “co-

bearer” of the values that EU wants to promote in its foreign affairs.

The next meeting of the High-Level Group will take place on 25 February 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Commission Report on High-Level Group meeting](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Regional Policy 2014-2020: Towards implementation phase

Following a long process of negotiations, the European Commission announced on 3 December that the last Operational Programme (for the region of Campania) of the Regional Policy 2014-2020 has been adopted. With this adoption, the Programmes can now officially enter the phase of implementation.

The adoption was followed by the publication of the Communication of the Commission on “Investing in jobs and growth - maximising the contribution of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)” on 14 December. The Communication presents among other things the main results of the negotiations between the Member States and the Commission on the Partnership Agreements. In total, 454 billion EUR of the EU budget have been earmarked for the ESIFs with an additional amount of at least 183 billion EUR of national co-financing bringing the total amount to 637 billion EUR. The Communication also lists the main expected achievements, including several that could have a link with sport:

- “investing in environment and resource efficiency”,
- “supporting sustainable transport” (e.g. cycling and walking in urban areas),
- “promoting sustainable and quality employment”,
- “investing in education and training” and
- “promoting social inclusion”.

Regarding the latter, reference is also made to the current refugee crisis, providing additional possibilities for sport actors to finance these kinds of projects.

The EOC EU Office has followed the process of the ESIFs and in particular the possibilities for sport in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) closely. Considering the importance of the sport sector for many elements of the European society and economy, the EOC EU Office considers it crucial that sport-related projects that contribute to the investment priorities can be financed out of the ESIFs.

– The House of European Sport –

Regarding the ERDF, it seems that small-scale sport infrastructure projects could be financed, especially if linked to promoting social inclusion or if part of a broader territorial development strategy, although options related to resource efficiency, sustainable transport and education, training and vocational training seem to exist.

For the ESF, possibilities for sport-related projects seem more straightforward, in particular when promoting employment, labour mobility, education and training (e.g. upskilling of sport staff), social inclusion and combating any kind of discrimination.

However, the actual selection of projects for ERDF and ESF funding is largely depending on the Management Authorities, the available funding, the investment priorities for the specific region and the type of region.

On access of sport to funding of the ESIF, the EU Commission is currently also conducting a study called “Study on the Contribution of Sport to Regional Development through the Structural Funds”. This study, which is conducted by Consultants CSES and Blomeyer & Sanz, has as one of its main objectives to gather good practices of the 2007-2013 period and to analyse how sport and physical activity have been included in the new framework. The final report is expected by April 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Press release Commission 3 December](#)

[Press release Commission 14 December](#)

[Overview Operational Programmes 2014-2020](#)

[Website of “Study on the Contribution of Sport to Regional Development”](#)

SIGGS Project well on schedule

On 5 November 2015, the Steering Committee (SteerCo) of the SIGGS (Support the Implementation of Good Governance) Project met for the fourth time in Brussels. The meeting was attended by representatives of 8 project partners. The agenda featured a discussion on the first experience with the self-evaluation tool, an overview of the Roadmaps ready for consultation and a discussion on the future Strategic Workshops.

Jonas Christiaens of NOVAGOV presented the first statistics on the participation by national federations in the seven participating countries. Furthermore, he presented the state of play of the development of other features to the self-evaluation tool. Many project partners expressed their satisfaction with the tool and the installed features.



As for the Roadmaps, Project Manager Matthias Van Baelen presented the first 10 of the 20 Roadmaps that will be developed for the SIGGS Project. These Roadmaps contain various components such as a list of possible risks, a number of instruments, good practice examples and possible actions that can be taken to increase your level. The various

– The House of European Sport –

project partners were happily surprised by the quality and progress made regarding the Roadmaps. The Project Management will continue to work on these Roadmaps in order to present them at the SIGGS Mid-term Conference on 3-4 February in Lisbon.

Following the SIGGS SteerCo meeting, it was decided to postpone the closing of the self-evaluation tool to 20 November. After the official closing of the first testing period, it turned out that in total 149 sport organisations participated over the 7 different countries

(Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Portugal, Lithuania and Turkey). This list includes 7 NOCs, 1 Paralympic Committee, 3 National Sport Confederations (different body from NOC) and more than 130 sport federations. A detailed analysis, respecting the confidentiality and privacy of the respondents, will be made in the forthcoming weeks.

[FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

[Website SIGGS Project](#)

Focus on Good Governance with SIGGS presentation at IF Forum

Between 11 and 13 November 2015, representatives of International Federations (IF) gathered in Lausanne for the IF Forum 2015. This year's Forum was devoted to the topic of "Governance of sport".

The SIGGS or "Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport" Project, managed by the EOC EU Office, was asked to present its objectives and its tools during a session on "Implementing good governance". This session was opened by Pere Miro, Deputy Director General of the IOC, and Kit McConnell, Sports Director of the IOC. In their presentation, they clearly stressed the importance of good governance, for instance by stating that *"good governance and autonomy are two sides of the same coin"*. They also confirmed that for the IOC, the key document is the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the IOC (PGG). In terms of the implementation of Olympic Agenda 2020, they announced that the IOC is developing supporting and practical tools to help National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and IFs, and their stakeholders: the National Federations (NFs). In particular, the IOC is developing implementation and self-evaluation

tools, for which they are currently collecting best practice examples.



The SIGGS Project, which was presented by Project Manager, Matthias Van Baelen, and Thierry Zintz of the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), is one of the projects that the IOC is following with close interest. In the presentation on SIGGS, it was highlighted that the objective is to provide practical guidance to NOCs and NFs on how to implement principles of good governance and that the PGG together with the EU Principles of good governance in sport are the main reference documents. Furthermore, the methodology was further explained thereby stressing the tailor-made, customised Action Plans that will offer support on the actual implementation of a certain principle for each organisation.

– The House of European Sport –

The SIGGS Project, which is still running until the end of 2016 with the main tools to be finalised in the first half of 2016, was welcomed by many IFs and it was concluded that the tools of the SIGGS Project could become very valuable for NFs, NOCs and even IFs.

At the end of the discussions, the IFs adopted the following statement: *“Today the IFs welcome and accept the IOC’s invitation to work together to not only establish indicators and assessment mechanisms, but to promote their use within their respective sports. The objective of this undertaking is to ensure that the state of governance within sports institutions can be readily assessed publicly and monitored on an ongoing basis. This will be done in an inclusive manner, taking into account best practices and using the most appropriate available tools so as to not only*

establish the right processes, but to promote and ensure a CULTURE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE within all sport Federations.”

The SIGGS Project Management will do its utmost to ensure that the tools of the SIGGS Project meet the high expectations of all stakeholders involved. The SIGGS Project is already in close contact with the IOC that officially supports the project. In this regard, the SIGGS Project wants to contribute to the sharing of best practices, to the day-to-day implementation of good governance principles and to the creation of a culture of good governance in sport.

[FURTHER INFORMATION](#)

[SIGGS Project website](#)

[Website IF Forum 2015](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

Executive Board meeting of the EOC EU Office

On 17 December 2015, the 12th Executive Board meeting of the EOC EU Office took place in Brussels. Representatives of the EOC (Patrick Hickey, President, and Kikis Lazarides, Treasurer), DOSB (Michael Vesper, CEO) and the Czech Olympic Committee (Roman Kumpost, Director of International Affairs) discussed among other items the budget of the EOC EU Office and the implementation of the activities in 2015. Niels Nygaard, EOC Executive Committee member and liaison-member for the EOC EU Commission, and Jean-Michel Saive, Chair of the EOC Athletes’ Commission, were also invited to attend the meeting.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, presented the main activities of the EOC EU Office of 2015 including the implementation of the SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”) which continues in 2016. Furthermore, he referred to the successful staging of the European Evening of Sports in May 2015, the lobby activities in the field of Erasmus+ Sports, Data Protection and Visa Policy and the renewed communicational activities of the office. In addition, the Board discussed some of the upcoming challenges for the year 2016 including the discussions in the framework of the Single Digital Market. It was also decided to appoint Jean-Michel Saive as a professional

– *The House of European Sport* –

representative of the Olympic Athletes' Commissions dealing with EU Affairs in Brussels. The Board also approved the budget and the work plan for 2016.

To conclude, the representatives of the Executive Board expressed their gratitude to the staff of the EOC EU Office for their excellent work



European Olympic Committees' 44th General Assembly in Prague

On 20 and 21 November, the Czech Olympic Committee hosted the European Olympic Committees' (EOC) 44th General Assembly.

Operating in the city of Prague, the General Assembly gathered not only representatives of the EOC's 50 members, but visiting delegations from the hosts of upcoming Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games, as well as the five candidate cities for the 2024 Olympic Games. IOC President Thomas Bach, Honorary IOC President Jacques Rogge, and Honorary EOC President Mario Pescante attended the meeting.

After a tribute to the victims of Paris attacks, the first day of the meeting was dedicated to numerous reports on the events and activities of the EOC including a review of the first edition of the European Games in Baku and

reports on the previous and the upcoming editions of the European Youth Olympic Festival. IOC also provided the audience with further information regarding its activities notably with an inspiring speech of Thomas Bach stressing the importance of the implementation of the Agenda 2020.

One part of the agenda was focused on EU activities, with the report of Neinar Seli, President of the NOC of Estonia and Chair of the EOC EU Commission, on the two meeting held by the EOC EU Commission during the past year. Underlining the support provided by the EOC EU Office, Mr Seli explained that his Commission used the meeting in Brussels "to meet several EU officials, with the objective to express our interest and the interest of the Olympic movement, as well as to ensure that it

– *The House of European Sport* –

is clearly understood and taken into account within EU policies”.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office stressed the work done by the office to promote the views of the Olympic Movement. Moreover, he outlined the challenges faced at the European level, notably “the need to professionalise our athlete’s commissions in order to allow them to compete on a level playing field with the trade unions”.

EOC President Patrick Hickey thanked the EOC EU Office for its active work in Brussels and invited participants to learn more about the office by visiting the information desk at their disposal during the entire event.

The General Assembly was also the opportunity to award the Best European Young Athlete of 2015, the Czech track cyclist Jiri Janosek, as well as five European Laurels to NOC’s sport leaders, Mrs Morana Palikovic Gruden (CRO), Mr Alain Geles (FRA), Mr Joseph Cassar, (MLT), Mr Ioan Dobrescu (ROU) and Mr Igor Kazikov (RUS).

Finally, Patrick Hickey announced that the EOC will hold its next General Assembly in Minsk, invited by the Belarus NOC, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC press release on European Olympic Laurels](#)

EOC EU Office: Special Competence and NOC Funding Seminar

The EOC EU Office hosted its annual Special Competence Seminar on 7 December, followed by a workshop on EU Funding on the 8 December.

On the first day, Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, presented the activities of the office as well as its new staff members and services. A new Intranet platform will be launched from January and a new format of seminars targeting specific topics or groups of partners will be initiated.

The attending partners then presented their recent activities and projects at the European level, the NOCs Luxembourg and Germany notably mentioned their respective projects on refugees’ integration.

After the EOC EU Office presented an update on single policy fields, Gianluca Monte, case handler at DG Competition (DG COMP) of the European Commission gave a presentation on

the EU competition policy and the 2 main topics tackled by the DG COMP: antitrust and state aid. He presented the examination



process and its potential impact on sport and sports organisations through the example case of the International Skating Union (ISU). After this display, the partners discussed the Commission’s approach critically.

On the 8 December, a workshop on EU Funding for Sport was open to both the partners of the EU EOC Office and European NOCs.

– *The House of European Sport* –

Possibilities under the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the Structural and Investment Funds and the EU funding possibilities for non-EU countries were presented by the EOC EU Office.

Afterwards, Luciano Di Fonzo from the European Commission Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) presented the application process for Erasmus+ funding. Participants could then raise their questions about the application form and technical requirements and obtain information about the part of sport organisations in the previous funding programmes.

A discussion on upcoming European projects led by the partners followed, with good practice examples presented by both the Croatian and the French NOC.

Finally, the partners could attend different special workshops on specific aspects of EU Funding: the registration phase, the preparation and writing of an application, the submission and selection process and the implementation of projects, as well as a special workshop on the access to EU funding for non-EU countries.

Meeting with the Sport Unit of the European Commission

On 2 December, the EOC EU Office welcomed Yves Le Lostecque and Susanne Hollmann, Head and Deputy Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, for an exchange on recent sport policy developments.

On the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, Yves Le Lostecque said that the test period for 'small collaborative partnerships' was a positive development, and expressed his hope that this would increase the number of applicants from organised sport. He also informed the office that the objectives and priorities of this tool would be re-evaluated next year. For the coming deadlines, an Erasmus+ Info Day will take place in Brussels on 3 March 2016.

Talking about the High-Level Groups on Sport Diplomacy and Grassroots Sport, Yves Le Lostecque indicated that no follow-up is decided yet. This will be seen after the report from the High-Level Group has been finalised and according to the policy priorities at that point. However, he pointed out that the upcoming Slovak Council Presidency has

already identified this topic as one of its priorities.

Regarding the EU Digital Agenda, the Sport Unit saw the meeting of three commissioners with the Sports Rights Owners Coalition as positive development. In this Tibor Navracscics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, underlined the link between professional and grassroots sport.

The developments around the Digital Single Market will be discussed at the Sport Forum, which will take place in The Hague on 9 and 10 March 2016. Good Governance, particularly Major Sport Events, the new EU Work Plan for Sport, and the European Week of Sport (EWoS) will be other important items on the agenda.

Major Sport Events will also be at the centre of the Dutch Council Presidency, starting January 2016. It wants to foster the positive image of sport and considers a declaration on major sport events. It is also planned to host a conference on Doping, including Data

– The House of European Sport –

Protection, together with the European Commission in June 2016.

Discussing the European Week of Sport, Yves Le Lostecque announced the publication of the Commission report for 2015 (this was published on 14 December). The outlooks for

the next edition are a change of date (starting on 10 September), more joint work including a parallel opening and more flexibility with only focus themes, but no more fixed days. A wider evaluation will take place in two years, with a potential overhaul of the concept for 2017.

PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO: Training Sessions of SCORE Project kick-off in UK



ENGSO's SCORE project promotes gender equality in coaching and aims at increasing the number of female coaches at all levels of sport. It is led by ENGSO and co-financed by the Erasmus+ Sport Programme.

During 2015 the main focus of the project has been on the development of a toolkit with tools for sport organisations and for women interested in coaching. The second year of the project will see national training sessions in eight countries to introduce the toolkit and educate sport governing bodies to improve gender equality in their organisations.

The first training session took place in Derby, UK, on 26 November. Representatives from different

sport governing bodies, such as canoeing, field hockey, volleyball and swimming, got together to reflect their current situation, get familiar with the toolkit and to set up their aims and next steps for the future. In addition, field hockey coach Carolyn Rolleston gave an inspirational speech, sharing experiences from her coaching pathway. During 2016, similar training sessions will be given in Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal and Sweden.

In addition to the training sessions, the second key element of the project is an education for mentors. The project will educate more than 20 mentors, who will mentor female coaches in their respective countries after the education. The SCORE project runs until the end of 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Project website](#)

CONI: Project Erasmus+ Sport "Gold in Education and Elite Sport"

Several Partners of the EOC EU Office are currently working on the project "Gold in Education and Elite Sport" (GEES), which is

funded by the EU Erasmus+ Sport Programme. The Scuola dello Sport of the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI), the Dutch Olympic Committee

– The House of European Sport –



(NOC*NSF) and the Swedish Sports Confederation

Riksidrottsförbundet (RF) are involved in the project that is led by INSEP and

Vrije Universiteit Brussel. The grant was awarded through the 2014 Call for Proposals and the project focuses on the topic of Dual Careers (drawing on the EU Dual Career Guidelines 2012). For that, the project involves a consortium of internationally renowned dual career researchers and practitioners. Nine countries contribute through institutions such as Universities, Sports Institutes or National Olympic Committees.

The aim of GEES is to boost athletes' success in sport, education and then employment through the optimisation of their competences and the development of the services supporting development. For that research driven best practice guidelines shall be developed, which focus on the views of both elite student athletes on specific competences for developing their holistic pathway and of current practitioners on the competences required for dual career success.

Results will be disseminated via the project website (see below), social networks, articles/presentations, reports and dedicated workshops and conference. This aims to provide valuable further tools at EU level by:

- Providing competence profiles for athletes and dual career support providers as well as instruments and techniques to optimise dual career support services. This will build on data collected from (a selection of) ± 5 000 12-to-18 year old and ± 4 400 18-to-25 year old athletes, as well as from (a selection of) 525 experts and support providers.
- Providing the basis for a European framework of reference for athletes' competences regarding this dual career pathway and competences of dual career support providers allowing for a European guide within existing or newly to be developed dual career services within the Member States.

As a result of Phase 1 of the project 3 252 student athletes completed the survey across the nine partner countries. The three most important competences recognised by athletes are perseverance during challenging times and in the face of setbacks, understanding the importance of rest and recuperation, as well as the ability to cope with stress in sport and study.

Until April 2016, project phase 2 investigates the competences of Dual Career Support Providers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Project Website](#)

– The House of European Sport –

NEXT MONTH

Dates in December 2015 –January 2016

23 December - 3 January	<i>EOC EU Office closed</i>
20 January	<i>EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Lausanne</i>
21 January	<i>Deadline for Erasmus+ Call 2016 (related to European Week of Sport)</i>
22 January	<i>High Level Group meeting on Grassroots Sports, Brussels</i>
26 January	<i>EP Sport Intergroup on third-party ownership, Brussels</i>