

The House of European Sport

Tweets of the month



Jan Seghers

@JanSeghers

25 April

Meet and greet between Sports Club for Health project team and EOC EU office #SCforH @EuSport @ENGSOsport @EOCEUOffice

EuSport

@EuSport

25 April

Have you discovered SCORE project's new interactive toolkit on #GenderEquality in Coaching yet? [http://www.eusa.eu/news?score-gender-equality-in-coaching-interactive-toolkit ...](http://www.eusa.eu/news?score-gender-equality-in-coaching-interactive-toolkit...) via @eusaunisport

SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU

19 April

#SIGGS addresses Secretaries General of European handball federations at @EHF SG Conference [https://www.siggs.eu/blog/siggs-addresses-secretaries-general-european-handball-federations ...](https://www.siggs.eu/blog/siggs-addresses-secretaries-general-european-handball-federations...) @EOCmedia @EuSport

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The Maltese Presidency is entering the last phase of its mandate. The most important decision on sport will be the adoption of the new Council Work Plan on Sport 2017-20 scheduled for 23 May 2017. With a view on the current Work Plan, it is more than obvious that too many recommendations and conclusions have been produced with very limited implementation or impact. In order to bring an added value to European Sport, the next Work Plan should involve the relevant stakeholders of organised sport from the early beginning to ensure that the real challenges for sport are tackled.

The Work Plan will run until 31 December 2020, which corresponds with the end of the current multi-annual financial framework of the EU. In the course of this period, the future of European funding Programmes will be discussed and decided. One can imagine that the Brexit will further complicate the challenging discussions on the distribution of the financing of the future EU programmes. The Erasmus+ Sport Programme has developed well, however, all stakeholders involved should be prepared for tough negotiations in the upcoming years. Good arguments are required in order to justify a new Programme for sport after the year of 2020.

Policy fields such as Good Governance or Match Fixing will remain on the agenda. That is understandable and the Olympic Sports Movement is committed to find answers to further strengthen the integrity and governance of sport. At the same time, Member States have to do their homework as well. The never-ending story of the ratification process of the Council of Europe Convention on Match Fixing is for instance an example that could question the true will of the Member States to tackle seriously one of the major obstacles for the integrity of sport competitions.

Apart from these policy fields, the new Work Plan should deal with challenges such as the financing of grassroots sports, volunteering, dual career, the societal role of sport or the application of antitrust policy to sport. These topics should not be forgotten.

I would like to conclude this editorial by referring to the upcoming “European Evening of Sports”, which is organised by the EOC EU Office and which will take place on 19 June in Brussels. The programme has been finalised with around 250 stakeholders from sport and politics expected to gather in order to listen the IOC President Bach’s keynote speech or the panel discussion with for instance Commissioner Navracsics and EOC acting President Kocijančič on the future of European Sports Policy. We are looking forward to welcome all our guests in Brussels!

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

XG HR: Guidance on the compliance of qualifications – towards increased mobility in the sport sector

The Council Expert Group on Human Resources in Sport was tasked with developing a guidance on the compliance of national qualifications with international qualification standards of international sport federation. The [final document](#), which has been published on the European Commission website recently, explores, in particular, how to achieve an agreement on the steps to be taken to devise (common) curricula with different training providers.

The experts recall that the system of training and qualifications in the sports sector is characterised by an extreme diversity not only across the EU Member States, but also across different sports especially regarding the links between national and international federations. The complex nature of the issue has recently been scrutinised in a number of studies (for details, please refer to the 2016 editions of our Monthly Report):

- A detailed analysis of the qualifications landscape at national level both in a formal education setting and in a non-informal (sport organisations) environment is provided in a [European Commission study on Sport qualifications](#);
- The qualifications systems and standards of international sport federations are mapped in [this analysis](#) commissioned by DG Education and Culture of the European Commission;

And finally, an example of the situation in a particular sport – skiing - when it comes to the recognition of professional qualifications is outlined in this [comprehensive study](#).

To overcome the challenges and obstacles caused by this diversity, and facilitate mobility in the sport sector across EU Members States, the experts recommend that the “organisations which design qualifications and/ or training providers use a **reference tool** for their levels of qualification.” This tool, according to the members of the Expert Group, should be based on a clear model using an appropriate language and common standard terms, and it should be constructed around several key elements regarding the proposed job/role profiles and competencies. These should:

- Identify the goals, tasks and activities required for each job;
- Should be developed into units of learning outcomes;
- Be linked to the level of qualification and training in relation to what the person is responsible for;
- Should define the process and procedure of the evaluation of competencies;
- Could be validated by an initial training course and/or continued by the acquired validated experiences.

The last deliverable of the Expert Group, linked to all the above mentioned documents – the *Report on the state of play concerning the inclusion of sport qualifications in NQFs with a reference to EQF* – will be published at the beginning of the second semester of 2017.

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EP: IMCO committee votes on Geo-blocking

On 25 April 2017 the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted its report on "Proposal for a Regulation on addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market". The Regulation aims to prevent discrimination for consumers and companies on access to prices, sales or payment conditions when buying products and services in another EU country.

The European Commission had excluded audio-visual services including broadcasts of sport events from the scope of its proposal, therefore generally allowing geo-blocking as a means to protect territoriality of sport broadcasts. However, the report includes a review clause regarding the inclusion of audio-visual content after two years and other initiatives of the Digital Single Market (DSM), such as the proposal on "Copyright and related rights applicable to certain online

transmissions of broadcasting organisations and retransmissions of television and radio programmes" could still curtail the territorial exclusivity of content.

Representatives of the EP, the Council of the EU and the European Commission will now negotiate a common position in the so-called "trilogue". The Council had already agreed its position end of November 2016.

MORE INFORMATION

[European Commission, Proposal for a Regulation on addressing geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the internal market, COM\(2016\) 289](#)

[Council of the EU press release \(28/11/2016\): "Geo-blocking: Council agrees to remove barriers to e-commerce"](#)

Public Consultation on whistleblower protection

Mainly linked to financial or political issues in the past, the question of the role of whistleblower and the way to provide them with an effective protection recently became a major topic in the field of sport, notably regarding integrity issues and the fight against doping. On its side, the European Union is currently working on several initiatives to improve the situation of whistleblowers in Europe. According to the definition of the European Commission, a whistleblower is "*an individual which may, in course of its work, come across information about acts or omissions which represent a threat or harm to the public interest. By reporting or disclosing such acts or omissions ("whistle blowing") they can help to prevent harm to the public interest*".

One of these initiatives is the public consultation on whistleblower protection launched by the European Commission, on 3 March. This consultation is part of the assessment by the European Commission to define the most appropriate scope for future actions to strengthen whistleblower protection. The Commission aims to collect views from a broad range of stakeholders, as well as the general public, in order to prepare future policy and legislation.

Whistleblower protection is a priority for EU institutions as underlined by Vera Jourová, Commissioner for Justice and Consumers, stating that "*Whistleblowers can play a crucial role when it comes to fighting money laundering, fraud or corruption. We have to weigh carefully what is the*

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best way forward and on which level we should act to better protect them. This public consultation will be valuable for the Commission to make well-informed choices.” The European Commission will use the results of this consultation to consider whether horizontal and/or sectoral approaches are most appropriate to ensure whistleblower protection.

In the frame of this consultation, the Commission is gathering input from stakeholders including international organisations, public authorities and NGOs. In this regard, Sport governing bodies and sport organisations should use this opportunity offered to express their views and to contribute to

shape the European Commission's initiative before it goes to the Council and European Parliament for discussion and adoption.

The consultation will be opened until 29 May 2017.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

[Public consultation on whistleblower protection](#)

[Impact assessment](#)

[Background document](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

EOC EU Office presents SIGGS Project at EHF Secretaries General Conference

On the occasion of the 10th European Handball Federation (EHF) Secretaries General Conference in Paris on 19 and 20 April 2017, the EOC EU

Office was invited to present the outcomes of the EU-funded Project 'Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport' (SIGGS). This Project was implemented by the EOC EU Office together with 11 other partner organisations in the period 2015-2016. With more than 70 participants from around 45 different national handball federations attending the EHF Conference, the presentation was an excellent opportunity to address the Secretaries General directly to demonstrate the main features of the SIGGS self-evaluation tool on good governance for national sport federations as well as to show advantages of the use of the



10th EHF CONFERENCE FOR
SECRETARIES GENERAL
19-20 April 2017 • Paris, France

tool and of investing time in the topic of good governance in general.

Following the welcome by EHF President Michael Wiederer and an introduction by Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, who provided the political background on the EU discussions on good governance, Matthias Van Baelen as SIGGS Project Manager presented the SIGGS self-evaluation tool to the participants. The SIGGS presentation was included in the agenda under the topic of 'services for federations'. The overall title of the Conference was 'Activating the Community'. Matthias Van Baelen therefore stressed on several occasions in his presentation that SIGGS is indeed at the service of the federations and that there is a lot to gain from investing in the topic of good governance. Furthermore, he called upon all national federations to use the tool to evaluate the governance of their own organisation.

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This keynote speech was followed by a number of parallel group discussions or 'Break-out sessions' covering SIGGS as well as other topics. Prior to the Conference, seven national handball federations had already taken part in the self-evaluation. This allowed the respective representatives to share their experience with the tool. They for instance highlighted the customised approach, which means that the tool is equally interesting for a small federation, mainly relying on volunteers, as for larger federations with several full time staff members. It was stressed during the workshop that it is important to convince the political level of the importance of good governance and of the possible gains for a federation, which the SIGGS tool enables you to do. Implementing good governance principles should indeed not be seen as creating a list of additional tasks, but rather as a continuous process impacting the culture of the organisation.

Furthermore, it was highlighted in the discussions that small federations should be able to learn from the bigger federations. In this regard, it is important that all federations take part in the evaluation.

The SIGGS self-evaluation tool has been open to all NOCs and national sport federations from all 50 countries of the EOC since its launch at the end of November 2016 at the SIGGS Final Conference. Following this EHF Secretaries General Conference, the SIGGS Project team hopes that even more federations will find the way to the SIGGS self-evaluation tool, available online via: siggs.novagov.com.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website SIGGS Project](#)

PARTNERS' CORNER

NOC Finland: Sports Club for Health (SCforH) project – closing seminar and key takeaways

The Erasmus+ Sport project project "Promoting National Implementation of SCforH programmes in EU member states (SCforH) is one of the funded projects of the first application round. It started in January 2015 and it will finish at the end of June 2017. The aim of the project is to develop the health-enhancing physical activities in the sports club setting. For instance, a practical toolkit, as well as evidence-based research has been conducted during the project. The project consortium involves altogether 19 partners including a good combination of practitioners and scientists. The project leader is Finnish Olympic Committee.

On 25th of April 2017, SCforH project had its closing seminar at European Parliament. The



event, hosted by MEP Hannu Takkula, gathered around 50 participants from the EU institutions and sport movement. In addition, over 300 people followed the online broadcast. The event was opened by MEP Takkula and Vice President of

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the Finnish Olympic Committee Susanna Rahkamo, who is also the Chair of the EOC Olympic Culture and Legacy Commission. Head of Sport Unit, Yves Le Lostecque was one of the speakers of the event and the EOC EU Office was represented in the panel discussion by Policy Officer Felix Schäfer.

Key takeaways of the project

One of the key findings of the project is that the adoption of the SCforH approach will increase both opportunities and participation in sport and, at the same time, improves the health of sports club members. There are also examples, that when sport associations offer health-related or recreational activities, it brings new members to the clubs and broadens their member base. The key findings of the project can be summarised as follows:

- **Organised sport has a great potential to promote health through grassroots sports.** Collaboration of all parties – research, policy and practice – is needed to successfully develop the SCforH implementation.
- **The current status of the implementation of Sports Club for Health approach has been examined and new tools created for future evaluation and follow-up of SCforH Implementation in the EU countries.**
- **Guidelines, principles and practical tools are publicly available on the website of Sports Club for Health,** including guidelines and principles for sports clubs as well as an E-tool for sport associations.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Project website](#)

NEXT MONTH

Dates in May 2017

1 May 2017	<i>Labour day, EOC EU Office closed, Brussels</i>
3-4 May 2017	<i>Meeting CNOSF Parcours ambition international, Brussels</i>
9-10 May 2017	<i>EPAS Joint Meeting, Governing + Consultative, Cyprus</i>
11 May 2017	<i>Annual Partner Meeting, EOC EU Office, Brussels</i>
18 May 2017	<i>EOC Executive Meeting, Skopje, Macedonia (FYROM)</i>
19-20 May 2017	<i>EOC Seminar, Skopje, Macedonia (FYROM)</i>
23 May 2017	<i>Sports Ministers Council, Brussels</i>
25 May 2017	<i>Ascension Day, EOC EU Office closed, Brussels</i>