

– The House of European Sport –

## Tweets of the month



### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 24 February  
Proud to announce our partnership with @FIBA Europe as of February. Welcome!!  
[http://www.euoffice.euolympic.org/blog/fiba-europe-becomes-partner-eoc-eu-office ...](http://www.euoffice.euolympic.org/blog/fiba-europe-becomes-partner-eoc-eu-office...)

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 23 February  
Council Expert Group on #GoodGovernance today with presentation @SIGGS\_EU as part of promotion and implementation of GG Principles #XGGG

### EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 17 February  
. @EU\_Commission organises Conference on "Developing European initiatives to fight #matchfixing" in Brussels

### SIGGS Project

@SIGGS\_EU 5 February  
#SIGGSMidTerm Conference successfully concluded! Thanks to all participants and special to NOC of Portugal #COP!

### ENGSO

@ENGSOsport 4 February  
What answers can European #grassrootssport provide 4 the #refugeecrisis? Find out @ the #EUSportForum2016  
<http://www.engso.eu/index.php?id=479>

## Table of contents

Editorial 2

### EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

Expert Group on Good Governance meets in Brussels 3

Erasmus+: Sport Infoday: Commission launches small collaborative partnerships 4

### FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Dual careers in sport at the centre of EU research initiatives 4

SIGGS project organised a successful Mid-term Conference in Lisbon 5

Internet platform for sustainable sporting events: Green Champions 2.0 now also available in English 6

### PARTNERS' CORNER

FIBA Europe becomes partner of EOC EU Office 7

SCORE Project is in full speed with the Training Sessions and Education for Mentors 8

### NEXT MONTH

Dates in March 10

– The House of European Sport –

## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

On 9-10 March, the Netherlands EU Presidency will host the annual European Sport Forum in The Hague. The event will bring together more than 300 participants, stakeholders from the worlds of sports and politics. The 2016 edition will cover a range of topics, which are crucial for the future development of organised sport in Europe. Perhaps the most important one - good governance in sport - will be discussed by prominent speakers such as the EOC President Patrick Hickey or the EU Commissioner for Sport, Tibor Navracsics, in a high-level panel discussion.

Another debate, in which the author of this editorial has the honour to take part, will deal with the “contribution of grassroots sport to the integration of refugees and migrants in Europe”. The panel discussion will provide a good platform to inform participants about various activities driven by sport organisations all over Europe. Generally speaking, sport clubs in many European countries have been able to provide immediate help and assistance to the people in need. In Germany, for examples, many sport gyms have been used as a temporary shelter for a number of refugees, and many activities have been organised to help them with the adjustment to the new environment, to the new life. However, such, more or less ad-hoc, assistance, no matter how effective it is in a short-term perspective, cannot be sustainable in the long run. What is needed is a (1) a long-term strategy, which will be based on the involvement and coordination of different stakeholders, including schools, public authorities, migrants’ organisations etc., supported by (2) appropriate financial means. Now is the time, when these networks should be created and/or strengthened; now is the time when strategies should be adopted. And sport, with its - so often cited and demonstrated - positive impact on societies, has to be an integral part of this process.

The third panel discussion will deal with a somewhat different topic: “The Digital Single Market and its impact on sport”. Even though the future conditions under which sport organisations will be able to sell and market media rights, may, at first sight, seem to concern only professional sport, the changes in the current system may have far reaching repercussions for the whole sector. The existing solidarity mechanisms in the organised sport structure are mainly based, precisely, on the revenues from media rights. The panel will certainly contribute to raising awareness of these issues, but I very much hope that it will also make clear that ideas, such as the introduction of “European licenses”, will neither improve the services nor will they increase sport federations’ revenues; quite the opposite.

On another note. The EOC EU Office is very happy to welcome FIBA Europe as a new partner! The partnership agreement was signed on 24 February in Brussels and you will find more information on page 7 of this Report. We are excited to have such a prestigious federation on board and look forward to a fruitful cooperation to the mutual benefit of both organisations.

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

### Expert Group on Good Governance meets in Brussels

On 23 February 2016, the Council Expert Group on Good Governance met in Brussels for its 5th meeting. The EOC EU Office represented the Olympic Movement in the meeting.



The first deliverable discussed was the promotion of the EU Principles on good governance in sport, which were adopted by the previous Expert Group in September 2013. The EOC EU Office presented its SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”) which uses both the EU Principles and the IOC Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of 2009 as key documents. In this regard, the methodology and the scope of the self-assessment tool were presented to the various representatives of the Member States and observers. Furthermore, the EU Commission had prepared a survey on the state of play of the implementation of the EU Principles. The outcome of this survey will be discussed at the next meeting of the Group.

Consequently, the second deliverable, covering the protection of minors, was discussed in detail. The Lead Expert, Alexandre Husting, presented

the state of play on various aspects of the protection of minors (e.g. existing legal instruments) and presented possible areas as well as outputs (e.g. collection of best practices or recommendations) for the deliverable. Following an exchange of views and a presentation by Sports Coach UK, it was decided that the Lead Expert should work on a first draft of the deliverable and that observers and Member States should provide input. This draft will be discussed at the next meeting of the group.

Consequently, substantial discussion took place on the Pledge Boards. These Pledge Boards are possible instruments to further the implementation of a number of deliverables, in particular in the field of gender equality and good governance. A first draft and report linked to gender equality and prepared by an ad hoc small group of experts was presented to the Expert Group. Even though the Pledge Board should be a voluntary instrument to publicly commit to a number of pledges, various questions remain open such as on the role of the EU Commission and on the extent of self-reporting or “light” monitoring. With several Member States and observers raising concerns on the current draft and structure of this instrument, it was clear that the current format needs to be significantly reviewed and further refined. Therefore, it was decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

The next meetings of the Expert Group will be organised on 28 April in Brussels and in July 2016. The EU Commission also informed the Group that the Flagship Event of the European Week of Sport on 15 September 2016 will deal with the topic of good governance in sport.

– The House of European Sport –

## Erasmus+: Sport Infoday: Commission launches small collaborative partnerships

The European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organized an "Infoday" on March 3, 2016 in Brussels to inform potential applicants about the Erasmus+ Sport, its funding opportunities and the EU sport policy background. Speakers provided practical guidance on preparing and submitting proposals, and provided support with the financial aspects of funding.

On this occasion, the EU COM promoted the launch of small collaborative partnerships. The EOC EU Office has advocated this in order to facilitate the access of actors from grassroots sports. As of the ongoing 2016 call smaller projects up to 60.000 € will now be financed by Erasmus+ sport. Due to simplified administrative

procedures these kind of projects could enhance the visibility of local projects in the programme.

Moreover, the Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport (SIGGS) project, which is being conducted by the EOC EU Office, was highlighted as an ambitious project supported by Erasmus+.

The deadline for this year's application round is May 12, 2016.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website](#)

## FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

### Dual careers in sport at the centre of EU research initiatives

In the span of one week, the EU institutions have published two studies pertaining to the topic of Dual careers: Study on the minimum quality requirements for dual career (DC) services commissioned by the European Commission and a background study on Qualifications/Dual Careers in Sport prepared for the European Parliament.

The main objective of the former - European Commission study led by the Amsterdam University of Applied Science – was twofold: (1) to develop a set of minimum quality requirements for DC services at EU level which could serve as a reference point for Member States, and (2) to provide a quality framework on how these service should look like, what they should contain, and with which minimum requirements they should comply.

The final study includes not only the said quality framework, which looks at the very complex issue of dual careers from different perspectives – athlete, entourage, stakeholders, national governments, and the EU - but also offers a very useful overview of national-level DC policies, programmes and initiatives.

The study concludes by pointing out that while a great variety of policies and programmes exist across Europe, and while the degree of stakeholders involvement and the cooperation between them differs from one country to another, several elements stand out as prerequisites for a high quality athlete-centred dual career services: an independent organisation responsible for dual careers; services and support adopted to the needs of

– *The House of European Sport* –

the individual athlete (including the proximity of sport facilities to the educational institutions); and formal agreements with educational institutions. The main aim of all those services, according to the study, should be to provide athletes with the right conditions to “successfully combine education, training or work with sport while enabling them to reach their full potential in life.” And by them, the study means the approximately 120 000 talented athletes in Europe every Olympic cycle.

The latter study - written on the request of the Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament - also aims at contributing to the implementation of DC in sport at European and national level. Similarly to the study above, it analyses scientific literature, scrutinizes the situation (policies and

activities) in a number of EU Member States, and highlights main DC challenges related to the phenomenon of migrating student-athletes in the EU. The study also provides a useful overview of dual careers projects which have been co-financed by the EU. Based on the findings and their analysis, the study makes several recommendations amongst which the establishment of a European-wide harmonized monitoring system to assess the efficacy of dual career policies, or the development of dual career quality certification for sport, academic bodies and companies.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Study on the minimum quality requirements](#)  
[Background study on Qualifications/Dual Careers in Sport](#)

## SIGGS project organised a successful Mid-term Conference in Lisbon



On 2 and 3 February 2016, the SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport), which is managed by the EOC EU Office, organised its Mid-term

Conference. The Conference was hosted by the NOC of Portugal as partners of the project.

Holding the Mid-term Conference exactly one year after the Kick-off meeting was an excellent opportunity for the Project Management to present the state of progress of the SIGGS project. The two day-meeting gathered representatives of all partners of the project as well as guests from European and International federations and EU institutions.

The first day started with an opening presentation made by Antonio Silva MENDES, Director for Youth and Sport at the European Commission, who underlined the “perfect momentum to act in the topic of good governance of sport organisations” and recalled “the strong support given by the European Commission to all activities

## – The House of European Sport –

contributing to improve the governance in the field of sport”. Jean-Michel SAIVE, Chair of the EOC Athletes’ Commission, then, gave an inspiring speech on the necessity for athletes to be interested and involved in the governance of their federations, in order to preserve the integrity of their sports.

The second part of the first day was dedicated to the activities of the SIGGS Project itself. Thierry ZINTZ (UCL) presented an analysis of the results of the first consultation round, in which 132 sport organisations took part. Following this presentation, Matthias VAN BAELEN, Project Manager of SIGGS, explained the progress made on the Roadmaps and Action Plans. With the first version of all 20 Roadmaps ready, it was an excellent occasion to showcase to the participants what has been achieved already. In addition, Jonas CHRISTIAENS, Business developer for NOVAGOV, explained the technical implementation into the second version of the online tool. This new version includes all the Roadmaps within the tool allowing sport organisation, which completed the questionnaire, to receive a customised Action Plan according to their level of development and priority areas.

During the second day, more emphasis was put on the different ways to improve good governance within sport organisations, notably via presentations of good practice examples:

- Pâquerette GIRARD ZAPPELLI, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer at the IOC, focused on good governance, ethics and integrity in the context of the Olympic Agenda 2020 and recalled the strong expectations of the IOC concerning the SIGGS project.
- Andy WENGER, Head of services at the International Ski Federation (FIS), presented in great detail the internal functioning and the activities in the field of good governance of FIS.
- Kamil NOVAK, Executive Director of FIBA Europe, provided an overview of the

governance and structural reform of FIBA in 2014 and explained how FIBA Europe included good governance principles into its daily management.

In addition to these presentations, a panel discussion was organised on the “way forward towards better governance in sport”. Moderated by Folker HELLMUND, (Director of the EOC EU Office), Kamil NOVAK, Andy WENGER, Jean GRACIA (Vice-President, European Athletics, and interim-CEO, IAAF), Joao Paulo ALMEIDA (Director General, NOC of Portugal) and Thierry ZINTZ discussed various elements during an entertaining debate covering both successful examples of governance and examples of governance failures. The participants also touched upon the challenges presented to federations by commercial and private entities. In addition, they also covered the need for gender equality in sport and how to move forward in this regard. All participants concluded that implementation and education are key elements when talking about good governance in sport. The SIGGS Project is therefore in an excellent position to contribute to this implementation.



The conference was concluded with a number of internal discussion linked to the next steps of the project, including: the organisation of national Strategic Workshops within the partner NOCs namely Portugal, Turkey, Belgium, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Germany; the launch of the new self-evaluation tool for a second phase of

## – The House of European Sport –

consultation; and the way to ensure the follow-up and sustainability of the SIGGS project.

The SIGGS Project Management would like to thank the NOC of Portugal once again for the excellent hosting and practical organisation of the SIGGS Mid-term Conference.

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## Internet platform for sustainable sporting events: Green Champions 2.0 now also available in English

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With the beginning of the second Youth Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer the tradition of the first green Winter Games in Lillehammer from 1994 continues. The organizers again seek to develop environmentally friendly solutions for Olympic Games and to inspire other organizers with sustainable initiatives.

The German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) follows this good example and announces the activation of the English version of the DOSB internet platform Green Champions. The service platform went online in 2015 and informs about eco-friendly and sustainable solutions for sporting events by providing concrete action plans, check lists and practical examples. It was developed by the DOSB in cooperation with the German Sport University Cologne and the Institute for Applied Ecology, with support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

The English version of the original guideline “Green Champions in Sport and Environment Guide to environmentally-sound large sporting events” from 2007 already attracted worldwide attention and was presented at international conventions. “The English version of the internet portal Green Champions 2.0 for Sustainable Sports Events supports our international work and global efforts in developing sustainable sporting events”, according to Karin Fehres, DOSB Board Member Sports Development.

The key subjects traffic, energy and resource consumption, waste management, catering and merchandising, nature and agriculture as well as sustainability management have all been comprehensively compiled online. A filter function allows users to specifically search for appropriate measures for their individual events – now also in English.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

[DOSB internet platform Green Champions](#)

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## PARTNERS' CORNER

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### FIBA Europe becomes partner of EOC EU Office

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As of February 2016, FIBA Europe has joined numerous other European sports governing bodies by becoming a partner of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) EU Office in Brussels.

The EOC EU Office is the representative body of the EOC to European institutions, as well as representing the interests of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at national, European

## – The House of European Sport –

and international level. By becoming a member, FIBA Europe is showing its enthusiasm to help contribute towards a European Sports policy.



*From left to right: Folker Hellmund - Director EOC EU Office, Turgay Demirel- President FIBA EUROPE, Patrick Hickey- President EOC, Kamil Novak - Executive Director FIBA Europe*

FIBA Europe is the sixth European Federation to partner with the EOC EU Office, following European Athletics, European Aquatics, the European Handball Federation, the European Volleyball Confederation and Rugby Europe. The EOC EU Office has also partnered with two International Federations: FIFA and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF). EOC President Patrick Hickey and EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund welcomed the new partner in Brussels. “I am extremely pleased to welcome the prestigious organisation of FIBA Europe as our latest partner. When we established the EOC EU Office, it was organisations such as FIBA Europe that we wanted to target in order to build a strong network of Olympic Movement sports’ organisations to partner with the EU’s institutions,” stated Hickey.

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He added: “The European Union brings a number of challenges as well as opportunities for the field of sport. The EOC EU Office is our answer to facing these challenges and to taking full advantage of these opportunities. With basketball being one of the major team sports in Europe, I am sure that this partnership will be of mutual benefit to FIBA Europe and to the EOC in many EU policy areas, but also beyond the EU institutions.”

“At FIBA Europe, we are always looking to build partnerships with institutions that share our commitment to sport and the positive impact it has on young people and our societies,” explained FIBA Europe President Turgay Demirel, continuing, “The EOC EU Office is one such institution. Basketball is one of Europe’s leading sports, and this relationship will allow us to work more effectively towards our goal of strengthening the game in each of our member countries and beyond.”

Our relationship with the EOC goes back a number of years,” commented Executive Director FIBA Europe, Kamil Novak. “Basketball has been competed for in every edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival, dating back to the inaugural games in 1991.

“FIBA Europe’s commitment to the European Olympic family grew last summer in Baku when our exciting new format, 3x3, proved to be one of the biggest hits with fans at the inaugural European Games. Now, becoming a partner of the EOC EU Office is the next logical step in our mutually beneficial relationship

## SCORE Project is in full speed with the Training Sessions and Education for Mentors

SCORE Project on gender equality in coaching is in full speed with the implementation phase of the

project. Project is coordinated by ENGSO and financed by the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. The



– *The House of European Sport* –

national training session took place in Nicosia, Cyprus on 29 January and in Zagreb Croatia on 26 February. Following the national training session in Cyprus, the first part of the Education for Mentors was also organised in Cyprus on 30 and 31 January.

The aim of the national training sessions is to disseminate the SCORE toolkit and to educate participants from partner organisations and national sport federations to use the created tools to improve gender equality in coaching in their organisations. Both the event in Cyprus and Croatia brought together around 25-30 federations and had fruitful discussions and commitments for the concrete steps in future. The event in Croatia was organised as part of the annual coaching conference. The national training sessions of SCORE have now taken place in three countries out of eight. Next one will be organised in Sweden

on 8 April in the context of the European Women and Sport Conference.

The other main activity of the project is the Education for Mentors. Altogether 22 mentors from eight countries are educated to support female coaches in their coaching pathways in different countries. Furthermore, the broader aim is to facilitate the creation of national mentoring programmes and networks. Now after the first part of the Education, the mentors start mentoring to get some practical experience, before the second part of the Education, which will take place in Finland on 21-22 May.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Project website](#)

[Twitter: #scorecoaching](#) and [#equalityincoaching](#)

– The House of European Sport –

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## NEXT MONTH

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### Dates in March 2016

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<b>3 March</b>	Sport Info Day, Erasmus Plus, Brussels
<b>9-10 March</b>	EU Sport Forum, The Hague
<b>10-11 March</b>	Meeting Sport Directors, Amsterdam
<b>14 March</b>	2016 Symposium for Anti-Doping Organizations; Lausanne
<b>17 March</b>	Expert Group Human Resources, Brussels
<b>22 March</b>	Working Party on Sports, Brussels