



## European Union and Sport

<b>European Commission 2015 Work Programme</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sports Intergroup officially recognised by the EP</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Commission publishes consultation on working time</b>	<b>3</b>

## Funding programmes, studies and projects

<b>European Commission selects EOC EU Office project on Good Governance</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ENGSO SCORE Project selected for Erasmus+ Funding</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conference on sport in foreign policy</b>	<b>5</b>

## Internal and visits

<b>Executive Board meeting of the EOC EU Office</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Dates in January 2015</b>	<b>7</b>



## European Union and Sport

### European Commission 2015 Work Programme

The European Commission has adopted and presented its 2015 Work Programme. The Programme focuses on jobs and growth, in line with the ten priorities defined last summer by President Juncker. It includes both new proposals and withdrawals of existing proposals that are deemed obsolete, unnecessary or politically unachievable.

Below is a list of items that could be relevant for the Olympic Sports Movement:

#### New proposals:

- Legislative proposal on copyright rules within a Digital Single Market Package (possible impact on sports organisers' rights)
- Communication on stabilizing corporate tax bases in the EU (even if sport is mostly non-corporate, it will be interesting to follow this small move towards harmonization of corporate tax bases in the EU)
- General review of the EU trade policy strategy (eventually sport services can be covered by trade agreements such as CETA or TTIP)
- General review of the EU Neighbourhood policy (sports projects from EU neighbouring countries can be covered by the EU neighbourhood policy)
- Complete EU accession to European Convention on Human Rights (would legally reinforce protection of human rights in the EU, e.g. the prohibition of

discrimination, the defence of freedom of thought, conscience and religion)

- New Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law Making (could modify how the European Institutions work together)
- New Inter-Institutional Agreement on a Mandatory Transparency Register (new rules for stakeholders wishing to get in contact with European Institutions)

#### Withdrawals:

- Withdrawal of the proposal creating a statute for European foundations (could have helped foundations that are working across borders)
- Possible withdrawal of the proposal on standard VAT form if no progress in the Council within the coming months (the intent of this proposal was to simplify and harmonize VAT forms across the EU)

It is to be noted as well that the Commission puts pressure on the Council and the Parliament to quickly adopt the reform of the European data protection framework, which could have important consequences on the way sports organisations fight against doping and match-fixing.

#### **Further information:**

[Press release of the European Commission](#)



December 2014

## Sports Intergroup officially recognised by the EP

The European Parliament has adopted on 11 December the list of Intergroups officially recognised and among them is the **Sports Intergroup**.

Intergroups are informal working groups, assembling Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from various political groups, interested in a same subject. They hold regular meetings (usually around every 1 or 2 months) to which stakeholders are invited.

There had been a Sports Intergroup in the past but not in the last term (2009-2014), due to disagreements among MEPs about who would be in charge.

This time, the **Sports Intergroup made the cut but support was very diverse from the different political groups**. Only the EPP (centre-right) and the S&D (Socialists and Democrats) gave official support.

In total, 118 MEPs from 22 Member States have signed individual support. Here below is an analysis of their political affiliation:

- EPP : 65
- S&D : 37
- ALDE : 8
- ECR : 7
- EFDD : 1
- Greens : 0
- GUE : 0

The intergroup will be chaired by MEP **Marc TARABELLA** (S&D, Belgium) and **Santiago FISAS** (EPP, Spain).

The EOC EU Office actively supported the establishment of the Sports Intergroup, which could provide a useful platform for a structured, transversal and transparent dialogue with Members of the European Parliament.

## Commission publishes consultation on working time

The European Commission published a public consultation on the review of the Working Time Directive on 1 December 2014. Citizens, organisations and administrations can take part until 15 March 2015 with a view of contributing to the directive's analysis and impact assessment.

The Working Time Directive aims at providing minimum standards on working time regulation common to all EU countries. The Commission is reviewing the current framework (2003/88/EC) to reflect on how to best meet the needs of workers, businesses, public services and consumers. The Commission had already proposed a review in 2009, which failed as the Council

and European Parliament did not come to a common agreement.

Subsequent negotiations of the European social partners were put to a halt without result in 2012.

The directive affects sport organisations in their role as employers, but could potentially also have effects on voluntary work. During the last negotiations for a review, the possible inclusion of voluntary work (especially regarding voluntary fire and rescue services) in working time calculations was one of the controversial issues.

### Further information:

[Press release](#)

[Link to the consultation](#)



## Funding programmes, studies and projects

### European Commission selects EOC EU Office project on Good Governance

The project "Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport" (SIGGS), managed by the EOC EU Office has been selected by the European Commission for EU co-funding under the Erasmus+ Sports Programme. This decision was published on Friday 5 December. The SIGGS Project will run for two years and will start in January 2015.

The SIGGS Project builds on the achievements of the "Sport 4 Good Governance" (S4GG) Project, which was successfully coordinated by the EOC EU Office between January 2012 and June 2013. Whereas the S4GG Project successfully raised awareness on good governance and provided educational tools (e.g. self-evaluation tool), the SIGGS Project has an even more ambitious goal. It aims to help National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and national sport federations by providing practical guidance on how to implement principles of good governance. The Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the IOC and the EU Principles on good governance in sport will serve as the main reference documents.

To achieve this ambitious goal, various activities will be organised. As the focus will be on practical and individualised help, the project will seek to customise these tools and training according to the needs of the respective sport organisations. The national training sessions, which will be organised in 7 European countries, will therefore be conducted based on individualised tools and with a customised approach. A Steering

Committee, consisting of experts from various fields and sectors, will be responsible for the general guidance of the project.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, welcomes the decision of the Commission by stating that: *"The EU has clearly acknowledged the results of our previous S4GG Project. In my opinion, one of the main reasons why the Commission selected the SIGGS Project is the professional network in combination with the high level of concrete implementation that this project has to offer. We are looking forward to start the project as of January 2015."*

To implement this ambitious project, the SIGGS Project will receive support from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Furthermore, it can rely on a strong partnership with the following partners:

- University of Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium)
- European Observatory of Sport and Employment - EOSE (France)
- Leadership Academy of the DOSB (Germany)
- NOC of the Netherlands
- NOC of Turkey
- NOC of Belgium
- NOC of Germany
- NOC of Lithuania
- NOC of Luxembourg
- NOC of Slovenia
- NOC of Portugal



December 2014

## ENGSO SCORE Project selected for Erasmus+ Funding

"Strengthening Coaching with the Objective to Raise Equality" project, or simply SCORE, managed by ENGSO, was selected for funding under the first call of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. SCORE project promotes equal opportunities, namely gender equality in coaching. It focuses on increasing the number of employed and volunteer female coaches at all levels of sport as well as enhancing knowledge on gender equality in coaching education.

The project will start in the beginning of 2015 and will run for two years. During the course of the project, an "awareness pack" will be developed with different tools targeted both at sports organisations and coaches to increase gender equality in coaching. Implementation and dissemination of the toolkit will take place in the form of national training sessions which will be organised in some countries of the partner organisations. Another main element of the project is the development of a mentoring programme, educating future mentors for

potential

coaches.

In addition to ENGSO, as a lead partner, the following organisations are involved in the project team:

- Sport Coach UK
- Finnish Coaches Association
- International Council of Coaching Excellence (ICCE)
- European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE)
- Sport and Citizenship
- European University Sports Association (EUSA)
- German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB)
- Swedish Sports Confederation (RF)
- National Olympic Committee of Croatia (NOC Croatia)
- Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations (LUSF)
- Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO)
- Portuguese Sports Confederation (CDP)

## Conference on sport in foreign policy

On 10 December, the German Institute for Foreign Affairs IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), brought together leading academics and practitioners from Europe and beyond to examine the challenges and opportunities for sport in foreign policy and diplomacy.

"Sport matters. It is not a solution to world problems, but it can contribute to it," was the key argument and rationale highlighted by the speakers. As eloquently put by Professor Grant Jarvie (University of Edinburgh), "sport is capable of making the art of the possible, possible." It provides opportunities for dialogue between countries

and peoples, it helps to build long-term relations and it facilitates conversations and thus contributes to the prevention of conflicts. Therefore, it should be recognised as an integral part of cultural relations and as an important tool in cultural diplomacy. Furthermore, sport can create a "feel-good" factor and provide a sense of normality to people in conflict areas and can play an important role in development and relief aid.

Thus, in foreign relations, sport should be seen as an element of each country's soft power the same way culture is. This soft power is mainly based on credibility. Speakers agreed that while sport generally



December 2014

contributes to the creation of social capital and acts a “positive force”, there is also a “dark side” to it. Recent scandals involving bribery at bidding procedures, breaches of human rights by host countries of mega sport events, or doping have had a clear negative impact on this credibility.

It was stressed by the speakers, that these negative elements have often been dominating discussions about sport and its

role in society, overlooking its positive impact and benefits. To counter these arguments, practitioners from the field of sport for development provided examples of how sport contributes to social changes all around the world. For instance, FIFA football ambassador, Monika Staab, shared her experience in promoting “football for everyone” in countries such as Qatar, Pakistan, or Bahrain.

## Internal and visits

### Executive Board meeting of the EOC EU Office

On 17 December 2014, the 11th Executive Board meeting of the EOC EU Office took place in Brussels. Representatives of the EOC (Patrick Hickey, President, Kikis Lazarides, Treasurer, and Raffaella Pagnozzi, Secretary



General), IOC (Christophe de Kepper, General Director), DOSB (Michael Vesper, CEO) and the Czech Olympic Committee (Petr Graclik, Secretary General) discussed the budget of the EOC EU Office and the implementation of the activities in 2014.

Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, presented the main tasks of the EOC EU Office for 2015 including the implementation of the SIGGS Project (“Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport”) co-funded by the Erasmus+ Sports funding Programme. The representatives of the Board agreed that the data protection

reform will be the most important political topic for sport on the EU agenda for the year 2015.

Furthermore, they concluded that one of the main challenges is to set-up working relationships with

the different new political actors in Brussels. In this regard, it was agreed that a bilateral meeting between the IOC President and the new Commissioner for Sport, Tibor Navracsics, should be scheduled in the near future.

Overall, the representatives of the Executive Board expressed their great satisfaction for their excellent work of the EOC EU Office in recent years.

In particular, initiatives such as the new brochure “Funding for Sports in the European Union” and the Policy Papers were highly appreciated. EOC President Patrick



December 2014

Hickey also explicitly thanked the Czech Olympic Committee for its commitment and support to the EOC EU Office by the detachment of Jana Janotová. The Czech

Olympic Committee became partner of the EOC EU Office in September 2014. The next Board meeting will most likely take place in the first half of 2015.

## Dates in November 2014

8	Council Working Party
19-20	EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland
26-27	EU Seminar for the Regional Sport Confederations of Germany at EOC EU Office

Imprint:  
EOC EU Office  
52, Avenue de Cortenbergh  
B-1000 Brussels  
Tel. : 0032-2-738 03 20  
[info@euoffice.eurolympic.org](mailto:info@euoffice.eurolympic.org)