

– The House of European Sport –

Tweets of the month



SIGGS Project

@SIGGS_EU 29 October

Confirmed: #SIGGS Project and tools to be presented at IF Forum in Lausanne on 12 November! @saconvention @iocmedia [https://www.sportaccordconvention.com/international-federation-if-forum-2015 ...](https://www.sportaccordconvention.com/international-federation-if-forum-2015...)

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 28 October

EOC EU Office Delegation of German University Sports Federation @adhGER visits @EOCEUOffice - House of European Sports

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 20 October

Great news: pre-financing @EUErasmusPlus Sport increased to 70% for next call - Programme Guide: [http://ec.europa.eu/programme_s/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/index_en.htm ...](http://ec.europa.eu/programme_s/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/index_en.htm...) @DiFonzoLuciano

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice 13 October

Today @EOCEUOffice welcomes the #EOCEUCommission to Brussels for their 2nd official meeting in 2015! @DIFidraet @EOCmedia @FranceOlympique

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Securing and facilitating European funding for the organised sport in Europe is one of the major tasks the EOC EU Office has been dealing with for a long time. With the launch of the Erasmus+ Sports Programme in 2014, the European Commission acknowledged the necessity to support grassroots sport activities all over Europe. However, the recent results of the second call reveal that less than 25% of the funded projects were submitted by actors from organised sport. Missing expertise in writing project applications, lack of staff, co-financing and language skills are regarded as major obstacles.

The European Commission is aware of the fact that actors such as universities or consultancies are better prepared in this regard. With the launch of the next call (s. article), the Commission answered to the request for a more grassroots-oriented approach by allowing the applications for smaller projects, with fewer partners and with less bureaucratic burdens. In addition to that, the pre-financing of projects was increased. All these modifications are positive and will facilitate to a certain extent the access of grassroots sport actors to the Erasmus+ Sports Programme. However, the acceptance of voluntary work as part of the co-financing of projects remains an urgent request in order to further stimulate the participation of grassroots sport actors. The EOC EU Office hopes that the European Commission will introduce this necessary amendment in the near future.

To ensure a better knowledge by the organised sport of the possibilities and requirements for EU funding, the EOC EU Office is organising for its partner organisations and interested National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Europe a second Workshop on EU funding in December.

Another topic that features frequently on the agenda of the EOC EU Office is: Good Governance in sport. Two different Council Expert Groups are dealing with that topic and are mainly focused on awarding criteria for and legacy of major sport events. The EOC EU Office has been accepted as an observer in both groups and contributes together with the IOC to the deliverables.

At the ANOC General Assembly in Washington, IOC-President Thomas Bach highlighted the importance of Good Governance in all sport federations: *"Without good governance all your achievements are at risk...We can enjoy credibility only if we are complying with standards of good governance...We are not waiting until we are driven to change."*

The EOC EU Office is actively involved in promoting Good Governance in Sport by its own EU-funded project SIGGS (Support the implementation of Good Governance in Sport), which is officially supported by the IOC. Recently, the first version of the self-evaluation tool for the testing period was launched. Furthermore, the EOC EU Office is invited to present SIGGS at the IF-Forum which will be held in Lausanne on 12 November. In February 2016, the Mid-term Conference will take place in Lisbon and the implementation of the roadmaps and customised action plans will be implemented.

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The levels of governance between federations and NOCs are still quite different. In this regard, the exchange of expertise should be strengthened between the relevant stakeholders in sport. The Erasmus+ Sports Programme could definitely contribute to this process.

Enjoy your read and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or feedback,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Folker Hellmund', written in a cursive style.

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

The European Commission opens formal investigation into ISU eligibility rules

On 5 October, the European Commission launched a formal antitrust investigation into the International Skating Union (ISU) eligibility rules. ISU rules prevent skaters to take part in events not approved by the ISU, under threat of being permanently banned from competitions such as the Winter Olympics and the World and European Championships.

The decision to open an antitrust investigation into ISU rules has been taken following a complaint by two Dutch ice speed skaters, Mark Tuitert and Niels Kerstholt. The two athletes wanted to participate in a new speed skating event in Dubai. However, ISU decided not to recognise this event as it was “possibly being closely connected to betting”, and threatened anyone participating to become ineligible for ISU activities and competitions.

The European Commission will have to decide whether ISU rules violate article 101 and 102

TFEU that prohibit anti-competitive agreements and the abuse of a dominant market position.

The specificity of sport and the autonomy of sporting organisations have been recognised by the EU on several occasions – Margrethe Vestager, EU Commissioner for competition policy, recalled “the role of international sports federations to set the rules of the games and to ensure the proper governance of sport”. She justified the opening of the investigation by the fact that the ISU case “raises specific allegations of breaches of competition law at international level”.

With regard to competition investigations in sport, the European Commission has generally used a case by case approach. However, the ISU case offers the possibility to set up some general criteria that could enhance the legal certainty for the future. It is worth to mention that several similar cases are ongoing with some EU national

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antitrust authorities such as in Sweden, Italy and Ireland.

Previous jurisprudences from the European Court of Justice stated that sporting rules are applying to EU competition rules when the organisations setting-up the rules or the persons affected by the rules are part of an economic activity. Sporting rules are likely not to breach the anti-trust

provisions of the EC Treaty, if their anti-competitive effects are inherent and proportionate to pursue legitimate interest. Contrary to state aid investigations, there are no legal deadlines regarding anti-trust cases.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release of the European Commission](#)

Formula 1 teams hand in competition law complaint with DG Competition

On 29 September 2015, two Formula 1 teams, Force India and Sauber, have filed a complaint with the Directorate General Competition of the European Commission (DG COMP), challenging the distribution of commercial income between teams. The complainants object to the top teams McLaren, Ferrari, Williams and Red Bull receiving special payments from commercial income and holding seats in a “strategy group” of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), which gives them influence on income distribution and

rule changes, the latter heavily influencing sporting success. Sauber and Force India bring forward that this creates a disproportionate “perpetual sport and economic disadvantage” for smaller teams.

The decision of the European Commission to reject or to uphold the complaint and then the opportunity to open an investigation should not be expected before 2016.

Luxembourg Presidency Conference organised in connection with Council Expert Group meeting on Economic Dimension of Sport

On 6 October 2015, the Luxembourg Presidency of the EU organised a Conference on the Contribution of Sport to Growth, Wealth and Employment. The Conference, which took place in Luxembourg, was opened by Romain Schneider, the Minister of Sport of Luxembourg, and António Silva Mendes, Director for Youth and Sport of the European Commission DG EAC.

During the two panel discussions, the various experts discussed how the contribution of sport to the European economy can be measured and how sport can contribute to creating growth, wealth and employment. Christian Helmenstein gave an overview of the objectives of the Sport

Satellite Accounts, which have been installed by 8 Member States with Luxembourg being the latest to join the list. Kamil Novak, Executive Director of FIBA Europe, was also among the speakers highlighting the perspective of a sport federation. He provided valuable insights in the recent experience of the European Basketball Championships 2015 and specifically referred to the positive atmosphere in the various hosting cities and to the high number of spectators.

Following the Conference, the third meeting of the Council Expert Group on the Economic Dimension of Sport (XG ECO) took place. During the first day with the observers, the Expert Group

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discussed the three deliverables: measuring the economic benefits of sport, legacy of major sport events and investments into sport, including EU funding. On major sport events a lively discussion took place. In this context, the EOC EU Office asked for a more balanced approach by taking into account the positive economic and societal potential of major sport events as recently proven at London Olympic Games 2012.

On the second day, the XG ECO discussed the three deliverables again without the observers. As

the first two deliverables are to be adopted by the end of the year, a written procedure will be followed to finalise the documents. For the third deliverable, no draft was available yet. This deliverable will only be adopted in the first half of 2016 and will be based on the recommendations adopted on “the sustainable financing of sport”.

The next meeting of the XG ECO is scheduled to take place in March 2016.

European Week of Sport: Meetings of Advisory Board and National Coordinating Bodies

After the first European Week of Sport in September, the European Commission organised meetings with both the Advisory Board and the National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) to review the first edition and start planning the 2016 edition.

In both meetings, the Commission presented a first assessment of this year’s implementation. The established structure, including national coordinators, partners and ambassadors, but also the main campaign elements, were seen as valuable. Overall, the Commission also considered that the number of events (over 7.000 from all over Europe with over 5 million participants announced), which were registered on the EWoS website were “a huge success”. Similarly, the activity on social media (over 14.500 tweets during the week, 21.500 visitors on the website over two weeks, #BeActive trending in Belgium and Spain) was seen as very positive. On the other hand, the centrally organised opening, the flagship event and the sport village in Brussels were seen as aspects to be reconsidered, as they did not fully bring the expected results, especially in terms of participation.

In the subsequent discussions, participants of both meetings pointed out that the overall timing had been very short and the implementation of activities suffered from this. NCBs especially asked to be informed about their tasks earlier, as in 2015 they were assigned new duties on short notice. Another point of controversy was the question of the right target groups. This was especially discussed in the context of how to assess the activation of previously inactive citizens through EWoS.

The Commission announced that the results of an online survey for NCBs and partners and the final report would be published at the end of November.

As the Commission announced, in 2016 the opening event could be organised differently, with parallel events in all participating countries. National sport villages, coordinated by the NCBs, could be one aspect of such plans as well. At the same time the Commission wishes to keep the flexibility offered during the first edition, as this was seen as an important success factor. Due to this, the focus days of the first edition might also be widened to focus themes that are not attached to a single weekday anymore.

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The Commission wants to keep the existing partners of the week and would appreciate even stronger commitments. As ambassadors, also non-sport people are going to be considered as role models for physical activity.

Furthermore, the Commission plans to receive the national ministries' notifications of their respective NCB by the end of October (however, not a lot of changes were expected in this regard). Following

this step, NCBs will receive the Terms of Reference for next year by the end of November and a first meeting will be organised in Brussels on 8 December 2015. The grant application (the maximum funding remains stable at around 66,000 €) will then have to be submitted by the end of January, in order for funding to start from March 2016.

Informal Meeting of Ministers for Transport on Cycling

Chaired by the Luxembourg Minister of Transport, François Bausch, the Council of the European Union hosted an Informal meeting of Ministers for Transport on 7th October 2015 in Luxembourg.

Ministers of the EU and of EFTA (European Free Trade Association) discussed ways to increase cycling's share for both the transport of people and goods.

One of the main goals of the Luxembourg Presidency is public health, and so they **stressed the benefit and effectiveness** of cycling as a method of transport and mentioned the advantage of social, ecological and economic benefits in the EU.

This kind of transport might release the cities from pollution, noise and heavy traffic as well. Another relevant aspect of cycle transport is also the economic impact. Furthermore, they emphasized to improve the mobility and quality of life of 75 % of the population, especially for those, who live in cities.

Moreover, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 15 minutes of cycling a day can prevent 100,000 premature deaths per year.

The Ministers confirmed the encouragement of safety for cyclists as a part of the traffic and unanimously adopted a declaration on cycling as a "climate friendly" transport mode.

Minister Bausch concluded by saying that cycling was "a method of transport which does not require high spending on infrastructure, but which offers enormous potential and benefits".

The declaration contains several concrete recommendations, such as the integration of bicycles into transport policy, including cycling in local and regional urban projects; guarantee that national infrastructure projects take account of international, national, regional and local cycle networks.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Informal Transport Council](#)

European Parliament highlights the role of sport in tourism

The potential of sport tourism as a fast developing sector; the important place of sporting activities in

making Europe's regions attractive to tourists; *and the opportunities arising from travel by athletes*

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and spectators in the run-up to sports events and during those events. All these points and more were raised in the recently adopted [“EP Resolution on new challenges and concepts for the promotion of tourism in Europe”](#). Together with culture and arts, sport is considered to be an area with a very high potential in terms of boosting the European tourism sector which, as

the MEPs stress, „is not yet sufficiently exploited.” In calling for the introduction of specific policies to promote and support the development of Sport tourism, the European Parliament adopts an active approach in “de facto” promoting mainstreaming of sport across EU’s policies and actions; this time in the tourism policy.

FUNDING PROGRAMMES, STUDIES AND PROJECTS

Erasmus+: Call for Proposals and Programme Guide 2016 published

On 20 October, the European Commission published the 2016 Call for Proposals and the corresponding Programme Guide for Erasmus+ covering all actions, including the sport chapter. Organisations and institutions seeking funding in the framework of this call must comply with the conditions for participation and funding expressed in this Guide. The document provides detailed information on aims, eligibility and award criteria of the different kinds of projects and is therefore the main background document for all applicants.

After the first calls for 2014 and 2015, the EOC EU Office has continuously pointed out shortcomings of the programme preventing grassroots sport from benefiting from funding. The EOC EU Office is happy to announce that some of our suggestions have been taken on board. The call now includes a separate budget for **small collaborative partnerships** with less partners (3 from 3 Programme Countries) and lower administrative requirements for funding up to 60.000 €. Additionally, the **pre-financing** for all sport projects has been increased from 60 to 70 % and has now reached the level of other parts of Erasmus+.

Regarding the **collaborative partnerships**, the budget allocation (apart from the European Week of Sport/EWoS) looks as follows:

- Approximately 25% to projects supporting the implementation of the EU guidelines on physical activity and dual careers;
- Approximately 25% to projects supporting the integrity of sport such as anti-doping and fight against match-fixing;
- Approximately 25% to priority voluntary activity in sport, combat against violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport, good governance in sport;
- Approximately 25% to encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport.

The **small collaborative partnerships** should aim to:

- Encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport, especially by supporting the implementation of EU strategies, notably the EU Gender Equality Strategy and the EU Disability Strategy;
- Promote European traditional sports and games;
- Support the mobility of volunteers, coaches, managers and staff of non-profit sport organisations;

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- Protect athletes, especially the youngest, from health and safety hazards by improving training and competition conditions.

The **Not-For-Profit Sport Events** are to support the same objectives as in the last call:

- Volunteering in sport;
- Social inclusion through sport;
- Gender equality in sport;
- Health-Enhancing Physical Activity;
- Implementation of the EWoS

However, the budget for **events during the EWoS** will be divided to cover:

- up to three EU-wide events on the opening day taking place in minimum 20 Programme Countries (50 % of the budget)
- or smaller sized events during the week with either participants from or simultaneous activities in three countries

Sport events outside of the scope of the Week of Sport can take place in either one or several

Programme Countries simultaneously, but must involve participants from at least 12 countries.

In 2016, separate deadlines are again in place for collaborative partnerships or events related to the EWoS (21 January 2016) and such that are unrelated to it (12 May 2016).

The table below provides an overview of the actions, their budgets and specific criteria. The EOC EU Office will provide further information on the changes in the Erasmus+ sport chapter together with an analysis of the results of this year's call in its upcoming background paper. Additionally, the EOC EU Office is organising a seminar on EU funding for National Olympic Committees on 8 December 2015.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[News report European Commission](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme guide 2016](#)

[Erasmus+ Call for Proposals](#)

[Corrigendum to Erasmus+ Call for Proposals](#)

[2016 annual work programme for the implementation of 'Erasmus+](#)

Action	Budget (EUR)	Number of grants	Max. EU grant (EUR)	Project duration (months) / Timeframe for events	Start of eligibility period	Deadline for application
Collaborative Partnerships						
EWoS 2016	1 200 000	8	150 000	Max. 18	1.4.– 1.9.2016	21.1.2016
Other	19 596 933	70	400 000	12-36	1.1.2017	12.5.2016
Small Collaborative Partnerships						
-	3 363 000	57	60 000	12-24	1.1.2017	12.5.2016
Not-for-Profit Sport events						
EWoS 2016	1 800 000	12	300 000	Event during EWoS 2016	1.5.2016	21.1.2016
Other	1 500 000	3	500 000	Event in 2017	1.11.2016	12.5.2016

INTERNAL AND VISITS

Meeting of the EOC EU Commission in Brussels

The 2nd meeting of the EOC EU Commission took place at the EOC EU Office on 13 October 2015. Representatives of Cypriote, Danish, Estonian, French, Georgian, Icelandic and Ukrainian NOCs got updated on European Union (EU) sport policy and met European Union's sport policy officials.

Folker Hellmund, Head of the EOC EU Office, introduced the new slogan of the EOC EU Office – “The House of European Sport”, and provided an update on the High Level Groups on Sport Diplomacy and on Grassroots Sport and the five Council Expert Groups (e.g. on good governance or match-fixing).

The EOC EU policy officers then presented different sport-related aspects of the EU policy. Stefan Brost, from the German Football Federation, gave a precise overview about “how the Digital Agenda policy is affecting the sport movement”. Then, Valentin Capelli provided an overview about the Data Protection (see our detailed article on the Safe Harbour case), and the Visa reform: as this reform could include a so-called “touring visa” permitting non-EU sportspersons to stay longer in the EU.

The following session was led by Alexandre Husting from the Luxembourg Presidency, Chair of the Council Working Party on Sport. He highlighted the three priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency in sport: 1. signing of the Council of

Europe convention on manipulation of sport competitions 2. promotion of motor skills, physical and sport activities for young children, and 3.



representation of EU Member States in the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, affirmed that the EU Sport Unit intends to work hand in hand with sport organisations. Regarding the EU funding, he recalled the EU priorities (gender equality, match-fixing, anti-doping). Mr. Le Lostecque expressed his confidence concerning the work of the High Level Group on Sport Diplomacy, stating that the question was “How can the EU help sport, and not how can sport help the EU”.

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New Office Manager at the EOC EU Office

Since October 2015, Fruzsina Csepi has replaced Karen Northshield as Office Manager at the EOC EU Office, after the latter decided to pursue her career as a sports instructor.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank Karen once again for her professionalism, devotion and the high quality work performed as Office Manager in the past three years.

Fruzsina is from Győr, Hungary, the place of the 2017 European Youth Olympic Festival.

She has obtained a BA degree in French and English languages, as well as a MA in

International Relations at Budapest Business School with an Erasmus semester at ESCI, Paris - Marne La Vallée. She has worked for private companies as EU Project Assistant for two and a half years and spent nearly two years in the Finance and Accountancy sector.



She was not a professional athlete, but as an amateur sports lover, she practices running, yoga and body art in her free time.

PARTNERS' CORNER

Aleksandar Boricic elected as new CEV President

On 17 October 2015 at the CEV General Assembly in Sofia Aleksandar Boricic has been elected as new President of the European Volleyball Federation. Mr Boricic succeeds André Meyer and will be steering European volleyball until 2019. CEV has recently become partner of the EOC EU Office.

As a player, Mr Boricic has gained numerous national championships and cups, and has completed 103 caps within the Yugoslav National Team. After his player career, he has also achieved a successful coaching experience with winning 5 national championships and 4 national cups.

Mr. Boricic became President of the Yugoslav Volleyball Federation in 1992, President of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia and Montenegro in

2002 and of the Volleyball Federation of Serbia in 2006 – when Montenegro evolved into a sovereign state. Meanwhile, he joined the CEV Executive Committee and Board of Administration in 2001, became a FIVB Board member in 2002 and a CEV Senior Vice-President in 2011.



Right after his election, the new President declared that he would “bring a new spirit and energy” and “establish a good and efficient communication flow” between the various European volleyball stakeholders. The General

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Assembly has also determined a new composition of the CEV Board of Administration as well as the European representative to the FIVB Board of Administration.

The EOC EU Office thanks former President Meyer for his successful work and is looking forward to cooperating with the new CEV President and his team.

NEXT MONTH

Dates in November 2015

5 November	<i>SIGGS Project: 4th Steering Committee meeting, Brussels</i>
9 November	<i>High-level Group on Grassroots Sports, Brussels</i>
10 November	<i>Meeting Council Expert Group on Good Governance, Brussels</i>
12 November	<i>Presentation of SIGGS Project at IF-Forum, Lausanne</i>
19 November	<i>EOC Executive Committee Meeting, Prague</i>
19-20 November	<i>Meeting Council Expert Group on Human Resources, Luxembourg</i>
20-21 November	<i>EOC General Assembly, Prague</i>
24 November	<i>Sport Ministers Council, Luxembourg</i>
26 November	<i>Meeting Council Expert Group on HEPA, Brussels</i>