

The House of European Sport

Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 13

Do not miss the @EUErasmusPlus Sport Info Day taking place in Brussels on 5th of Feb 2019. In the event you get further info on funding opportunities for sport and on the application process. Register by 28th of Jan

[https://www.eac-events.eu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=200184777& ...](https://www.eac-events.eu/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=200184777&...) @EuSport @EOCmedia

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 10

Today we had a meeting with the European Deaf Sports Organisation President @iosifstavrakaki and Board Member Jan Van den Braembussche. Thank you for your visit and for very good and interesting discussions on the deaf sports and physical activity!

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 6

1st panel of the #IPACS2018 High Level Event, in London with French minister of Sport

@RoxaMaracineanu, Gabriella Battsoni-Dragoni Deputy Secretary General of @coe & @BillBeaumont President of @WorldRugby. Discussion on "sport and #corruption: a shared challenge" #sportintegrity

EU Sport

@EuSport Dec 4

#Sport is not outside the law: the awareness stage where sport organisations set up the rules and self assessment tools is over now. Now it is time to implement them @FolkerF @EOCEUOffice #sportintegrity #sportcluster

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

Even though preparations for the 2019 sports year have long since begun, it is still worth taking a moment to look back at 2018.

From a sports policy perspective, the ISU decision of the EU Commission has significantly changed the agenda of European and international federations. The application of the EU competition law to sport poses a particular challenge when the original competences of the federations, which are necessary for the organisation of the respective sport, are called into question. Against this background, work must continue in 2019 and beyond to make it clear to the European institutions, governments and the public which competencies the federations must retain in order to organise their sport in a sustainable manner. When professional leagues ignore the international sports calendar and deliberately set up match days that collide with national team qualifiers, we have reached a situation that shakes the very foundations of sport in Europe. If clubs no longer release certain players for their national teams, we can no longer speak of a level playing field.

The new trio Presidencies of Romania, Finland and Croatia will lead the Council in the next 18 months. Romania will host the EU Sport Forum in Bucharest on 8-9 April 2019. In terms of content, Romania will give priority to two topics: 1. Access to sport for people with fewer opportunities and 2. The impact of the digital single market on sport.

From the EOC's point of view, 2019 will be the year of major sporting events. It begins in February with the winter edition of EYOF in Sarajevo and the summer edition in July in Baku. As the largest multi-sport event for young athletes in Europe, the EYOFs have often been the starting point for great international careers.

With the second edition of the European Games at the end of June in Minsk, the EOC wants to establish this competition in the international sports calendar for the long term. In particular, the quality of the competition venues and the qualification events for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in a number of sports make the event attractive for top athletes of these sports. 4000 athletes from 50 countries are expected to compete in 15 different sports.

On this occasion, I would like to thank the whole staff of the EOC EU Office for their excellent work and their commitment to our office!

On behalf of the EOC EU Office, I wish all partners of the office and readers of our Monthly Report a relaxing holiday and a Happy New Year!

Enjoy your read,



Folker Hellmund
Director

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

EOC EU Office invited to the Informal Meeting of EU Sport Directors

The Austrian EU Presidency is coming to its end soon, but before handing it over to Romania, the Austrians organised the informal meeting of the EU Sport Directors in Vienna on 11-12 December. One part of the discussions was dedicated to sport and physical activity for people with disabilities, and served as a first exchange and introduction to this topic, which will be on the agenda of the upcoming Romanian EU Presidency. A few representatives of sport movement were also invited to contribute to this session, among them the EOC EU Office.

The speakers were asked to address two issues: measures to increase the participation rate of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity, as well as qualifications for coaches who work with disabled athletes. In her contribution, EOC EU Office's Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola highlighted the need for full recognition of sport and physical activity for people with disabilities, as the situations and possibilities even within the EU countries are very different. In addition, she raised e.g. the need for facilities, and what sport offers people with disabilities, as well as the importance of accessibility also outside the sport activity, e.g. to transportation or locker and changing rooms. Furthermore, Ms Pekkola mentioned the need for expertise, education, and further awareness-raising. She also highlighted the importance to include people with disabilities to all discussions and to make the EU meetings related to sport accessible to all.

Other speakers of the session were Ratko Kovačić, President of the European Paralympic

Committee, Kaisa Larjomaa, Policy Director of ENGSO, Johann Knoll, Sports Coordinator from the Austrian Sports Federation for Disabled and Croatian Para Snowboarder Bruno Bošnjak. Johan Knoll made an interesting presentation on the national education system in Austria for coaches who work with disabled athletes, whereas Bruno Bošnjak shared his personal story highlighting the importance of sport for supporting his recovery from an accident, which caused him the disability.

After the speakers, several Sport Directors from the EU Members States took the floor highlighting the importance of this topic and updating their colleagues on the situation in their respective countries. The discussion will continue during the Romanian EU Presidency, as they prioritise sport for people with fewer opportunities, and they are planning to organise a Presidency Conference on this topic in March 2019.

Furthermore, the Sport Directors' agenda included also e.g. a discussion on the European Sport Model, but unfortunately without the presence of the sport movement. In addition, the meeting was preceded by Presidency Seminar on Sport and Physical Activity at the Workplace, which was organised on 10 December.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Seminar on Sport and Physical Activity at the Workplace](#)

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The Trio- and Romanian Presidency Programme and their impact on Sport

The end of 2018 coincides with the end of the Austrian Presidency. The future 18-month programme of the Council will be prepared by the Romanian, Finnish and Croatian Presidencies (the "Trio"). The first one to take over the rotating Presidency will be Romania, which will chair the European Council meetings from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019. The new 18-month Presidency period will kick off at a time of some uncertainty, especially regarding Brexit negotiations. The Trio has therefore committed to ensure a smooth transition to the next legislative cycle, while fostering the unity of the 27 Member States after the UK withdrawal from the Union, and facilitating the finalisation of negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027. More specifically, the three Presidencies will address their goals according to the following topics:

1. A Union for jobs, growth and competitiveness;
2. A Union that empowers and protects all its citizens;
3. Towards an energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy;
4. A Union of freedom, security and justice;
5. The Union as a strong global actor.

With regard to sport policy, the Presidencies will work towards **promoting the inclusiveness and cohesion of our societies through lifelong learning, culture, sport and youth policies**. For this purpose, the Trio will pay particular attention to the implementation of the next generation co-operation frameworks in the education, youth, culture and sport sectors (such as the post ET2020 framework and the new EU youth strategy).

In this regard, and with the aim of promoting social inclusion, the Romanian Presidency has placed the topic of **sport for people with fewer**

opportunities at the centre of its Presidency priorities in the area of sport. The Romanians will also organise a Presidency Conference on the same topic, which is planned to take place in March. Furthermore, the EU Sport Forum will be organised in Bucharest on 8-9 April 2019.

Looking at other policy fields, the following objectives of the Trio could be relevant for sport:

- Ensuring the well-functioning of the Single Market, including the Digital Single Market and the appropriate digital infrastructure, the new and definitive system of VAT, and the proposal to reform the Summertime Directive;
- Maintaining Europe's high competitiveness through the right set of skills, including skills related to digitalisation and cyber security, as well as opportunities for all young people through programmes such as Erasmus, and equal opportunities and social inclusion of persons with disabilities;
- Continuing the EU's long-term low-carbon strategy through the modernisation of the economy and the creation of new jobs;
- Ensuring the strengthened control of the EU's external borders, including through the introduction of the new information systems, such as ETIAS, and by implementing the necessary quality control mechanisms and the development of the Integrated Border Management Strategy;
- Working together towards the enlargement perspective, within the agreed parameters for the Western Balkans and by embracing and committing to core European values.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[The 18-month Programme of the Council \(1 January 2019 - 30 June 2020\)](#)

[Romania's Council Presidency website](#)

EU budget for 2019 adopted

After the initial rejection by the Council of the European Parliament's position on the 2019 Draft EU Budget, the institutions have finally reached an agreement, on 11 December 2018, thus avoiding a budgetary "provisorium" for next year. The total commitments are 3.2% higher and total payments are 2.4% higher compared with the 2018 budget.

To support growth and job creation, commitments of €23.3 billion were agreed under subheading 1a (competitiveness for growth and jobs), which is 6.1% more than in 2018. Under this heading, and in line with the EU's priority to provide young people with more job and education opportunities, the Erasmus+ Programme has received a significant boost with €2.8 billion provided for youth exchanges, 19.5% more than in 2018. More possibilities will also become available for volunteering and work in projects through the European Solidarity Corps, for which support is more than tripled compared to 2018 (€143 million). People and organisations active in the

sport field should be able to benefit from the European Solidarity Corps as well.

The original amounts proposed for the Erasmus+ sport chapter have remained unchanged: over €48 million has been earmarked to support small and large collaborative partnerships and non-for-profit events. The 2019 EU budget will also enable the continuation of a couple of sport-related Preparatory Actions (e.g. international mobility).

Furthermore, it is important to note, that the 2019 EU budgets is based on the premise that the UK will continue to contribute to and participate in the implementation of EU budgets until the end of 2020 in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement negotiated between the UK and the EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Council endorses agreement on EU budget for 2019](#)

[EU Budget](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

EU Commission: Cluster Meeting on Integrity of Sport

On 4 and 5 December 2018, the third cluster meeting under the current EU Work Plan for Sport, put the focus on *'The Integrity of Sport.'* Organised in Brussels by the Sport Unit of the European Commission together with The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), the meeting gathered representatives of the EU institutions, Member States, NOCs and European sports federations, as well as academics. The objective was to learn more about the outcome of previously funded project in the field of integrity and to discuss how Erasmus+ can support future activities in the area of Sport Integrity.

The first afternoon started with general discussions on the integrity of sport in Europe with two panel discussions. Following a presentation of Harri Syväsalmi from the Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS), the first panel discussed the cooperation between the sport movement and public authorities. All panellists insisted that Member States should implement the already adapted regulations to support sport organisations in the field of integrity. Clare Barrell from UK Sport underlined the necessity to agree on common criteria to be fulfilled by sport organisations while Massimiliano Michenzi, Integrity Investigator of UEFA encouraged public authorities to involve sport organisations in networks, notably in the field of manipulation of competitions.

The second panel on good governance was introduced by a keynote speech of Mathieu Fonteneau, Erasmus+ Sport expert, who drew a picture on the type of projects supported by the Erasmus+ in the field of integrity. He insisted on the need to improve the sustainability aspect of projects and the utilisation of the produced outcomes (e.g. tools, guidelines).

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, was one of the speakers in the second panel on the contribution of Erasmus+ to the governance of sport. He underlined that sport organisations are perfectly aware that they have to follow the laws and that the prerequisite for the autonomy of sport organisations is to reach a certain level of governance. In this regard, Folker Hellmund stressed the multiple initiatives already taken by the sport movement including the two projects conducted by the EOC EU Office and co-financed by the Erasmus+, SIGGS and POINTS projects. Then, a concrete example of changes implemented by sport organisations was given by Thomas Capdevielle from IAAF. He introduced the work done in the last two years by the Athletics Integrity Unit and underlined the importance of the independence of the Unit to do an efficient work. The Athletics Integrity Unit covers different integrity issues such as doping, manipulation of competition, good governance and harassment.

During the second day, participants received an update on the study "Mapping of corruption in sport in the EU" which is currently underway, conducted by Ecorys and Dr. Argyro Elisavet Manoli. The study will try to map different types of corruption in sport in the EU, to collect some good practices from governments to fight against corruption, and to propose potential actions to address these issues. Following answers from 23 Member States to a questionnaire, Dr Manoli focused her research on 11 countries (France, Finland, Malta, Spain, Sweden, UK, Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus). With the collected data, she will produce some analysis and recommendations in the final version of the study during the first half of 2019.

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The rest of the day was dedicated to parallel group workshops on three topics: Doping, Manipulation of Competitions and Good Governance. Each of the workshops discussed

good practices within the projects already financed by Erasmus+, as well as ways to continue and to improve the support provided by the EU in these different fields.

Commission publishes results of pilot call on “Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level”

On 13 December, the European Commission published the results of the pilot call launched in May on the topic of “Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level”. Pilot calls are based on funding, which the European Parliament (EP) earmarks in the yearly EU budget and aim at to test the feasibility and usefulness of specific activities. They are used to try out different approaches, develop evidence-based strategies, identify good practices, and provide policy guidance for the benefit of possible future initiatives.

For 2018, the EP had foreseen three such pilot calls, having already published the results of the last two calls in October (see last Monthly Report).

Four projects were selected under the present call with a total budget of €1 million. The call aims to

support organisations that promote sport initiatives at local level with the goal of disseminating the positive values of sport. Two projects from Belgium, and one each from Lithuania and Italy have been selected, with funding between €181,000 and €298,000.

The Commission has announced that the European Parliament envisages continuing funding for sport related pilot calls in 2019.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission – Press release \(13/12/2018\): “Results published: Call for proposals ‘Promotion of European values through sport initiatives at the municipal level’”](#)

Registration for Erasmus+ Sport Info Day opened

On 13 December, the European Commission opened the registration for next year’s Sport Info Day. The event is co-organised by the European Commission and the Executive Agency EACEA, which is responsible for the implementation of the Erasmus+ programme including the sports chapter.

Next year’s Sport Info Day will take place on 5 February 2019 in Brussels. The main aim of the day is to present the programme to interested organisations, give advice on how to apply, how

the projects are funded, as well as allowing networking for those searching for potential project partners.

The event will include sessions on the policy context of Erasmus+, on the submission and selection procedure as well as workshops on the evaluation process, on financial aspects and on Small Collaborative Partnerships. The Commission will furthermore present other EU funding opportunities.

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All sessions will also be web streamed and translated into French, German, Spanish and Italian. Registration is possible online on [this website](#).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission – Press release \(13/12/2018\): “Erasmus+ Sport Info Day 2019, registrations are open”](#)

[Registration and Agenda for the Sport Info Day](#)

INTERNAL AND VISITS

High Level Event of the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS)

On 5 and 6 of December, the UK hosted the 4th meeting of the IPACS Steering Committee, in London, as well as a High level event on the topic. While the Steering Committee was reserved to members of IPACS, the high level event brought together senior stakeholders from governments, sports bodies and international organisations. The aim was to showcase how the initiative is working towards practical solutions and how a coordinated and collaborative response through IPACS is fundamental to defeat corruption in sport.

The IPACS was established in 2017 following the commitment, made in the Anti-Corruption Summit in 2016, to launch an international partnership to support and strengthen efforts to eliminate corruption from sport. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative in order to strengthen and support efforts to eliminate corruption and promote a culture of good governance in and around sport.

The group is currently coordinated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UK Government.

Three panel discussions took place during the high level event to present different perspectives on the topic and to introduce to the participants the progress already achieved by the working groups.

The first panel gathered representatives from the sport movement, public authorities and Council of Europe to discuss the cooperation between sport organisations and governments in the field of corruption. They all agreed that corruption in sport is a shared challenge and threat for both sports

and public authorities, requiring a collective response which respects the autonomy of sport whilst putting in place an agreed framework for collaboration and action. Roxana Maracineanu, French Minister for Sport and Gabriella Battaini-Dragnoni, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe stressed the importance of education and training, as well as the necessity to have a proper legislative framework in place. The question of the ratification of the Macolin Convention has notably been addressed by the panellists while the role of international and continental federations to work with their national federations, notably the smaller ones with unprofessional staff, has been stressed by Bill Beaumont, President of World Rugby.

The second panel focused on the current work done by the different Taskforces established in IPACS.

Nicola Bonucci, Director of Legal Affairs at OECD, described the activities of the taskforce 1 on *“Reducing the risk of corruption in procurement relating to sporting events and infrastructure”*. The group focuses on public procurements in the frame of major sport events, an area which presents a big risk of corruption activities. They have tried to collect data from 76 sport infrastructure projects in 10 countries during the past 10 years but faced huge difficulties to access the relevant documents. As a result, they realised that public procurements were often old fashion and do not take into account new criteria and challenges (e.g. design, maintenance, sustainability). They will produce toolkits for bidding and hosting organisations.

OECD is also in charge, along with ANOC, of taskforce 2, *“Ensuring integrity in the selection of major sporting events, with an initial focus on*

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managing conflict of interest". In this taskforce, the group focuses on the bidding phase to identify not only existing but also potential conflict of interests. Their objective is to develop tools / guidelines to bidding organisations with concrete examples to establish conflict of interest policies in an early stage with prevention and sanctions activities.

The third taskforce is led by the Council of Europe, with a focus on "Optimising the processes of compliance with good governance principles to mitigate the risk of corruption". Stanislas Frossard, EPAS Executive Secretary, explained that the group decided to start by focusing on three key aspects:

- Financial transparency (e.g. reporting)
- Conflict of interest policy (e.g. register and disclosure of interests)
- Term limits (e.g. president, ethical bodies, board)

Following these presentations, Paquerette Girard-Zapelli (Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of IOC) reiterated the strong support of the IOC to the work of IPACS and stressed the commitment of the Olympic Movement to fight against corruption in sport.

The third panel addressed the future direction and areas of focus for IPACS. Participants stressed the need for a closer collaboration between sports bodies and law enforcement agencies and engagement with global governance forums, such as the G20, to secure the political commitment necessary to trigger a process of change.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press release](#)

European Deaf Sports Organization visits the EOC EU Office

On 10 December, the EOC EU Office welcomed a delegation from the European Deaf Sports Organization, consisting of its President Iosif Stavrakakis and Board Member Jan Van den Braembussche. The European Deaf Sports Organization (EDSO) is a European federation for deaf sports and was founded in 1983. They have member organisations in 43 countries and they cover 28 different disciplines in which they organise European Championships.

The aim of the visit was to introduce the EDSO and their activities, as well as to discuss future cooperation with the EOC EU Office. Furthermore, EU sports policy and the possibilities within the Erasmus+ sport programme were briefly discussed.

PARTNERS' CORNER

Preparing Youth to Tackle Gender Inequality in Sport - GETZ Project

The conference entitled “Good governance and gender equality in sport” was one of many activities recently organised by the Croatian Olympic Committee to promote gender equality in sport and improve good governance. This time, the conference was organised for international representatives of organisations active in the field of science, education, and sport with the emphasis on the future of sport. The conference was held on 20 November 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia.

The conference was organised within the GETZ project (Gender Equality Toolkit for generation Z) that is a collaborative partnership – co-funded by the European Union Erasmus+ Sport programme – consisting of seven organisations: four universities (UK, Norway, Netherlands and Belgium), and three sport organisations (Croatia, Slovenia and Sweden).

The main target group of the GETZ project are students at sport universities from participating countries, born in the period 1995-2009 and widely regarded as generation Z. They are expected to enter the sport labour market in the near future. The GETZ project aims to develop an online toolkit to reach the youth and educate them about gender issues in sport. It should help prepare them to prevent, recognise and learn how to react to negative patterns of behaviour in sport organisations. It should also create the potential to help them become the leaders of change in any organisational culture. In the long term, it may contribute to good governance in sport by

reducing the gender inequalities for the generations to come.

The conference was divided in two main sessions. During the morning session, speakers reflected on the ongoing issues related to gender inequality in sport and its connection to good governance, access to leadership positions, gender perceptions, and portrayal in media. The NOC Vice Presidents – Morana Palikovic Gruden and Sanda Corak – shared their views on the topic as women involved in high leadership roles and governing bodies in the national sport system. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the real cases of discrimination against women in sport and jurisdiction of the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality.

Participants were also invited to join the Croatian Association of Sport Management for the purpose of networking. The afternoon session was dedicated to an interactive workshop with participants in order to collect and identify ideas that can feed into the development of the six thematic units of the educational toolkit for youth: culture and society, media, governance, participation, events, and commerce in sport.

The GETZ project will benefit from the wealth of ideas and make its progress in the development of the gender equality toolkit for generation Z that will be published in the first quarter of 2019 in its pilot version.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Croatian Olympic Committee](#)

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NEXT MONTHS

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| 24 January | EOC EU Office Board Meeting, Lausanne |
| 25 January | EOC Executive Committee, Lausanne |
| 5 February | Erasmus + Sport Infoday, Brussels |
| 4-6 February | POINTS Seminar, Lyon |
| 9-16 February | European Youth Olympic Festival, Sarajevo |