



EU Actions in the field of Sport: protection of (young) athletes

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Budapest, 6 may 2014*



Sport in the Treaty on Functioning of the EU (Lisbon Treaty) Article 165 TFEU

- Promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of:
 - the specific nature of sport,
 - its structures based on voluntary activity
 - its social and educational function.
- Developing the European dimension in sport, by promoting:
 - fairness and openness in sporting competitions
 - cooperation between bodies responsible for sports,by protecting:
 - **the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest sportsmen and sportswomen.**

White Paper on sport (2007)

Protection of minors

- The exploitation of young players is continuing. The most serious problem concerns children who are not selected for competitions and abandoned in a foreign country, often falling in this way in an irregular position which fosters their further exploitation.
- Protective measures for unaccompanied minors in Member State immigration laws need to be applied rigorously.
- Sexual abuse and harassment of minors in sport must also be fought against.

Protection of minors/integrity of young sportspeople

Young athletes involved in elite sports may put at risk their health and general wellbeing because of increasing pressure to achieve results even at the lowest levels of competitions.

Risks faced by young sportspeople include:

- overtraining and exploitation,
- missed education opportunities,
- use of doping substances,
- medical treatment under competition pressure
- unsafe environment (facilities, materials, environment, non-competent entourage)
- sexual abuse and harassment

Young athletes coming to Europe from third countries may be in an extra fragile position.

Protection of minors/integrity of young sportspeople

Public authorities and/or sports governing bodies have adopted various measures to ensure protection of young athletes.

These measures need to be balanced with the need to respect:

- the athletes' fundamental rights
- the EU's fundamental freedoms, such as the freedom of movement.

Protection of minors/integrity of young sportspeople European Union

- Council Directive 94/33/EC of 22 June 1994 on the Protection of Young People at Work
 - to ensure that work of adolescents is strictly regulated and protected and to ensure that employers guarantee that young people have working conditions suitable for their age.
- EU Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (2011/93/EU).
 - To ensure that when recruiting a person for professional or organised voluntary activities involving children the criminal record will be checked

The protection of minors in sport would also benefit from more effective regulation of the activities of players' agents, better licensing and quality assurance systems for sport clubs, and social dialogue in the sport sector.

EU workplan sport 2011 - 2014

- No specific policy attention for injury prevention and safety and security arrangements for (young) athletes

Topics mainstreamed in:

- Guidelines and conclusions on Dual Career of athletes (including early specialisation sports, quality requirements)
- Qualifications in the field of sport
- Anti doping
- Players agents and transfers
- Home grown players rule
- Consumers safety (DG SANCO)



Partnership in sport Preparatory Actions 2013 – Call for Proposals

Support transnational projects in order *to identify and test suitable networks and good practices in the field of sport*, supporting the development of the EU dimension in sport in the following areas:

Mobility arrangements in sport

- Strengthening of good governance and dual careers in sport through support for the mobility of volunteers, coaches, managers and staff of non-profit sport organisations.

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

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

Traditional games

- Promoting traditional European sports and games



Partnership in sport Preparatory Actions 2013 – Call for Proposals

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

Training conditions in elite sport, in particular for minors, can be so demanding that the physical and moral integrity of young sportsmen and sportswomen is jeopardised. Injuries and overtraining can be side-effects of sporting practice.

It is therefore important to support the exchange of good practices among sport stakeholders on:

- measures intended to improve injury prevention and safety and security arrangements in the field of sport (in training and competition conditions)
- to raise awareness of the protection of the health of (young) athletes.



Partnership in sport Preparatory Actions 2013 – Call for Proposals

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

The output could be:

- training modules, teaching materials,
- new technical standards,
- conferences and other published output
- recommendations to the EU to bring the (implementation of the) topic further

Output should be shared with the entire field across the EU and across a wide spectrum of sports.



Selected projects

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

International Center Ethics in Sport (ICES)

- *Protecting physical and moral integrity in competitive youth sport: stimulating individual empowerment of young athletes and conducive ethical climate in sport organisations.*

Output:

- *Final document with theoretical insights and clarifying integrity threats of young athletes including good practices which could be transferable in European context*
- *Document with recommendations for sport organisations*
- *Open Website*

Vrije Universiteit Brussels, German Sport University, Koln; Croatian Olympic Committee; University of Oradea, Romania; Lithuanian Sports University; Netherlands Olympic Committee; Department of Sport Science and Clinical Biomechanics, DK; ENGSO-Youth; National Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children, UK; Panathlon International, IT



Selected projects

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

Atletski sportski klub "ASK" Split, Croatia

Health & Injury Prevention for Young Athletes (HIP Ya!)

- *exchange the best practices in athletic training and to improve practical training methodology conducive to prevention of injuries and health protection of young athletes in close co-operation with medical professionals.*

Output:

- *training manual on health & injury prevention including video for coaches in athletics*

Alba regia Atlétikai Klub, HU; Atletski Klub Koper, SI; Unione Sportiva dilettantistica BOR- IT; Athletick Club Malacky – SK; AK Olymp Brno – CZ; Otvorena medijska grupacija, HR; Ordinacija opće medicine Mirjana Bezdrov, dr. med - HR



Selected projects

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

Empresa Pública para la Gestión del Turismo y del Deporte de Andalucía, Spain

ARISTO: a European monitoring protocol

- *To improve young athletes' (9-16 years) training and competition conditions by creating a monitoring protocol including medical and functional tests to control and prevent potential health problems and athletes' physical conditions*

Output:

- Aristo protocol
- Aristo web tool

Sports involved: badminton, triathlon, gymnastics, volleyball

University of Granada; Spanish Badminton Federation; Federacion Española de Triatlon; Beachklub Ládvi o.s.CZ; Rørby Værsløv Handball Organization- DK; Marche Region, IT; Association "Vingro Visi"- LV; National Sports Academy "Vassil Levski", BG; Lietuvos edukologijos universitetas, LT



Selected projects

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

CONI Comitato Regionale Marche, Italy

Healthy sports Improving Prevention and Protection for Young athletes (HIPPY)

Output:

Golden rules for safety standards for individual young athletes in the agegroup of 14-19 years in volleyball, basketball, cricket, athletics and Finnish Pesapallo

Guidance document covering risk analysis, management, prevention and protection in the same sports.

Associazione Sportiva Ankon Volley, IT; European Healthy Stadia Network CIC, UK; Lancashire Cricket Board Limited, UK; Gradanski Košarkarški Klub Šibenik, HR; Grad Vrgorac, HR; Karier Oy, Pori, FI; Fera ry, Rauma, FI; Dia-Sport association, BG; Sport and Recreation Complex Lozenets, Sofia, BG



Selected projects

Injury prevention and safety and security arrangements

Enlarged Partial Agreement Sport - Council of Europe Pro Safe Sport for Young Athletes (PSS)

- *Promote safe and healthy sport environments for young athletes by raising awareness among athletes' entourage, establishing self evaluation and training programmes and harnessing synergies of existing structures*

Output:

- *Educational toolkit*
- *Recommendations*
- *PSS campaign*

Scuola dello Sport- CONI, IT; Foundation of Sport Education and Information, EE; European Athlete Student Network, Talented Athletes Scholarship Scheme (TASS), UK; European Elite Athletes Association (EEAA); European Physical Education Association; International Council for Coaching Excellence; The Football Association Premier League, UK; Latvian Sports Medicine Association; Semmelweis University, HU; International School sport Federation; EGLSF



European Commission

“Youth Sport stands-up for Youth Rights”

Empowering 16-22 year old Europeans in sport to combat and raise awareness about sexualized violence gender harassment through youth-led campaigns and local cross-sector networks in seven European countries

YOUTH_LED CAMPAIGNS

A youth board member and a youth coach in every participating regional club will be educated through 2 European trainings. With the gained knowledge they will work with the youth sectors in their sports clubs to develop and create a youth-led campaign, by youth for youth. The aim is to promote both ownership of the project and identification with its aims through participatory processes and active involvement of the target group. Opportunities and events where youth peer groups can be reached will be identified and the young people who created the campaign will be able to sensitise further peers in the partner organisation. Mentoring advice will be available for the partner organisation and the participating sports clubs throughout the projects implementation.



ROUND TABLES

National or regional round tables are initiated by the partnering organisations which aim at raising awareness about sexualised violence and gender harassment on all levels of society. Synergies are built between already existing structures and the sports sector, the result will be a cross-sector network adapted to each partners setting. With the help of mentors, strategies will be developed for this network to stay intact even after the project funding has ceased.



Young people from the structures of the Regional Clubs

Youth Peer Groups in the Partner Organisation

FUTURE EU ACTIONS

EU workplan sport 2014 – 2017

Preparations have been started; adoption expected 21 May 2014 under Greece EU presidency

Foreseen topics amongst others:

- Integrity of sport including:
 - guidelines Gender equality
 - Recommendations to Protection of young athletes and safeguard children's rights in sport
 - Guiding principles to human rights, democracy in context of awarding major sport events

Implementation of dual career guidelines

FUTURE EU ACTIONS

- Study on minimum quality requirements dual career facilities and services
- Guidelines on gender equality in sport including fight against sexual harassment and violence in sport
- Presentation of results of projects at EU Sport forum end of 2015
- Based on results of projects Expert Group proposing recommendations to protect young athletes and safeguard children's rights in sport

Sport

Objectives of the Sport Chapter of Erasmus+ are:

- making European sport fair and clean, by supporting the fight against doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination.
- promoting and supporting good governance in sport (for example by increasing the representation of women in the management of sport organisations).
- making it easier for athletes to combine sports training with study or work (so-called dual careers of athletes).
- promoting voluntary activities in sport, as well as supporting sport as a tool for social inclusion, equal opportunities and health-enhancing physical activity.

Sport

The programme will underpin the implementation of the EU Work Plan for Sport.

Actions supported by the programme will be in line with policy documents and guidelines of the Council and of the Commission such as:

- EU Physical Activities Guidelines
- EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes
- EU Disability Strategy
- EU Strategy regarding equality between women and men

Erasmus for All: Sport chapter

Article 12: Activities

The objectives of cooperation in Sport shall be pursued through the following transnational activities:

- support to transnational collaborative partnerships;
- support for non-profit European sport events involving several participating countries and contributing to the objectives set out in Article 11.1 (c);
- support the strengthening of the evidence base for policy making;
- dialogue with relevant European stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention!

More information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/sport>