

President's Report

Time to look back

12.12.2014

December is a good time to slow down, to sit down in front of a candle light and look back. Instead of taking up new tasks, it is good to finish off the to-do list of 2014. I am happy to announce that ENGSO's list of tasks is almost done for this year.

ENGSO has been active throughout the year. During the autumn 2014 we have met several MEPs and informed them about the current status from the field of sport and expressed the need to invest into grassroots sports. Last week in Milan at the EU Sport Forum, ENGSO had a unique opportunity to influence the highest level of sport decision makers when our Secretary General Helena Carlson and Sports Policy Director Heidi Pekkola met with Tibor Navracsics, the New Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. On the same occasion ENGSO signed a partnership agreement on the European Week of Sport. This meeting with Mr. Navracsics and the partnership agreement are evidence that ENGSO is greatly respected and has a valued voice within the European sports scene. Besides meeting the EU politicians, ENGSO was invited to numerous seminars and forums as a guest speaker to share the current trends and news from the grassroots sports.



I am personally satisfied with the work we accomplished this year. Our voice is valued because of our close and wide network of sport professionals and volunteers. My wish for 2015 is to strengthen the cooperation within our network even more. I hope that in 2015 we will be able to continue to actively advocate and influence the sports political agenda. Together with ENGSO Youth our goal is to engage more young people to be active decision-makers and to help design the future of sport with us.

Dear friend, I am thankful that you have shared the year 2014 with ENGSO. On behalf of ENGSO I would like to thank all of our member and partner organisations for your collaboration in order to ensure that the voice of the grassroots sport is heard on all levels and sectors of sport.

I wish you all a very calm and enjoyable Christmas and holiday season. I look forward to seeing you in 2015.

Season's greetings,

Birgitta Kervinen

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The Juncker Commission officially Takes Over the Executive Leadership of the European Union

The new European Commission, which was voted by the European Parliament on 22 Oct 2014, officially took office on 1 November 2014 to start its five-year mandate. Headed by a former Prime Minister of Luxemburg as its President, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, the New Commission has set out to be an agent of change and to create a new start for Europe and in Mr Juncker's own words "to rebuild bridges in Europe after the crisis. To restore European citizens' confidence."

Mr Juncker has already made sweeping changes to the way the Commission is structured. Instead of 28 equally-weighted roles, he has created the new post of first Vice-President, and together with five other Vice-Presidents they will oversee various broad policy priorities.

Before the vote by the European Parliament approving Jean-Claude Juncker's team, Commissioner Juncker told a plenary session that the portfolio of Tibor Navracsics (Commissioner from Hungary) had been modified; whereas the fields of culture, education, and youth for which he was originally nominated remain, EU citizenship would go to the Greek Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos. Navracsics, in turn, will also be responsible for sports affairs. This is the first time that sport is mentioned in the title of a Commissioner. ENGSO among other stakeholders was very pleased about this change and agrees with the European Olympic Committees EU Office, whose Director Folker Hellmund expressed his approval on the decision to finally include sport in the official portfolio: "It's better late than never. I am happy to see that Mr. Juncker has heard our message, which was backed by the European Parliament. Sport represents 3.7% of European GDP, employs 15 million persons and is essential to social cohesion, public health and economic growth. In times when European society needs exactly that, it makes sense to put sport high on the EU agenda."

International Seminar on Match-fixing: A Key Issue for Sports Integrity

On 30 September 2014, the Italian EU Presidency organised a seminar on match-fixing in Milan. The event focused on analysing best practices to enhance understanding and fighting against the phenomena. The seminar coincided with the Council Expert Group on match-fixing, taking place a day earlier also in Milan.

Illegal practices in sport have become a contemporary challenge for sport and there is a growing need for effective and efficient actions. Therefore, the Italian Presidency carried out an in-depth analysis of existing good examples, e.g. the Council of Europe Convention against Match-fixing.

The seminar also addressed the optimisation and implementation of public and private policies, regulations and actions. In addition, it strengthened co-operation among the different stakeholders, highlighting the preventive measures fostering sports integrity. For more information on the agenda and the background paper, please visit the [Italian Presidency's website](#).

Informal Sports Ministers Meeting

The Italian EU Presidency organised the informal meeting of EU Sport Ministers on 20-21 October 2014 in Rome. The meeting gave the opportunity to the ministers responsible for sport of the EU Member States to consult, interact with each other and reach some conclusions that can feed into the work of the European Commission. The main items on the agenda were "sport as a tool for more inclusive society" and "financial fair play in football".

Sport can make a major contribution in addressing the increasing problem of social exclusion. It can especially play an important role in the fight against the exclusion of migrants, disabled persons and those living in deprived urban areas.

As former EU Commissioner responsible for sport Androulla Vassiliou mentioned at the press conference, the European Commission had supported projects promoting social inclusion between 2009 and 2013 from the Preparatory Actions in the field of sport. ENGSO's project "Creating a Level Playing Field", financed by the 2010



Preparatory Actions, developed policy recommendations on social inclusion of migrants to European, national, regional and local decision-makers. The project also provided an [analytical framework on the transferability of best practice examples](#).

From 2014 on, the EU has the competence to directly finance European projects in this field.

With regard to financial fair play in football, the UEFA's Financial Fair Play (FFP) Regulations were introduced. The FFP defines ethical standards for clubs participating in football competitions in order to prevent clubs from spending beyond their means. Behind this is the need for fair financial management and sustainable professional sport. The UEFA's regulations facilitate good governance and could apply to other sport disciplines as well. More information [here](#).

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council in Brussels on 25 November 2014

The Council of the EU is an essential EU decision-maker, meeting in different configurations depending on the subject discussed. On 25 November 2014 in Brussels, European ministers responsible for sport met in the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS). Under Italian chairmanship and with the participation of the new Commissioner responsible for sport Tibor Navracsics, the ministers adopted a Conclusion on sport as a driver of innovation and economic growth. In addition, they had a policy debate on sport and physical activity at school age.

Sport as a driver of innovation and economic growth

Sport accounts for 1.63% of EU GDP, having a share in the national economies comparable to agriculture, forestry and fisheries combined. Sport has on the one hand a positive effect on other sectors of the economy and has the potential to create jobs. On the other hand, the sport sector is resilient to economic crisis. Therefore, the Council has been continuing its work on the economic dimension of sport, addressing among others innovation. The Council conclusion, adopted on 25 November 2014, highlights the importance of research and innovation in sport. Furthermore, it emphasizes the need to promote cross-sectoral and cross-border clusters – with the involvement of public and private establishments, educational institutions and sports organisations – which are favourable for sports-based research and product development. The conclusion also promotes the mainstreaming of sport in other EU Programmes in the field of innovation and research, for example the Horizon 2020, the EU Programme for research and innovation.

Sport and physical activity at school age

The European ministers also had a policy debate on the promotion of sport and physical activity at school age. EU decision-makers worry that sport and physical activity in schools has perceived decline and marginalisation among school-aged children, although it has been a compulsory subject in all EU Member States. There is a need to develop physical education and to strengthen the co-operation within the sport sector, authorities and the private sector. The aim of the debate was therefore to contribute to this preparation.

Physical education and activities in school were also the main theme of the recently organised [ENGSO Forum](#). ENGSO invited experts and provided good practice examples in three areas: research, national and European policies as well as good practice cases.

EU Sport Forum Gathers the Stakeholders in Milan

The annual EU Sport Forum, organised by the Italian Presidency and the European Commission, took place in Milan on 1-2 December. The event gathered around 300 stakeholders from the sport organisations and institutions in Europe. This year the event was organised around seven sessions.

After the welcome by the new Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsics the official opening continued with representatives from the Italian Presidency and the European Parliament. The next two



sessions were dedicated to the Sport Chapter of Erasmus+ and the results of the Preparatory Actions in the Field of Sport 2012. In the afternoon, a high-level debate on the future of sport at the EU level and the European Week of Sport were on the agenda. On the second day, the focus was on the presentation of recent EU studies, the role of multi-sport clubs and the economic and social impact of major sport events.

ENGSO had its deserved place at the event, not only as a guest, but also as an active contributor. ENGSO Sports Policy Director Heidi Pekkola moderated one of the parallel sessions that dealt with the results of the Preparatory Actions in the Field of Sport 2012. In this parallel session six projects financed under the topic "trans-frontier joint grassroots sport competitions in neighbouring regions and Member States" were presented.

Furthermore, the EU Sport Forum was the first occasion for the new Commissioner Navracsics to meet the sport movement and set up his priorities for sport at EU level for the next five years. As a first priority he outlined the promotion of grassroots sport, followed by two other priorities: tackling threats to sport such as match-fixing, violence and doping; and the contribution of sport to growth, innovation and job creation. ENGSO was pleased to hear the promotion of grassroots sport as a first priority, as it was one of the topics discussed in a bilateral meeting between ENGSO and Commissioner Navracsics which took place earlier in the EU Sport Forum. In the meeting Commissioner Navracsics welcomed ENGSO's views and agreed to place the societal role of sport high on the EU agenda.

ENGSO Signs a Partnership Agreement on the European Week of Sport at the EU Sport Forum

The first edition of the European Week of Sport will take place in September 2015 with the aim to promote participation in physical activity and sport in Europe. In order to engage the sport movement in the implementation of the initiative, some stakeholders were invited to sign a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission at the annual EU Sport Forum. ENGSO's Agreement was signed by Secretary General Helena Carlsson. Besides ENGSO the following organisations signed the Agreement: ACES Europe, EFCS, EOC, EPFL, EuropeActive, European Golf, FESI, FIFPRO, ISCA, ICSS Europe, Special Olympics, TAFISA and UEFA.

ENGSO has been committed to promote the societal role of sport, particularly in relation to health and participation in sport and physical activity. With the signature of the Partnership Agreement, ENGSO pledged to take on an active role in the implementation of the European Week of Sport with awareness raising, communication activities, and the involvement of young people through ENGSO Youth. In addition, ENGSO will inform and encourage its members to be active in the implementation of activities at national level.

The Commission also provided some information regarding their plans for the European Week of Sport 2015 at the EU Sport Forum. The week will take place from Monday 7 September to Sunday 13 September. The plan is to have different focus days during the week according to the "location". Tuesday would focus on activities in schools or educational institutions, Thursday on activities in work places and Saturday and Sunday in sport clubs. Furthermore, a European launching event would be organised on Monday, whereas on Wednesday a flagship event related to a specific topic (possibly on gender equality in 2015) would take place. Furthermore the Commission has asked national Ministries to appoint a national coordinator for the activities in different countries. ENGSO member organisations will be also involved in the implementation of the Week as a national coordinator.

ENGSO as Observer in the Council Expert Groups

The Council of the European Union adopted a new EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017 last May in their meeting. The Work Plan defines the priorities for the EU in the field of sport for the next three years. According to this Work Plan five new Expert Groups have been established: 1) Match-fixing, 2) Good governance, 3) Economic dimension, 4) Health-enhancing physical activity and 5) Human resources. These Expert Groups offer a platform for EU Member States to discuss the concerned topics, and at the same time all of the Groups have also accepted the involvement of sport movement as observers in their meetings. ENGSO's request to become an observer has been accepted by all of the Groups.



In order to better represent the voice of its member organisations, to gather some good practices and to advocate for the grassroots sport, ENGSO has decided to create internal consultation groups around each Expert Group. For these ENGSO consultation groups, member organisations are requested to nominate potential experts to be consulted on the different topics during the existence of the Expert Groups. The consultations will be done via email. Member organisations are requested to send proposals for these experts to ENGSO's Sports Policy Director Heidi Pekkola pekkola@euoffice.eurolympic.org by 30 January 2015. If you or another expert from the ENGSO member organisation would like to be consulted for an ENGSO positions please let us know for which group and possible sub-topic it would be. The groups and topics to be discussed are as follows:

- Match-Fixing
 - Exchange of best practices regarding the fight against match-fixing, in particular on a possible Commission Recommendation on best practices in the prevention and combating of betting-related match-fixing, followed by a report on state of play (1st half 2016)
- Good Governance
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations to protect young athletes and safeguard children's rights in sport (1st half 2016)
 - Preparation of guiding principles relating to democracy, human rights and labour rights, in particular in the context of the awarding procedure of major sport events, possibly followed by a pledge board (2nd half 2015)
 - Promotion of existing good governance principles, possibly followed by a pledge board (1st half 2016)
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations or guidelines on gender equality in sport, possibly followed by a pledge board (2nd half 2015)
- Economic Dimension
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations to measure the economic benefits of sport in the EU based on the ongoing work to promote the set-up of SSAs in the Member States (2nd half 2015)
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations on major sport events, in particular on legacy aspects with a focus on social, economic and environmental sustainability (2nd half 2015)
 - Preparation of practical guidance on how to encourage transparent and long-term investment in sport, including EU funding, based inter alia on 2012 recommendations on sustainable financing of sport, including state aid (1st half 2016)
- Health-Enhancing Physical Activity
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations to encourage physical education in schools, including motor skills in early childhood, and to create valuable interactions with the sport sector, local authorities and the private sector (1st half 2015)
 - Coordination of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on HEPA (2nd half 2016)
- Human Resources Development in Sport
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations to encourage volunteering in sport, including best practices on legal and fiscal mechanisms (2nd half 2015 or 2nd half 2014)
 - Exchange of best practices and report on the state of play concerning the inclusion of sport qualifications in NQFs with a reference to EQF (2nd half 2016)
 - Preparation of Expert Group recommendations on the contribution of sport to the employability of young people, including young professional sportsmen and women, and the creation of jobs in the sport and sport-related labour market. (2nd half 2016)
 - Preparation of practical guidance on compliance of national qualifications with international qualification standards of international sport federation (2nd half 2015)
 - Preparation of a report on state of play concerning the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers (1st half 2017)



European Parliament creates a Sport Intergroup

The new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) showed an interest in sport issues, as they initiated the setting up of a Sport Intergroup after the EU elections in May 2014. After a long process and many negotiations, the European Parliament has accepted the list of new Intergroups on 11 December, and Sport Intergroup is on this list.

An intergroup is an informal working group, assembling MEPs interested in the same subject from various political groups. They hold regular meetings – usually 1 or 2 every month – where stakeholders are also invited. The informal exchanges between MEPs and stakeholders promote contact between the parliamentarians and civil society.

Many MEPs declared their interest for setting up a Sport Intergroup, especially from the two major political groups: the European People's Party (EPP) and the Group of Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). It seems that the new Sport Intergroup will be co-chaired by Belgian MEP Marc Tarabella from S&D and MEP Santiago Fisas from EPP.

ENGSO Forum and Seminar

This year's ENGSO Forum took place in an extraordinary venue, on a cruise ferry between Stockholm and Helsinki, on 27-29 October 2014 with around half a hundred participants. The main theme of the Forum was "physical education and activities in schools" based on the premise that early engagement in physical activity is one of the most efficient ways to guarantee a lifelong active lifestyle, where schools are primary living environments for children and youth, contributing to their education and health.

The event kicked off on 27 October with the ENGSO EU Seminar, which has been traditionally organised for almost ten years as one of the most important commitments of ENGSO to update member organisations on the European sport policy developments.

Updates on the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the Council of Europe activities were presented by Mr Francois Tricarico, Deputy Executive Secretary of the EPAS, while Ms Agata Dziarnowska, Policy Officer of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, gave insight into the new Erasmus+ call for proposals 2015, and highlighted substantial information on the European Week of Sport and the Council's Expert Groups outlined in the recently adopted EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017.

ENGSO Sports Policy Director, Ms Heidi Pekkola, notified the participants of ENGSO's plans with regard to the European Week of Sport and the Council Expert Groups, of which ENGSO has an observer status. The seminar, maintained a pleasant atmosphere all throughout, was brought to a close by Ms Julie Ravlo and Mr Filip Filipic, members of the ENGSO EU Working Group, who notified the audience of the recent European sport policy topics, including the European elections and their effect on sport, as well as recent studies, calls for tenders and proposals in the traditional Breaking News session of the EU Seminar.

The Forum was structured into three different sessions,
Session I: "Scientific approach to physical education and activities in schools",
Session II: "National and European policies",
Session III: "Good practice cases around Europe",
with hopes to widen the participants' perspectives on physical activity and participation in the framework of education and schools.

The invited experts presented their latest research and scientific findings, showcased national and European policy examples, and recommended good practice cases from across Europe.

With open discussions and comments, the Forum provided a platform for interactive brainstorming experience, as well as an excellent opportunity for networking with international experts, European policy-makers from the



European Commission and the Council of Europe, professors, researchers and stakeholders from ENGSO member organisations.

Ms Birgitta Kervinen, ENGSO President, encouraged all the participants to spread the news and information from the Forum among their colleagues and networks back in their home countries: *"The only way to bring the sporting world forward is to share the latest news with our colleagues. Together we can bring the best practices towards next practices and ensure that the voice of the grassroots sports is secured in the future"*.

Handover of the ENGSO Youth Secretariat

German Sports Youth (Deutsche Sport Jugend) has hosted the Secretariat of ENGSO Youth for nine consecutive years having Rebekka Kemmler-Müller as its Secretary General. Mrs Kemmler-Müller will now take over new responsibilities within the German Sports Youth and ENGSO Youth Secretariat has been transferred to the NOC of Serbia. Nevena Vukasinovic from the NOC of Serbia has taken up the position as ENGSO Youth Secretary General, starting from December 2014.

Ms Vukasinovic has supported ENGSO Youth for the past few years as ENGSO Youth Young Delegate and Communication Officer. She has experience in the field of youth work in sport and we are confident that she will be outstanding in her new position. The NOC of Serbia and ENGSO Youth Committee fully support Ms Vukasinovic in her new position.

Ms Nevena Vukasinovic can be contacted at the following address:

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ENGSO and ENGSO Youth would like to express their gratitude both to the German Sports Youth and to Mrs Rebekka Kemmler-Müller for both their support and outstanding work over the years. Mrs Kemmler-Müller has been an added-value, a dear colleague and an important inspiration as a driving force within the network. We wish her all the best in her future commitments and endeavours.

Do you have what it takes to be an ENGSO Youth Committee member?

The search for appropriate candidates has begun

In May 2015 the period of the current ENGSO Youth committee 2013 - 2015 will come to an end and the ENGSO Youth Assembly will elect a new ENGSO Youth Committee (Chair, Vice-Chair and 7 members) with a mandate of two years (2015-2017).

The search for appropriate candidates has begun.

ENGSO Youth Committee will open its doors exclusively to interested parties.

JOIN the ENGSO Youth #opendoor on 20th and 21st of December in Belgrade and to receive firsthand experience of ENGSO Youth team and activities.

ENGSO Youth will provide participants with:

- requirements needed to apply for ENGSO Youth Committee membership (elections for a new Board will be held during the ENGSO Youth Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal in May 2015)
- a transparent exchange of information, ideas and perspectives
- the possibility to meet young leaders, discuss the future work programme, answer additional questions
- an overview-workshop on European funding opportunities related to youth, sport and education

ENGSO Youth will pay close attention to how young representatives perceive different topics regarding the roles of youth in European sport.



More information: www.youth-sport.net AND <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=462f9232edf20360b5d180f7d&id=38721b145a>

SIGN UP here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MBG_ZfsHbDV43JbTAMRuictvlu-s35ro9tv9H5laeUM/viewform

Contact: info@youth-sport.net

ENGSO SCORE Project Selected for Erasmus+ Funding

"Strengthening Coaching with the Objective to Raise Equality" or simply SCORE is the title of the new ENGSO project which has now been selected for funding from the Erasmus+ Sport Programme.

ENGSO submitted a project proposal under the Erasmus+ Sport Programme in 2014 to promote equal opportunities, namely gender equality in coaching. The SCORE project 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 coach education.

The project is targeted at sports and coaching organisations at all levels, more specifically coaches, trainers, former athletes, volunteers and decision-makers in the field of coaching.

Over the course of the project, an "awareness pack" will be developed with different tools targeted both for sports organisations and coaches to increase gender equality in coaching.

Another main element of the project is the development of a mentoring programme, educating future mentors for potential coaches in the countries of the partner organisations. Implementation will take place in the form of national training sessions. After the education, the mentors will assist potential female coaches in their respective countries in developing the mentees' professional and personal growth.

The success of the project is guaranteed by an excellent project team, with the involvement of the following organisations:

- 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)

Erasmus+ Call for Proposals 2015 and Programme Guide Published

Erasmus+ is the European Union's Programme to support education, training, youth and sport for the period of 2014-2020. Sport organisations interested in applying for funding in 2015 can find the Call for Proposal 2015 in the Official Journal of the European Union (2.10.2014, C 344/15). The Erasmus+ Programme Guide is an integral part of the Call, containing detailed conditions, priorities, actions supported and information on participation.

The latest version of the Programme Guide was published on 14 November 2014 in English only. Further language versions will hopefully follow in December 2014.

In the field of sport, the main objectives are to (1) tackle cross-border threats to the integrity of sport (e.g. doping, match-fixing, violence), (2) promote good governance and dual careers of athletes, (3) promote voluntary



activities, social inclusion, equal opportunities and awareness of the importance of health-enhancing physical activity.

In 2015, collaborative partnerships and not-for-profit European sport events will be supported with a total of approximately EUR 16,8 million. Any public or private body may apply for funding. For those collaborative partnerships and events that are related to the European Week of Sport, the deadline is on 22 January 2015. The partnerships and events not related to the European Week of Sport have as a deadline 14 May 2015.

Collaborative partnerships are innovative projects ranging from 12, 18, 24, 30, or 36 months and should promote the development of European networks and should strengthen co-operation among different stakeholders. These partnerships should involve at least five organisations from five different countries that are eligible for application (See "Eligible Countries" of the Guide).

Not-for-profit European Sport Events are European-wide sport events organised to support the implementation of EU strategies in the areas of social inclusion and equal opportunities and to encourage participation in sport and physical activity.

Taking into account the distribution of the total budget of EUR 16,8 million, collaborative partnerships related to the European Week of Sport will indicatively receive a total of EUR 1,6 million (5 projects), while collaborative partnerships not related to the European Week of Sport a total of EUR 13,2 million (45 project). Not-for-profit sport events related to the European Week of Sport and those not related to the European Week of Sport will receive around EUR 0,6 million (3 projects) and EUR 1,4 million (3 projects), respectively.

Documents:

[Call for Proposal](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#)

[More information](#)

#sportemploys for Capacity Building, Entrepreneurial Thinking and Employability of Young People

ENGSO Youth and partners changing mind sets, developing campaign and creating toolkit

Rome was not big enough to host all youth leaders, youth workers and young people who were not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) interested for the second step of the European-wide initiative: the Seminar of the "Sport Employs YOUrope" (SEY) project. On 1-5 October 2014, SEY partners and participants gathered to recognise non-formal education in sport to fight against youth employment. With the objective to develop a strong and sustainable network, young people and youth leaders joined forces to transform their mind set as young entrepreneurs in the sports framework.

30 participants from partner organisations and 12 NEETs participants had the chance in October to start the journey from Italy towards a European galaxy aiming to tackle youth unemployment. ENGSO Youth had recognised non-formal education as the best means to fight youth unemployment, further developing this concept through research, empowerment of youth and recommendations for stakeholders. Opportunities of employability and entrepreneurship in the sport sector could open a completely new market to youth. As an outcome of the discussions during the seminar, the importance of developing and strengthening networks and partnerships with the aim to promote youth employment in and through sport was recognised. The promotion of European cooperation between the youth and the sport field aimed to stimulate capacity building, entrepreneurial thinking and employability for young people.

Participants agreed to develop an awareness campaign to enhance the opportunity of employability of young people in the field of sport around Europe. A tool kit for the recognition of skills gained through non-formal education in sport is expected to be introduced by January 2015.

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ENGSO participates in the 43rd EOC General Assembly

The 43rd General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees took place on 21-22 November 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan. ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen, Secretary General Helena Carlsson and Sports Policy Director Heidi Pekkola attended the meeting.

Furthermore, ENGSO Executive Committee Member Lotte Büchert participated in the meeting as a member of the delegation of the Danish Olympic Committee and Confederation of Sport.

In his speech, EOC President Patrick Hickey underlined the importance of the partnership with ENGSO. "We work together in line to achieve the common goals." Furthermore, ENGSO delegation engaged in good discussions during the EOC General Assembly, e.g. with IOC President Thomas Bach.

Apart from mandatory responsibilities of the General Assembly, discussions on different events, such as the Olympic Games - Rio 2016, the European Games - Baku 2015, the Youth Olympic Games and the European Youth Olympic Festival were on the agenda of the General Assembly. In addition the chairpersons of the different EOC Commissions also gave their account.

Calendar of Events

- 8 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium: First meeting of the Council Working Party under Latvian Presidency
- 22 January 2015, Deadline for the Erasmus+ Sport Actions related to the European Week of Sport
- 5-6 February 2015, Lapland, Finland: ENGSO Executive Committee meeting
- 11 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium: Erasmus+ Sport Info Day
- 16-17 February 2015, Stockholm, Sweden: Kick off meeting of the ENGSO "SCORE" Project
- 16 February 2015, Riga, Latvia: Presidency Conference on physical activity and development of skills
- 17 February 2015, Riga, Latvia: Sport Directors meeting, Riga
- 17 February 2015, Riga, Latvia: Expert Group Human Resources in Sport
- 5 March 2015, Brussels, Belgium: Expert Group Good Governance
- 24 March 2015, Brussels, Belgium: Expert Group Match-fixing
- 21-22 April, Vienna, Austria: Expert Group Economic Dimension
- 19 May: Sport Minister Council

ENGSO Meets Tibor Navracsics, the New Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport at the EU Sport Forum

In the framework of the annual EU Sport Forum taking place in Milan, Italy, 1-2 Dec. 2014, the new EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, held bilateral meetings with a select three European sport organisations, among them ENGSO.

In the bilateral meeting, the ENGSO delegation consisting of ENGSO Secretary General, Helena Carlsson, and ENGSO Sports Policy Director, Heidi Pekkola, stressed the positive aspects of sport and its societal impact and expressed their sincere wish to have such topics as volunteering, health-enhancing physical activity, social inclusion and education on the EU sports political agenda in the upcoming years. Commissioner Navracsics, in turn, expressed his agreement that the societal role of sport is crucial in developing the European dimension of sport.

In addition, ENGSO raised a concern regarding the new Erasmus+ Programme, which includes for the first time a funding chapter for sport, and proposed some changes to improve the participation of sports organisations at grassroots level, which should be the main beneficiaries of the Programme according to the Programme regulation. ENGSO also expressed its willingness to be actively involved in the implementation of the European Week of Sport, which will take place for the first time in September 2015.



Furthermore, ENGSO stressed the importance of continuing the work of previous Commissioner, Androulla Vassiliou, to improve gender equality in sport.

The EU Sport Forum was organised by the Italian EU Presidency and the European Commission in Milan, Italy, on 1-2 December 2014, convening around 300 participants from the world of European sport, national sports confederations and Olympic Committees, Ministries, European organisations and other stakeholders.