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### SPORT ORGANISATIONS PROMOTING ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP?

**Y**ear 2013 is the European Year of Citizens - a year dedicated to all of us, and our rights as Europeans. 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of EU Citizenship, which was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty in 1993, and it is also one year before the European Parliament elections. One of the aims of the year is to encourage dialogue at all levels of government, civil society and business. ENGSO takes part in this dialogue in the European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA) - an open network of European and national civil society organisations promoting active citizenship in the frame of the European Year of Citizens.

Sport organisations and sport clubs do not always recognize that they offer people possibilities to actively influence and participate in the life of their communities. Sport organisations can steer people towards active citizenship and, I think, it is in our interests to be among those influencing the society. It is also our task to make sure that the decision-makers from the community level to the European level understand the value of voluntary sports organisations for the society. At the same time sport organisations should see their role broadly. This means taking responsibility in building up the society by offering people the chance to take part in sport and physical activities regardless of their background and thus improving their quality of life.

This year the ENGSO General Assembly will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, June 7-9, 2013. The General Assembly is the opportunity to ENGSO Members to influence the future priorities and activities of ENGSO. As this is an elective General Assembly there are also several positions open to candidacy. I would like to encourage all ENGSO Members to actively nominate candidates for the positions of ENGSO Vice-President, Secretary General and two Executive Committee Members.

I wish you all an active Year of European Citizenship 2013.



Birgitta Kervinen

ENGSO President



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### 2013 IS THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CITIZENS



## European Year of Citizens 2013

[www.europa.eu/citizens-2013](http://www.europa.eu/citizens-2013)

In the EU since 1983, each year has been dedicated to a specific topic in order to raise the awareness of the widest possible public and governments alike on a particular issue both at national and European level. 2013 is designated as the European Year of Citizens, and focuses mainly on encouraging debate about what EU citizenship means for the people in Europe and ensuring that people know their rights as EU citizens.

The identification of the topic for a European Year is done several years in advance by the European authorities, and the implementation is the responsibility of the European Commission. The European Year of Citizens 2013 will be implemented by the Commission in close cooperation with strategic partners, such as the Council of Europe, European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, Committee of Regions, National Coordination Bodies, European Direct Information Centres and the European Year of Citizens Alliance (EYCA).

The European Year of Citizens Alliance is a civil society alliance, whose members are civil society organisations, including ENGSO, and network members of the European Economic and Social Committee Liaison Group, aiming to advocate for a broad understanding of active European citizenship. According to the EYCA as it is stated in its Manifesto, "active European citizenship is about pursuing European collective goals and values enshrined in the Treaties", it means "active involvement of citizens as participation in the life of their

communities, and thus in democracy, in terms of activity and decision-making".

Throughout the European Year of Citizens, the EYCA is aiming to mobilise and coordinate a wide civil society engagement, to initiate European-wide debate on citizens' rights and to foster participation in democratic life at local, national and European level. The activities, including debates, conferences, screenings, workshops, exhibitions as well as a policy recommendation put forward at the end of the European Year, will be carried out by Alliance members organised into three thematic Working Groups. The Working Groups will focus on the relevance of participatory citizenship and civil dialogue in the context of the crisis, a truly citizen-friendly European Union that would no longer be reduced to merely economic preoccupations, and inclusive citizenship that tends to be an individual right-based approach as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Based on the fact that ENGSO promotes active citizenship and participation in democratic life through sport, ENGSO has a convenient place in the Alliance. ENGSO will participate in Working Group meetings to contribute to the debates on social inclusion and citizenship, gender equality as well as effective dialogue between policy makers and civil society organisations. It will also facilitate discussions among its Members where organised sport wants the EU to be by 2020 in terms of policies and governance.

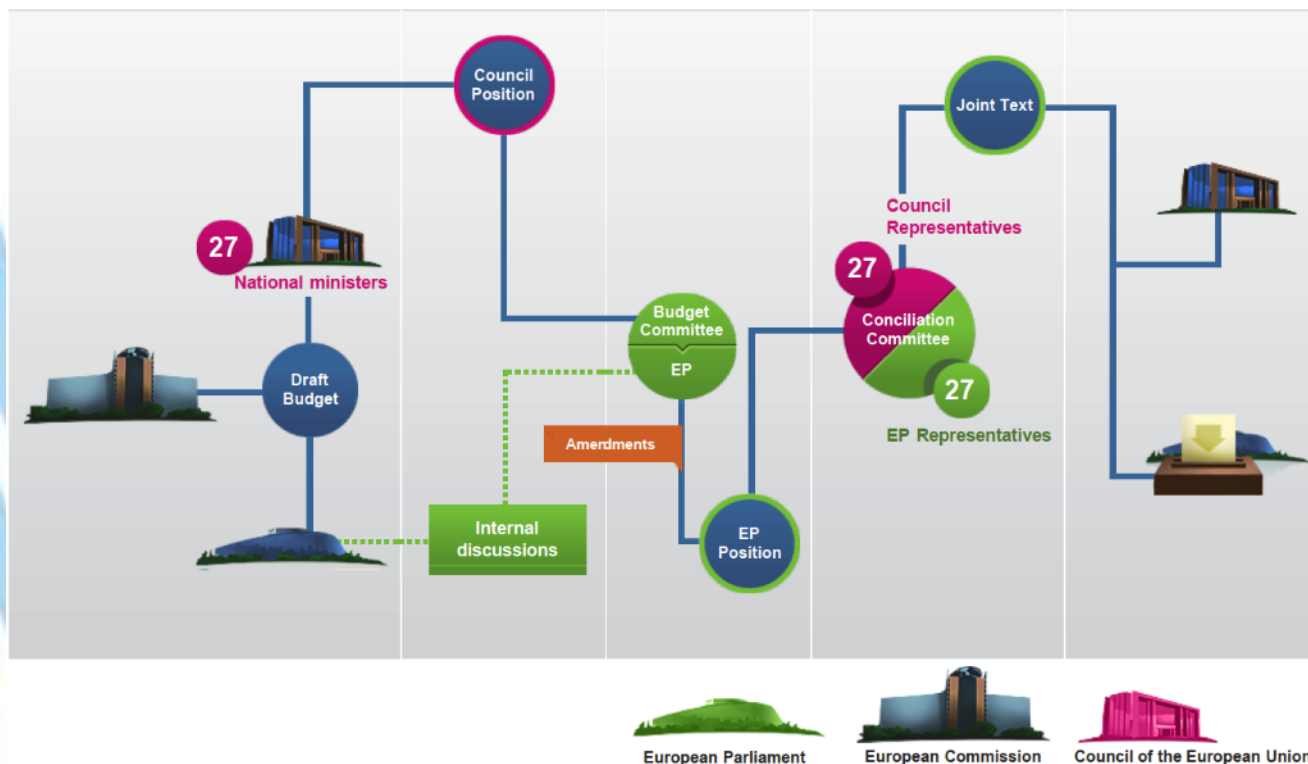
*Orsolya Tolnay*

## STATE OF PLAY ON THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2014-2020

The adoption of the EU budget for the period of 2014-2020 is a long and complicated process, which can be simplified to the following steps: after the proposal of the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament set up their positions to finalise the negotiations and reach an overall agreement on the MFF.



### Budgetary procedure



Source: European Parliament (<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/003dcd4001/The-budget-procedure-explained.html>)

The Commission proposal was published on 29 June 2011. After failed EU budget talks in 2012, the Member States of the European Council (EC) could reach agreement on the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2014-2020 on 8 February 2013. The deal, which has reduced the overall expenditure limit of the MFF for the first time in history, set the ceiling for maximum possible expenditure at EUR 959.99 billion in commitments and EUR 908.40 billion in payments. Compared to the current MFF (2007-2013), this means a cut of EUR 34.4 billion in commitments and EUR 35.2 billion in payments, a reduction of 3.4% in real terms.

Despite of the cuts, the expenditure ceiling for competitiveness (sub-heading 1a) amounts to EUR 125.61 billion, which is a more than 37% increase compared to the current MFF. The sub-heading "competitiveness" includes fields, such as research, innovation and education, which are expected to promote growth and create jobs, thus prepare the EU for the future. The Member States are also committed to increase the funding for "Erasmus for All" Programme, which contains the future funding of sport.

On 13 March 2013, the European Parliament (EP) set out its stance on the EU budget approved by the European Council, and adopted its own position. According to the EP resolution, the Parliament rejects the 8 February European Council conclusion in their current form. The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) want more flexible and efficient budget for the next MFF.

Now, as both the European Council and the European Parliament have their official positions, the European Commission will facilitate the overall agreement between the Parliament and the Council. Informal negotiations should continue and an inter-institutional committee should be set up to result in an agreement between the Parliament and the Council. If there will be no agreement reached by January 2014, the MFF ceiling from 2013, adjusted for inflation, will apply.

*Orsolya Tolnay*

## COUNCIL EXPERT GROUP ON SPORT, HEALTH AND PARTICIPATION DISCUSSES THE EUROBAROMETER QUESTIONNAIRE AND FUTURE EU POLICY IN THE FIELD

Council Expert Group on Sport, Health and Participation had its fourth meeting on 6 February 2013. Deliverable 4: The next Eurobarometer questionnaire on sport and physical activity and Deliverable 5: "Priorities for future EU level work in the field of sport, health and participation" were on the agenda of the meeting. Altogether five deliverables were identified on the Work Plan of this Expert Group, which aims to explore ways to promote health enhancing physical activity and participation in grassroots sport as defined in the Council Work Plan for Sport 2011-2014.

In the discussions on Eurobarometer questionnaire ENGSO raised the importance of collecting data on volunteering in the field of sport and proposed adding a question on the different roles of volunteers in sport. Together with the EOC EU Office ENGSO stressed that the questions on health enhancing physical activity (HEPA) should also take into account the intensity of the activity. With regard to the Deliverable 5 and the future EU level work in the field, ENGSO highlighted the importance of cross-sectoral approach to promote HEPA.

Next and final meeting of the Expert Group on Sport, Health and Participation will take place in Portugal in the beginning of July 2013.

*Heidi Pekkola*

## IRISH PRESIDENCY'S SPORTS CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF SPORT



One day before the Informal Meeting of EU Sports Directors, the Irish Presidency held its Sports Conference on Sustainable financing of sport in Dublin on 7 March 2013. The main objective of the event, which brought together sport ministers, EU representatives as well as 200 guests from the world of Irish and European sport, was to explore the current funding mechanism for sport and to look to the future possibilities. The participants, including ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen, tried to explore ways how sport can be developed within an economic and financial model that is sustainable and practical. In addition, the Irish Presidency informed the Irish sports sector of the role of the EU in developing sport in the future.

### Background

The EU's Work Plan on Sport, adopted during the Hungarian Presidency in 2011, has identified the sustainable financing of sport at grassroots level as a priority theme for EU level cooperation in the field of sport. Since the adoption of the Work

Plan, Council Expert Group meetings have been held on this topic. Expert Groups, were ENGSO has been an observer, have finalised its deliverable "Strengthening financial solidarity mechanisms within sport" (<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/b24/xg-fin-201211-deliverable.pdf>). Now, one of the main objectives of the Irish Presidency is to make progress on this issue.

### Programme

On 7 March in Dublin, the Sports Conference started with discussions on economic and financial models for sport. Then, participants could get to know the perspectives of Irish practitioner Keith Wood, the founding director of W2 Consulting, which is specialized in the area of project evaluation and strategic planning in sport and facilities development, and Sarah Keane, Chief Executive of Swim Ireland. On the second half of the day, the athletes' viewpoint was introduced by Olive Laoghane, four times Olympic Games participant and silver medallist at the 2009 World Championships in the 20 km Race Walk, and Eoin Reinisch, Canoe Slalom athlete who finished 4th at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Challenging issues such as sport and television as well as sports rights were also on the agenda. Last but not least, a discussion on the sustainable financing of sport closed the day.

*Orsolya Tolnay*

## EUROPEAN EVENING OF SPORT

The third European Evening of Sports, organised by the European Olympic Committees (EOC) EU Office in the premises of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, took place in Brussels on 27 February 2013. The event brought together more than 300 participants from the world of sport, the European Union (EU) and governments to debate current EU sports policy as well as to enjoy the magic of sport. The main topics addressed were the funding and integrity of sport.

ENGSO was well represented at the Evening of Sports as the Executive Committee Members participated in the event, which followed their Committee meeting. ENGSO Policy and Communication Officer, based at the EOC EU Office, also took part in the organisation of the event.

You can find the press release of the event from ENGSO website:

[http://www.engso.eu/clanek.php?id=113&tab=latest\\_news](http://www.engso.eu/clanek.php?id=113&tab=latest_news)

*Heidi Pekkola*

## NEWS FROM ENGSO AND ENGSO MEMBERS

### ENGSO MET NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND SPORT IN THE EDUCATION AND CULTURE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 20 June 2012, the European Commission appointed Chiara Gariazzo to the position of Director of Youth and Sport in the Education and Culture Directorate-General. Chiara Garizzo, who is Italian, was a former head of unit responsible for financial support for migration and borders in the Justice Directorate-General. The decision took effect on 1 September 2012.

ENGSO President Birgitta Kervinen, Vice President Jan Bohac and Policy and Communication Officer Heidi Pekkola had the opportunity to meet in person the new Director for the first time on 28 February 2013. Current EU Sports Policy, as Erasmus for All and its Sport Chapter, were on the agenda, as well as gender equality in sports. ENGSO introduced Mrs Garriazzo to its priorities, activities and projects. Discussions were fruitful and valuable for the future cooperation.

*Heidi Pekkola*

### 21<sup>ST</sup> ENGSO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BELGRADE, SERBIA ON 7-9 JUNE 2013

ENGSO is happy to inform you that the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly will take place in Belgrade, Serbia, June 7-9 2013. This year, ENGSO General Assembly includes:

- an EU Seminar on 7 June focusing on future EU Sport Policy
- presentation of ENGSO activities in the year 2012 and approval of annual report
- discussion on and adoption of the ENGSO Strategic and Action Plan 2013-2015 and ENGSO Communication Strategy
- approval of the annual account and the budget for the following year
- elections of ENGSO Executive Committee Members for 2013-2017, including Vice-President, Secretary General and two Members

The event will be an opportunity for Member Organisations to influence the future priorities and activities of ENGSO, and to receive information on and express their views about current European sports issues. As the positions of ENGSO Vice-President, Secretary General and two Executive Committee Members are open for election, this will be an elective General Assembly. An EU Seminar on future EU Sports Policy will accompany the event, where experts related to EU and sport will provide information about recent EU developments in the field of sport, and equip the participants with tools to pass on to national, regional and grassroots levels in their respective countries.

In case you would like to nominate candidates or apply for one of the above mentioned positions, you are encouraged to send your nomination or application before 6 May 2013 to the ENGSO Secretariat by mail, fax or email (phone/fax: +381 113 231 357, [s.misic@eunet.rs](mailto:s.misic@eunet.rs)).

## PROJECTS AND EVENTS

### **PROJECT ON FIGHT AGAINST MATCH-FIXING - NATIONAL SEMINARS WILL BE ORGANISED IN SEVERAL EU MEMBER STATES**

ENGSO is a partner in a EU project called "What national networks can do to fight match-fixing in sport?". The project, lasting a year and a half, is led by the French "Institute for International and Strategic Relations" (IRIS) thanks to the funding of the European Commission and the European Lotteries. The kick-off meeting of the project was held in Paris on 21 January 2013 with the participation of all partners (IRIS, ENGSO, SportAccord, Sport & Citizenship and Salford University). This program is a response to the call for proposals launched by the Sport Unit of the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission to set up transnational projects with the aim of implementing future actions regarding sports and its good practices on a European scale.

The project aims at raising awareness in European countries on the growing match-fixing scourge, and identifying relevant national networks of stakeholders to implement prevention and education policies. Another aim of this project is to compare different national experiences regarding the fight against corruption, to highlight their singularities and to identify best practices.

The final purpose of the project is to organise national educational workshops in some 22 EU Member States. These one-day events, supported by a consistent national consultation process, will take place during the time period of June 2013 to April 2014.

The seminars seek to bring together representatives from governments, the betting industry and the sports movement. The identification of the relevant stakeholders constitutes an important step of the project. ENGSO and SportAccord have undertaken the task to indicate the participants coming from the sports movement in each national seminar. In order to identify a comprehensive list of stakeholders from sport movement in each country ENGSO will contact its member organisations to assist in this task. We would highly appreciate the expertise and support of ENGSO members in this matter. Once ENGSO, IRIS and SportAccord have received all lists, they will consider the most relevant stakeholders to be associated and send them a questionnaire to get a first insight on how the issue is tackled at national level. Participants of the seminar will be chosen from this group. Seminar will be free of charge for the participants.

First national seminars will be organized in Denmark on 26 June and in Sweden on 27 June 2013.

*Heidi Pekkola*

### **ENGSO CALENDAR**

#### **ENGSO**

- April 11 – Hearing on Online Gambling – "How to ensure a High Level of Consumer Protection and Grassroot Sports Funding" co-organised by ENGSO, Brussels
- April 24 - ENGSO EU Working Group meeting in Brussels
- May 6 – deadline for registration for the ENGSO General Assembly in Belgrade; deadline for nominations for ENGSO open positions (ENGSO Vice-President, Secretary General and two Executive Committee Members)
- May 12 – ENGSO Executive Committee Meeting, Prague
- June 7-9 – ENGSO General Assembly, Belgrade

#### **Expert Groups**

- April 9 – Council Expert Group "Good Governance" – on sport agents and transfers of players, Brussels
- June 26-27 – Council Expert Group "Education and Training", Helsinki
- July 4-5 – Council Expert Group "Sport, Health and Participation", Lisbon

#### **Sport Ministers**

- May 17 – Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council, Brussels – Sport Ministers session, Brussels
- May 28-30 – World Conference of Sport Ministers, MINEPS V, Berlin

#### **Other**

- April 15-16 – Training session of the Sport4Good Governance project, Bratislava
- May 11-12 – WADA Governing Board, Montreal; Misiter Varadkar to represent EU

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