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VOLUNTEERS – THE SPIRIT OF LONDON CONGRATULATIONS BRITAIN!

An extremely successful 2012 London Games are now behind us. We have witnessed exciting competitions and records broken in numerous sports. An outstanding atmosphere was felt at every event location and the organisation was excellent. The results of the Games will undoubtedly be closely analysed by many worldwide. Let us not forget, success should not be measured solely by medal count.

The Olympic hopeful who achieved the most in London was the voluntary sport movement. The efforts of the volunteers – side by side seniors and youth, men and women – were impossible to ignore. The positive attitude, hospitality, friendliness and joy that prevailed throughout brought smiles left and right. It was the more than 70 000 volunteers who made these Games truly unforgettable. London, one of the world's great metropolises, was transformed into an inviting village, replete with comradely and generosity of spirit. Spirit is essential to making any event come to life. Feelings of team spirit and enthusiasm do not materialize all on their own and cannot be bought with any amount of money.

It is an equal, inclusive partnership that encourages action and sustains any initiative. Everyone should have the opportunity to share in the excitement and sense of achievement. The significance and intrinsic value of voluntary civic activity must be visible in all levels of sport and be championed more vigorously.

I am today ever more convinced of the importance of ENGSO's values and efforts. I would like to warmly welcome all of our members and partners to come together at the upcoming ENGSO Forum in Copenhagen so that we might continue to build the necessary partnerships and spirit for the good of all Europeans.

Birgitta Kervinen
ENGSO President



COUNCIL EXPERT GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF SPORT

The Council Expert Group on Sustainable Financing of Sport (XG FIN) held its second meeting on 22 May 2012. In addition to the experts from 17 member states, the ENGSO and the EOC EU Office were the only observers from the sport movement which participated at the meeting.

The Expert Group is chaired by James MacDougall (UK). The meeting started with the reports of experts from several Directorates-General of the Commission on specific topics relating to the group's work, namely EU developments in the field of VAT, State aid and gambling/betting. The final Work Schedule of the Expert Group includes only one deliverable, "Recommendations to strengthen solidarity mechanisms within sport". A draft document including annexes (recommendations and examples of best practice) had been sent out before the meeting to Member States for their comments. However, observers didn't receive these documents ahead of the meeting. The observers made a remark that this made their preparations for the meeting, and thus possibility to contribute to the work of the XG FIN, more difficult.

The draft document of the "recommendations to strengthen solidarity mechanism within sport" included different sections on the funding sources of sports: household expenditure and volunteering; public sector subsidies; sponsorship and donations; lotteries, betting and gambling; and media rights. These sections were discussed and participants made comments. The EOC EU Office raised a point to include EU funding opportunities into the document and the office, including ENGSO, offered to help with this update.

It was decided that the revision of the document according to the discussions at the meeting would be prepared by the chair member state UK and sent out to the participants for their comments. It was also decided that a three-page summary will be produced to be presented to the Council. Next meeting of the XG FIN will be held on 14 November 2012.

Heidi Pekkola

COUNCIL EXPERT GROUP ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

The third meeting of the Expert Group on Good Governance (XG GG) was held on 5-6 June 2012. The first day focused on match fixing. 19 Member States and numerous observers from the sport movement, including e.g. EOC, IOC and ENGSO were in attendance.

The European Commission presented a draft document "Input on the EU's role in fighting match-fixing". The Expert Group was asked to comment on this document, before it was presented to the Council Working Party on Sport on 4 July 2012 and later in the autumn to the Council of Ministers in charge of sport. In this document, "the Council Working Party on sport is invited to examine recommendations and to ensure appropriate follow-up by inviting the stakeholders (Member States, European Commission and Sport Movement) to take the necessary steps and implement the actions suggested...". In the document betting operators were not directly included as separate stakeholders of the recommendations since they were indirectly covered through recommendations addressed to national gambling regulators. On the contrary, many observers considered that the recommendations should include a specific part devoted to betting operators to clarify the responsibilities and the role of betting operators in this context.

The Council of Europe organised an informal meeting of Sport Ministers in Belgrade, Serbia on 15 March 2012. In this meeting the Ministers addressed the promotion of the integrity of sport to fight against match-fixing, with the possibility negotiating a specific international convention. This was communicated by the Council of Europe in the Expert Group meeting. An initiative on holding a convention was supported by many participants during the meeting.

During the discussions observers were active in addressing the opinions and concerns of the sport movement. For example, the autonomy of sport, the accordance of sporting sanctions and criminal sanctions, cooperation and monitor-

ing and data protection issues were raised. In its written comments, ENGSO highlighted the importance of education also at grassroots level. However, the grassroots level should be provided with sufficient support as there is a lack of resources and information at the grassroots level.

Before closing the meeting the participants agreed to extend the mandate of the Expert Group to continue working on the issue of match-fixing.

Discussion on Good governance

The second day of the meeting discussed good governance of sport in general. This subgroup of the Expert Group is chaired by Darren Bailey from the UK. The Chair explained that the objective of the work is to produce usable, concrete results that may contribute to improve good governance in sport in the EU.

Among the observers' expectations of the sport movement, ENGSO underlined the importance of taking into account all levels of sport, including local and grassroots, avoiding a 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

The European Commission presented the results of a consultation on existing practices on good governance in sport. The Chair noted that the output of the Expert Group was expected to be an initial set of recommendations by the end of 2012. He also stated that a meeting of EU-supported projects on good governance (including the Project "Sport4GoodGovernance" where ENGSO is a partner) would be organised in the context of the EU Sport Forum in Cyprus in September 2012.

A draft report on the recommendations to be adopted by the Group will be circulated among the participants in November 2012. The next meeting of the Group will be held on 13 December 2012.

Heidi Pekkola

3RD MEETING OF COUNCIL EXPERT GROUP ON SPORT, HEALTH AND PARTICIPATION (BRUSSELS, 27 JUNE, 2012)

The 3rd meeting of EU XG was organized at the Centre of Albert Borschette in Brussels. The meeting was lead by Jean-François Toussaint, chairman of EU WG Sport, Health and Participation and Michael Krejza, Head of EC Sport Unit. After the introduction of the Commission on the "Erasmus for All" Programme and its next procedural steps, the meeting continued with a discussion about 4 Annexes related to EU Physical Activity Guidelines: Annex I. Input for an EU initiative to promote HEPA, Annex II. Guidelines for strengthened cooperation between the sport and health care sector, Annex III. Principles on the contribution of physical activity to active ageing, in the context of the European year 2012 and Annex IV. Summary of main policy steps to promote HEPA at EU level (more on ENGSO website).

All the participants at the meeting, representatives from 16 member states (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Danish, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Great Britain), representatives of 6 European organisations that have observer status (EOC, TAFISA, ISCA, EUPEA, CEMR and ENGSO) and the European Commission's representatives from DG EAC, DG SANCO, DG EMPL, have accepted the annexes which have to be amended by the following discussion and Commission's conclusions.

According to the process of updating the Table of implementation of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines (<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index.en.htm>), ENGSO had prepared for the Commission the new data. In the frame of the ENGSO GA (Burgas, Bulgaria, May 2012) and workshop for the ENGSO delegates, we have provided a short questionnaire: Physical Activity Guidelines Sport Sector: 6-13 (PAGAS 6-13) with the aim to determine the actual situation about the implementation of the EU Physical Activity Guidelines related to the sport sector (G 6-13) (more on ENGSO website: Network, ENGSO PROHEALTH, EU XG SHP). Owing to the following 8 ENGSO members: Czech Sports Confederation, Comité National Olympique et Sportif Français CNOSF, Latvian Sport Council Federation, Sport & Recreation Alliance from United Kingdom, Confederation of the Slovak Sport Federation, National Denmark Committee and Sport Confederation of Denmark, Finish Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Serbia (which means 36% of total presented in the ENGSO GA) we have made analysis that has been sent to the Commission with the aim to update the Table.

Romana Caput Jogunica

RESOLUTION ON RECOGNISING AND PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES IN THE EU

On the plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg between the 11 and 14 June 2012, a resolution was adopted that recognises and promotes cross-border voluntary activities in the EU.

The Resolution adopted on 12 June 2012 by the Plenary, the highest decision-making forum of the European Parliament, calls on Member States, national, regional and local authorities, the Council and the Commission and the EU as a whole to recognise and promote volunteering as an important means of intercultural learning, social solidarity and participative democracy.

Volunteering is not only a formal, informal and non-formal learning experience that offers a benefit in terms of personal development; it also contributes to the society and the economy of each Member State as well as the European Union. This contribution should be recognised and supported by different actions laid down in the Resolution. One of such actions, for example, calls for a clear legal framework to be put in place in Member States who have not made any progress in recognising and respecting the rights and responsibilities of volunteers.

Acknowledging the role of volunteering in social inclusion and cohesion, poverty reduction and in the solidarity between generations, the Resolution encourages the participation of disadvantaged young people, especially of those with fewer opportunities or disabilities, and the participation of older people in voluntary activities. As volunteering contributes to participative democracy, active citizenship and to intercultural enrichment and tolerance, according to the Parliament, the cooperation between volunteers from the EU Member States and from third countries promotes the development of democracy and the rule of law in third countries.

Economic benefits could be also resulted from voluntarism as it boosts the generation of national and European GDP. "The use of volunteer time as matching funding for European projects" is another initiative found in the Resolution as well as "the recognition of volunteering in the relevant EU policies and programmes". The European Parliament calls for a clarification of the concept of grants not to be confused with state aid and for a mechanism to exempt voluntary non-for-profit organisations from VAT.

The infrastructure of volunteering should also be developed, for example, by creating a European Volunteer Centre Development Fund or by setting up a centralized EU portal. To be able to measure the social and economical benefits of voluntary activities, comparable statistics, data proving and monitoring should be introduced in the Member States as well as reports should be published by the European Commission.

Next to the European Volunteer Centre Development Fund, important innovations would be the European Skills Passport, which would officially recognise the skills gained through volunteering, and the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps, which "will increase the participation of volunteers in solidarity actions".

The Resolution also mentions sport. It takes the Council conclusion on the role of voluntary activities in sport in promoting active citizenship into consideration and "calls on the Commission and the Member States to give a high profile to volunteering in sport, particularly at the grassroots level, to acknowledge the important role played by volunteer-led sporting organisations in strengthening culture, promoting social inclusion and enhancing communities and to reduce the barriers to sports volunteering across the EU".

Orsolya Felber

OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC CHIEFS ARE URGED TO PRESS FOR BETTER REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN SPORT



Androulla Vassiliou (Commissioner, COM EAC) and Jacques Rogge (President, IOC)

In their letter to Jacque Rogge (President of the IOC) and Philip Craven (President of the IPC), Viviane Reding, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizens and Androulla Vassiliou, Directorate-General in charge of education, culture, multilingualism, youth and sport called for more action in order to achieve better representation of women in sport and sport governance as well as to fight against discrimination and sexual harassment towards women.

One of the five values on which the European Union was founded is gender equality, a fundamental right which is also reinforced in the Strategy for equality between women and men 2010-2015. The EU Strategy has the aim of improving the place of women in the labour market, in society and in decision-making positions both in the European Union and in the world by defining priority areas and key actions. Among the priority areas, dignity, integrity, an end to gender-based violence and equality in decision-making are mentioned, which are also important objectives of the sport movement, including ENGSO.

European sport organisations have already been involved in gender-related projects supported by the EU. The fact that the London Olympics and Paralympic Games are the first in history where women were competing in every sport is acknowledged to a great extent by actors in the world of politics, especially by the European Commission.

Shortly before the start of the Games, Commissioners Reding and Vassiliou expressed their support and congratulation to the IOC and IPC in a letter, since the Commissioners consider the London Olympics and Paralympics as important milestones "in the long struggle for real gender balance between women and men in sport". However they also gave voice to their concerns stating that "more needs to be done to achieve an acceptable representation of women in sport and sport governing bodies and to continue the fight against discrimination and sexual harassment towards women". For this reason, they suggest developing a Roadmap on gender equality in sport. This idea will be discussed on this year's EU Sport Forum in Nicosia on 19-20 September as part of the panel debate on good governance in sport.

Orsolya Felber

ENGSO STATEMENT ON THE EU FUNDING FOR SPORT

On 26 May 2012, ENGSO adopted a Statement on the EU Funding for Sport on the General Assembly in Bulgaria. ENGSO's position was based on the proposal of the European Commission concerning the "Erasmus for All" Programme 2014/2020.

The "Erasmus for All" Programme

The "Erasmus for All" Programme is a sector-specific programme of the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 covering education, youth and sport. It is a new single programme simplifying and integrating the present structure of multiple programmes, for example, Youth in Action, Erasmus Mundus or Lifelong Learning Programme including Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo or Grundvig.

In the "Erasmus for All" Programme, a whole chapter is dedicated to sport. Since the European Union had not obtained any legal authority in the field of sport when the previous Multiannual Financial Framework 2007-2013 was adopted in December 2005, sport will be able to receive direct funding for the first time in the European Unions' history from the year of 2014.

A comment should be made on the fact that the "Erasmus for All" Programme has not become legally binding yet. The Commission's proposal for a Regulation has to be adopted by the Council of the EU with the consent of the European Parliament.

Sport Chapter

Chapter III of the Proposal for a Regulation establishing "Erasmus for All", namely the Sport Chapter comprises of two articles: Article 11 – Specific objectives and Article 12 – Activities. In Article 11, three areas are listed as specific objectives of the Programme: (a) to tackle transnational threats to sport such as doping, match fixing, violence, racism and intolerance; (b) to support good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes; (c) to promote social inclusion, equal opportunities and health-enhancing physical activity through increased participation in sport. In Article 12, projects, non-commercial European sport events, evidence base for policy making, capacity building of sport organisations and dialogue with stakeholders belong to the activities that are supported by the European Commission. According to the proposal, sport organisations should find partners from the private sector in order to leverage supplementary funding.

Financial Provision

Chapter IV suggests EUR 17 299 000 000 for the whole Programme for the period of 2014-2020, from which EUR 238 827 000 (around 1%) should be allocated for actions relating to sport.

The position of ENGSO

ENGSO welcomes the European Commission's Proposal for a Regulation establishing "Erasmus for All". ENGSO gives utmost importance to the Sport Chapter and to the sport-related section of the financial provision. According to ENGSO, the Articles of the Sport Chapter are mostly admissible and "can help the sports movement to pursue its goals, especially at European level" (ENGSO Statement, 2012:2). On the other hand, the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation strongly urges the Commission to take some of ENGSO's suggestion into consideration.

The position of ENGSO on funding

Regarding funding, ENGSO considers the amount allocated to sport in the financial provision as a minimum, which is necessary to ensure the credibility of both the Programme and the EU. Paragraph 2 of Article 12, which states that private funding for sport activities is needed, is strongly criticised by ENGSO, since "it would jeopardize the participation of many grassroots level actors in the sport funding activities" (ENGSO Statement, 2012:1). For the same reason, sufficient pre-financing would also be crucial for grassroots sports; otherwise it could cause cash-flow problems.

The position of ENGSO on the specific objectives

Taking the specific objectives of the Sport Chapter into consideration, ENGSO's opinion is that themes such as volunteering, social inclusion, equal opportunities and health enhancing physical activity could reach grassroots sport to the greatest extent. Referring to this, the promotion of these themes should be in the main focus of the Programme. Nevertheless, good governance in sport and dual careers of athletes should also be strengthened and promoted. However, ENGSO raises its concerns that the sport movement should be responsible for the establishment and the implementation of these principles. In regard to the fight against transnational threats in sport such as doping, match fixing, violence, racism and intolerance, ENGSO suggests that the focus should be on activities "which benefit, concern and involve all European citizens and not only a certain minority" (ENGSO Statement, 2012:4).

The position of ENGSO on the activities

In the view of the Commission's proposed activities, ENGSO prioritises transnational collaborative projects, capacity building of sport organisations and non-commercial European sport events. Project should enable the participation of grassroots actors, therefore, funding should also be available for small scale projects. According to ENGSO, the events supported should take place at grassroots level involving as many European citizens as possible. For this reason, voluntary work as a contribution in kind should be among the eligibility criteria of the Programme.

If you want to read more on ENGSO Statement on the EU Funding for Sport, visit the website of ENGSO under Member > Policy Documents > Documents.

Orsolya Felber

OUTCOMES OF THE 20TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY: THE ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE ADOPTION OF CHANGES IN THE ENGSO STATUTES

The 20th General Assembly took place in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria on 25-26 May 2012. The Jubilee Assembly was hosted by the Bulgarian Union for Physical Culture and Sports in a splendid milieu including great hospitality and excellent premises in the coast of the Black Sea, for which ENGSO warmly thanks the organizers.

One of the main outcomes of the General Assembly was the election of new Executive Committee Members. As **Michael Trinker**, ENGSO ExCom Member from the Austrian Sports Confederation had stepped down and **Louis Kilcoyne**, ENGSO ExCom Member from the Federation of Irish Sport passed away in April after a short and difficult illness, two new members were elected from the following four candidates: **Claude Azema** from the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, **Lotte Büchert** from the Danish NOC and Sports Confederation, **Karin Mattsson Weijber** from the Swedish Sports Confederation and **Kurt Steiner** from the Austrian Sports Confederation. After Kurt Steiner's withdrawal, Karin Mattsson Weijber, President of the Swedish Sports Confederation and Lotte Büchert, Member of Board of the Danish NOC and Sports Confederation were elected as new Members of the ENGSO Executive Committee.

The other important outcome of the Assembly was that a modified version of the ENGSO Statutes was adopted. Before the ordinary General Assembly, ENGSO members voted on several changes to the ENGSO Statutes in the context of an extraordinary General Assembly.

From now on, ENGSO has its administrative seat based in the organization of the Secretary General in office instead of at the National Confederation of Sport or National Olympic Committee of the Secretary General in office. In addition, individuals representing organizations other than National Confederation of Sport or National Olympic Committees may also be nominated, because the section referring to this rule has been deleted. These are important modification in the view of the fact that the scope of the eligible members has broadened.

Previously, only National Confederations of Sport or National Olympic Committees could become members. According to the new ENGSO Statutes, "Members of ENGSO shall be 1) National Confederations of Sport, 2) National Olympic Committees, 3) European Sport Federations, 4) European Organizations related to sport. Membership requests are subject to approval by the Executive Committee. All proposals by the Executive Committee for membership of ENGSO are to be ratified by the General Assembly."

ENGSO wishes to broaden its perspectives with regards to partnership as well, as the aim of ENGSO regarding cooperation with other sport bodies in Article 3 has also been modified. ENGSO's aim is to strengthen the cooperation not only with organizations such as the European Olympic Committees (EOC) and European Special Sport Federations (ESFs), but with other sport bodies as well.

In order to hasten communication flow and reduce translation costs, the official language of ENGSO has been changed to English only.

There were some adjustments in connection with ENGSO Youth as well. The word "Youth Committee" is no longer used in the Statutes; it was changed to ENGSO Youth, since that is the official name of the youth organization within ENGSO. From now on, "ENGSO Youth shall be governed by their Standing Orders" and not by ENGSO Regulations, which gives a greater independency to ENGSO Youth. Paragraph 18.12 was deleted stating "The Youth Committee shall comprise at least three persons of each gender to include the President, Vice President, and seven others. In addition the ExCom can appoint one of its officers/members to attend Youth Committee meetings. "

ENGSO believes that the changed in the Statutes will benefit ENGSO as well as for its Members and will lead to a better functioning organization.

Orsolya Felber



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INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW ENGSO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Lotte Büchert, Board Member of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark

At this year's ENGSO General Assembly, two new members of the Executive Committee were elected: Lotte Büchert from the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark and Karin Mattsson Weijber from the Swedish Sports Confederation. Both are outstanding women who have been engaged in sport and have been involved in sport governance since their youth and obtained leadership positions in sport in their respective home countries.

At early age, both of them went in for equestrianism. Karin Mattsson Weijber started to take horseback riding lessons when she was 10 years old and so did Lotte Büchert around the same age. "I had my own horse and I participated in dressage competitions" – revealed the Board Member of the Danish NOC and Sport Confederation, who also played golf and badminton for fun and was engaged in other sport arts, e. g. gymnastics or dance. Since the petanque sport was introduced to her by her husband with whom they have four children, Lotte Büchert has been a petanque enthusiast. She became a member of the Danish National Team for Women in 2005 and the coach of the National Team in 2008.

The sport career of the Vice Principal of a Danish High School did not stop here, however 2008 was a turning point in her life: she participated in the so called "Women on top" project of the Danish Sport Confederation. The project was a mentor programme with the aim to get more women into leadership positions in sport federations. From her mentor, who was the former president of the Danish Swimming Federation, Lotte Büchert has learnt not only all the necessary leadership skills, but also sport political skills. In 2009, she was elected president of the Danish Petanque Federation and one year later she became a Board Member of the International Federation of Petanque and Provençal (FIPJP, Federation internationale de petanque et Jeu provençal). An other important position, for which she would probably have never run without the encouragement of her mentor, was the board membership of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark. She was elected into the board in 2011. This year, she has just been elected as ENGSO Executive Committee Member.

Karin Mattsson Weijber's sport career started when she joined to an equestrian club in her childhood. A few years later she was already active in the special youth section of her club. Her commitment and motivation at early age paved her way to take different leadership positions in the Swedish Equestrian Federation and, later on, in the Swedish Sports Confederation. She was elected to the Board of the Swedish Sports Confederation as a "young leader" when she was 23 years old and has been the president since 2005. This year she became a Member of ENGSO's Executive Committee, which is a great honour and appreciation to her.

As a Member of the ENGSO Executive Committee, the President of the Swedish Sports Confederation wants to be more involved in EU Sport Policy matters. Since the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon, to which sport was incorporated for the first time, the European Union has an ever increasing influence on Non-Governmental Organisations in the field of sport. That is why during her mandate Karin Mattsson Weijber would like to be especially active in strategic issues related to sport policy, as well as other areas that are important for ENGSO and its members.

On the other hand, Lotte Büchert as a Member of the ENGSO Executive Committee would give more attention to communication policy and health issues, and she would work on the financing of grassroots sports. In her opinion, it would be much fairer if the most popular professional sports would support grassroots sport by offering some percentage of their revenue. In this way, more money could be spent on health campaigns "to get the people out of their sofas". People who have an inactive and unhealthy life style, as they spend most of their times sitting in front of the TV with a box of chips and a can of beer watching sport instead of doing sports, are expensive for the society. "In this postmodern world with no limits, I think that an organisation like ENGSO has a big social responsibility". For this reason, one of Lotte Büchert's main goals is to try to get ENGSO more visible among people in order to make them understand the importance of sport irrespective of age, sex or religion.

Orsolya Felber

NEW ENGSO ASSISTANT



ENGSO would like to announce the appointment of Orsolya Felber as the Assistant of the Policy and Communication Officer, Heidi Pekkola.

Ms Felber was born in Hungary but currently lives in Austria. She studied Recreation and Sport Management at the Semmelweis University of Budapest and European Union Studies at the Pannon University of Veszprem. During her studies, she completed internships at the International Department of the Hungarian Sport Secretariat and at the EOC EU Office. She also spent a year on an Erasmus scholarship at the German Sport University in Cologne, where she mainly attended seminars in connection with sport and the European Union.

contributed to her school's handball and athletics team. After returning home from an exchange year in the USA, she joined an Athletics Sports Club at the age of 18 as a long-distant runner. Both as an orienteer and as a long-distant runner, she won several medals at national championships, mainly as a member of a team or as part of a relay.

Ms Orsolya Felber started working as ENGSO Assistant on 1 June 2012, although she had already been engaged in ENGSO previously. In 2009, she participated in the EU:Sport:Future project and she became a Committee Member of ENGSO Youth in 2011. She will be involved in ENGSO's communication-related tasks until the end of the year. Her part-time position is financed from the Annual Operating Grant of the EU, for which ENGSO was selected as a successful applicant in January.

Feel free to contact Ms Felber by email at

felber@euoffice.eurolympic.org.

Sport has always been an important part of Orsolya's life. At early age, she did swimming, triathlon and orienteering and

"CREATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD" PROJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DECISION-MAKERS

Sport can help Europe and its Member States address some of the challenges related to the integration of people from less privileged groups, such as migrants and ethnic minorities.

"Creating a Level Playing Field" has been an EU project on social inclusion of migrants and ethnic minorities in sport steered by the European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation (ENGSO) with funding from the European Commission under its preparatory actions in the field of sport 2010. ENGSO together with 11 partners such as sport organisations, public organisations, specialist organisations and research partners across Europe have been cooperating in this project which officially took place from January 2011 to April 2012. However, the work still continues with e.g. implementing the outcomes.

As a central outcome, key recommendations to politicians and public authorities were adopted. These recommendations will serve as an active support to develop programmes or policies promoting social inclusion in a coherent and sustainable manner. There are two documents of recommendations, one addressed to the decision-makers at the European level and another one to local, regional and national levels. These recommendations will be communicated to the politicians and public authorities by ENGSO and its partners. For example in the beginning of September, ENGSO will meet MEP Emine Bozkurt (S&D, NED), who is a chairwoman of the European Parliament's Anti Racism and Diversity Intergroup. Emine Bozkurt is an active MEP in the field of social inclusion.

The recommendations highlight the importance of including social inclusion as a central theme in different policies and funding opportunities. These stress also the importance of involving migrants, special needs of migrant women to be taken into account and the importance of diversity management.

The recommendations for National, Regional and Local Decision-Makers as well as for European Decision-Makers can be found on ENGSO's website under Member > Policy documents > Documents.

Heidi Pekkola

ANNUAL OPERATING GRANT FROM THE EUROPE FOR CITIZENS PROGRAMME OF THE EACEA FOR THE YEAR OF 2012

In January, ENGSO was selected as a successful applicant for the Annual Operating Grant of the European, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA), an organisation operating under the supervision of the European Commission. The financial support from the Europe for Citizens Programme was granted for the year of 2012. At the end of June, the middle of the year has recently passed by and with it the mid-term of the Grant; it is time to review what has been done so far.

The Annual Operating Grant is a support the operating costs of civil society organisations, which are important means of citizens' participation in society and thus a link between citizens and the European Union. ENGSO with the aim of promoting social inclusion, active citizenship and volunteering through sport, is a leading voice of European civil society organisation in the field of sport.

The Europe for Citizens Programme has the aim to encourage citizens to contribute to and participate in European matters, among others, through civil society organisations. That is why it is so important for the EU to support organisations that invigorate the involvement of citizens. The various events of ENGSO bring together people from all over Europe allowing them to interact and develop a sense of togetherness.

In its promising working plan, ENGSO's main thematic priority for this year is "Building Partnership to Create Effective Change". For this reason, ENGSO has continued to cooperate with the European Year of Volunteering 2011 Alliance as the only sport organisation in the Steering Group. It has taken part in the work of the European Year of Active Aging and Solidarity between Generations 2012 Coalition and is initiating the establishment of a Coalition for the European Year of Health through Sport 2015.

The "Creating a Level Playing Field" Project on social inclusion of migrants and ethnic minorities in sport was another opportunity for ENGSO, as lead partner, to contribute to an effecting change in partnership with other organisations. On 1st of February, the "Sport 4 Good Governance" Project was launched by the EOC EU Office

with ENGSO and other partners. In the field of EU Policy Work, ENGSO aims to encourage the debate about future EU sport policy and actions. Therefore, an EU Seminar was organised in the framework of the 20th General Assembly. Furthermore, ENGSO has been actively following the negotiations on "Erasmus for All" Programme and its Sport Chapter.

The clear and regular communication both externally and internally, is an important method for ENGSO to make a change. The Operational Grant of the European Union has made it possible for ENGSO to employ a part-time assistant from the 1st of June to assist with communication and policy issues.

The actions mentioned above are examples, among several other events, that ENGSO has organized or taken part in.

Orsolya Felber

ENGSO CALENDER

15th ENGSO Forum

- October 19-20, 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark

EU Sports Forum

- September 19-20, 2012, Nicosia, Cyprus

Expert Group on "Sustainable Financing of Sport"

- November 14, 2012

Expert Group on "Good Governance"

- December 13, 2012

41st EOC General Assembly

- December 7-8, 2012, Eilat, Israel

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