



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Education and Culture

Youth and Sport
Sport

EU Working Group "Education and Training in Sport" 5th meeting, 31 March 2011

REPORT

Venue:	Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary
Participants:	Representatives from AT, BE, CY, DE, DK, EL, FR, HU, LT, LU, NL, PL, SE, SK, UK European Commission – DG EAC: M. Krejza, B. Ooijen
Observers:	EOC EU Office, EOSE, EAS-network, EHFA
Chaired by:	Michal Krejza, Head of the Sport Unit, European Commission

1. Introduction

COM welcomed the participants to the 5th meeting of the Working Group (hereinafter: WG), in particular the new members (DK and SE), and thanked Hungary for the excellent organisation of the exchange of good practices on the previous day.

In its overview of recent developments, **COM** mentioned the adoption of the Communication on sport on 18 January 2011 and highlighted what it said on dual careers, including the proposal to develop European Guidelines on the combination of general education and high-level sports training (dual career). The Communication builds on the structure and content of the 2007 White Paper on Sport and **COM** emphasised that the two documents should be read in conjunction. Actions to be implemented by the Commission would normally be carried out during approx. the coming 5 years.

Reference was made to the successful EU Sport Forum and the Informal Ministerial Meeting on 21-23 February 2011 in Budapest, which had shown a high degree of consensus among both the sport movement and the Member States (hereinafter: MS) on the direction of the development of the EU dimension in sport.

MS had expressed their willingness in the Council to adopt a Resolution on an EU Work Plan for Sport for 3 years at the next Sport Council on 20 May 2011. The preparation of a proposal for European Guidelines on Dual Careers was included in Annex I of the Resolution, describing priority actions of the Work Plan. The WG (to be renamed "Expert Group") should focus its activities on this task in the future, along with one other priority action ("follow-up to the inclusion of sport-related qualifications in NQFs with reference to EQF").

The **European Parliament** (EP) had expressed a keen interest in supporting the EU's sport competence and had appointed Mr **Fisas Ayxela** as rapporteur on sport, to draft the Parliament's future resolution in reaction to the Commission's Communication on sport. The first draft of this document was foreseen in June 2011.

Regarding possible future funding or specific incentive measures in the field of sport, there should be more clarity by early July 2011 when COM should present its proposals for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.

In the field of education, the following subjects of interest for sport were on the agenda of the Commission and the Council in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy: early school leavers; modernisation of higher education to attract more young people to universities; mobility of young people; and the validation of informal and non-formal learning experiences. Under the HU Presidency, talents in education got attention as well.

COM thanked **BE** for the initiative of the European Day of the Trainer and the EU conference on sport and education (EQF, dual careers and early specialisation in youth sport). The final report of the conference would be distributed. COM reported on the Spanish initiative of a European Conference for National Coaching Organisations on 25 March 2011 in Madrid, the objective of which was to formalise a European platform for coaches in the future.

2. Report from the 4th meeting of the Working Group – follow-up

EOSE informed the WG that an article for the EQF Newsletter was in the pipeline. EOSE would also provide the MS with contacts of the national EOSE observatories and informed the meeting about a new ambassadors project.

COM pointed out that there was a delay in the project of the European Coaching Council. The next meeting was foreseen at the ENSSEE/ECC Conference in August 2011 at INSEP in Paris.

On the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, four MS (BE, HU, DE, UK) and various NGOs (ISCA, EAS, EOSE, EHFA) had sent their comments and suggestions, which would be used in the further analysis of the topic.

COM informed about progress regarding the EU Physical Activity Guidelines relating to schools and the school environment. The WG on Sport & Health would work on the development of indicators in order to prepare for possible monitoring of the Guidelines in the future. It was likely that a draft Council Recommendation on health-enhancing physical activity would be prepared by the Commission.

Regarding the updating of the database on regulated professions in sport in the framework of Directive 2005/36, no follow up was reported by **MS**.

3. Dual Careers

COM reported that the final conference of the Athletes2Business project, which had taken place in Budapest just before the WG meeting on 30 March 2011, had been successful and had provided interesting suggestions for the development of guidelines on the combination of study/work and intensive sports training for high-level athletes and talented young sportspeople. COM highlighted that the dual career projects supported through the 2009 Preparatory Action in the field of sport should be seen as a contribution toward the development of an appropriate balance for students/athletes, but pointed out that not all topics were covered. COM would distribute the PowerPoint presentations presenting the findings of research and the 4 EU-supported projects.

The main conclusions of the discussion in the WG were the following:

- There was growing attention for dual career and after-career programmes, but major differences had been reported among Member States. In some Member States, the concept of dual careers remained little known and awareness-raising was only beginning. In other Member States, dual career systems and structures were already well-developed but barriers remained in the fields of higher education and international cooperation.
- For the majority of sports, solutions could be found at national level. Exchange of good practices between MS and guidelines would be helpful. However, for athletes in specific sports with a high training frequency and a need for spending longer periods abroad (e.g. winter sports, tennis), as well as for athletes from smaller Member States (because of a lack of studies and/or sport facilities), extra attention at international level was needed. These athletes faced the most problematic situations and had a high risk of dropping out of education or sport.
- Sports with a need of many training hours in primary school age (e.g. gymnastics) and the protection of young people through quality systems for elite training centres, including qualifications for coaches, were not covered in the projects and needed more attention.
- The presentations of some of the EU-supported projects had raised questions about their EU added value and cost-effectiveness especially from the perspective of MS which already had dual career structures in place (e.g. DE, UK, AT). MS showed interest in the final reports from the projects, expected in late May 2011, and called for attention for the further dissemination of their results, provided that the results were concrete and well-formulated. COM pointed out that the 4 projects were part of the first Preparatory Action in the field of sport to test possible actions and networks for future incentive measures, and that an independent evaluation was underway.

The WG agreed to develop Guidelines for national Governments and the EU on dual careers. The Guidelines would be developed in a similar way as the 2008 EU Physical Activity Guidelines, i.e. by a group of technical experts, balanced in terms of expertise and geographical representation and including stakeholders such as athletes, coaches and parents, in close cooperation with the sport movement. Good practices and learning experiences should be included in the Guidelines. The Commission would facilitate the process of identifying and convening the group of technical experts. The Group of Experts would report to the WG, which would be responsible for the final drafting.

The Group of Experts would make use of results of projects, research, experiences in networks and institutes, and other relevant sources. All the selected experts should be recognised as being among the most eminent, experienced and respected experts in the field of dual careers. WG members agreed to suggest one or more names of candidates for this Group of Experts, which should have around 20 members.

4. Directive 2005/36 and ski instructors

DG MARKT (Jürgen Tiedje, Head of the Professional Qualifications Unit) was welcomed at the meeting through a videoconference. He explained the current situation of the recognition of professional qualifications of ski instructors based on Directive 2005/36, the arrangements made in the past (in particular the Eurotest), and future developments in the perspective of the evaluation of the Directive and the new Single Market Act launched by COM. The introduction of a professional card was one of the proposals of the Single Market Act. It was emphasised that the profession was regulated by law in some countries because of the security of clients and that aptitude tests could be accepted in this perspective subject to proportionality requirements.

DG MARKT described the present discussion on the Eurotest and the professional card and pointed out a number of questions regarding the proportionality and transparency of the Eurotest. Unfortunately there was a lot of misinformation circulating within ski instructors' organisations which

caused a lot of tension. It was also indicated that not many ski instructors seemed to be aware of the points one could gain by participating in international ski events recognised by the International Ski Federation (FIS). DG MARKT called upon MS present in the meeting to urge their ski instructors' associations to participate in a meeting organised for them in Brussels on 5 May 2011 to help find a solution for the dispute based on a review of the Eurotest. DG MARKT agreed to distribute background information to the WG.

HU raised the question whether the same rules applied to volunteer ski instructors as the Directive has a focus on professions only. **Several MS** explained that their national organisations contested Eurotest because the test does not measure safety and teaching qualities but focuses excessively on speed and individual skiing skills. A review of these aspects would be welcomed. The FIS points were based on rankings in ski competitions and would therefore not provide a substantial solution. COM mentioned that the proposal for a pilot project on a professional card for ski instructors has been received with many reservations in the world of ski instructors.

COM would keep the MS updated about developments concerning the Directive. COM indicated that in the long-term perspective of the evaluation of the Directive, and the safety of sport, highly mobile professions in risky outdoor sports such as skiing and other mountain and water sports needed further attention.

5. Conclusions and next steps

The following **conclusions** were agreed upon in the course of the meeting:

- COM will circulate the PowerPoint presentations from the WG meeting as well as the DG MARKT background information on ski instructors.
- The WG agreed to oversee the development of EU Guidelines on Dual Careers by a group of eminent experts. COM would facilitate this process. The Group of Experts would report to the WG, which would be responsible for the final drafting.

Regarding the report from the WG meeting, **COM** announced a new format (summary of approx. 4 pages) and a new line of reporting (oral report at the next meeting of the Working Party on Sport in the Council; distribution of the final version of the report through the Council Secretariat and publication on the COM's sport website).

The following was agreed regarding the **next meeting**:

- The 6th meeting of the WG would take place on 12-13 January 2012 in Innsbruck, Austria.
- Draft agenda:
 - State of play of the development of EU Guidelines on Dual Careers;
 - Inclusion of sport-related qualifications in NQFs with reference to EQF;
 - Directive 2005/36 regarding ski instructors and risky outdoor sports.