



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Education and Culture
Youth, Sport and Citizenship
Sport

EU Working Group "Education and Training in Sport" 2nd meeting, 9 - 10 December 2009

SUMMARY REPORT

Venue:	Department for Culture, Media and Sport, London
Participants:	Representatives from AT, BE, CY, DE, FR, HU, LT, LU, NL, PL, SK, UK European Commission (DG EAC, Representation in UK)
Observers:	EOC EU Office, EOSE, EAS Network
Chaired by:	Michal Krejza, Head of the Sport Unit, European Commission

1. Combined education and training (dual career) of young sportspeople in Europe

The Working Group (hereinafter WG) expressed its gratitude for the excellent project presentations on sport and education organised by the UK in the Chelsea Academy on 9 December 2009. There was consensus about the format of future WG meetings (1 day field visit; 1 day WG meeting).

The Commission (hereinafter COM) presented the projects awarded in the framework of the 2009 EU Preparatory Action in the field of sport and education. The main focus in the Call for Proposals was on dual careers and accordingly 4 projects in this field had been awarded. They all had a different perspective (athletes, training centres, winter sports and distance learning). The projects would be monitored as part of a holistic programme on dual careers so that Member States (hereinafter MS) and COM could learn from them together, avoid overlaps in products and guidelines and make links between the different networks if applicable.

The progress of the projects would be reported to the Working Group and could be discussed at WG meetings. The results of the pilot projects and discussions in the WG could contribute to further actions of MS and the Commission, as was suggested at the first Working Group meeting.

Some MS emphasised the importance of linking the different stakeholders on dual careers at the national level and enhancing cooperation between the awarded projects. They asked whether governmental bodies could be invited as observers at seminars or conferences organised in the framework of the awarded projects. COM would advise the beneficiaries to keep governments well informed and if applicable to invite them as observers for seminars and conferences within the framework of the awarded projects. Projects should be widely and publicly known. A summary of every project has been published on the website of the Sport Unit.

Some specific conferences and activities had taken place recently in which there was a focus on dual careers. At the EAS network conference in Denmark in September 2009 the latest developments were presented. MS exchanged the latest national developments on dual careers including initiatives of legislation, development of special courses to become a coach, spreading of studies and exams, flexibility of education programmes and a charter for students on the dual career. It was suggested to

concentrate on the biggest problems with regard to education and training of young sportspeople, particularly those who were most vulnerable.

Regarding future actions of the COM, different options were discussed. The results of the 4 awarded projects would deliver all sorts of information which could lead to further action. COM indicated that it was still an open question whether EU guidelines would be the right instrument for promoting the idea of dual careers and more transparency in provisions made for young athletes. The education and sport systems in the MS are so different that guidelines would have to be formulated at an abstract level. A compendium of good practices would be useful.

2. EU Physical Activity Guidelines in the field of education and school environment

The WG agreed that the EU Physical Activity Guidelines (endorsed by EU Sport Ministers in November 2008) could be helpful to develop a strategy at the national level against obesity and for the promotion of an active and healthy lifestyle. In various MS activities had taken place but in the field of education there was no overview yet. Responsibility was often at the level of schools or at the Ministry of Education and/or national agencies. MS agreed to inform COM about national initiatives in this field.

As part of the 2009 Preparatory Action, COM had awarded 2 projects focused on Health-Enhancing Physical Activities in the field of education. In the European Municipalities in Sport project the specific group of urban youth would be addressed. In the project 'Healthy Children in Sound Communities' young people in smaller towns and villages would be reached. The WG would be informed about the progress of the projects in the future.

3. Implementation of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in sport and mutual recognition of qualifications in sport

Implementation of EQF

Every MS is involved in the process of the implementation of a national qualifications framework with a reference to the 8 levels of the European Qualifications Framework. That process should be finalised at the end of 2012. In the MS sport education systems are part of this operation. Based on a National Qualification Framework all professionals in sport who are educated through the formal educational system of vocational and higher education institutes will be certified and a reference could be made to EQF. Correspondence with EQF could be established for learning outcomes of formal education institutes but not always for the qualifications of coaches educated through the sport sector itself.

There is a debate in MS whether people educated through the sectoral system of sport and other local organisations could be certified in the same way and included in the system of the National Qualification Framework. It has been recognised that the opinion of the social partners in a MS is crucial to reach acceptance that professionals with considerable differences in educational background could be classified on the same qualification level. In some MS, the social partners are against a direct link between sectoral certification and EQF levels. Depending on the role and position of the Ministry of Sport within the sport sector, problems with the inclusion of sectoral qualifications in national qualification frameworks are more or less relevant.

COM indicated that this problem concerns all MS where qualifications or certification gained through short courses offered by sport federations exist. The position of the sport federations is sometimes even

more complex because they are members of European sport organisations and have to follow the system of levels of qualifications of their European organisations as well. The subject of integration of the sectoral education system in the national qualification structures and the reference to EQF will be discussed in the next WG meeting.

Directive 2005/36

Directive 2005/36 is the binding EU instrument concerning recognition of professional qualifications in regulated professions when professionals in sport like to work in another Member State.

A background document had been produced by COM to clarify the Directive and its relation to the Services Directive and EQF. The Directive covers professional qualifications and does not only include educational qualifications but also work experience after and sometimes instead of educational qualifications. WG agreed that the list of regulated professions under the Directive should be completed and be made more transparent for people from other Member States. Moreover, the WG indicated that definitions and job descriptions within sport mentioned in the database on regulated professions should be discussed since they may vary from one Member State to the next. The WG indicated that it was worthwhile to improve transparency and to look for a (better) format for job descriptions in the sport sector. In this perspective, a reference to the different levels mentioned in the Directive could be helpful.

COM would check if the proposed activities could be done based on the Directive. COM would send out a short questionnaire to find out how MS were defining regulated professions, and if the present list in the database was complete.

The WG agreed that a meeting with the group of coordinators under Directive 2005/36/EC to discuss the problems mentioned could be very helpful and indicated its interest in further developments in this field.

MS asked specific attention for the recognition of qualifications of ski instructors and canoeing instructors, as well as for the issue of decentralised responsibilities in some MS. The envisaged output of the WG on this subject would be discussed at the next WG meeting.

4. Conclusions and next steps

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

- The progress of the awarded projects in the field of dual careers under the 2009 Call for Proposals will be reported to the Working Group. The results of the projects and discussions in the WG will lead to further actions of MS and the Commission at a later stage.
- COM will advise the beneficiaries of the 2009 Call for Proposals to keep governments well informed and if applicable to invite them as observer for seminars and conferences within the framework of the awarded projects.
- COM will request MS to fill out a table on implementation of Health-Enhancing Physical Activities and Education on national level mentioned in the table on the implementation of the guidelines.

- The WG will be informed of the progress of the 2 awarded projects focused on Health-Enhancing Physical Activities in the field of Education.
- The WG will discuss the integration of sectoral sport qualifications in national qualification frameworks (and the reference to EQF) in the next WG meeting.
- Regarding Directive 2005/36/EC, the WG agreed to complete the list of regulated professions in sport and to improve the transparency through a (better) format for job descriptions in the sport sector. The COM will request MS how they are defining regulated professions, and if the present list in the database is complete.

The following was agreed regarding the next meeting:

- The third meeting of the WG would take place in the Netherlands on **19-20 May 2010**. Dates and location will be confirmed in January 2010. The format of the meeting will remain the same with on the first day presentations of good practices, and the second day being reserved for discussing the agenda of the WG.