



Expert Group "Good Governance" (XG GG)

Report from the 5th meeting – 23 February 2016

PARTICIPANTS

Experts from 17 Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Seven MS were absent: Belgium, Estonia, France, Greece, Ireland, Slovenia and Sweden.

European Commission: DG Education and Culture (DG EAC).

Representatives from 20 of the 26 organisations accepted as observers.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Expert Group on Good Governance (XG GG) held its fifth meeting on 23 February 2016.

- The chairman, Darren Bailey (UK), welcomed the participants and presented the draft agenda.
- The XG adopted the draft agenda without comments.
- The Commission gave an update on the latest news on Erasmus+: Sport, the upcoming events (notably the Erasmus+: Sport Info day and the EU Sport Forum), the 2016 European Week of Sport, the two High level Groups on sport diplomacy and grassroots sports, and the EC studies. The Commission also raised a point on the status of the XG deliverables, which although are important reference documents nonetheless have no legal status *per se*, unless the Council or the Commission make specific use of them (e.g. council conclusions, a conference, a political initiative and so on).

2. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLES – Implementation and Promotion of EU Good Governance principles

The **Chair** introduced the topic, with reference to the changing sporting landscape and the events that had happened since the Good Governance principles had been agreed by the Expert Group on Good Governance in 2013 under the 2011-2014 Work Plan for Sport.

The GG principles had been drawn up in order to be flexible enough to be applied to all sports in Member States. The objective of this Expert Group

was to consider to what extent these principles had been implemented in the intervening period.

A questionnaire had been circulated at the beginning of the year in order to begin to try to understand how the GG principles were being used. Only a limited number of replies had been received prior to the meeting (4 Member States and 6 Observers).¹

In order to complement the discussions, three presentations were given covering the international, national and local dimensions.

- **FIFA** presented the governance reform measures which would be approved by Congress later that week. Building on earlier reforms, these included a clear separation of the political (strategic) and management functions, changes to the term limits and the structure and composition of committees, and also the application of good governance principles throughout federations and member associations.
- The **EOC** gave an overview of their Erasmus+ project on the implementation of GG principles (a combination of IOC and EU principles) throughout national sport federations in a number of Member States.² This requires developing a customized approach for each federation, based on a self-assessment tool and a subsequent roadmap developed to help each organization develop its good governance standards.
- Finally, **ISCA** highlighted some of the challenges with governance at the local level, as well as the need to encourage and celebrate the positive aspects of sport. Clear and simple guidelines have been developed for good governance in order to take into account the voluntary nature of grassroots sport, yet remain aligned with EU principles.

With regard to the next steps, the Chair highlighted the possibility of a pledge board, as mentioned in the work plan, as a way to voluntarily show commitment to good governance. The Commission confirmed the political importance currently being attached to good governance, as well as the possibility of using a pledge board as a visible means for sport bodies to demonstrate their commitment. However, the EOC expressed some concerns with regard to the role of a pledge board. The Chair put forward

¹ HU, AT, PL, PT: EU Athletes, Europe Active, FIFA, ISCA, ICSSPE, Supporters Direct.

² "Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport" - <http://www.siggs.eu/>

the idea of a small working group to take forward any particular pledge board on good governance.

The UK reminded the group of the upcoming anti-corruption summit in May which would pledge international commitments to tackle corruption in sport.

The next step in the immediate future will be for both Member States and sports bodies to complete the survey on the uptake of Good Governance principles, in order to have a more detailed and accurate picture of the degree of implementation.

3. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLES - Protection of minors

The **lead expert, Alexandre Husting**, gave a detailed presentation on the topic, trying to pin point some controversial issues that might arise as well as some of the challenges that the document might present.

He started by listing a few media cases that highlighted the issue in the past years. He then outlined some of the studies that already exist on the subject, although those are often not specifically focusing on minors and often tend to limit themselves to sexual violence against female athletes.

In terms of definition, the document should probably go beyond physical violence and look at harassment, discrimination and over-training which has consequences of a physical and psychological nature, but could also lead the child to leave sport as a whole.

AH pointed out that a legal framework is already in place, such as the UN convention on the right of the child of 1989 or the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, as well as relevant EU legislation.³ . There are also several examples of initiatives and good practices both at public level (EU and national) and private level (sports clubs, federations, etc.): AH underlined that they need to be endorsed by the sport movement if we want a shift in culture and trust in the reporting process.

The presentation ended with a first draft list of recommendations, both for the MS and the sport movement. Members and Observers were encouraged to react, especially to circulate best practices.

³ Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work; Directive 2011/93/EU on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography; Framework decision 2002/629/JHA on combatting trafficking in human beings.

Sport Coach UK then made a presentation underlying the key role of coaches on "Safeguarding and Protecting Children in the UK" and the importance of ensuring that coaches are suitable for dealing with children. One of the ways of ensuring that is through training, and Sport Coach UK has developed ad hoc training modules. This also helps to identify different forms of abuse: neglect, physical, sexual, emotional and bullying. It is also important to note that peer-on-peer abuse is just as rife as abuse from adults, and that research often does not take into consideration the rise of social media. Sport Coach UK have also developed an e-learning module that members of the XG GG can access freely.

In terms of scope of the deliverable, the lead expert suggested that it be limited to the sport sector (and not, for example, human rights, working conditions outside the EU, etc.). At the same time, there was general agreement that the Group should go beyond violence and include bullying and harassment in the scope of the recommendations. It was also important to try to identify the EU added value component.

In terms of timing, a draft paper will be presented at the next meeting and then finalised in July. In the meantime, members and observers were invited to share best practices.

4. PLEDGE BOARD

The Commission made a short presentation outlining the work done on the gender pledge board by the group of experts (ES, FI, UK, ENGSO, EWS and CoE) who had volunteered to draft some pledges (chosen from the Recommendations on gender equality in Sport) and start developing the concept of a web page.

Some MS expressed doubts on the list of pledges and their willingness to support the concept of a pledge board. They also reiterated that the documents should rather address the sport movement. Others highlighted that the pledges were voluntary and also a means to help ensure implementation.

5. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The next meeting of the XG will be on 12 May, in Brussels.

Closing session: without observers:

6. MISCELLANEOUS

There were no additional points raised by the Member States.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

European Commission

DG EAC: LE LOSTECQUE Yves, PATERSON George, OTTONELLO Paola,
GARAMVOLGYI Bence, BALOGH Judith.

MS Experts

AT	KAINZ Martin	VIDC
AT	PRETS Christa	100% Sport
BG	ANDREVAA Mila	Ministry of Youth and Sport
BG	NAYDENOVA Nina	Ministry of Youth and Sport
CY	SOPHOCLEOUS Philippos	Cyprus Sport Organisation
DK	VOIGT TINNING Anders	Ministry of Culture
DE	LAMBY Elena	Deutsche Sportjugend
DE	SCHUMAN Andreas	Saxon State Ministry of the Interior
DE	WEIDEN Torsten	Federal Ministry of the Interior
ES	CASTREJANA FERNANDEZ Carlota	High Council for Sports
FI	SULANDER Heidi	Ministry of Education and Culture
HU	PETOSZ Judit	Ministry of Human Resources
IT	PRESENTI Carlo	Presidency of the Council of Ministers
LU	HUSTING Alexandre	Sport Ministry Luxembourg
LV	RANDOHS Kaspars	Ministry of Education and Science
MT	ZAMMIT SOUTHERNWOOD Karen	Malta Sports Council
NL	SLOT Geert	NOC * NSF
PL	BARAN Bartosz	Ministry of Sport and Tourism
PT	ALVES Rui	l'Institut Portugais du sport et de la jeunesse
RO	PREDA Dragos	Ministry of Youth and Sport
SK	BABIAKOVA Lydia	Min. of Education, Science, Research and Sport
SK	MALIKOVA Elena	Min. of Education, Science, Research and Sport
UK	BAILEY Darren (Chair)	The FA Group
UK	MORINI Robert	UK Sport

Observers

ECA - European Club Association

EHFA / Europe Active

ENAS – European Network of Academic Sports Services

ENGSO - European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation

EOC (European Olympic Committee) EU Office

EOSE – European Observatoire of Sport and Employment

EPAS - Council of Europe

EPFL - European Professional Football Leagues

EU Athletes

EWS - European Women and Sport

FIFA - Fédération Internationale de Football Association

FIFPRO- World Players' Union

FIVB - Federation Internationale de Volleyball

Golf Europe

ICCE - International Council for Coaching Excellence

ICSS - International Centre for Sport Security

ICSSPE – International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education

ISCA – International Sport and Culture Association

Supporters Direct Europe

UNI Europa