



**Expert Group "Good Governance" (XG GG)**  
**Report from the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting – 12 May 2016**

## **PARTICIPANTS**

*Experts from 13 Member States: Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. 11 MS were absent: Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Slovenia.*

*European Commission: DG Education and Culture (DG EAC)  
DG Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)*

*Representatives from 13 of the 26 organisations accepted as observers. Arnout Geeraert (KU Leuven), and Tine Vertommen (University of Antwerp) were also invited to the meeting.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Expert Group on Good Governance (XG GG) held its sixth meeting on 12 May 2016.

- The chairman, Darren Bailey (UK), welcomed the participants and presented the draft agenda.
- The XG adopted the draft agenda without comments.

The European Commission gave an update on the latest events (Sport Info Day and EU sport Forum), the 2016 European Week of Sport, Erasmus +: sport results of the first round, the High level Groups on sport diplomacy and grassroots sports and the HEPA pilot projects. The Commission also gave an update on the Pledge Board, following the discussion at the Working Party on Sport: the creation of one general Pledge Board covering the three areas mentioned in the Working Plan (good governance principles, major sport events and gender equality) and its main focus on the sport movement. The Pledge Board could be officially launched during the European Week of Sport's flagship event on 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

## **2. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLE – Implementation and Promotion of EU Good Governance principles**

The **Chair** introduced the topic and underlined the need for preparing tools for implementing the good governance principles, and being able to measure to see whether there are any tangible results, rather than delivering more theoretical recommendations. He queried how such measures could best be defined, and stressed the importance of coordination between the different on-going governance activities

**Arnout Geeraert**, as invited speaker, gave a detailed presentation on the Sport Governance Observer report, which is a follow-up of work carried out under one of the European Commission's Preparatory Actions in the field of good governance in sport (2012-2013). The report represents a benchmarking tool for good governance in international sport federations based on basic good governance criteria, and its application to the 35 Olympic international sport federations. The report shows how corruption, unsatisfied internal stakeholders and a (perceived) lack of effectiveness have led to a crisis in the legitimacy of international sport federations, which may lead to instability and disorder in international sport governance. Voluntary reporting on good governance in sport organisations and external regulators are some of the suggested tools to use in order to tackle this issue.

In the following discussion, observers pointed out that the GG principles should be based on universal minimum criteria and then tailored towards sport organisations. Observers also highlighted the importance of preventing any GG crisis rather than reacting to it afterwards. The importance of political and public pressure was mentioned. The pros and cons of self-evaluation and external evaluation were also raised. The Commission can only use soft tools so the main goal should be to focus on sport organisations' implementation of GG principles. The extent that the EU can influence sport is apparent from a legal point of view (the Commission's study on the Specificity of Sport, to be published later in the month, will provide more information on this aspect).

With regard to the deliverable, a draft document based on the GG Questionnaire will be prepared. The Chair invited MS to send further information on best practises and other relevant information. Furthermore, the Commission asked the MS to report on what has already been done in their countries in promoting GG in sport. Observers supported the Commission's

ongoing dialogue with the sport movement and while it was suggested to restrict/encourage funding opportunities to sport organisations which un/successfully implemented GG principles, providing a document on the implementation of the GG principles was seen as a useful step.

As there were no representatives present from the Netherlands, the Commission briefly presented the state of play of the Presidency's work, in particular with reference to the on-going work on good governance in the context of major sport events. Further information will be provided as to the outcome of the Presidency's work and state of play at the next meeting.

### **3. DISCUSSION ON DELIVERABLE - Protection of minors**

The **lead expert, Alexander Husting**, made a brief introduction, then passed the floor to **Tine Vertommen**, invited speaker, who presented a study on interpersonal violence (IV) against children in sport carried out by the University of Antwerp. She explained what has been already done in this field, what other stakeholders are doing and what the results of this study are. She pointed out that the study is lacking comparable data, as no other research of this type has been carried out to date.

The presentation covered the concept of violence against children, its scope and how to prevent it. The debate focused on target groups, the prevalence of the violence and who the perpetrators were. The importance of the study was stressed by the majority of the Member States and the observers. A proposal to include this topic in the final document was made by some of the members of the Expert Group. A representative from DG JUST made final remarks, presenting the EU work on this field, and suggested related regulation to be used on the topic of the protection of minors. In particular, the mechanism for exchange of criminal records was discussed. As a result, it was concluded that education and integrating a comprehensive approach is a one major priority.

It was agreed to use EU reference documents in the Annex of the final paper in order to share good practices, guidelines and definitions. A definition of sexual abuse should also be included in the text.

#### **4. REFLECTIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE WORK OF XG GG IN VIEW OF ANY FUTURE EU WORK PLAN FOR SPORT.**

A reflection on the new working structure for the upcoming EU Work Plan has been launched by the COM. A proposal to reduce the number of deliverables and the future of the Pledge Boards was made by the COM.

Remarks on the final use of the deliverables were raised by the members of the XG. The status and nature of the document produced by the working structures were debated. The hybrid nature of the deliverable, being between a technical and a political document without having a clear purpose, was one major factor identified.

Members of the group raised the possibility of a new working methodology with reference documents present and focusing on the implementation of the previous deliverables already concluded. The creation of a platform, dealing with problematic and specific issues rather than having several working structures focusing in different topics was generally well accepted. The visibility and the coordination with other international organizations and supranational institutions such as UNESCO and the Council of Europe were also proposed to be taken into account under the new EU Work Plan.

Assuring the continuity of the work without being linked to a heavy working structure was one main conclusion.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

The next and final meeting will be held in July, in Brussels (date to be confirmed). The aim will be to finalise the two outstanding deliverables and conclude the work of the Expert Group.

#### **6. MISCELLANEOUS**

No additional points raised by the Member States.

## **ANNEX 1: List of participants**

### European Commission

DG EAC: LE LOSTECQUE Yves, PATERSON George, OTTONELLO Paola, CUTUGNO Carmela, APARICIO GARCIA Marta.

DG JUST: TUIITE Margaret

CAB – NAVRACSICS: BORKOVIC Nenad

### MS Experts

AT	KAINZ Martin	VIDC
CY	SOPHOCLEOUS Philippos	Cyprus Sport Organisation
DK	HOLMLUND LAUESEN Martin	Ministry of Culture
DE	WEIDEN Torsten	Federal Ministry of the Interior
ES	CASTREJANA FERNANDEZ Carlota	High Council for Sports
FI	SULANDER Heidi	Ministry of Education and Culture
LU	HUSTING Alexandre	Sport Ministry Luxembourg
MT	ZAMMIT SOUTHERNWOOD Karen	Malta Sports Council
PL	BARAN Bartosz	Ministry of Sport and Tourism
PT	ALVES Rui	l'Institut Portugais du sport
RO	PREDA Dragos	Ministry of Youth and Sport
SE	LINDMAN Tomas	Permanent Representation of Sweden
UK	BAILEY Darren (Chair)	The FA Group

## Observers

ECA - European Club Association

EHFA / Europe Active

ENAS – European Network of Academic Sports Services

EOC (European Olympic Committee) EU Office

EPAS - Council of Europe

EU Athletes

FIFPRO- World Players' Union

ICSSPE – International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education

Play the Game

Supporters Direct Europe

Transparency International Germany

UNI Europa

UEFA

## Guests

University of Antwerp

University of Leuven