



## EU Sport Forum in Vilnius

The **annual EU Sport Forum** took place in Vilnius from 30 September – 1 October. The Forum brings together more than 250 representatives of sports organisations and Member States and is an opportunity for the Commission to inform sport stakeholders about its policy initiatives and to have their feedback.

This year's Forum **showcased EU-funded projects** implemented during the past two years, aimed at supporting the promotion of good governance in sport, social inclusion of immigrants, the promotion of physical activity to support active ageing, the fight against violence and intolerance in sport, the fight against match-fixing, awareness-raising to promote sport at municipal level and transfrontier grassroots sport competitions in neighbouring regions and Member States.

The **Erasmus+ proposal**, the first dedicated EU funding stream for sport which is due to come into force in early 2014, was one of the priority issues discussed, with the Commission setting out how this will look going forward. Chiara Gariazzo, the Director responsible for Youth and Sport in the European Commission, underlined that the main focus of the programme will be **grassroots sport**. This does not mean that only small, local level projects will be funded but the Commission wants the funding to remain as close as possible to activities on the ground.

There will also be a **clear link** between the sports policy priorities and the programme, building on the previous work of the Preparatory Actions.

Mrs. Gariazzo also informed the participants that the Commission will **adopt a Communication in December** summarising the implementation of the 2011-2014 work plan and setting out future priorities.

This will include a **public consultation**, to gather stakeholder views, and will be used as a discussion basis for a potential new work plan – the Commission will suggest priorities and it will then be up to the European Council to **propose a 2<sup>nd</sup> work plan** and its content. This should be expected under the Greek Presidency of the Council, in the first half of 2014.

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## New EU initiative to promote physical activity in Europe

In late August, the European Commission launched an initiative on health-enhancing physical activity, which is also the **first ever proposal for a Council Recommendation on sport**. This initiative follows a call from the Council of the EU last year inviting the Commission to present a proposal for a Council Recommendation promoting a cross-sectoral approach to health-enhancing physical activity based on the 2008 EU Physical Activity Guidelines.

One key element of the proposal is a **monitoring framework** which should help Member States to trace developments and identify trends regarding their national efforts to promote sport and physical activity. By acting together with the Member States the Commission aims at reducing the significant costs caused by the lack of physical activity in Europe.

The Council is already discussing the Recommendation and could **possibly adopt it in 2013**. EU support for the implementation of the measures is proposed to come from the Erasmus+ programme, which is due to start in 2014.

You can access the Recommendation here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/c1/com-2013-603-final-council-recommendation-hepa\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/c1/com-2013-603-final-council-recommendation-hepa_en.pdf)).

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## Commission publishes study on UEFA's home-grown player rule

On August 28, the European Commission published an independent study on the assessment of the "Home-Grown Player" (HGP) rule adopted by UEFA in 2005 and gradually implemented by clubs participating in the Champions League and Europa League competitions in subsequent years.

The **main conclusion of the study** is that it cannot be categorically established that the **restrictive effects of the HGP rule on the free movement of workers are proportionate to the very limited benefits of the HGP** for competitive balance and the training and development of young players.

The study also argues that the very modest benefits of the HGP rule are likely to be achieved in a more substantial manner by the **adoption of alternative and less restrictive means**, particularly those which do not have discriminatory effects.

The study further notes that UEFA, in conjunction with the key football stakeholders, holds the necessary experience and expertise to explore these alternatives and should be afforded the **reasonable time of three years** to do so.

**The Commission currently has a number of infringements open in this area.**

You can access the study here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/f-studies/final-rpt-april2013-homegrownplayer.pdf>



## EU finances 14 new projects



14 projects have been selected following the 2013 call for proposals in the framework of the **Preparatory Actions "European Partnership on Sports"**.



The Rugby League European Federation, the European Elite Athletes Association, Deutsche Sport Hochschule and the Spanish Basketball Federation are among the beneficiaries of this year's financing.



The implementation of the projects will last until mid-2015.



For a full list of the projects and the beneficiaries selected, please see here: [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/2013/1029-eu-supports-14-projects\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/2013/1029-eu-supports-14-projects_en.htm)

## Commission to organise seminar on European Week of Sport

On November 20, the European Commission's Sports Unit is organising a preparatory seminar for the European Week Sport (EWS) to discuss the plans for the launch of an annual EWS that would promote participation in sport and physical activity throughout Europe.

**The EU Sports Platform will be participating at the seminar so if there are any comments you would like us to pass on, please contact us on [info@eusportsplatform.eu](mailto:info@eusportsplatform.eu)**

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## EACEA launches call for experts

The Sport Unit of the European Commission and The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) have published a Call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a list of experts to assist the EACEA in the framework of the management of EU programmes in the field of education, audiovisual, culture, youth, sport, EU aid volunteers, and citizenship or any other programmes delegated to the Agency.


Requirements for those who would like to apply include:

- Have a high level of expertise in the programmes managed by the Agency as stated in the call for expression of interest to be published by the Agency
- Have a good knowledge of English and/or French and/or German
- Are able to use IT tools
- Can be available for occasional, short-term assignments

The call will remain open for the lifetime of the programmes managed by the Agency, i.e. until 31.12.2020.

All information and supporting documents related to the Call are available here:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/call\\_experts/call\\_experts\\_2013\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/call_experts/call_experts_2013_en.php)



## Council expert group on Good Governance presents principles

On October 10, the Council Expert Group on Good Governance presented its **Principles of Good Governance in Sport** to the Working Group on Sport of the Council of the EU.

The recommendations proposed by the Group define good governance as “the framework and culture within which a sports body sets policy, delivers its strategic objectives, engages with stakeholders, monitors performance, evaluates and manages risk and reports to its constituents on its activities and progress including the delivery of effective, sustainable and proportionate sports policy and regulation”.

The recommendations aim at encompassing a **broad spectrum of recipients ranging** from the bottom to the top of the sporting pyramid. They are based on **10 main principles** which are accompanied by detailed practical guidance. The annexes to the document present a **list of best practices** as well as relevant facts and data derived from the projects funded through the 2011 Preparatory Action. Those annexes are intended to be a living part of the recommendations, **to be further updated** as new information becomes available.

You can access the principles here:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/b24/xg-gg-201307-dlvrbl2-sept2013.pdf>

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## European Parliament and UEFA Exhibition “United in Diversity”

On October 8, during the Plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, UEFA and the Parliament’s informal group “Friends of Football” co-organised the launch of the exhibition **“United in diversity – On fighting discrimination and achieving inclusion in and through sport”**.

Speakers included MEP Emine Bozkurt (S&D/Netherlands), who is also chairing the informal group, László Andor, European Commissioner for employment, social affairs and inclusion.

The next day, in addition to the exhibition, UEFA, together with European think tank Sport and Citizenship, organized a **conference on the role of football in social integration**.

In her opening speech, MEP Livia Járóka (EPP/HU) spoke of the necessity of combating racism in football stadiums and improving the health of Roma communities.



## EU Expert Groups “Education and Training in Sport” and “Good Governance” issue their final meeting reports

The Expert Group of the Council on Education and Training in sport has published the report of its fourth meeting which took place in Helsinki in June.

During the meeting, the document **Proposal for future EU actions in the field of education and training in sport** was presented. This is still under discussion within the Expert Group and the goal is to finalise and send to the Working Party on Sport of the Council of the European Union to form **part of the negotiations about the next EU Work Plan for Sport** of the Council.

The full report of the meeting can be found here:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/b24/xg-ets-201306-final-rpt.pdf>

Another report published was the one of the latest meeting of the Expert Group on Good Governance, which took place in July.

During the meeting, discussions focused on the **Principles of Good Governance in Sport** (the document was presented to the Council’s Working Party on Sport on October 10) and the **Supervision of sports agents and transfers of players**.

The next meeting of the Group, taking place on **November 7**, will finalise the discussion on the topics of transfers and agents and to adopt the relevant recommendations.

The EU Sports Platform participates at the meetings of the Expert Group as an observer.

For the full report of the meeting, please see here:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/sport/library/documents/b24/xg-gg-201307-final-rpt.pdf>

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## Dates for the Diary

- November 7<sup>th</sup>* From the Universiade to the heart of the European Union - Innovation, University & Sport: quo vadis? Future (international/inter-generational) horizons
- November 12<sup>th</sup>* Sports Integrity in Europe and the role of lotteries – Discussion in the EP, hosted by MEPs Takkula and Fisas
- November 20<sup>th</sup>* European Commission, Preparatory Seminar for the European Week of Sport
- November 26<sup>th</sup>* EYCS Council
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>* Meeting of Director-Generals, Kaunas
- December 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>* EU conference on gender equality and sport

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## News in brief

### *European Parliament to adopt final text of Erasmus +*

On November 5, the Culture Committee of the European Parliament will hold a vote on the final text of the Erasmus + programme, as negotiated during informal trilogues with the European Commission and the Council of the EU.

### *Commission to launch study on doping prevention*

The Sport Unit of DG Education and Culture has announced a study with the aim of developing the evidence base for policies designed to combat **doping in recreational sport**, including through information gathering on the use of doping substances in recreational sport in EU Member States.

The tender for the study ended on September 27 and the Commission is now assessing the proposals it received.

### *European Commission publishes questionnaire on European Week of Sport*

The Commission intends to organise an annual European Week of Sport (EWoS) that would promote participation in sport and physical activity throughout Europe. The first EWoS should take place in 2015. With this questionnaire the Commission wishes to seek stakeholders' views and ideas on such a Week and to identify existing good practices.

You can access the questionnaire here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/20131003-ewos\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/news/20131003-ewos_en.htm)

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## Parliamentary questions

Members of the European Parliament have the right to ask Parliamentary Questions to the European Commission on areas relating to European law, including sport. Recent queries have included:

- The existence of the **home-grown player** or nationality quotas in EU from Santiago Fisas (Spain);
- Funding for networks on **preventative anti-doping measures** in amateur sport, sport for all and physical exercise in the context of the Erasmus + programme from Diogo Feio (Portugal);
- The Total Sport Academy in Turin, which aims to start an Italian **football tournament for young people with disabilities**, from Roberta Angelilli (Italy);
- The Commission's measures to encourage **joint ownership in the field of football** from Marc Tarabella (Belgium);
- **UEFA's Financial Fair Play** rule being challenged from Marc Tarabella (Belgium);
- Advertising of **alcoholic products** during, and/or sponsorship of, sporting events by firms marketing alcoholic products from Claudette Abela Baldacchino (Malta);
- The threat of British clubs to boycott the **European Rugby Cup** from Christine De Veyrac (France);
- The Commission's measures against **transnational money laundering** schemes currently affecting football in Europe from Monica Luisa Macovei (Romania).



## The Last Word: “Innovation & Sport” 2013 Trentino Winter Universiade

Is there a special role for university in EU sport policy? The question might seem paradoxical at first, but it might represent a fundamental question for the future (as it has been in the past).

The mission of Universities are education, research and applied research – but Universities also allow for idea-creation, intellectual serendipity and a good inclination to sports. Some examples? Trinity College/Cambridge wrote the first rules of modern football in 1848. The first game of American football also originated at university in 1869 (Rutgers and Princeton). Most of all **2013 is a special year for University Sports**: it celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the “*World University Games*” in Paris 1923, a few initiatives from the European Commission are in the pipeline and the **2013 Trentino Winter Universiade** is getting ready for a special celebration of university sport. 2013 could re-launch a special alliance between sport and university.

A few words on the Universiade: the Universiade has been invented in Italy/Turin in 1959, inspired by the Olympic Games, but with a special focus on the academic dimension and university students. In December 2013, 57 Nations and 4000 university students will participate at [www.universiadetrentino.org](http://www.universiadetrentino.org), competing for 13 disciplines (from alpine skiing to speed skating, from snowboarding to ski jumping) and 78 medals. Eurosport will be the official broadcaster – and 200 international media will follow the Games.

The Universiade will also be a special occasion to **reflect on sport and on the “inspiring**

**innovation”** (9-10.12.2013)

<http://www.universiadetrentino.org/conference>, which will culminate with an “*International Declaration on Sport, University & Innovation*”. This is particularly timely, if one thinks that UNESCO approved the “*Berlin Declaration on Sport for All*” in May 2013, OECD has dedicated a special place to the economy of sport and mostly the EU has articulated a series of initiatives on the interplay between University/Sport (Erasmus + includes a chapter on mobility/sport, new proposals are emerging and the new EU budget has a special focus on university-sport).

“*The good thing about the future is that it comes one day at the time*” – suggested Abraham Lincoln. We honestly do not know what will emerge from 2013 – but we have found path-breaking discovering the increasing dialogue between university sport and the international institutions. In order to explore the EU future we came to Brussels and invited members of the Academic Community/Innovation Community/Sport Community to engage in a dialogue (on November 7<sup>th</sup> – with Timme Bertolt Dossing representing the EU Sport Platform). The Brussels feedback we will receive will be incorporated in the [www.universiadetrentino.org/conference](http://www.universiadetrentino.org/conference), where the European Institute of Technology, OECD and two video-messages from Commissioner Vassiliou and Vice-President Tajani will be stimulating the debate.

The motto of the 2013 Universiade is “**INSPIRED BY YOU**” and we wish to remain loyal to our motto. We have been inspired by the work of the EU Sport Platform and we hope we will be reporting back soon the “inspiring innovation” emerging from the university sport movement and the 2013 Universiade.

For info:

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