



## European Commission info day on Erasmus+

On **4 February** the European Commission and the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organised an “**Info Day**” on the **Sport Chapter of Erasmus+** in Brussels, to inform potential applicants about the new programme and its funding opportunities.

In total, €1.8 billion in funding will be available from Erasmus+ in 2014. The sport programme foresees two main funding opportunities including **collaborative partnerships** (proposals on dual careers, proposals on health and enhancing physical activity, proposals to prevent match-fixing in sport, proposals on volunteering in sport, proposals on good governance in sport) and **non-profit European sports events**.

Relevant **eligibility criteria of the collaborative partnership calls** include the presence of an element of innovation and the focus on grass-roots sport. Other criteria are the fact that the partnership has to be composed by at least 5 partners selected from 5 different programme countries and the duration of the project which can vary from 1 year to 3 years maximum starting as from 1 January 2015. The deadline to participate to those calls is 15 May 2014.

**Eligibility criteria** are slightly different for the **organization of the non-profit European sports events**: it would be enough to have one organizer, however participants have to come from 12 programme countries. The project can last one year maximum. The deadline for those events, which should be organized between 1 June 2014 and 31 December 2014, is 14 March at midday (Brussels time), whereas for those events foreseen from 1 January 2015 onwards the deadline is 15 May 2014 at midday (Brussels time).

You can find the presentations shown during the Info Day at the following link:  
[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/events/info-day-erasmus-plus-sport\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/events/info-day-erasmus-plus-sport_en)

You can also watch the recording of the Info Day at the following link:  
[http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutvadmin/preview/preview\\_conference?viewConference=21819&portal.id=1](http://webcast.ec.europa.eu/eutvadmin/preview/preview_conference?viewConference=21819&portal.id=1)

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## Information on how to apply to the Erasmus+ programme

Below you can find all the relevant steps to follow in order to participate in the funding opportunities of the Erasmus+ programme in the field of sport:

1. Registration of your organization in the participants portal, in order to obtain the Participant Identification Code (PIC) necessary to apply for the calls:

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/register.html>

2. You can find a partner for your project by using the European Commission partner search tool: <https://sporttool.teamwork.fr/>

3a. Use the official application form (calls on collaborative partnerships and non-profit European sports events organized from 1 January 2015 onwards):

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/sport/collaborative-partnerships\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/sport/collaborative-partnerships_en)

3b. Use the official application form (calls on non-profit European sports events with deadline on 14 March):

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sport-not-for-profit-european-sport-events-eacs1113\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sport-not-for-profit-european-sport-events-eacs1113_en)

The requests for funding the organization of non-profit European sports events with deadline of 14 March should be sent only in paper format, by post or courier service, to EACEA (see here for the address: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sport-not-for-profit-european-sport-events-eacs1113\\_en](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/sport-not-for-profit-european-sport-events-eacs1113_en))

Please note that the calls for the 15 May deadline should be published by mid-March on the DG EAC website.

4. A written notification will be sent to all participants with the outcome of the selection procedure and the feedback of the evaluation of the proposal.

5. The selected candidates could be asked to validate the information submitted.

### Tips!!

- Don't wait until the last moment to submit your application as the system might block!
- Apply the KIS principle while writing your proposal (Keep It Simple)
- Before selecting your partners, make a list of the skills needed
- Try to involve old and new partners

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## European Commission adopts Report on the First EU Work Plan for Sport

On 24 January, the European Commission adopted the Report on the implementation of the First EU Work Plan for Sport meant to run from 2011 to 2014. The Council's Resolution on a EU Work Plan for Sport was adopted back in 2011 and it set out a number of actions to be addressed together with stakeholders, the Commission and the Member States by 2014.

The Commission Report analyses the **progress made in the different action areas identified in the EU Work Plan** and assesses the working method implemented. In the final part, **recommendations and priorities for the future** are identified. In particular these will be the basis for the new Work Plan on Sport the Council should adopt in May 2014.

Concerning the working methods used, Member States, the Commission and sport stakeholders expressed a positive feedback. The **establishment of Expert Groups and the structured dialogue** with the sport sector contributed to improve the political coordination on sport. However, few specific issues have been highlighted such as the fact that the **composition of working groups** was not homogeneous with different levels of representativeness and expertise. Member States had the impression that the number of sport stakeholders was too high in certain groups and this

prevented a full exchange between the members of the expert groups. Thus the **role of the sports stakeholders** should be further clarified in the new Work Plan.

The **future actions suggested by the Commission** should include areas such as:

- Sport and society (social inclusion, education and training) and HEPA;
- Economic dimension of sport (evidence-base for sport and sustainability of sport);
- Integrity of sport with focus on anti-doping, fight against match-fixing and protection of the physical and moral integrity of young athletes.

Concerning the **future cooperation structure** the Commission is suggesting to replace the six Expert Groups with three Sport Strategy Groups which would include Member States and Commission representatives. These Groups should cover the three main priority areas and they should have a clear mandate and a set time table.

Under the guidance of the Strategy Group a number of Groups of experts should be set up to address issues of technical nature.

Finally a number of options are suggested to replace the current structured dialogue lunch in the margins of the Council.

The full Commission Report can be found here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2014:0022:FIN:EN:PDF>

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## The economic value of sport: Commissioners Tajani and Vassiliou met with sports stakeholders



On 21 January, a meeting on the **economic importance of sport** took place in Brussels bringing together stakeholders including all sport-related economic sectors, academia and sport associations.



This was hosted and co-chaired by Commissioner Tajani, responsible for industry and entrepreneurship, and Commissioner Vassiliou, responsible for the sport portfolio.



The European Commission recognized that the **sport industry can represent a driver for growth** in the current economic environment, as it represents a €294 billion contribution to EU gross value added with 4.5 million people employed. However more can be done.

To this end, an **Action Plan on the economic impact of sports** should be prepared by sports stakeholders under the coordination of the European Commission **by September 2014**. Sports stakeholders working groups should be set up in March 2014.

The Action Plan should be an **industry-led initiative** which the European Commission would support and react to.

## EP event on “Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity: a Holistic Approach”

On 29 January, **MEP Sophie Auconie** (EPP/France), **together with the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) and Sport and Citizenship** organized an event in the European Parliament on the promotion of sport and physical activity.

During the opening remarks MEP Auconie highlighted the fact that in the upcoming legislature **the Friends of Sport group should become an official intergroup** and called upon all the interested stakeholders and MEPs to join forces and push for its formal creation. She also mentioned that she would stand for re-election in the upcoming elections of May, but it was not sure whether she could regain a seat in the European Parliament.

Other speakers included **Virgile Caillet, Director of Kantar Sport**, who presented a study on the relationship that MEPs have with sport, and **Dr. Will Norman**, who presented the Designed to Move Framework for Action campaign, supported among others by Nike, to raise awareness on the need to increase physical activity among kids.

Susanne Hollmann from DG EAC was also present and confirmed that **sport is high in the Commission’s agenda**.

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## EP Hearing on sport and human rights

On 13 March the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights held a hearing on **sports and human rights** with a particular focus on the **situation of migrant workers in Qatar**.

The chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, MEP Barbara Lochbihler (Greens, Germany), hosted the event. In her opening remarks she mentioned the EP resolution adopted in November 2013 on this issue which called for the organization of the hearing and for the establishment of an EP delegation to Qatar, which is scheduled to leave in March 2014. Qatar is the first actor which has to be involved in order to change the conditions of workers, however the Report also highlights the importance of other actors such as FIFA.

Dr. Theo Zwanziger, Member of the FIFA executive committee, explained that FIFA, when choosing Qatar as the host for the **World Cup**, knew that this represented both an opportunity and a risk at the same time. The **condition of workers could have been improved** by putting the country under the spotlight. FIFA addressed the Supreme Committee in Qatar expecting issues such as workers conditions and human rights to be tackled.

Gilbert Houngbo, Deputy Director General of the International Labour Organisation, stated that also that they are also putting pressure on Qatar on this issue.

Sharan Burrow, Secretary General of ITUC, described the tragic situation of workers in Qatar and stated that FIFA was very much aware of the real situation and called upon **FIFA to re-run its vote on the decision of the World Cup host country**.

Jonas Baer-Hoffman from FIFPro World Players' Union highlighted the role of this organization to defend football players rights and the introduction of an independent footballers' union and labour protection.

James Lynch, Researcher at Amnesty International, recognized that major sport events can draw a lot of attention and improve human rights.

Zahir Belounis contributed to the hearing by sharing his experience **as professional football player for a club in Qatar**. He was confronted with the Kafala system and once his club **stopped paying** him, he could **neither leave the country** without the club signing an exit visa nor seek legal support through Unions. Thanks to the help of several NGOs and journalists he managed to go back home in France. He lodged a number of cases with courts in France and in The Hague in order to raise the issue and to seek **protection for his football colleagues**.

- **Amnesty International report on Qatar : Unpaid migrant construction workers left to go hungry:**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201402/20140206ATT78950/20140206ATT78950EN.pdf>

- **FIFA requests update on working conditions in Qatar:**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201402/20140206ATT78954/20140206ATT78954EN.pdf>

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## Dates for the Diary

- 20 March** Greek Presidency seminar on gender based violence in sport: minors protection (Athens)
  - 21 March** Informal Meeting of EU Sports Directors on Implementation of the HEPA. recommendation– Combating Doping in recreational Sport
  - 21 May** Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS)
- 



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## News in brief

### *Greek Presidency's priorities in Sport*

From January to June 2014 Greece is in charge of the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Its main priorities in the field of sport will be the adoption of the Council Resolution on the second Work Plan for sport (2014-2017) and the adoption of the Council Conclusions on Gender Equality in Sport.

In the context of the structured dialogue on sport the Greek Presidency will focus on the economic, social and environmental sustainability of major sport events.

Also, the Greek Presidency will organize an event on gender-based violence in sport and minors protection and it will be in charge of organizing the Informal Meeting of EU Sports Directors which will focus on the implementation of the HEPA recommendations and in particular on the fight to doping in recreational sports.

## 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:

- Whether and when the Commission would publish the Erasmus+ programme Guidelines in all languages of the Union and whether the Commission will issue new deadlines in order to allow all EU citizens to read the Guidelines in their own languages, from Sophie Auconie (France), Ermina Mazzoni (Italy) and Aldo Patriciello (Italy);
- Which actions the Commission has taken to ensure that free movement of persons in the EU does not jeopardise the smooth running of football matches and how the Commission will respond to the calls of a number of Member States and the EP to have stadium bans enforced throughout the EU, from Ivo Belet (the Netherlands);
- What the Commission's view is on the relationship between the educational level of children and their participation in sport in the EU and whether there are any figures available, from Angelika Werthmann (Austria).

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## The Last Word:

# The Trentino Universiade – Innovation, Sport and the EU

by Francesco Anesi

The 2013 Trentino Winter Universiade was a **celebration of sport**: 61 registered countries, (historical record), 3600 university students, (historical record), 2000 volunteers, 13 sport disciplines, 78 competitions, 500 hours were broadcasted in 70 countries (only Eurosport calculated 28 million viewers in the first 9 days), 300 million of contacts (newspapers, media, social media and internet).

“Can university sport be brought out of the cold? Sport has often been kept separate from academia, but an event seeks to change that” – remarked the European press on the Trentino Universiade and its conference.

The Trentino Universiade was the peak of a series of institutional dialogues. The Universiade landed in **Brussels with a special workshop** in November featuring Timme Bertolt Dossing (EU Sport Platform), Bart Ooijen (Sport Unit, European Commission) and Claude-Louis Gallien (FISU President).

On November 26, the 28 EU Ministers for Sport/Youth/Culture met in Brussels. **Italian Minister for Sport Mr. Delrio** mentioned explicitly the 2013 Trentino Universiade and declared that **Italy will focus its attention on innovation/sport** as we are on the eve of the Italian Presidency of the EU.

The philosophy of the **Universiade conference** was simple: we searched to **integrate 3 different communities: ACADEMIA+INNOVATION+SPORT.**

As stated by Commissioner **Antonio Tajani**: “Sport and University are two unique motors for innovation and competition. The Trentino Universiade is the propitious occasion to strengthen the link between sport-university-industry, which represents the true **triangle of knowledge and innovation**”.

The **academic conference** integrated the idea of sport, innovation and the role of universities in modern societies. It culminated in the signature of the **International Declaration on Innovation, University and Sport** – cosigned by FISU, CONI, the Italian Minister of Sport and Universities, a member of the European University Association, the University of Trento and institutional/academic leaders.

We are on the eve of a new EU season for sport: Erasmus+ offers new opportunities for sport-innovation, the new Working Group created by the European Commission on “Sport-related Industry” and – we hope – the Trentino momentum will create a **new EU virtuous circle between entrepreneurs, innovators, universities and the sport community.**

For info:

[conference2013@universiadetrentino.org](mailto:conference2013@universiadetrentino.org)  
[www.universiadetrentino.org/en/node/2270](http://www.universiadetrentino.org/en/node/2270)  
[www.eitctlabs.eu/news-events/news/article/sport-that-boosts-innovation-at-the-winter-universiade-confernece-2013/](http://www.eitctlabs.eu/news-events/news/article/sport-that-boosts-innovation-at-the-winter-universiade-confernece-2013/)

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