



## ENGSO Youth Position Paper

### to the Council of the European Union, the Member States and the European Commission

### on the future EU sport policy

Young people are an important group taking part in sporting activities in many roles (athletes, volunteers, board members etc.). In Europe, 64% of 15-24 year-olds practice sports at least once a week, while the frequency of exercise tends to decrease with age (Eurobarometer 412 "Sport and Physical Activity" 2015).

Representing youth in sports with a focus on the youth sport-for-all sector in Europe, ENGSO Youth calls the attention of the Council of the European Union, the Member States and the European Commission to some youth sport issues that shall be included into the future EU sport policy, especially the European Union Work Plan for Sport 2017 onwards (EU Work Plan for Sport).

#### **Youth equality**

**Give young people right for co-determination and ensure the equal access of young people to sport at all levels.**

By 2020, European sport stakeholders shall develop a sporting culture in which young people (aged under 35) represent one third of sport decision-making bodies, and obtain opportunity to formulate sports policies, represent their interest, and participate in decision-making, planning, and execution processes at all levels.

The EU Work Plan for Sport shall exchange best practices and develop strategic actions, including an action plan, regarding equal access of young people to sport at all levels.

#### **Social inclusion and prevention of violent radicalisation**

**Promote participation in youth sport activities in order to advance social inclusion and provide alternatives for radical ideas spreading across Europe.**

Youth sport's preventive power contributes to addressing the challenges that concern young people in particular, such as

widening social gap, high unemployment, social exclusion and radicalisation.

Effective policy-making at European level shall include prevention activities, designed to provide target audience and actors with the proper tools, such as: (1) the development of prevention strategies and approaches in and through sport, as well as (2) public awareness-raising activities through supporting transnational projects that create tools and initiatives for social inclusion and prevention of radicalisation.

#### **Volunteering and Employability**

**Support volunteering in sport as a means of non-formal education and youth employability.**

As volunteering in sport helps young people exercise democracy and gain skills and competences in an informal way that are important assets to employability, European sport stakeholders shall recognise the value of non-formal and informal learning in and through sport.

This could be achieved within the next EU Work Plan by coordinating the development and implementation of a recognition instrument (e.g. Sport Pass) that helps document the development of skills and competences gained through sport and volunteering in sport.



### Sport diplomacy

**Take young people's needs and interest into account while formulating sport diplomacy strategies.**

As sport's role in public diplomacy is an increasing topic across the globe and Europe, decision makers at local, national and European levels are turning to soft power resources such as sport in order to create a more favourable image for their territories. ENGSO Youth believes that youth sport has unique role in building bridges between cultures and societies and young people should be the promoters of mutual understanding, peace and development. That is why European sport stakeholders shall consult with and involve young generations within and outside of Europe into the formulation of sport diplomacy strategies.

The EU Work Plan for Sport shall discuss the topic of sport diplomacy, and the active involvement of young people shall be ensured into this work, by using open (online and traditional) consultation methods.

### Active lifestyle and participation in sport and physical activity

**Mobilise youth with the help of technology and innovation.**

When promoting active lifestyle and participation in sport and physical activity, especially that of young people, ENGSO Youth would call for the help of what has an amazing power besides sport to bring young people together: technology and innovation. That is the reason why active lifestyle and sports participation shall be promoted with the cross-sector co-operation of sport, youth, technology and innovation.

The EU Work Plan for Sport shall provide opportunities to strengthen cross-sector co-operation, raise awareness and collect good practice examples by organising a seminar with

thematic sessions and report on how the cross-sector cooperation between sport, youth, technology and innovation can promote active lifestyle and participation in sport and physical activity.

### Sustainable development (SD)

**Contribute to SD and mainstream SD into sport policies.**

ENGSO Youth believes that sport stakeholders can become role models and take positive action in respecting other people and our planet; more than that, contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Global Goals for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. On the other hand, SD shall be mainstreamed into European and national policy-making in the field of sport.

The preparation of a study on the contribution of sport to SD and practical guidance on the mainstreaming of SD into sport policies shall be included into the outputs of the EU Work Plan for Sport.

### Funding

**Allocate structural support to European, voluntary-based sports organisations from the Erasmus+ Sport Chapter.**

As the Union shall take into account sports structures based on voluntary activity (Lisbon Treaty, Art.165 §1), and professional management can support voluntary activity (EU study on volunteering, 2009), ENGSO Youth proposes that annual or multi-annual operating grants shall be allocated to the structural support and capacity building of a wide range of sports organisations whose activities promote volunteering at European level, with the guarantee of the plurality of European sports organisations.

### Partly decentralise the Erasmus+ Sport Programme

In order to ensure that the Programme reaches the grassroots level, and better considers the fact that sports



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European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation  
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structures vary a great extent in different Member States, the Erasmus+ Sport Programme shall be partly decentralised, using the structures already in place for implementation, such

as the National Agencies that run the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme.

### ENGSO Youth

Giving youth a real say in sports

We are the European youth sports organisation, the autonomous youth organisation of the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO). ENGSO Youth focuses on the youth sport-for-all sector in Europe and represents young Europeans under the age of 35 in sports in 33 countries.

— We are at the forefront of youth sport advocacy at European level. ENGSO Youth actively works on current youth sport issues (equal opportunities, fair play, fight against discrimination and doping, healthy lifestyle, social inclusion, sustainable development, volunteering, youth employment) with its member organisations (National Sport Confederations or National Olympic Committees), European institutions and partners from civil society.

We involve a growing number of young Europeans and organisations in our work to develop ENGSO Youth capacities in more European regions, foster cross-sector cooperation, and develop projects with long-lasting, multiplying and self-perpetuating effects on current youth sport issues to leave a lasting legacy.