

IMPLEMENTING THE EQF IN THE SPORTS SECTOR

2006 – 4537 / 001 – 001 LE2 707EQF

Acronym: EQF-Sports

Duration: 2 years from 1st January 2007 – 31st December 2008

Promoter: EOSE “*European Observatoire of Sport and Employment*”

Project Website: www.eose.org

1. Summary:

“*Implementing EQF-Sports*” project is part of a process lasting since more than ten years intending to link all stakeholders of the sports sector (public authorities, social partners -employers and employees representatives-, the European sport movement, the education and training providers, and support organisations such as EOSE) to specific European networks/organisations collaborating with each other in the field of vocational education and training. At the end of the year 2005, a strategic committee called the “**European Sport Workforce Development Alliance (ESWDA)**” was created to bring together the key European stakeholders and network organisations working in the sport sector to share and discuss issues around the development of the European Sport Workforce. The stakeholders active in this alliance coordinated by EOSE are the European Association of Sport Employers (EASE), the European Olympic Committee (EOC), The European Non Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), UNI-EUROPA (UNI-MEI), the European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment (ENSSEE), the European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA) and the EU-Sports Office.

The content is a direct outcome of the “Vocasport” project, supported by the “Euroseen” Leonardo project, funded by the European commission (Sports Unit) and run in 2004 under the scientific direction of the European Observatoire of Sports and Employment (EOSE). Within that framework, more than 100 key stakeholders coming from the 25 EU countries have been invited to comment a pre-report on the situation, trends and perspectives of the VET in sports in Europe and to present their views on key actions to be promoted. They have considered that the EQF/Copenhagen process was providing key responses to sectoral problems. In particular, ***implementing the flexibility and the transparency of the sports VET systems*** has been seen as a way to tackle 4 of the main weaknesses of sports national systems: a) short careers; b) high mobility of workers; c) dominant non formal learning; d) numerous volunteers with no recognition of their competences.

Three areas of activities, related to the EQF process, have been considered as priorities by the sports sector stake holders:

- 1) ***Develop a European industry framework of activities, standard occupations and related competences for the sports sector based on the EQF levels and descriptors;***
- 2) ***Establish and strengthen relationships between National Qualification Authorities and the sports sector representatives at national and European level to promote a common view on qualifications and qualification framework in the sports sector;***
- 3) ***Develop and disseminate the principles and mechanisms supporting the implementation of the EQF/Copenhagen process in our sector following an evaluation of their actual situation.***

2. Methodology:

Our methodology comprises 5 main steps:

- An **evaluation of the situation** in each of the 25 E.U. countries, progresses and difficulties, proposals to overcome them;
- The elaboration of a **draft synthesis** including the proposals,
- A **consultation process** addressed to the stakeholders and based on the synthesis;
- A **revision of the document** following stakeholders remarks;
- The **submission** of the revised document to the stakeholders in a formal conference for final approval and follow up decisions.

3. Outcomes:

The **main expected outcomes** are the production of:

- Commonly agreed “Guides” on principles, on a methodology and on key contents to provide a **common European sectoral framework on sport sector activities, sport standard occupations and related competences/learning outcomes, defining a European common device for sports qualifications in relation to the EQF**;
- Commonly agreed “Guides” on principles, on a methodology and on key contents to provide **effective cooperation between the national qualification systems, frameworks and authorities and their counterparts representatives of the sports sector at national and European level**;
- Commonly agreed “Guides” on principles, on a methodology and on key contents to **integrate into the sports sector the EQF principles, methods and tools** including **credit transfer and accumulation, validation of non formal and informal learning, quality assurance to assess qualifications**.

Those “Guides” will be adapted to the sector needs from previous experiences run on a smaller scale (“good practices” of sports sub-sectors) and/ or from documents produced by the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). They will be disseminated in the whole sector, primarily to policy makers, “developers” and training providers. An organisation will be settled to update regularly those documents.

Considering the strength of the European networks and organisations participating in our project, we expect a large mobilisation of the sector and target the implementation of the EQF process in the sports sector, based on these principles methods and tools, in at least 2/3 of the E.U. countries before 2010.

4. Partnership:

	Name of Partner	Country	Website
1	EOSE – <i>European Observatoire of Sport and Employment</i>	Europe	www.eose.org
2	UNI-EUROPA (EURO-MEI)	Europe	www.union-network.org
3	EOC – <i>European Olympic Committees</i>	Europe	www.eurolympic.org
4	INCUAL – <i>Instituto Nacional de las Cualificaciones</i>	Spain	www.mec.es/educa/incual
5	EASE – <i>European Association of Sport Employers</i>	Europe	www.easesport.org
6	ENSSEE - <i>European Network Sports Science, Education & Employment</i>	Europe	www.enssee.de
7	EHFA – <i>European Health and Fitness Association</i>	Europe	www.ehfa.eu
8	IDP – <i>Instituto do Desporto de Portugal / Sport Institute of Portugal</i>	Portugal	www.idesporto.pt
9	SkillsActive	UK	www.skillsactive.org

PROMOTER

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