

THE *ERASMUS* PROGRAMME FOR SPORT

A proposal to enhance the “European dimension” in Sport

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To those who believe in sport in its simplest and genuine form and for its high values.

Presentation and legal basis

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union entered into force on 1 December 2009.

Art. 165 TFEU clearly state that:

“The Union shall contribute to the promotion of European sporting issues, while taking account of the specific nature of sport, its structures based on voluntary activity and its social and educational function.

*On this basis the Union aims at developing the **European dimension in sport**.*

It shall do so by promoting fairness and openness in sporting competitions and cooperation between bodies responsible for sports, and by protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest sportsmen and sportswomen.”

Thanks to this new legal basis the Union can focus on **amateurs**, i.e. the “ones who play for fun”.

An “**Erasmus Sports Programme**” (hereafter the “ESP”) could be conceived “on the basis of the programme that has enabled more than two million European students to study abroad.”

A line of budget could be assigned to such a programme for the years 2013 and following

Purposes

The main purposes of the Erasmus Sports Programme are:

- 1.) to allow Athletes to get trained in foreign clubs, sports academies, and sports associations;
- 2.) to easy the exchange of Athletes who are also enrolled at University or Sports Schools;
- 3.) to learn a language as well as a different culture, a different way to work and to play;
- 4.) to foster the exchange of *volunteers* at national or international sports events.

Scope

Taking into due account the specificity of Sport and the autonomy of each sports organization, the Erasmus program can cover both individual as well as team sport.

Co-operation agreements can be signed among sports Olympic committees, federations, leagues, amateur clubs, sports academies but also local and regional authorities, under the sponsorship of the European Union aiming at:

1. Organization of “Erasmus Sports Training Camps” during summer period and school holidays:

A federation, a league or a club could host clubs and individual athletes coming from all over Europe; the young athletes could participate to joint training sessions.

2. Organization of trans-national competitions for amateurs.

In the spirit of the Erasmus values “travel and discover” a tournament can involve young athletes coming from EU Member States.

With a modest economic support covering travel and/or accommodation expenses by the relevant institutions or organisers, many students/players will be glad to travel across Europe for several days of sports and fun. The organizing city shall be an attractive destination.

The European Union in general and its Erasmus programme in particular will gain in terms of image.

3. Composition of European Sports Teams (young athletes coming from different countries) could play *exhibitions games*.

4. Involvement of volunteers coming from different States in international sports events.

They could be part of the organization and be granted some tickets for International competitions involving National Teams and/or European clubs. Depending of the level and the competition, the number of places available will change.

All the above agreements could be concluded under the (political and/or financial) sponsorship of the European Union and within the framework of an “**Erasmus Sports Programme**”.

Addressees

Young athletes from the age of 15 to 25 could join the **Erasmus Training Camps** according to the specificities of every sports association

Athletes over 18 years who are also enrolled at Universities or at Sports schools could already benefit of the existing Erasmus programme which is already well know and recognised.

Volunteers from the age of 15 to the age of 35 could be involved in the organization of Sports events.

Costs

All eligible and selected players can profit of Erasmus experience abroad on their costs but clubs and sports associations could also cover some costs related to travel and accommodation.

Of course, if the Erasmus Sports Programme will be sponsored by the European Commission, the Erasmus Athletes could finance EU grants.

Private Organizations, regions and local entities could also sponsor the Erasmus Training Camps and the organization of European tournaments.

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The Erasmus programme for Sport would really enhance the “European dimension” in Sport and benefit millions of EU citizens.

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