

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SETTING-UP A EUROPEAN SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL FOR THE SPORT AND ACTIVE LEISURE SECTOR

ESSC-SPORT PROJECT



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THE SPORT AND ACTIVE LEISURE SECTOR AND ITS CHALLENGES

Sport and active leisure is a young and dynamic sector which can have a positive impact on individuals and communities across Europe.

Sport is embedded within all communities, affecting a large percentage of the population, and can be used to address wider European and Government agendas including health, social inclusion, regeneration and education.

If the sector is to meet its challenges and impact positively on these wider agendas, it is imperative that those working and volunteering in sport are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge through fit for purpose qualifications.



THE FEASIBILITY STUDY: A CONCRETE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SECTOR

The concept of **European Sector Skills Councils** (also named European Sector Council on Employment and Skills) has been promoted by the European Commission with a view to acquiring a deeper understanding of skills needs at sectoral level.

In a consortium partnership with the social dialogue group (EASE and UNI-Europa Sport) and the support of SkillsActive UK, EOSE is embarking on a feasibility study funded by the European Commission to explore with the whole sport and active leisure sector whether there is **DEMAND** for an ESSC and whether it has the **CAPABILITY** and **CAPACITY** to establish one.



According to the expectations from the European Commission, an ESSC should be:

- ▼ A focal point for gathering Labour Market Information and research, identifying and tackling skills and workforce issues at the national and European level;
- ▼ Able to collect, develop and exchange data and tools;
- ▼ A focus for policy discussion at EU and national level to develop joint policy and promote actions in the sector;
- ▼ Able to link education and employment in an organised and strategic way;
- ▼ Focussed on issues relating to both initial entry training and on-going professional development;
- ▼ Able to support and advise on policy – e.g. mobility, recognition of skills and qualifications, tackling unemployment, social cohesion, sport policy etc.

3 | EXPECTED BENEFITS

The consortium believe that in its overall mission, the European Sector Skills Council for the sport and active leisure sector could seek to be a focal point for:

✓ **UNDERSTANDING** the labour market (e.g. realities, tendencies, gaps) based on reliable researches and analysis;

✓ **SHARING** of best practice, tools and information between countries;

✓ **ENCOURAGING** exchanges and debates to help end the fragmentation of the sector;

✓ **PROBLEM SOLVING** through collaborative and transnational exchanges;

✓ **SPEAKING** on behalf of the sector to the European Commission on education and employment issues;

✓ **GIVING A VOICE** to employers and employees in the development of education and training.



And to promote:

✓ **A DIALOGUE** between the worlds of employment and education;

✓ **RELEVANT AND ACCESSIBLE** education and training for entry and career progression;

✓ **THE IDENTITY AND POTENTIAL** of the sector as an area of economic significance;

✓ **THE ROLE** of social partners;

✓ **EMPLOYMENT IN THE SECTOR** by providing clear information on job and career opportunities for people in a growing sector.

4 | YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD

This Feasibility Study needs to determine whether the sport and active leisure sector is ready, willing and able to engage with this opportunity of setting up a European Sector Skills Council.

With this study the sport and active leisure sector is given the opportunity to take its place as a sector of relevance while joining other major ones considered as leaders in this initiative (e.g. Textiles & Leather, Commerce and Construction).

A first important step in the study is to **assess whether there is sufficient demand and need** to progress in this direction and to **identify what needs to happen** to ensure the successful establishment of such a mechanism for the sector.

The consortium of the study therefore invites and warmly encourages you all to **complete the online questionnaire** developed and thank you in advance for your contribution.

Please feel free to contact the project's management team (eosesec@eose.org) if you have any questions or would like to share your comments or experience, or if you are willing to collaborate in the development work.

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