Reflections and Approach to Dual Career in the EU

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Agenda

* Guidelines – Promoting Dual Career in the EU
* Stakeholders
* Master thesis research
* Suggestions for improvement
* Dual Career Consulting
* AU Elitesport – Aarhus University

Guidelines - Promoting Dual Career in the EU



* A2B project - basis for the Guidelines
  - Dual career after secondary school
  - Addressing: Athletes, Sports Organizations, Educational Institutions, Businesses

A first attempt to establish EU guidelines for dual career

Athletes

- Self-awareness of dual career
- Motivation
- Emphasis on career planning
- Protect the moral and physical integrity of athletes
- Consulting by former athletes
- Connection with different stakeholders

Businesses

- Positive perception of athletes
- Recruitment evaluation
- Benefits from employing athletes
- Connection to the other stakeholders

Sports Organizations

- Act in a socially responsible manner
- Address the dual career topic
- Supporting and developing athletes‘:
  - Education
  - Professional skills
- Branding the athlete in the professional world

Educational Institutions

- Crucial stakeholder
- Support the athlete in obtaining education
- Support athletes in dual career transition
- Implement cooperation with the stakeholders
- Encourage athletes sport and academic growth

Stakeholders
Specific Development

* Dual career **programs** for businesses
* Business **Internships** for athletes
* **Scholarships** for athletes that study
* Organizing athletes **promotional events**
* Developing **behaviour** that supports dual career (university staff, coaches)
* **Focus on local development** (diversity within the EU)

Master Thesis Research

* Qualitative research
* Interviews with 5 – 8 Slovak athletes
* Examine
  * Dual career experience
  * Attitudes to education during athletic career
  * Support system
  * The influence of transnationalism

Aim: To understand the athlete‘s needs and challenges, and form specific local suggestions.

Suggestions
New dual career programmes

* **Implementing best practices**
  * Cooperation with a representative
  * Experience from an already well-functioning programme
  * Knowledge and understanding of the local needs and mentality

* **Drawing on already existing structures**
  * Sport high schools -> universities

Suggestions
Addressing athlete‘s interest

* Providing opportunities in all fields of studies
* **Observation:**
  * Tradition of athletes studying PE
  * Limited opportunities in the field of study
* **Suggestion for improvement**
  * Cooperation ***expanded to other faculties***

* Alternative sources of dual career support

Dual Career Consulting

- www.dualcareer.com

- Sharing available knowledge
- Promote education among athletes
- Promote athletes personalities and competence
- Career planning for athletes
- Support athletes in dual career transition
- Create a network on dual career for all stakeholders
- Consult the stakeholders how to benefit from dual career

AU Elitesport
Aarhus University

* Dual career program
  * Aarhus University, Denmark, since 2011
* **The aim:** to assist elite athletes that study at the university
* 3 main advisors (daily manager: Jens Bundgaard)
* **National initiative:** Initiated by the principal of Aarhus University as a reaction to the call of the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (*currently the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education*)

AU Elitesport
How it developed

- **Athletes inclusion criteria:**
  - Competing at the highest national level or at international level
  - Sport practices occupy a significant part of the daily schedule (approx. 15 hours/week)
  - Being an active student at the university
- **Finding the athletes**
  - Through contacting coaches, associations
  - Help from Team Danmark
- Currently - around **120 enrolled athletes**

AU Elitesport
Challenges and Practices

* **Challenges**
  * Attendance of classes and/or exams
  * Extension of studies

* **Common Practices**
  * Video recordings
  * Student assistants
  * Sitting exams abroad
  * Skype lessons
  * Contacting teachers/Board of studies

AU Elitesport

International Students

* **International students**
  * the program is ready to assist also international athletes
  * Has not been tried out on international athletes

* **Limitation:**
  * Bachelor studies are mostly in Danish
  * Master studies are more accessible (English)

  * Website: http://elitesport.au.dk/

Reflections

* Main focus - Elite Athletes
* Unexplored situation in many EU countries
* Lack of high school education - for transnational athletes

Questions

* Questions
* Comments