EU initiatives
in the field of
dual careers of athletes

Recent EU-level developments

Bart Ooijen
Sport Unit
European Commission

EAS Network
Trondheim Norway,
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European Commission



Key documents in the field of dual careers for athletes

- EU funded studies
- Conferences and seminars
- Projects
- Professional experiences in the sector
- Proposal for guidelines group of specific experts from all over Europe

  (academics, former athletes, training centers staff, coaches, sport organisations and Olympic movement)

Key strategic documents in the field of dual careers for athletes

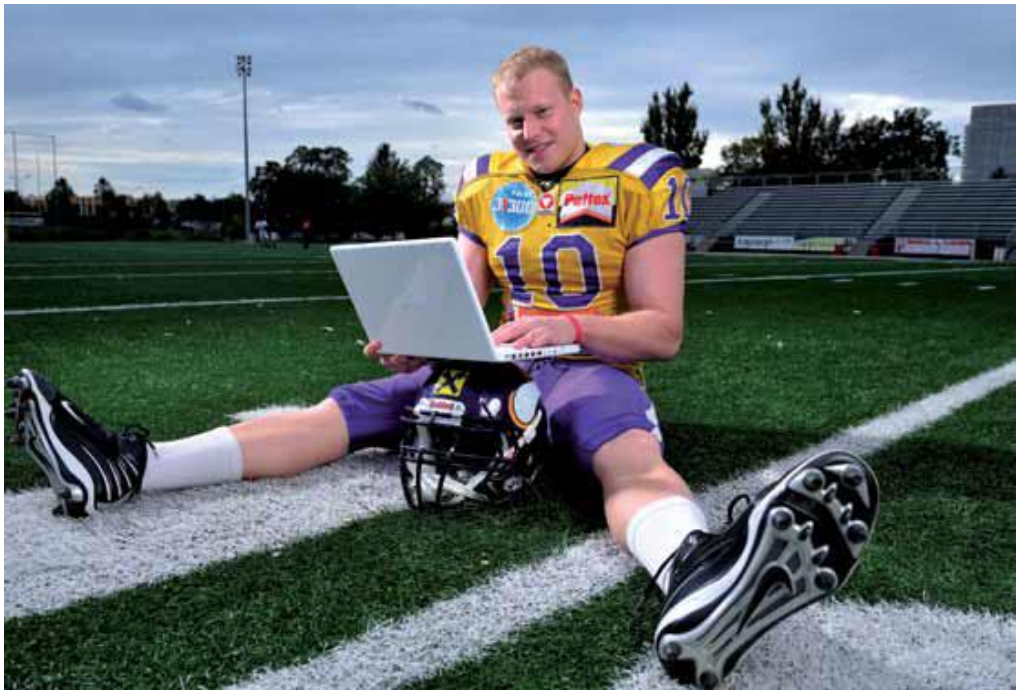
- ❑ **Council conclusions 2008 asking attention for dual careers**
- ❑ **Communication on "Developing the European Dimension in Sport" (European Commission) – Jan. 2011**
- ❑ **EU Work Plan for Sport for 2011-2014 (Council) – May 2011**

- ➢ **Resolution on the European Dimension of Sport (European Parliament – Feb. 2012**
- ➢ **Opinion on the 2011 Communication on sport (Committee of the Regions) – Dec. 2011**

EU Workplan for Sport 2011-2014
Education and training in sport

- Draft **EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes** (combination of high-level sports training with general education or work)

- Report on the inclusion of sport qualifications in National Qualification Frameworks with reference to the European Qualification Framework (EQF): increase transparency of diplomas issued by the sport sector


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Education and training in sport

Goal of the guidelines on dual careers of athletes:

- inspiration for national dual career guidelines;

- raising awareness about the concept of dual careers.

- to sensitise stakeholders to create the right environment for dual careers of athletes, including an appropriate policy, legal and financial framework

- proposal for special arrangements at European level

Principles guidelines Dual careers of Athletes

- **Respect for diversity, culture and traditions in MS and in different sports** and taking in account the value and variety of models already developed in the field of dual careers

- **Inclusive approach:** equal opportunities for all athletes including athletes with a disability!

- Importance of a **safeguarded development** of young athletes

Shared vision on dual careers

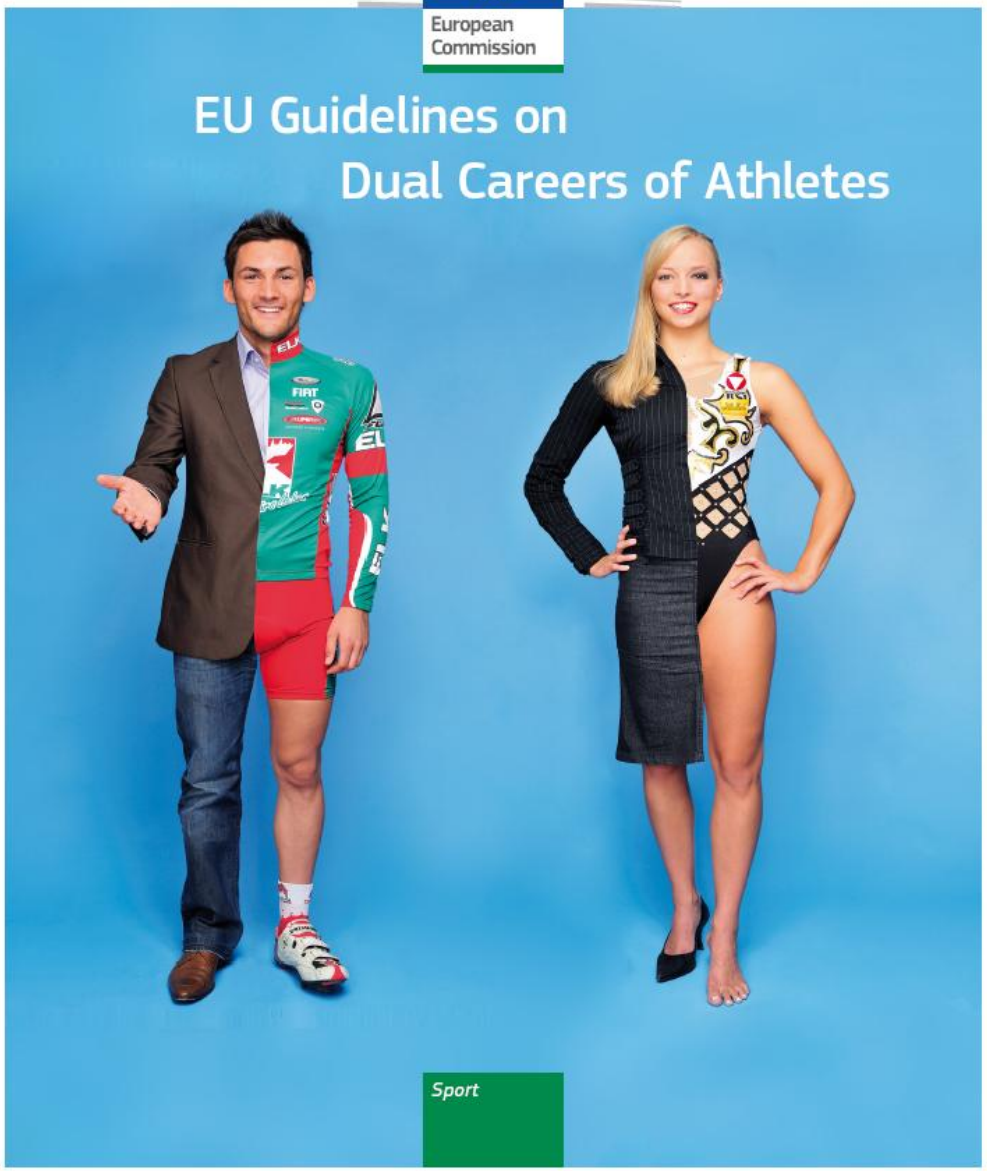
- Special arrangements are needed to avoid the situation where talented and elite sportspeople are forced to choose between education and sport.
- Avoid early school leavers, need for more graduated young people un EU. Support innovation in education
- Recognition that there is a life after the sport career
- Education can enrich the athletes development in their career
- Expectations that high elite athletes and professional players will be role models for society even after their sport career

Shared vision on dual careers

- Different **types of sport** ask for **specific** attention
  - Early specialisation sports
  - Disability sports
  - Winter sports

- Need for cross sectoral approach at national level

- Tailor made support based on sustainable policy, legal and financial frameworks


European Commission
EU Guidelines on
Dual Careers of Athletes
Sport

Guidelines on Dual Careers

- **21 Guidelines for policy areas directly linked to dual career provisions**
  - **Sport policy and its stakeholders**
  - **Education policy and its stakeholders**
  - **Employment policies and its stakeholders**
- **5 Guidelines for policy areas conditional for dual careers**
  - **Health policy**
  - **Finance policy**
- **5 Guidelines for the European Dimension of dual careers in Sport**
  - **Training and study abroad**
  - **curriculum development at EU level**
- **5 Guidelines on dissemination, monitoring and evaluation**
- ***Including 22 inspiring practices from different EU Member States***

- **Supporting services are important, but will not work systematically well, if other arrangements are not in place based on sustainable policy, legal and financial frameworks**

Examples of guidelines in the field of sport

- **Sport academies and high-performance training centres** should only be recognised and supported by public and private sport authorities if some minimum requirements have been fulfilled**:**
  - Combination between sports training and general education in the framework of a **lifelong learning strategy**;
  - **Qualified staff** (including specific qualification for disabled athletes);
  - Supporting **services** including medical, psychological, educational and career assistance;
  - Quality criteria for **safe and accessible sport facilities and services**;
  - Transparency about **rights of athletes** (e.g. internal code of behaviour, ombudsperson);
  - Collaboration with athletes' **social support network** (e.g. parents).

Examples of guidelines in the field of education

- Public authorities and stakeholders should develop a **framework** for dual careers in sport and educational institutes in which **specific arrangements** (e.g. flexibility, adapted curriculum, e-learning, supplementary tutoring, the use of facilities and sport services and supporting services) are included.

- Public authorities should support the development of an **accreditation system** for educational institutes with a sport profile and involved in dual careers of student-athletes, taking account of the specific characteristics of the different types of education.

- Educational authorities should promote and support cooperation among educational institutes to develop learning curricula, programmes and materials using either a shared **Virtual Learning Environment** (VLE) as a platform, or a shared protocol to be adopted for local VLE platforms.

Examples of guidelines in the field of employment

- Public authorities in sport and employment should set up a **network** of complementary public and private partners enabling elite athletes, including athletes with a disability, to **combine in an optimal way their athletic and vocational careers in public services (military, police, customs etc.) and private businesses.**

- Public authorities and stakeholders in sport and education should promote **balanced pathways for retiring athletes** so that they can prepare for, initiate and develop a vocational career after the end of their sporting career.

- Sport authorities should support initiatives from sport organisations, academy networks and **Olympic Committees in particular with job placement organisations and companies and major sponsors**.

European dimension of dual careers

- Athletes in sport disciplines with a **high training frequency** (often already at secondary school level) and with a **need for specific facilities for longer periods** (winter sports, sports with many international tournaments) need to train and study for a number of years in different settings and **often abroad**.

- **Smaller countries** do not have all the **facilities** (in sport and/or higher education) to combine education and sport in their home country, so that their athletes look for this combination abroad.

- There is a lack of transparency in **quality systems** and in the monitoring of (inter)national high-performance sport training centres or special sport schools in various Member States to safeguard the protection of young sportspeople.

- The end of the career of an athlete is challenging in particular with a view to their future **employability** for those athletes who train and compete outside their home country.

Examples of guidelines in the field of EU dimension

- provide financial and organisational support for the development and implementation of **dual career mobility networks** of cooperating sports organisations and educational institutes.

- to encourage and support the leading educational institutions and universities in Member States, in partnership with sport stakeholders, to participate in transnational consortia to **develop shared curricula and educational programmes for elite sportspersons.** Such programmes could involve:
  - common degree programmes,
  - common modules within degree programmes
  - shared curriculum resources.

Impact of the guidelines on dual careers

- Council Conclusions on Dual Careers of Athletes in Council May 2013
- Discussion with sport movement at EU sport forum in Vilnius (30 September/1 October 2013)
- Feasibility study on possible future mobility measures in the field of sport (2013)
- Call for Proposals on learning mobility in sports
- Support networks and projects through new sport programme 2014 – 2020

Council Conclusions on Dual Careers of Athletes (May 2013)

C 168/10 EN Official Journal of the European Union 14.6.2013

Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on dual careers for athletes

(2013/C 168/04)

Council Conclusions on Dual Careers of Athletes (May 2013)

— consider the benefits of putting in place a quality accreditation system at national level for dual careers services within training centres, sport schools, sport academies, sport clubs, sport federations and/or universities,

— consider supporting educational institutions at national level and between Member States to cooperate in relation to adapted education programmes and work as a matter of priority on establishing equivalence between qualification levels, as described in the European Qualifications Framework,

— consider measures which facilitate and promote the geographical mobility of athletes to allow the combination of their sporting careers with education programmes abroad,

INVITE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO:

1. on the basis of the EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes, consider appropriate follow up in the framework of the second work plan on sport of the Council, including looking at ways to measure the implementation of policy actions in the field of dual careers across the EU, which can be used by Member States on a voluntary basis;

2. provide support to dual careers networks, which bring together athlete associations, businesses and chambers of commerce and labour, sport organisations, educational institutions, national and local authorities and coaches to allow for the exchange of information and best practice at EU level;

3. promote and support the sharing of best practices in the EU regarding dual careers of athletes, inter alia through support for projects and the dissemination of their results under relevant funding schemes and programmes;

Mobility measures

- Feasibility study on possible future mobility measures in the field of sport (2013)

- Call for Proposals on learning mobility in sports
  - 42 applications in the field of mobility with a focus on good governance and/or dual careers
  - Results expected to be published mid october

Support networks and projects through new sport programme 2014 – 2020

Erasmus Plus (2014-2020)

- Proposed new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport ("new LLP/Youth"; sport chapter)

- Now under final negotiation between the Council of the EU (28 Member States) and the European Parliament, which will together take the final decision in November 2013

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Sport

Objectives of the Sport Chapter of Erasmus+ are:

- making European sport fair and clean, by supporting the fight against doping, match fixing and violence, as well as all kinds of intolerance and discrimination.
- promoting and supporting good governance in sport (for example by increasing the representation of women in the management of sport organisations).
- making it easier for athletes to combine sports training with study or work (so-called dual careers of athletes).
- promoting voluntary activities in sport, as well as supporting sport as a tool for social inclusion, equal opportunities and health-enhancing physical activity.

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Sport



The programme will underpin the implementation of the EU Work Plan for Sport.

Actions supported by the programme will be in line with policy documents and guidelines of the Council and of the Commission such as:

- EU Physical Activities Guidelines
- EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes

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Sport Action

Erasmus+ would provide support for the following activities:

- Collaborative partnerships, promoting the transfer of know-how and good practices.
- Non-profit European sport events which promote volunteering, social inclusion, equal opportunities, physical activity and equal access to sport for all.
- Support for strengthening the evidence base for policy making.
- Dialogue with relevant European stakeholders.

Implementation of programme

- **Annual Call for proposals**
- **Studies**
- **Structured dialogue**

Programme guide with all conditions foreseen

Implementation of EU guidelines and conclusions on dual careers starting point for support!

Budget for the Sport Chapter

- No complete clarity yet
- Total proposed amount over 7 years for transnational projects and events in the field of sport: € 260 million
- Reasonable budget that will allow us to concentrate on those actions that have a clear EU added value and address problems and issues that cannot be dealt with effectively at national level.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/sport

Thank you
for your attention !