



European Athlete as Student

Voluntary Organisation registration number VO/1270, Malta
Villanueva Building, 99, Hannieqa Street, Ghaxaq GXQ1025, Malta

12. September 2017, opening of the Sport Summit 2017 in Aarhus

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Organizing Committee and ESAA, Distinguished Delegates of the EAS Network, Delegates of SNE, ICCE, and ENSE, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the second time, an Annual Conference of EAS, the European Athlete as Student Network is held in Aarhus, the first time in 2009, this year in the joint event of the 2017 Sport Summit.

Let me thank the Aarhus University and prof. Jens Christensen, ESAA and dr. Ole Keldorf and the Organizing Committee for having dedicated time, efforts and expertise in the organization of this Conference in the European Capital of Culture 2017.

Being fully dedicated to dual career of student athletes, EAS has four pillars:

Networking as the link between educational institutions and sports organizations to promote fruitful cooperation for the exchanges of best practices in dual career for facilitating higher education for European athletes.

Research as the means for advancing knowledge on dual career

European Projects to tests of innovative approaches to dual career

The annual conference to inform EAS members about on-going best practices on dual career, to promote cooperation between institutions, coaches, teachers and students, to discuss key issues on dual career at local, national and European levels and to disseminate information

For its role in dual career, EAS is a stakeholder of the European Parliament, European Commission and the Council of Europe.

In the last years networking has involved also fruitful partnerships with two important International Organizations related to athletes as students: the European EUSA and the International FISU.

With EUSA EAS has collaborated for the finalization of two recently funded European Projects.



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The EMPATIA project, coordinated by the University of Ljubljana, focuses on a dual career educational programme for parents, and the AMID project, coordinated by the University of Salzburg, focuses on the migrating athletes.

Both projects intend to go beyond European borders.

Actually, these projects are those in which EAS is a full partner. Many others involving EAS members have been accomplished, are still going on, and will start next January 2018. Let me thank the EAS members who have a proactive attitude and largely contribute to the development of dual career at both national and European levels.

You could attend their presentations and I am sure that you will appreciate the variety of methodological approaches, in line with the kaleidoscopic nature of European sport and education. I am sure that you will have plenty of opportunity to interact with lecturers and get acquainted with the most updated results of their project activities.

Surely, EAS has been, is, and will be at their side to support their work in achieving meaningful results and in disseminating findings and outcomes.

The relevant partnership established with the Educational Committee of FISU allowed envisaging several activities with athletes and sport managers. In particular, the 2017 Summer Universiades in Taipei were not only a wonderful opportunity to appreciate outstanding sport performances but also to place a dual career laboratory involving elite student-athletes and FISU managers coming from all over the world.

Let me thank dr. Verena Burk and Kole Gjelošhaj for their excellent collaboration in this dual career joint venture.

Indeed, this wonderful event elicited a variety of strong emotions and corroborated our commitment to provide talented and elite athletes the best opportunities for pursuing excellence also in education for their preparation to a future life at the end of their athletic career.

Furthermore, the international activity of EAS included also the participation to two relevant international events: the 2016 International Athlete Services Forum (IASF) in Singapore and the 6th World Taekwondo Championship in South Korea.



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These events gave a worldwide recognition of the role EAS plays in dual career within and beyond Europe, in line with the European policy towards sport diplomacy to promote worldwide European values.

Another pillar of EAS is the support to research on dual career. For this reason I strongly invite you to attend the presentation of the winner of the Bengt Nybelius Scholarship 2017.

This academic competition named after the founder of EAS has become highly targeted for dual career oriented research and a number of outstanding manuscripts have been evaluated. Thus, do not miss the presentation of Lukas Linnér, the winner of the 2017 Bengt Nybelius Scholarship on "Swedish university student-athletes' dual career scenarios and competences".

Then, the EAS General Assembly will follow.

In recognition of the massive efforts necessary to implement dual career policies and services, it is necessary to enhance partnership in Sports and Education, which was the theme of the EAS Conference of the past year.

In these days EAS is collaborating with the Austrian KADA, the British TASS, the Dutch AUAS, the French INSEP, the Sportlycee Luxembourg, and ADECCO on the implementation of dual career services.

In this respect, you do not want to miss the post-conference workshop "How to develop a Dual Career Mind Set in Youth Sport" organized in cooperation with ESAA. I deeply thank dr. Ole Keldorf for having envisaged and organized this workshop, which attracted more than 70 participants from different countries.

As in the past EAS Annual Conferences, I am sure that the 2017 Sport Summit could be a tremendous opportunity to facilitate a productive dialogue between EAS and other European associations in education and sports, in full respect of each other history, mission, and role.

I am sure that the participating networks will have plenty of opportunity to interact and to ponder new ideas. Indeed, EAS will be available to share its deep expertise in dual career with other stakeholders willing to collaborate in facilitating the holistic development of athletes as students.

Therefore, I do declare the 14 EAS Annual Conference open within the 2017 Sport Summit and thank again the Organizers of this unique event.
