



Education and Culture DG



***Education and Sport: Dual Careers***  
***Perspective of European Commission***  
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***10 September 2009, Aarhus - Denmark***

Every young talented athlete in the European Union should be able to benefit from both good quality education and sports training.

- *to ensure the reintegration of professional sportspersons into the labour market at the end of their sporting careers*
- *to safeguard their moral educational and professional interests*

**White Paper on Sport** (07/ 2007)



## **The main concerns on the career of talented young athletes:**

- The safeguarding of the development of young athletes;
- The balance between sports training and education;
- The balance between sports training and employment;
- The end-of-career phase  
(including consideration of athletes who leave the system earlier than planned).

**"the training of sportsmen and sportswomen in Europe"**

**An independent study by  
Tajineum consulting**

**Published by European Commission on 9 July 2008**



## **the development of young athletes**

Factors of importance:

- Age of beginning of intensive training in a particular sport
- Coach and sports programmes
- Arrangements with educational institutes
- Other athletes' services



## **Interruption of general education**

Factors of importance:

- Characteristics of competitions
- The age at which intensive training starts
- Economy of the sport:
- Lack of educational services trainings centres



## **Special measures taken by Member States and Sport**

- Maximum on duration of training
- Opportunities for young athletes with a disability



## **Actions European Commission**

- European Council's Declaration on Sport
- EU Working Group on Education and Training in Sport.
- EU Sport forum
- Financial support for dual training projects.
- Future EU Sport Programme





## **Implementation of the Action Plan “Pierre de Coubertin”**

### **Education and training**

- Need to develop flexible systems for combining high level sports and academic education for young athletes.
- Need for legal and political frameworks to be adapted to reach the requested level (e.g. education laws on exams, length of subsidised education period, post career facilities, adapted curriculum)
- The new EU Working Group "Education and Training in sport" to facilitate exchange of experiences and good practises between Member States.

## **Implementation of the Action Plan “Pierre de Coubertin”**

### **Education and training**

- New EU Working Group on Education and Training in Sport.
- First meeting of the Working Group in Brussels on 1 July 2009.
- Participants: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, United Kingdom.



## **Preparatory Action 2009**

- Providing policy support for the identification of future policy actions in the area of sport through studies, surveys, conferences and seminars
- Testing the establishment and functioning of suitable networks and good practices through [call for proposals](#)
- Budgetary line voted by European parliament: 7,5 millions Euros



## **Future Sportsprogramme (Lisbon Treaty)**

- Formal framework for political cooperation
- Possibility for incentive measures

### **PREPARATORY ACTIONS (2)**

- The specific nature of sport
- International dimension:
  - EU to speak with one voice
  - Cooperation international organisations
- Better mainstreaming of sport in other EU policies



## **Recommendations on Dual Careers (optional)**

- Improve the legal and financial framework for dual careers;
- Improve the level of quality control, medical support and personal development;
- Promote the dialogue between sports and education sector and governments in order to develop systems for combining high-level sports training and academic education;
- Clarify the role of local and national governments and the European Commission in terms of how they could solve or help solve some of the challenges young talented athletes face;
- Involve athletes in this process.



**Thank you for your  
attention !**

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