

Seminar - Sport Employs YOUrope

Recognise non formal education in sport to fight youth unemployment

1 – 5 October 2014, Roma - Italy

Background

Nowadays, one of the most challenging topic for young Europeans is unemployment. Combating youth unemployment should be a top priority to securing a positive future for young people. For this reason, we welcome European wide initiatives that promote youth-employment in the sport sector, and highlight the transferable skills that sport can develop. We are committed to supporting actions in favour of improving the opportunities of employment for young people across Europe.

To date almost 6 million (5.7) young people are currently unemployed in Europe (24% of the population) and a further 7.5 million young Europeans between 15 and 24 are not employed, not in education and not in training (NEETs). More than one in five young Europeans in the labour market cannot find a job; in Greece and Spain it is one in two. In the last four years, the overall employment rates for young people fell three times as much as for adults.

Research shows that youth unemployment can result in permanent scars, such as an increased risk of future unemployment, reduced levels of future earnings, loss of human capital, intergenerational transmission of poverty or less motivation to become autonomous and consequently found a family, contribute to society sustainable growth not less important contributing to negative demographic trends.

The sports sector in Europe has grown significantly in recent decades. However, employment in sport has grown nearly 60% in the last 10 years, as a result of the growth of participation in sport. A Eurobarometer study carried out in 2010 shows that a high proportion of Europeans in the 25 member states (40%), reported that they played sport at least once a week, compared with only 35% in 2003.

Many European governments are now recognising the need for policies that enhance the social value of sport. For example, a research report carried out by Ireland's leading 'think tank', the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), drew attention to the social capital produced through sport, including high levels of volunteerism, as well as the formation of social relationships (Delaney and Fahey, 2005). Sport as a youth friendly sector, with its great opportunities to volunteer, is a great tool for young people to raise their employability prospects through gaining the new competences, leadership capabilities, experiences, qualifications, mobility and confidence. The demand for sports related occupations including sport psychologists, physiotherapists, sports commentators, physical training coaches, and sport development roles, is likely to go up. The reluctance of young people to make their careers in sport, due to the unsociable hours, low pay and difficulties in securing employment also represent a real threat to the development of the sector, although this may be ameliorated by the largely positive image of sportspeople in modern economies.

Formal training and education in sport in Europe is currently underdeveloped, resulting in a significant skills gap throughout Europe. Where formal programmes do exist, education and training programmes, particularly in universities, have near autonomy in the design and content of courses. Qualifications offered by training systems often are not seen to match current market requirements and graduates do not have the practical skills employers require. There is also a lack of emphasis on lifelong learning and apprenticeships. In addition, the lack of standardised European educational qualifications can hinder mobility, and so greater transparency and quality assurance of training programmes are required (EZUS Lyon-1 et al, op. cit.). Suitable, accessible, and recognized training needs to be available at each level of

sport - professional/elite, semi-professional, and amateur as well as for volunteers. The role of sport in creating new social relationships and breaking down traditional barriers means that employees also need to be trained in the area of equality and diversity, while new policies around working with children also require staff to undergo stringent training and certification. Public relations and communications also need to be built into training programmes to help the development of sport in general, and technology skills, both general and specific, are required. If the sports sector is to continue to develop in the future and address new challenges there is a clear need for European governments to put systems in place to ensure that the required training and educational provision is available at all the different levels required and that such systems evolve in a way that reflects changing needs.

A seminar as means of recognition: non formal education in sport to fight youth unemployment

Youth unemployment is one of the main social and economic challenges of this decade. Whilst youth entrepreneurship is far from being the solution, it is likely to be part of a response. Youth work (non-formal learning) enables young people to develop the entrepreneurial skills that are important in their daily lives, in the work place, and when establishing a social or commercial activity. However, the role of youth work in sport context fostering entrepreneurial learning has rarely been a topic of inquiry in its own right. The relationship between the two has been either assumed or contested, but not thoroughly examined. Due to such specific context we have decided to contribute to fill this gap, provide means, data and information and demonstrate that enabling young people to take an active role in labour market using sport as main tool can be an answer to this dilemma. Furthermore, fight youth unemployment with our experiences in field of youth work, in non-formal education and the propagation of sport as a tool it is a very clear goal for us. Therefore, we propose this project in order to create and strengthen partnerships in Europe in favor of youth employment and sport. This project promote youth-employment in and through the sport sector, and highlight the transferable skills that sport can develop. We are committed to implement actions in favour of improving the opportunities of employment for young people across Europe.

The seminar will be organised to discuss about 3 main topic:

- Recognition of skills gained through NFE in sport to empower youth employability,
- Opportunities of employability and entrepreneurship in sport sector
- The importance to develop and strengthen network and partnerships to promote youth employment in and through sport.

Objectives

- To **promote the development of sustainable networks, the exchange of best practices as well as the recognition** of skills gained through **non-formal education** in sport sector enhancing the opportunity of employability of young people.
- **Promotes European cooperation in the youth field and sport**
- To stimulate **capacity building, entrepreneurial thinking and employability for young people**

Expected outcomes

- Participants transform their mind set as a youth entrepreneur in sport
- Create tool kit for recognition of skills gained through NFE in sport,
- Develop an awareness campaign to enhance the opportunity of employability of young people in the field of sport around Europe

Participants

The seminar is prepared for youth leaders, youth workers and young people not in education, in employment in training. All participants must also meet the following criteria:

- Be aged between 18 and 35 years;
- Have a demonstrated experience youth work or/and sport sectors;
- Ability to communicate and work in English.

The organisers aim to select and invite:

- 30 participants from organisation partners of the project
- 12 participants who are not employed, in education nor in training.

The selection will respect the principle of gender balance.

Practical details

Dates: 1st – 5th October 2014 (arrival 1st October in the morning and departure 5th October in the afternoon after 16)

Place: Roma, Italy

Financial and administrative conditions of participations

Accommodation and meals will be provided, for the duration of the seminar, for all the participants. Every participant should contribute at travel expenses with the 30% of the cost.

Procedure for applications

Fill the application form and send it to the email: info@youth-sport.net AND massini@youth-sport.net by the 15th of August 2014.