



Hand-Out FUNDING POSSIBILITIES FOR SPORTS IN THE EU-FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

EURATHLON (1995-1998) was the only Community programme ever supporting genuine sports-projects. In the absence of the legal basis in the Treaties this sport program had to be stopped. Even if there are no specific EU-sports-programmes, sport-projects can be funded indirectly under other programs relating to other Community policies, such as those dealing with health, youth, education, environment, regional policy etc. It is thus possible to demonstrate sport's valuable contribution to the implementation of a number of Community policies. However, pure sport events, such as championships, competitions, traditional international events etc. cannot receive any funding at all.

With the EUROPEAN YEAR OF EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT 2004 (EYES) the EU showed that the contribution of sport to the aims and objectives of the EU is recognised. It is a great opportunity for sports institutions and sports organisations to prove the high relevance of sport to the societies in Europe. Nevertheless, the programme will only support sports activities and projects in relation to education for one year. Therefore one of the main challenges for the future is the implementation of sport into the new European Treaty.

This hand-out was created to give an overview over the community programmes which might be most promising for Sports Activities in general and University Sports projects especially. Those activities which seem to be the most interesting for University Sports Activities on the first sight are marked with (→ **University Sport?**).

You will find some general descriptions of the programmes as well as links to the respective websites, where all the detailed information and application forms are published. Some of the programme descriptions were completed by examples of co-financed sport projects in the past. This might not be complete – but may give you a better understanding of what has a chance of being funded. The detailed descriptions of past projects you can also find on most of the websites of the respective programme.

This paper includes information from own research as well as from a paper distributed by the European Network of Non-Governmental Sports Organisations (ENGSO). It is for sure not complete and needs to be adjusted in the future. EUSA will strongly rely on the experience of (University) Sports Projects funded by the EU in order to supply extensive information.



EU-FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Generally speaking, sports projects that meet the criteria laid down by the program concerned (e.g. the LEONARDO DA VINCI program for vocational training, the YOUTH program, projects in the context of research programs etc.) can benefit from Community funding. But, sport has to be used as a “vehicle” to achieve a “higher aim” such as better health, anti-racism, social cohesion etc. EU-funding is always a supplement to national funding. Thus, EU-funds are implemented according to the principle of additionality (co-financing) which means on the one hand that a project will never be financed by 100 percent by the EU; on the other hand EU-funding will never replace a national financial instrument. Furthermore, the experience proves that “networking” is a very important factor for the project. Initiators of sport-projects can greatly enhance their chances for a successful EU-funding, when at a preliminary stage the initiator tries to involve partners from other sectors of interest for the project such as the economy, agriculture, tourism, educational institutions etc.

COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND PROGRAMMES

1.) 2004: European Year of Education through Sport

The EUROPEAN YEAR OF EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT shall have the following objectives:

- to raise the awareness of educational and sports organisations of the need for cooperation to develop education through sport and its European dimension, bearing in mind the great interest shown by young people in all types of sports;
- to take advantage of the values conveyed by sport to increase knowledge and skills, enabling young people to develop their physical capabilities and inclination to personal effort, as well as social capabilities such as teamwork, solidarity, tolerance and fair play in a multicultural context;
- to raise awareness of the positive contribution made by voluntary work to informal education, particularly for young people;
- to promote the educational value of mobility and pupil exchanges, particularly in a multicultural environment, through the organisation of sports and cultural meetings as part of school activities;
- to encourage the exchange of good practice concerning the potential role of sport in education systems in order to promote the social inclusion of disadvantaged groups;
- to establish a better balance between intellectual and physical activities during school life by encouraging sport in school activities;
- to examine the problems linked to the education of young sportsmen and women engaged in competitive sport.

Co-financed projects should promote the objectives of the European Year, particularly in one or more of the following ways:

- cooperation projects between educational institutions and sporting organisations intended to integrate practice of a sport into formal education in a structured and longlasting way, and to incorporate an element of sport into the other subjects on the curriculum(→ **University Sport?**);
- projects intended to create extensive partnerships, including non-traditional partners such as the media, youth organisations and voluntary groups;



- cooperation projects between educational institutions, sporting organisations and public authorities to create sporting activities that meet the needs of informal education and ensure the exchange of best practices (→ **University Sport?**);
- projects involving educational activities organised by volunteers at Community, crossborder or national level in order to test the possibilities offered by sport in the context of informal education (→ **University Sport?**);
- projects promoting exchanges between students from different Member States or different regions within Member States where priority is given to physical activity as the driving force behind the exchanges but with the capacity to combine other cultural activities (→ **University Sport?**);
- projects providing for joint activities involving students from different sociocultural backgrounds, particularly disadvantaged backgrounds (→ **University Sport?**);
- projects aimed at identifying priority themes for youth work that sporting activity can promote, such as teamwork, participation, solidarity, tolerance and mutual understanding in a multicultural environment;
- actions intended to disseminate information on best practices and innovative ways to integrate sport into the educational sphere (this may involve building on the achievements of other European projects) (→ **University Sport?**).

The last deadline for applicants: 1 March 2004, for projects scheduled to begin after 1 July 2004.

For more information please see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/key_files/annee_eur/a_2004_en-call.html

2.) Education, Culture and Youth

- Directorate General for Education and Culture:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/education_culture/index_en.htm

Art. 149 of the EC Treaty stipulates that the Community shall contribute to the development of quality education by encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, by supporting and supplementing their action. Thus, there have been put up several action-programmes to achieve this goal:

(2.1) LEONARDO DA VINCI

...is the programme for vocational training. The programme promotes transnational projects based on co-operation between the various players in vocational training - training bodies, vocational schools, universities, businesses, chambers of commerce, etc. - in an effort to increase mobility, to foster innovation and to improve the quality of training. The Leonardo da Vinci programme aims at helping people improve their skills throughout their lives.

The programme has three general objectives:

- A. to improve the skills and competencies of people, especially young people, in initial vocational training at all levels; this may be achieved inter alia through work-linked vocational training and apprenticeship with a view to promoting employability and facilitating vocational integration and reintegration;
- B. to improve the quality of, and access to, continuing vocational training and the lifelong acquisition of skills and competencies with a view to increasing and developing adaptability, particularly in order to consolidate technological and organisational change;



- C. to promote and reinforce the contribution of vocational training to the process of innovation, with a view to improving competitiveness and entrepreneurship, also in view of new employment possibilities; special attention will be paid in this respect to fostering co-operation between vocational training institutions, including universities and undertakings, particularly SMEs.

Under the first two objectives, innovative counselling and guidance approaches are of particular importance.

In implementing the three objectives, special attention will be given to proposals addressing:

- the development of practices to facilitate access to training for people most at a disadvantage in the labour market, including disabled people;
- equal opportunities for women and men, with a view to combating discrimination in training provision.

For the realisation of the programme's objectives, calls for proposals are published (in 2000, 2002 and 2004) which set out specific **priorities**. As regards, in particular, Call for proposals 2003-2004, the following priorities are established (they are applicable to all measures but Thematic actions):

1. Valuing learning
2. New forms of learning and teaching and basic skills in vocational and education training (VET)
3. Guidance and counselling.

For more information, please refer to the text of the current Call, available in the Leonardo da Vinci Website at the following address:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/leonardo/new/leonardo2_en.html

Co-financed sport-projects: Training for Life – Basketball Coaching: Project Aims to Enable Young Disabled Persons to Enter the Athletic Labour Market, OLYMPIA - e-Learning Environment in Sports Training, EUROSALA - European adventure sports activity leaders award etc.

(2.2) SOCRATES

...is the programme for education including 8 different actions which cover different stages of education (school, university, adult's education etc.).

Co-financed sport-projects: PETS- participation in education through sports, ESEP-Development of a CD-rom applying a didactical sport games concept to teach basketball and handball.

One of the most promising Action of SOCRATES for University Sports Projects seems to be ERASMUS:

a)Erasmus

...the European Community programme in the field of higher education as part of the SOCRATES-Programme.

As in the past, ERASMUS is open to all types of higher education institutions (for which the term "universities" is generally used), all academic disciplines and all levels of higher education study up to and including the doctorate.

While the promotion of 'physical mobility', mainly of students, constituted the main thrust of ERASMUS Phase I and II, the higher education Chapter of SOCRATES seeks to integrate such mobility into a wider framework of cooperation activities which aim at developing a "European



Dimension" within the entire range of a university's academic programmes. "Bringing students to Europe, bringing Europe to all students" is the new spirit of ERASMUS: while student mobility retains a position of central importance within the programme, stronger incentives are now available to encourage universities to add a European perspective to the courses followed by students who do not participate directly in mobility.

More emphasis is consequently placed on teaching staff exchanges, transnational curriculum development and pan-european thematic networks. Wider dissemination of and participation in the results of this work are sought through specific support. ERASMUS also encourages universities to associate other public and private bodies from their surrounding regions with their transnational cooperation activities, thereby enhancing opportunities for inter-regional cooperation between the participating countries.

One of the most interesting Activities of ERASMUS for University Sport are the THEMATIC NETWORKS.

THEMATIC NETWORKS (→ University Sport?)

The main aim of THEMATIC NETWORKS (TN) is to define and develop a European dimension within a given academic discipline or study area, or in other matters of common interest, by means of co-operation between university faculties or departments.

Such co-operation should also involve, where possible, academic associations, professional bodies, other partners of socio-economic importance in the public or private sector and, where appropriate, student organisations. Co-operation within Thematic Networks is expected to lead to outcomes which will have a lasting and widespread impact on universities across Europe in the field concerned.

Activities should aim at promoting the development or consolidation of networks in order to enable universities to co-operate on topics which are either 'mono-disciplinary', or of an 'interdisciplinary/ multidisciplinary' nature, or concern matters of mutual interest not related to an academic field (issues of university management, quality assurance etc).

For more information please see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/erasmus/erasmus_en.html

(2.3) Tempus

...focusses on the development of the higher education systems through co-operation with institutions from the Member States of the European Community. The programme is based on the understanding that higher education institutions are of particular importance for the social and economic transition process as well as cultural development; they are also pools of expertise and of human resources and provide for the training of new generations of leaders. The TEMPUS programme is designed to help in the transition and reform processes through a range of mechanisms addressed to the higher education sector.

For example:

- Supporting institutions and individuals involved in higher education in the design and implementation of reform policies and the development of strategies. For example, Tempus can contribute to the development and introduction of a credit system or a strategy for university-industry co-operation at university and/or national level;
- Encouraging institutions (academic and non-academic) to work together in a particular discipline. For example, Tempus can help institutions to set up networks on gas and oil engineering technology;

For more information please see:

<http://www.etf.eu.int/tempus.nsf>



(2.4) YOUTH

...is the EU's mobility and non-formal education programme targeting young people aged between 15 and 25 years supporting among other things youth exchanges, the European voluntary service and youth initiatives.

The Programme is open to youth in 30 European countries. The YOUTH programme offers possibilities to young people in the form of both group exchanges and individual voluntary work, as well as support activities. The YOUTH programme started in spring 2000 but incorporates, and is based on, the experiences faced by the former Youth for Europe and European Voluntary Service programmes. There are National Agencies for the YOUTH programme established in all 30 Programme Countries. The Agencies assist with the promotion and implementation of the Programme at national level. Furthermore, the EURO-MED YOUTH programme II, involving 27 Euro-Mediterranean partner countries, is one of the YOUTH programme's main activities. National Coordinators based in the 12 Mediterranean partner countries facilitate the implementation of this Programme. The YOUTH programme also supports co-operation activities with other third countries in the SEE and the CIS countries.

The overall structure of the YOUTH programme promotes crossovers between, and integration of, different Actions. This integrated approach facilitates a greater synergy between Actions so that best practices developed in one Action may be transferred to others.

These five main Actions are:

Action 1 - Youth for Europe

Youth exchanges offer an opportunity for groups of young people (aged 15-25) from different countries to meet. They have a pedagogical value and a non-formal learning aim, in that the groups explore common themes and learn about each other's cultures. (→ [University Sport?](#))

Action 2 - European Voluntary Service (EVS)

Under this Action, young people aged between 18 and 25 are able to spend up to 12 months abroad as European volunteers helping in local projects in a wide range of fields: social, ecological and environmental, arts and culture, new technologies, leisure and sports, etc. (→ [University Sport?](#))

Action 3 - Youth Initiatives

Through this Action, young people aged between 15/18 and 25 can obtain support to carry out a project at local level. The intention is to give them a chance to develop as well as express their creativity and spirit of initiative. It also aims at providing former EVS volunteers with a concrete opportunity to build upon the expertise and skills acquired during their voluntary service.

Action 4 - Joint Actions

This Action brings together the SOCRATES (education), LEONARDO DA VINCI (vocational training) and YOUTH (non-formal education) programmes. It will provide support for initiatives that build on the complementary nature of these three programmes and others, such as Culture 2000.

Action 5 - Support Measures

These measures underpin and complement the other YOUTH programme Actions, so as to consolidate and enhance their benefits, to continue and develop innovative actions at Community level, and to boost the quality of youth projects, for instance through exchanges of good practices or training of project organisers. (→ [University Sport?](#))



Call for large scale projects

In addition and complementary to the opportunities offered by Action 5, the European Commission launches annual calls, published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, for large scale projects targeted at specific priorities in the fields of networking and partnership, training and information.

Special events

Special events consist of specific activities under Actions 1 and 2 which have a significant impact in terms of volume and visibility of the YOUTH programme. They are considered on a case-by-case basis and are expected to provide a clear added promotional value for the YOUTH programme. For further information please contact the European Commission.

For more information please see:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/youth/program/index_en.html)

3.) Regional Policy - Structural Funds

- Directorate General for Regional Policy:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm

THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF) finances infrastructure, job-creating investments, local development projects and aid for small firms.

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF) promotes the return of the unemployed and disadvantaged groups to the work force, mainly by financing training measures and systems of recruitment aid.

These Structural Funds shall reduce disparities in development among the EU-countries and promote economic and social cohesion. As there are different sorts of areas lagging behind economically, there are also different instruments to tackle these problems properly.

- OBJECTIVE 1: supports development in the less prosperous regions (ERDF, ESF)
- OBJECTIVE 2: revitalises regions with structural difficulties

Under these titles a great variety of projects can be supported: e.g. Sport-infrastructure projects, such as bicycle roads and other sport-related projects. (ERDF, ESF)

- OBJECTIVE 3: develops human resources, Under this title educational initiatives are supported (ESF)

The following four community initiatives are supplementary funding-instruments to the OBJECTIVE-programs:

INTERREG: aims to stimulate cross-border, trans-national and inter-regional cooperation; co-financed sport-projects: bicycle roads, European Sport Academies, hiking paths etc.

LEADER: promotes rural development through the initiatives of local action groups; co-financed sport-projects: employment initiative for unemployed sport-teachers and sports(wo)men, equestrian sport-center etc.

EQUAL: develops cooperation between the Member States with a view to promoting new ways of combating all forms of exclusion, discrimination and inequalities in the labour market

URBAN: encourages the economic and social regeneration of towns, cities and suburbs in crisis; co-financed sport-projects: renovation of a public bath, sport facility for the youth.



Innovative actions

To improve the quality of regional development strategies the Commission intends to support the latest ideas which have not yet been adequately exploited. They are expected to provide the regions with the scope for experimentation which they sometimes lack but need to meet the challenges of the information society and to make their economies more competitive.

The Commission has laid down three working topics for ERDF innovative actions in 2000-2006:

- regional economies based on knowledge and technological innovation;
- e-EuropeRegio: the information society at the service of regional development;
- regional identity and sustainable development.

Other innovative actions are also planned for employment and training (financed by the ESF). With a budget of about €1 billion, representing 0.5% of the budget of the Structural Funds, the innovative actions programmes finance the drawing-up of new strategies and the experimental phase of projects. If the initial stage proves satisfactory, projects may then be included in the strategies under the different Objectives.

In contrast to other EU-programs the funding instruments of the Structural Fund are bound territorially. This means the project has to take place within geographically defined areas (See map). Furthermore, they are administered nationally and regionally. For further information, you can contact your national or regional authorities (see website)