

Focus on Education in Sport for Development at 6th CHANGE Meeting



"Enhancing skills in sport for development"

Sport for development is an important emerging force in the world of sport and physical activity. The CHANGE project has defined the Key Purpose of sport for development as to *'Work collaboratively to stimulate positive change in the lives of individuals and communities through the intentional use of sport and physical activity'*.

CHANGE is a skills and education project, funded through the Erasmus+ Sport programme of the European Union, aimed at improving the effectiveness of delivery of sport for development programmes which are designed to tackle social issues.

On the 4th of March 2021, the partners in the CHANGE project gathered online to discuss the new sport for development Occupational Standards and the next phases of the project which are related to education and training for existing and aspiring sport for development practitioners.

OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Following the research phases of the CHANGE project, the first draft of the CHANGE Functional Map and Occupational Standards were produced. The Standards are developed using the concept of 'role expectation', asking what are practitioners expected to do in order to achieve the Key Purpose? The Standards are made up of Performance Criteria that represent a model of good practice in the field.

Geoff Carroll of EOSE presented the feedback on the draft Standards provided during the partner consultation phase. The CHANGE Occupational Standards for sport for development will now be prepared for wide industry consultation which will be launched on the 5th of April 2021.

TRAINING PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

The second half of the meeting was dedicated to discussion of the Training Programme Handbook for sport for development, this is the step where all the data collected about the sport for development sector, and the Standards, are used to produce guidance and advice to the world of education about the most fit-for-purpose and relevant education products for the sector.

Break-out groups looked at the areas of higher education and continuing professional development (CPD) to develop example learning outcomes and curriculum. As output leader, Leeds Beckett University will guide the process in the coming months to produce the first draft of the Training Programme Handbook.

As part of the education phase of the project two Pilot Seminars will be organised for sport for development practitioners (activators and coordinators) to test some of the content of the Handbook. One Seminar will be delivered in English and one in Italian.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FINAL CONFERENCE

The CHANGE partners also discussed the key issue of sustainability and how to use 2021, as the final year of the project, to create the conditions for the legacy of the project and ongoing use of the products into the future. Ideas from partners included various methods of promotion, appointing a 'legacy partner' and a potential follow-up project.

The CHANGE Final Conference will take place in the final quarter of 2021 and will be the chance of the partners to present the results of the project to the wider sport for development sector and gather feedback before the outputs are finalised and published.

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Full list of partners - European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE); International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA); University of Cassino and Southern Lazio; Leeds Beckett University; General Secretariat for Sports; Greece, Italian Sport for All Association (USIP); Sport Union of Slovenia; StreetGames; Women Win.

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