Annual Report 2017

European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation

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FOREWORD

Dear readers,

I nd it always challenging to put an in nity of different activities spread over a wide spectra of areas in just one page.

First of all, I am highlighting the cooperation between the European Lotteries and ENGSO that has reached another milestone. At our meeting in Berlin, a new agreement for the next two years was signed between EL President Hansjörg Höltkemeier and myself. Based on this agreement, the European Lotteries continues to support our activities in areas like grassroots sport. One of the examples of our important cooperation is the conference that was held in Brussels in September during the European Week of Sport. “Grassroots sport as a tool for social change: from practice to policy” was put together by the two organisations and gathered over 50 participants.

Secondly, I must emphasise my great pleasure that ENGSO was much involved in the European Week of Sport in multiple other ways. We were invited to the Opening Ceremony and Seminars that were held in Tartu and to the #BeActive Gala in Marseille. At the latter one, I had the pleasure to present the #BeActive Local Hero award to the winner, former boxer Jorge Pina, who does an amazing work at local level to promote sport and physical activity.

Another topic that I feel honored to write about is our ASPIRE project. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU and supported by the European Lotteries, ASPIRE started in early 2017. It could serve as a pioneer, using the added value of sport in offering a solution for the inclusion of refugees.

Finally, some words about the work of ENGSO Youth and our Equality Within Sport Network. They are crucial parts of ENGSO with their numerous independent activities. As successful examples of their work, I would like to point out the outstanding European Youth Sport Forum, co-organised by ENGSO Youth, as well as the work of the EWS Network in implementing the “Gender Equality in Sport – Proposal for Strategic Actions 2014-2020” policy paper, although the scope of EWS nowadays is much wider than gender equality only. ENGSO Youth and the EWS Network makes European sport more diverse and equal, which we all must be very proud of.

As you will read in this report, 2017 was a very busy but successful year for ENGSO and its bodies. I must thank all our member and partner organisations and those individuals who contributed to our work.

Carlos Cardoso, ENGSO President

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Executive Summary

ENGSO is a bridge-building organisation, and its activities are based on two pillars. First of all, ENGSO provides its member organisations with information about current developments related to European sport policy, encourages discussion, re ection and action among sport organisations, individuals and decision-makers. Secondly, ENGSO promotes the interests of sport organisations in Europe, de ning and defending the general interest of the voluntary sports movement.

Highlights of our activities in 2017:

• Promoting the societal role of sport through our ASPIRE project. The initiative is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the EU and is supported by the European Lotteries. It runs until June 2019.

• Extensive and contributing participation in several meetings at European level, including the EU Sport Forum, European Week of Sport events, meetings at the European Parliament and at the Council of Europe.

• Promoting activities for Youth and Sport in Europe through ENGSO Youth and promoting gender equality through the work in our Equality Within Sport Committee (EWS).

• The closing of the Erasmus+ Sport project ”Sports club for Health” after 2,5 years of work. The project was aiming to develop health promotion in the sports club context led by the Finnish Olympic Committee. ENGSO was a partner of the project.

• Participation in the Pro Safe Sport+ project of the Council of Europe, working to put an end to sexual harassment and abuse against children in sport.

• Organisation of several events, including the General Assembly and its seminars, and the #sport4socialchange conference during the European Week of Sport.

• Participation as speaker at several seminars and conferences, such as the Sports Directors meeting in Tallinn, the Advancing Women in Leadership Roles Forum for Europe in Vilnius, the conference Grassroots Sport in Big Cities in So a and the Gender Equality in Sport conference in Tirana.

• A number of meetings of the Executive Committee, the ENGSO Youth Committee, our Equality Within Sport Committee and our EU Advisory Committee.

We aimed at enhancing mutual understanding and sharing of good examples throughout the year in all our activities. We advocated for sport issues to European decision-makers that are relevant to the European sports arena, such as the societal role of sport, the nancing of grassroots sport and the integrity of sport. Our main targets included the Council of Europe and EU institutions, namely the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. We have reached out to more than 1370 followers on Facebook and more than 1440 on Twitter through our social media communication. Much effort was put into the communication activities through our new website and our quarterly newsletter as well. Regarding partnerships, a warm thank you to all our members and partners! A special thanks to the European Lotteries, to the European Olympic Committees and its EU Of ce, to the European University Sports Association and to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe, for very good cooperation in 2017!

Organisation

Membership

ENGSO is the European Sport NGO, a not-for-pro t umbrella organisation of National Sport Confederations and National Olympic Committees from 32 European countries, advocating for grassroots sport within the European sports policy. In 2017 the Kosovo Olympic Committee became an ENGSO-member, while ENGSO also got their rst three associated members: the Catalonian Sport Federation, EU Sport Link from Belgium and the Bulgarian Sports Federation for Children Deprived of Parental Care.

Leadership

The Executive Committee is responsible for - among other duties - the execution of decisions taken by the General Assembly, the management of the budget and it ensures the delivery of planned activities based on the Strategic Plan 2015-2019. At its meetings, the Committee discusses and prepares issues that are under its responsibility as indicated in the ENGSO statutes.

Composition of the Executive Committee:

President: Carlos Cardoso, Portuguese Sports Confederation
Vice-President: Agne Vanagiene, Lithuanian Union of Sports Federations
Secretary General: Stefan Bergh, Swedish Sports Confederation (newly elected in 2017)
Treasurer: Karin Mattsson Weijber, Swedish Sports Confederation
Member: Lotte Büchert, National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark
Member: Stavri Bello, Olympic Committee of Albania
Member: Ilva Ciemite, Latvian Sports Federations Council (newly elected in 2017)
Member: Natasa Jankovic, Olympic Committee of Serbia
Member: Michael Leyendecker, ENGSO Youth Chair (Ex Of cio)

Executive Committee meetings in 2017:

- Copenhagen, Denmark 28 January
- Barcelona, Spain 21-22 April
- Paris, France 9-10 June 2017 (General Assembly)
- Stockholm, Sweden 14-15 September
- Brussels, Belgium 10 November

Staff

All of the ENGSO activities and events are organised with the help of the ENGSO professional staff, providing support in the running of the organisation. They all took part in and contributed to the preparation of ENGSO events, meetings, activities and projects. They helped with the implementation of communication activities, the preparation and delivery of political initiatives, the implementation of the ENGSO Strategic Plan and Work Plan, The staff also provides support to our members with their inquires.

The staff in 2017:

Policy Director: Heidi Pekkola
Of ce Director: Marie Denitton (from June 2017)
Communication and Project Of cer: Orsolya Tolnay
Communication Of cer: Mariann Bardocz-Bencsik (from May 2017)

We would also like to thank everyone else who supported ENGSO with their professional knowledge and experience during 2017!

ENGSO Youth

Thanks to a developing supportive environment and funding structures, ENGSO Youth (EY) is increasing its opportunities, views and interests of young people, in all their diversity, at the European level through youth exchanges and voluntary services, non-formal and informal learning and activity programmes. The voice of youth in sport continues to be represented by the ever growing network. ENGSO Youth's mission has never changed, but progressed to be more widely recognised as a network of agents for youth policies, players for youth and sport at EU level, promoters of prevention of abuse and participation in sports, and empowerment of young people.
In 2017 ENGSO Youth implemented 7 statutory meetings and 36 activities in total. Activities were held in 18 countries (14 EU states, 3 other European countries and the USA) in 20 cities. The statistics count around
21 700 direct participants. EY is particularly proud of taking part in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum in New York, where we represented the European youth voice in sport; the organisation of the European Youth Sport Forum in Malta where most of our Young Delegates were present and many other young people from our wider network.

Promoting Sustainable Development

On the 5th of October in Lausanne ENGSO Youth was the only youth-led organisation to join more than 130 representatives of international organisations, which included the International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Sports Federation (IFs), United Nations' agencies and civil society organisations. The aim of the meeting was to discuss strategies and possible forms of collaboration towards the Sustainable Development Goals' implementation through sport. ENGSO Youth is closely following the process to make sure that the strengths and actions of the youth will be incorporated within the sport for development and peace movement. First step: Global Task Force on Sport for Employability and Skills Development of the Young People was launched on October 5th!

Fostering Institutionalised Voice of Youth: Active Youth as a Foundation of an Active Society

Activism of young people lies in the core of society's development. ENGSO Youth aims to speak up for youth, but moreover and more often to give the voice to youth, empowering them to step in and take a role in decision-making processes. At the same time, the ENGSO Youth team, with appreciated support from ENGSO's member organisations, is continuously trying to raise awareness among key players and decision makers of the importance of their support towards youth participation and activism and providing the space for the institutionalised voice of the youth.

Promoting Sport Diplomacy

Voice of youth was represented at the second seminar on Sport Diplomacy, hosted by the European Commission Directorate-General for Education Youth, Sport and Culture in December. Outcomes of the Pink Paper from the European Youth Sports Forum (EYSF2017) and best practices in the eld of youth sport were presented by ENGSO Youth at the plenary.

Strengthening Partnerships

In 2017, ENGSO Youth contributed to the following projects: Voice for Truth and Dignity (VOICE), Sport Empowers Disabled Youth (SEDY), Activity, Sport and Play for the Inclusion of Refugees in Europe (ASPIRE) and Open-Up project and to the Study on the contribution of sport to the employability of young people in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy.
At the same time, ENGSO Youth is following and contributing to diverse activities of networks within youth, sport and institutional sector in European Youth Centre, EuroChild, UNESCO, Peace and Sport, European Youth Forum, European Week of Sport , Sport and Youth intergroups of the European Commission, HEPA, European Athletics, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia, European University Sports Association (EUSA), International Scholl Sport Federation (ISF), UNESCO Youth and Sport, Streetfootballworld, University of Brussels, FISU, No Hate Speech Movement, The Association for International Sport for All (TAFISA) as well as the International Centre Ethics in Sport (ICES), International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth.

European Youth Sport Forum gathered youth voices

We consider it as a spotlight of ENGSO Youth's work in the past years: the 8th EYSF was held in Malta in March. It gathered over 130 young leaders from Europe and the MENA region, over 15 speakers and decision makers, 1 president of the country, 2 ministers, 1 director of sport unit and 2 high-level representatives of 2 last European Presidencies. The idea about negotiating the establishment of the EYSF legacy among European institutions has been initiated, driven and implemented fully by ENGSO Youth. As an outcome, the European Youth Sport Forum is now secured and placed on sustainable sky of European funds – The set of recommendations drawn up by youth in sports, in the form of the Pink Paper 2017, has been handed over at the highest level - to the European Commissioner for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport, Mr. Tibor Navracsics, while promise for careful consideration of the paper has been given to the youth.

Giving a real say to our delegates

ENGSO Youth launched its Young Delegates Initiative in 2013 with the overall objective to support the active promotion of youth's rights in sport. By achieving this goal, the youth in sport will become more active citizens in society. In the period of 2013-2015 EY had 13 Young Delegates, while in the period of 2015-2017, the number of Young Delegates grew up to 36. In the current period of 2017-2019, ENGSO Youth counts 50 Young Delegates in total where 23 of them extended the mandate from 2015-2017, while 27 of them are newly elected. So far, they have participated in various activities representing ENGSO Youth, and the agship event was EYSF in 2017.

Equality Within Sport Network (EWS)

Advocacy

The role of EWS is to advocate and in uence the sports political agenda, and to be an attractive network for exchange and experience. For many years, EWS has been taking part in meetings and conferences. and it has been active in the Consultative Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe, advocating for women's participation. Since now EWS is a committee within ENGSO, it was agreed to leave that seat.

Brighton + Helsinki Declaration
The chair of EWS has signed the Brighton + Helsinki Declaration on behalf of the chair of the International Working Group of Women and Sport (IWG) with WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organizations), in Dublin, Ireland on 4th March.

European Paralympic Committee (EPC)
EWS participated in EPC's Executive Committee meeting on 9th December where actions to increase gender equality were discussed. The strategy of EPC, and concrete activities together with EWS were agreed.

Events

Women Sport Leadership Conference, Tokyo, 9th April
The chair of EWS participated in the conference, which was arranged adjacent to the 2017 IWG Annual General Meeting. Discussions took place on how to make change, what barriers exist and what actions to take.

IOC European Forum “Advancing Women in Leadership Roles”, Lithuania, 10th October
The chair of EWS participated in the forum, as a panelist under the theme “Good governance: Everybody should get involved”.

National seminar, Albanian National Olympic Committee, Tirana, 16th October
The NOC of Albania arranged a forum “Women leadership as part of good governance in sport” with more than 80 persons from the ministry, sport federations, clubs and universities. The EWS chair and ENGSO Honorary President Birgitta Kervinen supported the event with the planning of the programme and as speakers as well as moderators during the workshops.

IWG (International Working Group of Women and Sport)

EWS is a formal member of IWG, representing the European region.

The IWG Annual General Meeting 2017, was held in Tokyo, Japan on 7-8th April
The focus for the work during the year: Legacy outcome of the 2018 IWG Conference, addressing how to make the work sustainable – The coming 2018-2022 IWG secretariat and organisers of next IWG Conference – Finding speakers from Europe, and the invitation of the European Commission.

EWS Committee Meetings in 2017

- Vienna, Austria 17-18 February
- Athens, Greece 12 May
- Stockholm, Sweden 15-17 September (Joint meeting with ENGSO Executive Committee and ENGSO Youth)
- Vienna, Austria 9 December (Meeting with EPC's Executive Committee)

EU Advisory Committee

The EU Advisory Committee operates at a strategic level, advising the ENGSO Executive Committee on EU matters to ensure a coordinated approach to ENGSO's lobbying activities and smooth working procedures. The Committee utilises EU policy expertise and facilitate the involvement of ENGSO members.

The daily work is led by the ENGSO Policy Director and the Committee works to complement the political activities of ENGSO.

In 2017 the Committee met three times:

- Malta 8 March
- Paris, France 9 June
- Brussels, Belgium 27 September

The composition of the Committee is as follows:

Co-Chair: Mikkel Larsen, National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark
Co-Chair: Leigh Thompson, Sport and Recreation Alliance, UK
Member: Filip Filipic, Olympic Committe of Serbia
Member: Petri Heikkinen, Finnish Olympic Committee
Member: Dominic Kuhn, German Olympic Committee Sports Confederation
Member: Julie Ravlo, Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports
Member: Niina Toroi, Finnish Olympic Committee

In 2017 the Committee worked mainly with:

• New Council Work Plan 2017-2020
The Work Plan was adopted on 23 May. The Committee discussed on the in uence and aims of ENGSO's work and decided together with the Policy Director which of the priorities are important to in uence.

• Erasmus+ Sport
ENGSO was invited to the Consultation meeting on the future programme organised by the Sport Unit in July. The Policy Director drafted a list of points about ENGSO's position in the negotiations about the future of Erasmus+ Sport. ENGSO also sent in their key recommendations for Erasmus+ Sport for the mid-term evaluation.

• ENGSO General Assembly 2017
The Committee organised the EU Seminar during the General Assembly in June.

• Sport Policy Programme
Co-chair Mikkel Larsen came up with the idea to put together an ENGSO Sport Policy Programme, which would be the guiding programme for ENGSO on different policy topics. For many topics ENGSO already had position papers but a policy programme is a more systematic approach to position ENGSO with its view on priority topics. It was agreed by the Committee members to do a Sport Policy Programme. The work started during autumn 2017 and a draft version of the Sports Policy Programme will be presented to the members at the ENGSO GA in June 2018.

Activities

Advocacy

ENGSO is a bridge-building organisation, and its activities are based on two pillars. First of all, ENGSO provides its member organisations with information about current developments related to sport in Europe. Encouraging debate, discussion and re ection on European sport policy and actions among sports organisations, individuals and decision-makers. Secondly, ENGSO promotes the interest of sport organisations in Europe, as it has been de ning the general interest of the voluntary sports movement since the 1960's. ENGSO advocates for sport issues to European decision-makers that are relevant in the European sports arena. ENGSO's main targets include the Council of Europe, especially its Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), and EU institutions, namely the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament.

ENGSO is especially advocating for:

• The important social role of sport in health-enhancing physical activity, education, training, employment and volunteering, active citizenship and social inclusion.
• The sustainable nancing of grassroots sport.
• The integrity of sport in order to promote good governance and equality, defend the speci city of sport and the integrity of sporting competitions by ghting against match- xing.

Most of the activities described in this report have in some way contributed to our advocacy work in the above listed areas.

Communication

Communication is an essential part of ENGSO's work, as its mission is to promote the interest of grassroots sport in Europe and its goals are to provide development updates on European sport policy and to share information on the initiatives and activities of its members and partners. In 2017 some substantial actions were taken to reach these goals. In the beginning of the year our homepage (engso.eu) was renewed and now has a fresh look and functionality that complies with today's needs. In May an additional staff member was employed as communication of cer to enhance ENGSO's online presence. Due to these changes, ENGSO became much more active on its website and its two primary social media channels, Facebook (/ENGSOsport) and Twitter (@ENGSOsport).

Instead of publishing articles shortly before the publication date of the quarterly newsletter, ENGSO started publishing its news on its homepage on a continuous basis, wrapping them up every three months in its newsletter (in March, in June, in September and in December). With this technique we had the chance to reach a wider audience. Altogether, ENGSO published 72 articles on its website in 2017, and out of this amount 55 were published after the arrival of the new communication of cer. It is a great indicator of how vital it is to have a staff member within the organisation fully focusing on communication activities.

This year ENGSO was active on social media in two ways: by promoting its own activities and by joining the online conversation on topics of its interest. Therefore, ENGSO engaged in conversations on social media using the #genderequality, #womeninleadership, #socialinclusion, #BeActive, #EWoS, #EYSF2017 and #IDSDP2017 hashtags, among others.

In the rst months of the year the peak of the daily total reach of ENGSO's Facebook was 1466 (in February), while later in the year it went up to 3340. ENGSO's most widely distributed tweet in 2017 was seen 2607 times on Twitter in November. A tweet in October envoked 82 interactions on the social media platform, which is the highest number of interactions of an ENGSO tweet in both 2016 and in 2017.

In 2017 ENGSO started posting its own videos on Facebook and Twitter that were recorded at ENGSO events. It is a powerful way of engaging those who are interested in these events, but cannot be present at them.
ENGSO promoted its events on social media in multiple ways. For both the General Assembly and the seminar on grassroots sport a Facebook event was created, where Facebook users of ENGSO's network were invited. On these pages, we shared information on the events beforehand, meanwhile and afterwards as well. We also created a hashtag for both events (#ENGSOGA2017 and #sport4socialchange) to make it easier for social media users to engage in conversations about them.
In July ENGSO was registered on LinkedIn (/company/engso/), the world's largest business- and employment oriented online service, and posts its updates there since then.
In the beginning of the year, the ENGSO-led ASPIRE project started. The project has now its own website (aspiresport.eu), its Facebook community page (/ASPIREsportEU) and hashtag (#ASPIREsportEU).

Each year it gets more and more dif cult to encourage people to subscribe to newsletters, but ENGSO has some increasing gures regarding its quarterly newsletter.
At the end of 2016, it had 305 subscribers, and this number went up to 328 by the end of 2017. It is a good achievement, taking into account the generally decreasing interest in newsletters.

It is ENGSO's great pleasure to receive the news of its members and partners and to share them on our communication platforms. Therefore, we encourage the members of our network to pro-actively share their news with us, so we could further distribute them within the network for the bene t of everyone.

The ASPIRE project

ASPIRE – 'Activity, Sport, Play for the Inclusion of Refugees in Europe' is an Erasmus+ co-funded project that focuses on social inclusion of people who are at risk of exclusion, especially refugees. It seeks to establish how sport clubs can best support the inclusion of migrants and refugees building on the wide popularity of sports and other forms of physical activity.

At the end of 2017, the project has closed its rst year successfully, completing a research with three key elements:
- Needs assessment of those using sport with refugees,
- The de nition of key terms,
- A literature review on the stage of immigration in Europe and the potential of sport as a context to help migrants and refugees.

Informed by the ndings of the research, the consortium has started developing a training module, that aims to support sport organisations and people involved in sport, to better adapt their activities to the speci c context of migrants and refugees.

The project has its own website (aspiresport.eu), its Facebook community page (/ASPIREsportEU) and hashtag (#ASPIREsportEU).

Project partners:

Closing of the Sports Club for Health Project

Erasmus+ 'Sport co- nanced Sports Club for Health' project (SCforH) ended on the 30th of June 2017 after 2,5 years. The project was led by the Finnish Olympic Committee (earlier Sports Confederation, VALO) and ENGSO was one of the partners, especially focusing on dissemination activities. The Closing Seminar of the project took place in Brussels at the European Parliament on the 25th of April getting together around 50 participants from the European Parliament, the European Commission's Sport Unit, International Sport Federations and other stakeholders. In addition, around 300 people followed the online streaming broadcast.

The objectives of the project have been reached: the current status of SCforH programmes in Europe has been studied, SCforH guidelines have been updated and tools for dissemination have been developed and collected for sports clubs and associations. One of the main outcomes of the project is that organised sport has a great potential to promote health through grassroots sports. Health-enhancing physical activities in an organised sport club setting can be a real win-win situation, as this can be a way for sports clubs to attract new members as well as to develop their activities. In addition, this way the organised sport replies to the societal challenges and expectations that the society has towards it. More information on the project can be found on its website (scforh.info) and Twitter account (twitter.com/SCforH).

SC FOR H
Sports Club for Health

Pro Safe Sport+: Put an end to sexual harassment and abuse against children in sport

Sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation of children are widespread violations of the rights of the child, compromise children's social development and affect the enjoyment of their other rights. They often have devastating mental and physical health consequences, at times persisting across generations.

The Pro Safe Sport+ (PSS+) project was a joint programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe, running for 9 months, in co-operation with partner organisations including ENGSO. The project ended in December 2017.

PSS+' called for a renewed political attention and for the development of policies and strategic actions to prevent and combat sexual violence against children in sport. It aimed at increasing the commitment of both governmental and non-governmental organisations (public authorities dealing with sport and children's rights, sport organisations and other interested organisations) towards this topic through awareness raising tools and capacity building resources.

More information on the PSS+ project can be found on its website: pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/pss/

General Assembly

On 9-10 June, our General Assembly (GA) has been organised for the 25th time. The event in Paris has brought together 20 ENGSO Members. The ENGSO Youth Assembly also took place parallel to the GA.

The Assembly voted on the accession of the full and associated members. The National Olympic Committee of Kosovo, the Finnish Olympic Committee, replacing the Finnish Sports Confederation, which merged to the Olympic Committee, and the Hungarian National Competitive Sport Federation, the successor of the non-Olympic branch of the Hungarian Olympic Committee, have become full members of ENGSO.

The following organisations are from now on associated members without voting right: Bulgarian Sports Federation for Children Deprived of Parental Care, Catalan Union of Sports Federations – UFEC and the Belgian EU Sport Link.

The Executive Committee members of ENGSO after the GA are: Carlos Cardoso (ENGSO President), Agne Vanagiene (ENGSO Vice-President), Stefan Bergh (ENGSO Secretary General), Karin Mattsson Weijber (ENGSO Treasurer), Lotte Büchert (ENGSO Executive Committee member) Stavri Bello (ENGSO Executive Committee member) Natasa Jankovic (ENGSO Executive Committee member), Ilva Ciemite (ENGSO Executive Committee member), Michael Leyendecker, (ENGSO Youth Chair, ENGSO Executive Committee member Ex Of cio)

ENGSO Executive Committee, ENGSO Youth and EWS joint Meeting

On 15-17 September, our Executive Committee, ENGSO Youth, the Equality Within Sport (EWS) Committee and some representatives from the ENGSO EU Advisory Committee met in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting was held at Bosön, the Swedish Sports Confederation's development centre.

A signi cant part of the meeting was devoted to a joint ENGSO Strategic workday bringing together all ENGSO bodies: Executive Committee, ENGSO Youth, EWS and the EU Advisory Committee. They worked together with the three priority areas of ENGSO: actively advocate and in uence the sports political agenda; be an attractive network for exchange of knowledge and experience and upgrade and consolidate the internal organisation of ENGSO.

Conference on #sport4socialchange

On the 27th of September, in the midst of the European Week of Sport, ENGSO and the European Lotteries co-organised a conference in Brussels entitled „Grassroots sport as a tool for social change: from practice to policy".

The event was held in the South Denmark European Of ce, and was attended by more than 50 people, including representatives from various high-level policy-making and sport organisations, such as the European Commission, the Council of Europe, UEFA, several national Olympic Committees and sport confederations. The aim of the event was to give a platform for practitioners, policy-makers and all who are interested in the topic to get together and exchange their views. The event was supported by the European Commission.

Speaking at external events

EU Sport Forum in Malta

The EU Sport Forum, organised by the European Commission and hosted by the Maltese Presidency, took place in St. Jualian's, Malta on 8-9 March 2017. The annual EU Sport Forum is considered to be the main event for structured dialogue between sport stakeholders and European institutions, and it gathered together around 350 participants.

The topics of the rst day included discussions on inclusive communities through volunteering in sport, anti-doping, green events and ght against gender-based violence in sport. The second day contained two big panel discussions – the rst on good governance in sport, and the second one with the participation of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics on grassroots sport.

ENGSO was represented in the event by President Carlos Cardoso and Policy Director Heidi Pekkola. On the rst day of the Forum, Heidi Pekkola contributed to the programme at the plenary session on discussing the follow-up of two High Level Groups which nished their work in June 2016. Among her comments, she highlighted the importance to allow tax exemptions for sport clubs at grassroots level.

Sports Directors Meeting and Estonian Presidency Conference on the role of coaches in society

ENGSO had an active role at the rst sport meetings of the Estonian EU Presidency. The Sport Directors meeting and Presidency Conference "Role of Coaches in Society" took place in Tallinn on 12-14 July.

One of the main topics of the Sports Directors meeting was the structured dialogue with the sport movement, and how to develop it in the future. ENGSO was the only sport organisation which was invited to the meeting and our Secretary General Stefan Bergh had the privilege to give remarks on behalf of the sport movement on the future structured dialogue. In his remarks he highlighted the importance of continuous dialogue between the sport movement and governmental institutions, and proposed that relevant organisations from organised sport would be again invited to the Sports Directors meetings regularly.

The Sports Directors meeting was followed by the Presidency Conference "Role of Coaches in Society".

Gender equality was one of the conference topics, and ENGSO Policy Director and Project Manager Heidi Pekkola presented the SCORE Project and its outcomes as well as participated in the panel discussion.

Women in Leadership Forum in Vilnius

On 9-11 October the Advancing Women in Leadership Roles Forum for Europe was organised by the Lithuanian Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee in Vilnius, Lithuania.

On the rst day ENGSO's Equality Within Sport Committee Chair, Kristina Thurée was a panelist in the "Good governance: Everybody should get involved" panel.
On the second day ENGSO's Vice-President, Agne Vanagiene moderated a panel entitled "Education: a tool to foster leadership"

A resolution entitled "Vilnius Commitment to Change" was the outcome of the two-day discussion, and ENGSO Policy Director, Heidi Pekkola was a member of the document's drafting committee.

Two ENGSO Youth young delegates were present at the event as well: Laura-Maria Tiidla as panelist and Anett Fodor as participant.

Forum in Albania: ”Gender Equality in Sport”

On 16 October ENGSO’s member, the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Albania and ENGSO co-organised a forum entitled “Gender Equality in Sport” in Tirana. The event was performed by ENGSO’s Equality Within Sport (EWS) Committee and was attended by more than 80 people from the NOC of Albania, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Albanian sport federations, athletes, coaches, sport of cials and academics from the country.

For decades, ENGSO has been a key European actor in supporting women’s role in sport, therefore our representatives played an active role in the event. ENGSO was represented there by our former President, now Honorary President, Birgitta Kervinen, the Chair of our EWS Committee, Kristina Thurée, and our Executive Committee member, Stavri Bello, who is also the Secretary General of the NOC of Albania. The two ladies were speakers of the forum, while Mr. Bello took part in the organisation.

The forum consisted of presentations, panel discussions and workshop sessions. In the latter ones the participants had the chance to discuss strategies and actions to develop sport to be more equal.

Conference on Grassroots Sport in Big Cities in Sofia

On the 2nd December, So a, the 2018 European Capital of Sport hosted the Launching Conference on Grassroots Sport in Big Cities. Our President, Carlos Cardoso was actively taking part in the event, as he was involved in two panel discussions. Mr. Cardoso, along with Jens Nymand Christensen, Deputy Director-General of the DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport from the European Commission, as well as with other fellow panelists from the European Capital of Sport Association (ACES Europe), Malaga 2020 and the Municipality of So a exchanged their thoughts in the panel entitled “Access to sport facilities and promotion of physical activity – good practices in Europe”. After this panel on concrete examples, a discussion was held around the policy aspect of the topic. The panel entitled “White paper in the new reality - proposals and future development” involved various representatives of EU-level, national and local policy-makers, including Mr. Cardoso.

Representation at external events

Erasmus+: Sport Infoday

Around 500 representatives from sport and sport-related organisations gathered on 31 January in Brussels to receive information about sport funding opportunities at the fourth Erasmus+ Sport Infoday. ENGSO was represented at the event by Policy Director Heidi Pekkola and Communication and Policy Of cer Orsolya Tolnay.

Organised by the European Commission in co-operation with the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Agency (EACEA), the event was packed with practical tips on preparing and submitting proposals, and it also gave support on the nancial aspects of the funding scheme.

Compared to previous years, the new priority is to promote education in and through sport with special focus on skills' development.

The Project Coordinators' Meeting was organised the following day, exclusively for organisations that have been granted with EU funding from the 2016 Call for Proposals, such as ENGSO for its ASPIRE project. The event provided bene ciaries with guidance on project management, nancial issues, audit and dissemination obligations.

Events in Strasbourg in October about safeguarding children

On 24-25 October, Sallie Barker, our Special Advisor and former Executive Committee Member took part in the third workshop of the Pro Safe Sport+ (PSS+) project the conference entitled "Ending sexual exploitation and abuse of children: Towards a world of trust", hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

"The PSS+ project is developing some excellent tools for sports organisations to help them safeguard children within their sport. Our involvement in the PSS+ workshop helps ensure that the advice and guidance for national sports organisations is disseminated widely and we will be able to support our members in its implementation. ENGSO's representation at the Lanzarote Convention allowed us to find out what has been happening during the past 10 years the Convention has been in place and to follow the next steps in order to ensure grassroots sport is following the principles of the Convention."

Sallie Barker

The General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees

On 24-25 November, the European Olympic Committees (EOC) held its General Assembly (GA) in Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by the Croatian Olympic Committee. Among others, the event was attended by the Secretary of State for Sport of Croatia, Janica Kosteli , the President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, the President of the Association of National Olympic Committees, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and delegates of all 50 European National Olympic Committees. ENGSO was represented there by our President, Carlos Cardoso, our Secretary General, Stefan Bergh and our Policy Director, Heidi Pekkola. Our Executive Committee member, Lotte Büchert was there as well, representing the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark.

Play the Game Conference

Play the Game is an organisation that aims to strengthen the ethical foundation of sport and promote democracy, transparency and freedom of expression in sport. Its tenth conference was held between 26 and 30 November in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, and two representatives of ENGSO were there: Our Of ce Director, Marie Denitton and one of the Committee Members of ENGSO Youth, Bence Garamvölgyi.
The main focus of the conference was the issues of sport integrity, such as good governance in sport and anti-doping. One of the sessions addressed the topic of sport's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the Kazan Action plan in this regard.

Erasmus+ Sport Cluster Meeting: "Encouraging participation in Sport and Physical Activities"

On the 4th and 5th December, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency and the Directorate General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport of the European Commission jointly organised the Erasmus+ Sport Cluster Meeting on "Encouraging participation in Sport and Physical Activities" in Brussels.The meeting brought together all projects on the topic of participation and physical activity that were selected under the Collaborative Partnerships of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme from 2014 to 2016.The event was a good opportunity to meet other project-implementers, exchange thoughts on best practices and to seek possible synergies across the Programme. The meeting was also a great platform to identify policy-relevant outcomes, and their potential use after the projects lifetime.

Seminar on Sport Diplomacy

On 6th December, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission organised a seminar on sport diplomacy in Brussels. ENGSO, its members and ENGSO Youth formed a large delegation, promoting the diplomatic power of grassroots sport.

ENGSO Youth Vice-Chair, Nevena Vukasinovic presented the Pink Paper, which is a set of recommendations from young representatives of the sport movement, written at the European Youth Sport Forum in March.

In the afternoon, the European Commission gave an update on its points on the topic of sport diplomacy, which was followed by workshop sessions.

ENGSO was represented at the seminar by our Policy Director, Heidi Pekkola, the Co-chair of our EU Advisory Committee, Mikkel Larsen and our Communication and Policy Of cer, Orsolya Tolnay.

Other representatives from ENGSO and ENGSO Youth were attending the meeting.

PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to the above partners, ENGSO has a partnership with the following organisations:

EGLSF – European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation
TAFISA - The Association for International Sport for All
EFPM - European Fair Play Movement
EUPEA - European Physical Education Association
CSIT - International Workers and Amateurs in Sport Confederation

European Lotteries

The European Lotteries (EL) is the umbrella organisation of national lotteries operating games of chance for the public bene t. Its members are primary contributors to sports for decades, providing sustainable funding of more than 2 billion EUR to European Sport each year. They are of the opinion that attention must be paid to the grassroots sport and the important role it plays in economic, health and societal terms.

The European Lotteries and ENGSO have been co-operating since 2009. The main objective of the co-operation is to support each others' position in the area of EU Sports Policy at various meetings, conferences and events.

On the 27th of September we organised a joint event in the framework of the European Week of Sport, entitled "Grassroots sport as a tool for social change: from practice to policy". Our long-standing partnership was renewed for two more years on 19 December. The aim is to further work on a common front to safeguard the integrity of Sport. EL is an active partner of our ASPIRE project as well.

EOC and its EU Office

ENGSO has a long-standing partnership with the European Olympic Committees and its EU Of ce, which have the mission to develop and protect the Olympic Movement in Europe in accordance with the Olympic Charter. ENGSO Policy Director is based in the EOC EU Of ce in Brussels, and closely follows EU actions in the eld of sport as well as contributes to the work of the Of ce as part of the duties. Thoughout 2017 ENGSO has participated in both the Special Competence Seminar and the Annual Partner Meetin of the EOC EU Of ce. Furthermore, ENGSO President Carlos Cardoso, Secretary General Stefan Bergh and Policy Director Heidi Pekkola participated in the General Assembly of the European Olympic Committes which was held in Zagreb, in November.

EUSA

ENGSO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with EUSA back in 2014 at the EUSA Conference in Denizli, Turkey. During the years EUSA has participated in different ENGSO activities and they were also a project partner in our SCORE project. Furthermore, EUSA was represented at our General Assembly in Paris, 9-10 June, and their Communication and Projects Manager, Andrej Pisl was one of the moderators there. ENGSO also participated in the EUSA Conference and Gala in Coimbra, Portugal on 7-8 April.

Council of Europe and EPAS

For over four decades, the Council of Europe has advocated fair play and respect in sport, tackling corruption and helping make sport safe, ethical and accessible to all.
ENGSO has been actively involved in the activities of the Council of Europe and its Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) for several years, and highly appreciates the fruitful cooperation, as the two bodies share common values.
Our Executive Committee member Natasa Jankovic represents ENGSO in the EPAS Consultative Committee and ENGSO was a partner in the EPAS project "Pro Safe Sport+".

Highlights

ENGSO’s SCORE Project was selected as an Erasmus+ Success Story

In the summer of 2017 our "Strengthening Coaching with the Objective to Raise Equality" (SCORE) project was selected as a "success story" by a panel of experts from the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. The project ran from January 2015 until December 2016 and involved 13 partner organisations.
The letter from the Commission states: "Success stories are nalised projects that have distinguished themselves by their impact, contribution to policy-making, innovative results and/or creative approach and can be a source of inspiration for others. The choice of your project as a success story was made on the basis of a selection process according to rigorous criteria regarding the quality, relevance and results of your project.” ENGSO is very delighted and honoured for such a recognition.