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Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

ROUND TABLE on the national mapping of sports facilities, Paris, 2 October 2017

REPORT PREPARED BY THE EPAS SECRETARIAT

Prior to the round table, states were asked to reply to several open-ended questions regarding their existing mapping systems at national level. The compendium of replies can be found in document EPAS (2017) INF16rev.



INF16rev compilation
of replies for RT on n:

The round table event, involving eleven states, took place in Paris on 2 October, where participants shared their experience on and gave insight into the various mapping systems of sports facilities which exist at national level. The list of participants can be found in Appendix I to this summary report.

The round table was chaired by Ms Marija Crnković (Croatia), member of the Bureau of the EPAS Governing Board, who invited each state around the table to briefly introduce themselves and to give a 10 minute presentation of their national mapping database or system and its current status of development.

Participants were also given the opportunity to ask questions after each presentation and to discuss the challenges faced.

The powerpoint presentations made during the round table are available on the restricted EPAS website:

(https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/epas/restricted/2017_en.asp).

The Executive Secretary of the EPAS took note of the views expressed by participants during the round table and summarised the defining criteria as follows:

- It was apparent from the discussions that the initial aim of setting up a mapping system varies from state to state (some were built up to allow the authorities to follow investments of public funds and combine this with requests for construction or refurbishment, others were set up to keep a track of public needs and trends, and to improve the use of facilities, or simply as a public service). Any state thinking of embarking on a mapping project should first of all clarify why it wishes to do so, before following a particular good practice model from another country;
- When it comes to ownership, national authorities seem to be the main administrators in most cases – but the local authorities often either play a key role in the update of data or are somehow closely associated with the project, or they are the ones in charge of the system. In a minority of cases, the systems are managed by clubs or research/educational establishments;
- Regarding the type of data covered, a balance needs to be struck between the quality of information and the quantity: having too much information available can overburden the maintenance aspect; there were also different approaches to maintenance: some systems can be updated directly by the public but most only by the authority in charge of the system; many of the presentations by participants showed that collecting the data and maintaining its accuracy were the two main challenges faced;
- Attention should be paid to who has access to the database information: can a third party access for its own use or is there an issue of data confidentiality?
- When it comes to length of experience, some states have over 20 years, some have none at all. Sharing know-how and exchanging good practice is possible (and almost certainly

only beneficial to the less experienced states), but harmonising at international level would not seem to be a useful exercise, given the variety in the criteria mentioned above.

During the afternoon session, Mr Jérôme Hamilius, Director for European Cooperation & Strategy at the Council of Europe Development Bank, gave a presentation on the Bank's role and its potential contribution to sports promotion in member states. Given the CEB's "AAA" credit rating, its favourable borrowing terms are passed on to the loanee, thus offering better interest rates.

He advised experts from the sports authorities to get in touch with their national CEB expert, and not to be dissuaded by the steps to be taken at national level when applying for a financial loan from the CEB.

Follow-up

The Executive Secretary of EPAS suggested creating and disseminating a more defined questionnaire for states to reply to, with closed-ended, multiple-choice questions, in order to be able to have a better overview from state to state, according to the same criteria. This would make it easier for states just beginning their mapping from scratch, to compare and contrast existing models. This inventory could then be made available on the EPAS restricted website. In the longer term, another proposal would be for EPAS to compile a good practice handbook which may inspire other states to start up a national mapping system.

The participants discussed the different future steps following the round table, and believed EPAS could play a role without being too ambitious about moving forward. Initially, participants would welcome a similar event every two years to give them a chance to meet their counterparts in other member states, to discuss problems and help find solutions on more specific issues such as data updates. A list of contacts from each member states should also be shared to allow them to stay in touch.

For those states not yet so advanced in their mapping systems, the Executive Secretary of EPAS informed them of the possibility to host an evaluation or consultative visit which, at their request, could focus on the development of sports facilities – the expert team visiting the country would then be composed of national experts who run developed mapping systems so that targetted recommendations and advice could be given to the host country. This would also fit into the EPAS priority of strengthening the European Sport Charter.

States' attention was also drawn to the fact that there were funding possibilities through Erasmus+ for small collaborative partnerships and networking when related to the transnational exchange of good practices. The Executive Secretary of EPAS added that if states were trying to obtain such grants through Erasmus+, then they could inform EPAS which could decide, via its Governing Board Bureau, to become a project partner, thus making the bridge between EU and non-EU states.

The Netherlands, Norway, Finland and Denmark will hold an expert meeting together on 30 November-1 December on their mapping systems, and are willing to send the resulting meeting report to the EPAS secretariat so that it can be disseminated to the other member states for information.

Conclusion

The Executive Secretary of EPAS will report to the EPAS Governing Board on the conclusions and proposals, in order for them to be considered in the planning of future activities:

- A short, more precise, survey to be disseminated to complete the overview of existing systems;
- A similar event to be proposed in two years' time;
- A list of national experts to be shared as a contacts list.

APPENDIX I – List of participants

MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

Mr Michael MATZINGER
Ministry of Sport

BELGIUM (French Community)

Mr François TRICARICO
Attaché
Ministère – Secrétariat général
Direction des Relations Internationales

BELGIUM (Flemish Community)

Mr Diederik VAN BRIEL
Mr Stijn BOONS
Sport Vlaanderen

BULGARIA

Mrs Hristina GROZEVA
Director of Public procurement directorate

Mrs Viktoria SLAVKOVA
Director of European Programmes, Projects and International Cooperation
Ministry of Youth and Sports

CROATIA (Chair of the Round Table)

Ms Marija CRNKOVIĆ
Head of Division for Sport Association and International Affairs
Ministry of Science, Education and Sports
Zagreb, Croatia

DENMARK

Mr Søren BANG
Editor and Project Manager
Danish Institute for Sport Studies / Play the Game

FINLAND

Ms Kirsi VEHKAKOSKI
Project manager
Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences
LIPAS-project
University of Jyväskylä

ICELAND

Mr Óskar Þór ÁRMANNSSON
Senior Adviser
Department of Cultural Affairs
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

LUXEMBOURG

Mr Alexandre HUSTING
Attaché
Représentation Permanente auprès de l'UE

MONTENEGRO

Mr Vladimir VOJVODIĆ
Department for international cooperation
Ministry of sports of Montenegro

THE NETHERLANDS

Mr Remco HOEKMAN
Senior onderzoeker
Mulier instituut

NORWAY

Mr Daniel Storholthe KRISTIANSEN
Head of Project
Norwegian Ministry of Culture
Department of Civil Society and Sports

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr Jérôme HAMILIUS
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APOLOGISED

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MONACO
SLOVENIA: Ms Maja SKALE, Architect, Ministry of Sport

EPAS SECRETARIAT

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