



ENGSO Youth Action Plan 2009-2011

I. Introduction

ENGSO Youth is the autonomous youth organisation of THE EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPORTS ORGANISATION (ENGSO). ENGSO is an umbrella organisation for national non-governmental sport organisations in Europe. The 41 members of ENGSO and ENGSO Youth are National Sport Confederations or National Olympic Committees. It is an independent non-profit organisation based on democratically adapted statutes and regulations. ENGSO Youth is the representation of young people under the age of 35 participating within the Member Organisations (MO).

ENGSO Youth consists of the Youth Assembly and the Youth Committee. The ENGSO Youth Assembly is the highest decision making body of ENGSO Youth and meets every two years in order to develop and adopt the action plan among other things. The fundamental principles of ENGSO Youth are laid down in the 'ENGSO Guidelines for Children and Youth Sport' and the main aims and activities are laid down in the Standing Orders.

Furthermore, ENGSO Youth has a claim which underlines the most important task to realise: 'Give youth a real say in sport'. With this claim we are aiming at convincing as many ENGSO member countries as possible to give young people a chance of participation in the decision-making processes in youth sport.

At the 4th ENGSO Youth Assembly the ENGSO Youth Committee will present this proposal for the action plan 2009-2011 and the proposals sent in by the member organisations. Afterwards, the delegates will discuss in small working groups on the action plan and then, report their comments and suggestions to the assembly. In the next step, the new proposals will be included in the action plan and the approval by voting will take place.

The proposed action plan focuses on the previous or begun actions in the past years and includes those actions which the previous ENGSO Youth Committee thinks are important and feasible. An overview of the previous actions are described in the ENGSO Youth report.

II. Internal Youth Work and Youth Policy Development

As the representative body of its members, ENGSO Youth bases its work and actions on the following main aims laid down in the Standing Orders (S.O.3):

- To represent the interest of people under the age of 35 dealing with sport in Europe;
- To achieve, promote and support the implementation of the 'ENGSO Guidelines for Children and Youth Sport';
- To develop the ENGSO Policy in the field of children and youth; include finding the financial resources for these activities;
- To represent the interest of young people in sport at the European level.

Accordingly, ENGSO Youth will concentrate its work and efforts for the next two years on youth work development and training for and with the member organisations. The proposed objectives and actions should be seen as a "tool" to achieve the main aims of the Standing Orders.

In this context, the good cooperation between the ENGSO Youth Committee and the ENGSO Executive Committee shall be continued and deepened.

In addition, we appeal to our member organisations to contribute to ensure the finances of ENGSO Youth as an investment in their and our future.

1) To increase the health, safety and well being of young people

Objectives

2.1 Promote healthy lifestyles through non-formal education and within policies affecting the lives of young people

Actions

- Promote active lifestyle through youth events and actions
- Promote youth sport organisations as key partners in combating the obesity pandemic

2.2 Advocate for the inclusion of young people in the determination and implementation of health policies affecting young people

Actions

- Contribute to the discussion on the EU-guidelines on physical activity
- Promote the role of sport clubs in the development of healthy lifestyles among childhood and youth
- Promote the participation of youth sport NGOs in the development of health policies

2) To promote participation and active citizenship

Objectives:

1.1 Promote and advocate for a culture of children and youth participation in European sport

Actions

- Promote the participation of young people in sport to our institutional partners
- Support the capacity and institutional recognition of ENGSO Youth members
- Support and work for institutional recognition of national Youth Committees (existing Committees as well as upcoming Committees)
- Support the work of youth co-determination within the MOs

- Promote ARCTOS as a tool for training on active citizenship and intercultural competence and translate ARTCOS in other language

1.2 Work with relevant partners for the realisation of the active participation of young people in Sport

Actions

- Initiate strong collaboration with EU Commission in order to establish the full and active participation of young people in Sport
- Continue co-operation with other organisations dealing with children and youth sports matters
- Encourage and support Member Organisations to initiate similar partnerships at the local and regional level
- Establish co-operation with Special Sports Federations on the European Level

1.3 Advocate for greater youth participation in decision-making

Actions

- Promote good governance in the management of Sport organisations
- Offer training on lobbying and influencing decision-making processes in youth related policy fields

Activities

- Organise follow up to the European Youth and Sport Forum 2008 following the EU-presidencies enhancing the opportunities to strengthen different aspects of youth participation in Sport
- Provide opportunities for MOs to exchange expertise on participation issues
- Provide information, support and facilitate Member Organisations in their efforts to promote youth participation

3) Promote volunteering

Objectives:

Advocate for the recognition and valuing of the benefits of volunteering, both to the individual and to society, as well as of the skills, competences and attitudes gained through volunteering.

Actions

- Promote the value of volunteering
- Implement and advertise the ENGSO Youth Award
- Be an active partner in and promote the European Volunteer Service programme
- Raise the profile of volunteering towards institutions and the private sector
- Promote the non-formal educational dimension of volunteering
- Promote the recognition of the personal and societal benefits of volunteering
- Contribute to the creation of national guidelines regarding the definition of “rights” and “duties” of young volunteers in European countries
- Cooperate with the Universiade 2009 and the Serbian government for national volunteer strategy

4) Membership development of ENGSO Youth

Objectives:

4.1 Consolidate national youth sport structures within ENGSO Youth

Actions

- Work on the establishment of new national youth committees and other youth sport structures among the ENGSO Youth members for instance through study visits and political lobbying
- Stress the importance of co-determination of young people in sports
- Increase the awareness of young people for their right of co-determination and motivate them to convince the member organisations to build up and establish youth committees
- Hold information seminars on international youth and sport activities in member organisations

4.2 Strengthen the Member Organisations and the structure of ENGSO Youth

Actions

- Renewing membership contacts, as a tool aimed at facilitating access to information on Member Organisations
- Monitor changes within the ENGSO Youth membership
- Facilitate networking and the exchange of good practise amongst MOs regarding youth work and national youth policy
- Develop the structure of ENGSO Youth
- Carry out study visits with those members that show an interest in building up a youth committee or are even willing to establish a youth committee.
- Do more promotion for those member organisations, which show no interest at all at occasions where ENGSO Youth member organisations gather.
- Create and administrate contact database

4.3 Provide effective tools for communication and information sharing

Action

- Set up necessary communication and information sharing mechanisms (relaunch website, effective address database administration)

4.4 Involve non-member organisation dealing with youth and sport in ENGSO Youth activities

Action

- Develop a strategy to ensure all relevant actors in the field of youth and sport are affiliated with ENGSO Youth

III. External Relations and Advocacy

ENGSO Youth represents the interests of young people in sport at European level. This includes liaising, networking and strengthening the co-operation with other bodies dealing with children and youth matters (S.O.3, S.O.4). It wants to enhance the general recognition of the specific needs of young people in sports. Its work is based on strong relations with all-related institutions and is driven by the objectives stated in the action plan, by the established guidelines and when required by special consultation and co-ordination of input from the member organisations. Youth advocacy, monitoring the developments in youth policy and lobbying are the main services that ENGSO Youth offers its members towards other bodies dealing with children and youth matter.

In addition to the organisations listed below, ENGSO Youth can get in contact with other international organisations in the field of youth and sport such as IOC, United Nations, UNESCO.

Institutional Relations

1) European Union

1.1 Strengthening ENGSO Youth's engagement with the EU institutions

Actions

- ENGSO Youth aims to influence the European Commission policies primarily on youth sport including health, social inclusion, active citizenship and diversity
- Promote ENGSO Youth as a professional and competent partner regarding questions on youth sport
- Involve Member Organisations in the work with the EU institutions and EU member states, improving capacity to contribute to EU policy processes and programmes
- Follow up to the White Paper on Sport of the European Union and other relevant policy papers (e.g. the EU-guidelines on physical activity)
- Contribute to the development of the new Youth funding programme
- Make use of the possibilities of the Youth in Action-programme and promote the programme to member organisations
- Follow all relevant calls for funding
- Observe EU-policy developments concerning youth and sport and cooperate with the ENGSO EU-working group

1.2 Establish a continuous structured dialogue between ENGSO Youth and the EU

Actions

- ENGSO Youth will respond to all relevant Commission Consultations, will actively seek representation on relevant Commission Working Groups and will establish itself as a valuable source of information and expertise in the youth sports sector for staff at the Commission and MEPs

2) Council of Europe

Continuously supporting the co-management system and the structures of the Council of Europe Directorate for Youth and Sport

Actions

- Advocate for better cooperation between youth and sport in the Council of Europe

- Promote and make use of the European Youth Foundation as a key instrument to support the development and sustainability of Youth NGO's
- Disseminate information on trainings and tools of the Council of Europe on youth participation and youth policy development
- Promote the Council of Europe's priorities of the youth sector through sport

3) European Youth Forum

Continuously support the activities of the YFJ and aiming at a close cooperation.

Actions

- Participate in meetings and working groups of the European Youth Forum
- Bring in expertise in youth sport especially in health, social inclusion, active citizenship and diversity issues
- Use information on the intranet for developing ENGSO Youth policy

4) Eurochild

Continuously collaborating with Eurochild

Actions

- Develop common positions to influence European policies
- Take part in Eurochild's meetings and events

IV. Communication

a) Marketing and Public Relations

ENGSO Youth will increase the scope and visibility of youth sport organisations and youth sport work by adapting its external communication tools and elaborating new ones to reach out to a greater number of stakeholders.

Actions

- Relaunch the ENGSO Youth website
- Provide up-to-date information on ENGSO Youth work through the e-newsletter of ENGSO Youth, the ENGSO newsletter, the website and events
- Increase the visibility of ENGSO Youth towards young people and other important stakeholders
- Send regular information in form of an e-newsletter to the ENGSO Youth mailing list
- Produce the biannual report
- Develop and print relevant brochures