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Mid-Term Conference Report

Date and Place

- 4 to 5 October 2012
- “The Ring” Physical Activity and Convention Center, El Anillo, Spain

I. INTRODUCTION

Organized by the Regional Ministry of Youth and Sports of Extremadura, the CLPF project group gathered on 4 and 5 October 2011 in El Anillo, Spain, with the aim to build upon experience from the first round of study visits and develop a first draft of recommendations. Next to the CLPF project team, the participation of key witnesses, as experts in the field from different EU Member States enriched the conference.

II. SUMMARY

The first part of the conference included an introduction round with short summaries from the different projects and a presentation by CLPF project partner UNITED who had not been present in the first meeting.

This programme was followed by different workshop sessions. In this frame, participants discussed challenges in the field of multicultural sport, as well as mechanisms and circumstances supporting the participation of minorities which should lead to key messages to decision-makers in the end of the CLPF project.

In the workshop sessions, participants were asked to fill in individual questionnaires about the programmes they were involved in and reflect on the key learning aspects, challenges, successes and failures in their jobs. This was followed by a moderated discussion in which the participants were free to express their views on important learning aspects, good practices, key elements and their transferability to other contexts.

These discussions concluded in a first summary of recommendations for sports organizations to be found below:

- **REACHING OUT**

When initiating initiatives on social inclusion in sports, target groups have to be clearly defined from the very beginning which requires an analysis of needs. Girls are generally more difficult to reach, so a diversity of sports options (such as single sex sports) needs to be considered.

- **FUNDING**

Funding is one of the key elements of project conduct. Money can be a large barrier and requires specialists, tender applications and management of finances. Funding also has to be ensured for the next steps as a continuation of the project.

- **PLANNING**

Planning has to be adjusted to the environment of the programme. If target groups are involved in the planning, this can already be considered as “sport plus”. Ideally, they should be provided a structure they can get involved in from the very beginning

- NETWORKING

To develop good programmes, partnerships are required and essential. To be able to benefit from broader knowledge and experience, experts could go to different places or countries for a temporary learning period. This could be a considered action under the “Lifelong Learning Programme”.

- ATTITUDE

Personal motivation and a project focused attitude are both important for success.

This summary of recommendations addressed to sports organizations will be developed further and be complemented by recommendations addressed to decision-makers at European, national, regional and local levels. The CLPF analysis team will be working on a first draft in the months to follow the mid-term conference.

III. CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

The mid-term conference of the CLPF initiative was a good opportunity to develop networking among the project partners and key witnesses could all share and learn from the initiatives carried out in the present countries. Some participants have found these conversations very useful for learning from each other and for reinforcing their professional motivations.

In addition, conference participants mentioned that during discussions, reflections about their activity and the methods of their work have taken place which helped them to re-think certain methods and structures.

With regards to the planning and organization of the mid-term conference, suggestions include the involvement of local sports organizations and local authorities in the program. This could be of particular interest to increase awareness on the initiative and involve local actors in the network.

In addition, the roles of all involved project partners in such a conference should be defined from the very beginning. In advance, a plan should be sent out clarifying expectations and key tasks which each partner should prepare for and possibly deliver during the conference.

The suggestion to provide an “open market” featuring an opportunity to learn more about the projects of each partner organization was taken into consideration and will be implemented in the agenda of the final conference to take place in the city of Helsinki in late March 2012.

Person in charge of the report: Melanie Strauch, ENGSO