

## **Need for Europe-wide Employment Skills map**

The European Feasibility Study of 2014 demonstrated there was a strong need as well as a strong support for the establishment of an European Sector Skills Alliance to provide a coordinated approach of analysing the sport and physical activity sector. As a result, the European Obervatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE) with support of European social partners started the 3 year ESSA-Sport project on the first of November 2016. Their website can be accessed [here](#). The ESSA project has two main aims. The one is to form a European Expert Advisory Board involving all the main European Association from the sector as demanded. The other is to create the first Europe-wide Employment and Skills map for the whole sport and physical activity sector.

The Employment and Skills map is of importance as expectations of the sector are rising. Currently, the national governments have recognized the need of improve the levels of health. Naturally, sport and physical activity plays an important role in achieving this goal. Moreover, sport and physical activity viewed as the heart of social integration and a mean to improve the employability of young people through the education and personal development it offers.

In addition, the sport and physical activity sector does not only provide social opportunities but also economical. The sport and physical activity sector creates new businesses and jobs. In addition, the sector changes constantly and new skills are needed for professionals. Therefore, an Employment and Skills map would be beneficial. Moreover, it would be wise to focus on the huge army of volunteers that lies at the heart of the sector in order to match the changing expectations from the labour market.

In order to execute the ESSA-sport project it is important to build partnerships for quality research and consultations to identify realities, trends and challenges facing the sector. Furthermore, a national bottom-up approach will be used to make a first real analysis of the labour market and required skills and priorities. The European Networks will help EOSE to do so. One of these networks is our network EASE. EASE will organise wide consultation activities to finalise an European strategic action plan with detailed and concreted priorities and recommendations to help ensure education, training and qualifications are geared towards the realities of the sector with her aligned national social partners.