



SEDY seminar:

Sport Unified: how sport is a tool for inclusion of diversity

Call for Participants

The EU and its Member States have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In this convention it is stated that individuals with disabilities hold the same rights and should have the same opportunities as those without disabilities. Concerning sports, the convention aims, amongst others, to encourage and promote the participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream sporting activities at all levels. Moreover it aims to ensure that youth with disabilities have equal access as other youth to participation in play, recreation, leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system.

The overall aim of this strategy is to empower young people with disabilities so that they can enjoy their full rights, and benefit fully from participating in society. It further states that efforts should be undertaken to remove barriers for participation in sports for disabled individuals. According to the “white paper on sport” sport makes an important contribution to economic and social cohesion and that special role that sport can play for people with disabilities must be taken into account

ENGSO Youth has noted one of the main problems to inclusion is often perception. For the inclusion of young people with disabilities in sporting activities, we are *'blinded'* by rules of our limited vision on how to play a sport and are not used to adapting these to suit others. Hence, this year ENGSO Youth hopes to hold a seminar to exchange with 40 youth workers/coaches teachers on their vision of this dichotomy between disabled and non-disabled sport and critically consider two main areas:

- to ensure participants understand the possibilities to adapt sessions and sports and make them more inclusive.
- to hear examples, advice and good practice for the future of sport as an all inclusive entity, specific to young people with a disability to create a common tool/manual which could be used in the different context of Europe.

This means not only opening to young people with disabilities, but additionally educating young people without disabilities to adapt and understand, as ignorance on how one can play with another, interaction between young people with and without disabilities does not often occur, leading to misconceptions and assumptions that need to be broken down if sport is to cater for all. Through this seminar ENGSO Youth hopes to create a platform where young people from all backgrounds and with different abilities come together and engage in finding practical solutions for the future.

Through this seminar ENGSO youth hopes to reinforce this belief to youth themselves and offer a platform of exchange on ideas and methods to better offer youth opportunities and engage European young people at all levels with the specific thematic of social inclusion. ENGSO youth, as a representative of European sporting youth, will use the outcomes of the seminar and spread the words and ideas, as well as find way of putting some of these into practice. ENGSO Youth envisions this seminar as an experience exchange, concept and idea development in order to develop possible solutions.

The above fits into our long-term objectives following the ENGSO youth motto: “Give youth a real say in Sport”. This seminar will contribute to the committee’s objectives to provide youth better offer in order to participate and being included in society. We will help youth workers to stay innovative in their ideas and work, to promote active engagement of young people with disability within the youth



sector and generate understanding of Europe. More importantly, this seminar would act as a starting point for a longer process to change the role of sport in social inclusion.

More specifically, with this seminar we want to achieve the following results:

- To explore sport as a barrier to inclusion of youth with different physical abilities, and find youth alternatives to step away from this current dichotomy
- To explore the concept of social inclusion and sport as a tool for social change.
- To share practices on inclusion of young people with disabilities in and through sport.
- To challenge sport and its limitations in terms of access, to inclusion of different ability levels.
- To promote a creative approach to sports, through the creation and development of adapted sport activities catering for young people with disabilities.
- to increase participation of disabled children in all types of sports at a grass roots level.

Expected outcomes of the seminar:

1. Learning outcomes for participants

Competences are made by knowledge, skills and attitude, and with the seminar, we will empower different level in different moment.

In particular they will know:

- how sport could be a barrier to inclusion of youth with different physical abilities,
- the concept of social inclusion and sport as a tool for social change.
- good practices on inclusion of young people with disabilities in and through sport.
- how to increase participation of disabled children in all types of sports at a grass roots level.

They will learn:

- to find creative alternatives to solve problems and overcome barriers
- think out of the box
- work in team for common objectives
- to create connection and bridges among world apparently too different
- to argue their idea in a respectful way
- how to create a strategic plan for dissemination and generate impact at local level
- to create adapted sport activities catering for young people with disabilities and without

They will learn:

- to be proactive and take action
- to be responsible for the processes and the achievement of the goal
- to be open and accept different opinion and vision
- to be empathetic and step into the life of another
- to be an agent of changes with his proposal and his inclusive attitude

2. General outcomes

The cascading effect will be sured by two main factors:

1. **tool/manual for an inclusive society through sport;** the manual that will be created will be an open source tool that can be download for free from our website.
2. **local multiplying activities,** the participants will develop a national youth initiative in order to spread the result of the seminar and to help other youth workers, youth leaders and stakeholder to use the tool/manual as a starting point to adapt the offer/proposal coming from their reality in order to make them accessible and inclusive for all diversity (fiscal, mental, sensorial).



All participants must meet the following criteria:

- 31 young people between 18-30 years old;
- 9 participants over 30 years old;
- Ability to **communicate and work in English**;
- Being strongly motivated and committed in creating and implementing a national youth initiative in order to spread the result of the seminar and to help other youth workers, youth leaders and stakeholder to promote the creation and development of adapted sport activities and unified session of sport catering for young people with disabilities;
- Being strongly motivated and committed to design and realize a manual on the topic a and act as a multipliers in the respective country;
- Have experience in mixed, adapted and unified sport or having participated in a project for inclusion of diversity through sport.

Selection of the participants:

The participants groups will be composed as following:

Austria 1 – France 4 – Germany 2 – Italy 4 – Spain 2 – Serbia 2 – United Kingdom 2 – Croatia 1 – Portugal 4 – Hungary 2 – Netherlands 4 – Slovenia 2 – Turkey 2 – Finland 2 – Lithuania 4.

All of them they should represent a national/regional/local organization-club.

Selection of these participants will be done by the project management according to the applications (application form + motivation).

Practical details:

Dates: 15th – 20th September 2016

Place: Sardinia - Sassari

Cost: Travel, accommodation and meals are covered by the project.

For the travel we will reimburse a fixed amount of money for each country, out of that range will be not covered anymore.

Procedure for applications:

Fill the application form and send it to the email massini@youth-sport.net