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I. Conclusions of the General Assembly (14-15th November 2013-Brussels)

The EPSI General Assembly was well attended and resulted in concrete decisions regarding EPSI's future activities.

- Finance
 - Financial results of 2012- they have been accepted and adopted by the General Assembly.
 - General Assembly formally accepted and adopted the revised budget 2014 and ensured that EPSI in on a financial good track since the result for next year will be a break-even point.
- In 2014, every EPSI member try to persuade at least one other organisation to join EPSI.

- ISPO- could equally sponsor EPSI conference in Voiron. Alberto to follow up.

II. EPSI Working Committees

Composition & Mission of 3 Working Committees:

- ✓ **Profile:** René Wijlens (Sports & Technology), Marc Van der Zande (InnoSport NL), Xavi Esteve (INDESCAT), Kyle Ferguson (University of Ulster).
 - To provide access to the (Regional) Sport Innovation clusters throughout the EU.
 - To provide a better insight into the actors in the sport innovation area within the EU.
- ✓ **EU Policy and Action:** Alberto Bichi (FESI), Christos Spitas (TU Delft), Eric Wallace (University of Ulster), René Wijlens (Sports & Technology)
 - The mission of this working committee is to represent the sports innovation community in Brussels and influencing the policy makers on sport innovation.
 - Coordinate EU policy, proposals, feedback as well as propose of projects and creation of consortia
- ✓ **Dissemination & Communication:** Alain Belli (SPORALTEC), Christos Spitas (TU Delft), Mercedes Sanchis (IBV)
 - To improve visibility and accessibility of the excellence that can be provided by the EPSI cluster network

III. Projects

1) ProFit (www.fieldlabs.eu) is an Interreg IVb project (NE-europe)

- The ProFit project is cooperation between local public authorities and knowledge institutions. Lead partner is the Sports & Technology Foundation.

- Participating universities are Sheffield Hallam University, University of Ulster, Eindhoven University of Technology, Delft University of Technology and Howest (University College West Flanders).
- A product innovation competition is incorporated into the project to inspire and source exciting new products to test in the field-labs. The ProFit project will develop FieldLabs in four European cities: Eindhoven (Netherlands), Delft (Netherlands), Kortrijk (Belgium) and Sheffield (UK).

2) EU 4 Sports Clusters coordinated by Xavi Esteve (INDESCAT)

- Goal is to facilitate the internationalisation of European SMEs dedicated to sports using clusters as a tool, cooperation, increase visibility, develop international strategies and disseminate information
- International cooperation is of the utmost importance for clusters as research, knowledge transfer, market access and financing is crucial and represents a key challenge for clusters

Future opportunities: Strategic Cluster Partnership -a call for proposal is foreseen to be published in 2014 (1st quarter of the New Year) in order to create jobs with an EU added value and make the European industry stronger.

3) European Commission's 'Lifelong Learning Programme- Call for Proposals'. Erasmus Multilateral Project:

- The experiment was not successful, however, we received positive feedback
- EPSI gave a good presentation, which was well received.
- Opportunity to work on proposal again before February 2014 deadline

IV. Horizon 2020

It calls for a €70 billion research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020).

The adoption of the Horizon 2020 work programme and the publication of the first calls for proposals are now available (11th December 2013).

What's new?

- Coupling research to innovation-from research to retail, all forms of innovation.
- Focus on societal challenges, e.g. health, clean energy and transport.
- Simplified access for universities, companies and institutes in all EU countries and beyond.

- Moreover, there will be a specific SME Instrument with the hereafter details:

- Targeted at all types of innovative SMEs showing a strong ambition to develop growth and internationalise to ultimately create sustainability and jobs.

- Emphasis on health, wellbeing, climate action and innovative societies.
- Networking possibility with investors and customer networks.

A brokerage event shall be organised in Brussels on 24th of January 2014 in coordination with Textile, Footwear and Sport Technology Platform. The aim of this event is to come across with innovative project ideas based on the call for proposals that already have been published (Horizon 2020).

Also, we are planning to arrange a meeting/brokerage event for our EPSI group specific on the sports opportunities. The meeting will take place somewhere in Brussels in the first months of next year. You will receive relevant information for this meeting as soon as possible.

For further information regarding the participation process visit the Horizon 2020 website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/index.html>

V. Possible new member

We are happy to inform you that EPSI has received an application for membership by the Hungarian Sport and Lifestyle Development Cluster. This institute expressed his interest in collaborating with EPSI. The EPSI Board has already express support and is in the process to approve the membership.

The mission of the Hungarian Sport and Lifestyle Development Cluster is to promote and co-ordinate the cooperation of the small and medium-sized enterprises, educational,

municipal, R+D profile institutions interested in sport and health promotion, and to exploit the potential of the cooperation..

Potential New Members contacted:

We have contacted some institutions that expressed an interest in becoming EPSI members:

- Technologiezentrum Ski- und Alpinsport GmbH-<http://sport1.uibk.ac.at/tsa-tirol/?page=mitarbeiter.html>
- Cluster Montagne-France- <http://www.cluster-montagne.com/>
- Faculty of Physical Culture (Palacky University)-Czech Republic-
<http://ftk.upol.cz/en/>
- Peak Innovation (SE)- <http://mssp.se/peak/>
- Snowpolis Finland - <http://www.snowpolis.fi/>

VI. Upcoming EPSI Conference



The next EPSI conference will be organised in collaboration with Sporaltec and Inosport France and will be held on 13th June 2014, in Voiron France. The conference is the ‘EPSI flagship’, key opportunity to discuss about strategic research agenda for our sector as well as debating on new projects that will be submitted for the public financial coverage. The conference is known to be an excellent opportunity for the international community to exchange latest ideas and develop vision and actions to make the next step in sports innovation.



Contributions to the EPSI newsletter:

If you need further information or if you have suggestions for the next newsletter do not hesitate to send an email to info@epsi.eu