



## INDEX

- I. Conclusions of the General Assembly (May 27<sup>th</sup>)
- II. Working Committees
- III. Projects
- IV. Horizon 2020
- V. Possible New Members
- VI. Upcoming EPSI conference

### I. Conclusions of the General Assembly (May 27<sup>th</sup>)

The EPSI General Assembly was well attended and covered the hereafter matters.

- Financial results of 2012- they have been finalised by BURCO (our external accountant). We have studied these and it was recognised that while we still need to fine tune some figures with BURCO, in principle they have been adopted by the General Assembly.
- Budget 2013- the final approval for the budget has not yet been reached. The budget initially presented was provisional due to the fact that much of the European Commission funding that EPSI applied for was not yet finalised. To this extent some of our applications for funding have been refused and as such the budget will need to be reviewed. An electronic decision will be taken shortly with all EPSI members.
- As some of the General Assembly points are developed later in this newsletter they will not be repeated here.

## II. EPSI Working Committees

1) **EPSI Working Committees** , we have indeed 3 working committees :

a. EU policy and action groups, chaired by Alberto Bichi.

This group deals with:

- Representation of the sports innovation community in Brussels and influencing the policy makers on sport innovation;
- gathering, screening and spreading information on EU calls for proposal;
- Coordinate on EU call reactions, feedback as well as projects proposal and creation of consortia.

b. Dissemination group, chaired by Alain Belli

This group deals with:

- Support dissemination activities from (EU) innovation projects for the establishment of new members' projects;
- the planning of EPSI conferences and workshops;
- Newsletter, websites, etc.
- organisation of brokerage event aimed at gathering experts to form consortia that will respond to calls for proposals;

c. Profile group, chaired by René Wijlens

This group deals with:

- Provide better insight of the actors in the sport innovation area within the EU;
- Compile and provide a list of excellence in Research and Innovation, for example:
  - ✓ Research partners/Institutes/Universities
  - ✓ Industrial partners/clusters/Technology platforms
  - ✓ Field labs

EPSI working committees- the working committees are set to gather in due course. EPSI is looking to make sure that all the working committees get together in the week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> September (week 39). There will be more information to come regarding the venue.

### III. Projects

#### Prosumer Net Final Conference–

*“Known and Unknown Innovation Champions of the European Consumer Goods Industry”*



The conference was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in Brussels. The event was organised by Walter Lutz from EURATEX as coordinator of the Prosumer.NET consortium, in close collaboration with the other technology platforms.

EPSI was one of the most influential and visible platforms, with dedicated banners of 4metres high and brochures. This offered the sports sector one of the greatest political impacts and an important advocacy role.

The final conference aimed to summarise and evaluate the results of the project. The project in particular raised the following points:

- There is an increase in the amount of innovations found in the consumer goods markets that are initiated by engaged and pro-active consumers
- This creates new opportunities for SMEs and ‘fast innovations with an authentic and ethical character and reputation among consumers’
- Successful and efficient business plans are built around the consumer as a central point
- Advantages of mass production and retail on large scales decreases
- Modern (online) technologies allows potential for development, production and spreading new products in a flexible and personal way
- Integrated design in innovation and consumer goods is very valuable and indispensable in European industry and EU policy development.

The two days were split into different sessions as follows:

- Prosumer.net Introduction and Major Consumer Innovation Trends
- Prosumer.net detailed results session
- 1<sup>st</sup> Innovators Session: (Multi)functional materials for exciting new consumers goods ‘Make it cool- make it safe- make me perform’

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovators Session: Disruptive manufacturing technologies and smart value chain approaches ‘ Make it quickly, make it smartly, deliver it when needed’
- Parallel Sessions- 3<sup>rd</sup> Innovators Session- Creativity and Sustainability ‘Make it green, make it beautiful, make me feel good about it’
- Parallel Sessions- 4<sup>th</sup> Innovators Session- Inspiring and connecting with the consumer ‘Make it personal, make me feel special, let me get involved’
- Panel Discussion on European Innovation Policies
- Closing Plenary Session

For more information please visit: [www.prosumernet.eu.expert-login](http://www.prosumernet.eu.expert-login)

For more documentation concerning the conference please contact us.

### ✓ **BetterSport4Youth**

EPSI has recently sent a letter of support to stake its interest in the content and the actions proposed by the proposal ‘BetterSport4Youth- **Better Sporting Conditions for Young Athletes**’ and corresponding to the European Commission Sport’s Unit’s call for Proposals, with a closing date of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

What is ‘BetterSport4Youth’?

There has been an increase in the number of synthetic pitches and facilities for sporting activities. This has led to a greater number of injuries linked to certain techniques/bad habits and equipment that is not suitable for athletic activity, due to the substandard surfaces.

The aim of the project is to bring trainers and coaches of youth teams and athletes from different local contexts together along with experts in industry, sport science practitioners, heads of sport infrastructure/synthetic surfaces and to encourage knowledge to be exchanged on how to improve training conditions for young people playing sport on synthetic surfaces.

Proposal full title:	Preventing Sporting Injuries caused by Synthetic Surfaces
Proposal acronym:	BetterSport4Youth
Duration:	15 months
Type of funding scheme:	Collaborative project (CP)
Name of the coordinating person:	Name: Eduardo Balekjian ACES Europe - European Capitals of Sport Federation Brussels Representative e-mail: <a href="mailto:eduardo.balekjian@aces-europa.eu">eduardo.balekjian@aces-europa.eu</a>

**BetterSport4Youth** has decided on a plan of action. The project will firstly gather information from studies on the subject and experience showing the impact of synthetic surfaces on health and performance in younger athletes. Partners will then meet with experts from different organisational and sporting backgrounds to evaluate and discuss adaptations that are necessary to improve training approaches and conditions. Focusing particularly on:

- Increasing the knowledge of injuries linked to training and competition on synthetic surfaces and related sportswear
- Sharing approaches and ideas to prevent injuries among young people
- Testing best methods to adapt training approaches and conditions with local partners
- Running events complementary to workshops to communicate how to take part in sports healthily
- Cooperating with local authorities and athletic bodies to increase awareness of health and injury risks from playing sports locally
- Gathering support for relevant sport associations at a national level

#### **Expected Results and Evaluation:**

The results can ensure that cities and sports bodies participating in the projects gain useful knowledge and techniques that they can apply in their own area to improve sporting conditions. ACES Europe will partner an external evaluator from a well-established international sports association. A report will then be produced and distributed to ensure a successful continuation of the project.

EPSI's role:

- To contribute with our knowledge and experience in the field (sharing best techniques in sport, sport sciences and activities with sporting goods suppliers, review and discuss project results
- Participate in the project seminars, online discussions etc.
- Disseminate the results of the project through the appropriate channels

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

We regret to inform you that, unfortunately we have not been successful in our bid to receive funding from the European Commission's 'Lifelong Learning Programme- Call for Proposals'. Please find attached in the email the response from the Commission highlighting the rationale behind their decision.

### IV. Horizon 2020:

Horizon 2020 is the major budgetary project of the European Commission regarding Research and Innovation. It is the financial instrument implementing the innovation union, the 2020 flagship. It is designed to promote and develop the European Union's global competitiveness. The project has a €80billion budget and it is set to receive €8.8billion in its first year. The three pillars that the project is based on are; Excellent Sciences; Competitive Industries and Better Society.

One of the main aims of the project is to strengthen the EU's position in science which will be carried out with a specific budget of €24 million. This will develop the most competitive knowledge- based economy in the world and give greater access to capital support for SMEs.

For further information please see a fact sheet attached to the email and visit the Horizon 2020 website at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm)

### V. Possible New Members

We are pleased to announce that EPSI is discussing the possibility of membership with **CBBS: Management Consulting and Business Building Company (Zagreb Croatia)** and the Kinesiology Faculty at Zagreb University. These institutes have expressed an interest in collaborating with EPSI. At this moment in time we are awaiting to confirm their membership and a discussion will follow with the board members regarding their application if deemed necessary.

The University of Zagreb is the oldest and largest university in Southeast Europe. It continues to constantly develop and expand its areas of research. Its Faculty of Kinesiology was established in 2001 and participates in the study of human movements or physical activities and exercise. It is interested in discovering goal-orientated exercise and training programmes.

CBBS- Management Consulting and Business Building Company 'is a boutique-type consulting, lobbying and new business development company focused on Central & Eastern Europe.' They have been involved in EU lobbying and EU funding and closely monitored the pre-accession activities in Croatia.

For further information you can access:

[http://www.kif.unizg.hr/en/about\\_us](http://www.kif.unizg.hr/en/about_us)

<http://cbbs.hr/cbbs-croatia/>



Further, we would like to introduce PFI as a potential EPSI member. The PFI Group represents a unique combination of accredited laboratories, multidisciplinary engineering, and certification body. The PFI Group has an in-depth knowledge of the footwear industry and since founding their Industrial Shoe Competence Centre they have created a contact point in Germany that concerns itself with all matters regarding the footwear industry. They offer training and education programmes, internet base databases and a state of the art production facility for sample production and for production trials using new methods. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the heads of PFI have agreed to become a member of EPSI and we look forward to finalising this.

For further information you can access:

<http://pfi-germany.de/index.php?id=4&L=1>



#### Potential New Members Contacted-

We have contacted some institutions that expressed an interest in becoming EPSI members following some active lobbying from EPSI President Antonello Marega. Below is a list of those we have contacted-

- Innsbruck Institut für Sportwissenschaft <http://www.uibk.ac.at/isw/>
- Mid Sweden University- [www.miun.se](http://www.miun.se)
- Snowpolis Finland <http://www.snowpolis.fi/?pid=198>
- Peak Innovation <http://www.peakinnovation.se/en>

## VI. Next EPSI Conference 2014-

The next EPSI conference will be organised by EPSI in collaboration with Sporaltec (<http://www.sporaltec.fr/en/>) and Inosport France (<http://inosport.fr>) and will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014, in Voiron France. The international conference will provide a forum for research organisations, companies, sports organisations and national contact points active in sporting goods and innovation to exchange information. Please keep the date clear as we look forward to seeing all EPSI members present.



**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](mailto:info@epsi.eu)**