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## BASKET 4 ALL

ERASMUS+2018 PROJECT

### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BASKET 4 ALL

#### PROJECT GROUP

#### AIM

Within the scope of the project, we had three meetings of coaches and staff of partner clubs, in order to debate on topics that concern our clubs, to share experience and practices, to define best practices and share possible solutions.

Overarching idea was to see how to increase participation in sport, how to facilitate the work of clubs and increase popularity of grassroots basketball, and to debate particular issues that our clubs are facing, looking for best practices and solutions.

Each club picked their own topic to discuss, and the work group gave their input, shared their experience and the systems in place in their own country. This way, we learned about realities and conditions in other countries and were able to define best practices and pinpoint possible steps to improvement in each particular country.

#### TOPICS

In our first meeting in Ljubljana, the topic was "**How to increase participation in sport and facilitate the work of clubs – institutional support, financing and cooperation with schools**".

In our second meeting in Varaždin, the topic was "**Preventing drop-off in training adolescents upon transition to higher education**".

In our third meeting in Grosseto, the topic was "**The referee – role, attitude and possibilities for dual career**".



## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**, most notably cooperation with municipalities, is essential for making grassroots sport accessible to all.
2. **RECREATIONAL SPORT**: Professionalization of sport and striving for best results makes it seem like sport for purely recreational purposes is not as important, but it is quite the contrary. Recreational sport has the most health benefits and will last for a lifetime. Our suggestion is that policy should focus on public financing schemes for recreational sport, as institutional support and cooperation with grassroots clubs is essential in order to increase general participation in sport (as seen in the case of Slovenia, a case of best practice).
3. **CASE OF GOOD EXAMPLE**: In Slovenia (and Croatia), sport clubs have school gyms at their disposal, through municipal programmes for sport, and cooperate with schools to offer sport activity as extracurricular activities within schools. This facilitates operation of clubs and makes training readily available to children and youths, already in early school periods, regardless of their economical background. Also, sport programmes are (partly) financed through national schemes for sport, and sporting culture is held in high regard.
4. **SCHOOL GYMS** are a good resource to use for clubs in order to provide sport to all. Our suggestion is that they should be open also on weekends, as the demand for sport grounds is very high.
5. **SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM** should support athletes, especially the professional athletes, to facilitate combining of education and training for young people with perspective in professional sport.
6. Conditions in sport in EU countries vary greatly, so **MUTUAL LEARNING AND TRANSFER OF PRACTICES** would be beneficial, provided government institutions cooperate in the efforts.
7. **CULTURE IN SPORT** should be consciously upheld and raised from childhood, and role of the referee, as well as other supporting staff in sport, should be respected.
8. **DUAL CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES** for athletes include all the supporting staff in sport, so athletes should be educated in all the possibilities and prepared from early on for the transition from professional sport career.