



# European Commission

**Study on the training of young sportsmen and sportswomen in Europe**

**Presentation of May 6, 2010 at INSEP**



## Summary

- 1. Background, objectives and methodology of the study
- 2. Presentation of existing risks
- 3. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices

# 1. Background, objectives and methodology



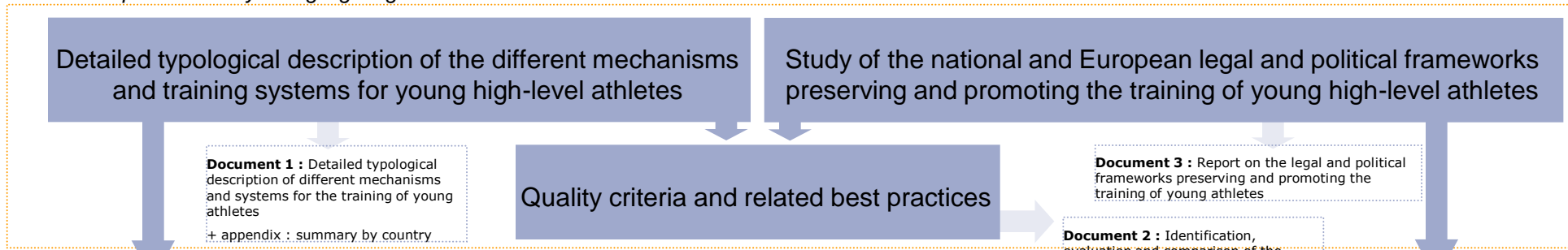
*Phase 1 : Inventory of current issues and existing doctrines*



- High level athletes, clubs, ENGSO, FIFPRO, UEFA, G14, Syndicat National des Basketteurs Français, Sports Ministry, CNOSF, UCPF, professional football leagues**
- 3 sports (football, basket, athletics)**
- 6 sports studied in 5 countries**
- 6 sports studied in 4 countries**
- 85 questionnaires from sports associations**
- 62 questionnaires from clubs**
- 27 questionnaires related to the organization of the training of young athletes (legal and organizational aspects)**

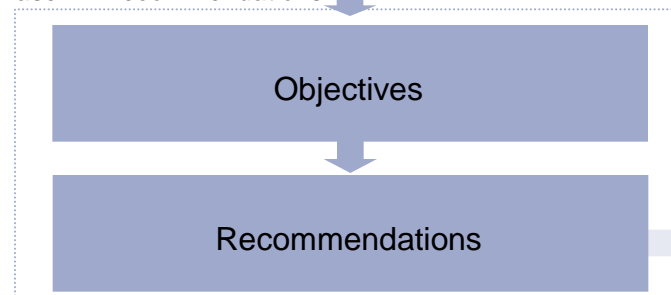


*Phase 3 : Comparative analysis highlighting the differences between countries*



*Phase 4 : Recommendations*

Extension Part I  
Home-grown players rule



Extension Part II  
Home-grown players rule

Document 4 : Recommendations

# 1. Background, objectives and methodology



- Selected sports

Sports	GER	AUS	BEL	BUL	CHY	DK	SPA	EST	FIN	FRA	GRE	HUN	IRL	ITA	LET	LIT	LUX	MAL	NDL	POL	POR	T.REP	ROM	UK	SLQ	SLOV	SWE	Total Sports	
Athletics	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	
Football	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	
Basket	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	
Cycling			1				1							1			1				1							5	
Fencing				1							1					1	1				1								5
Gymnastics				1							1							1			1		1						5
Handball	1				1	1	1								1						1								5
Natation				1							1					1				1	1								5
Tennis			1				1											1							1			1	5
Golf	1					1							1												1				4
Ice Hockey									1						1								1			1			4
Judo										1		1								1						1			4
Rugby										1			1											1	1				4
Alpine ski		1												1												1	1		4
Cross country ski		1						1	1														1						4
Total Sports	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	135

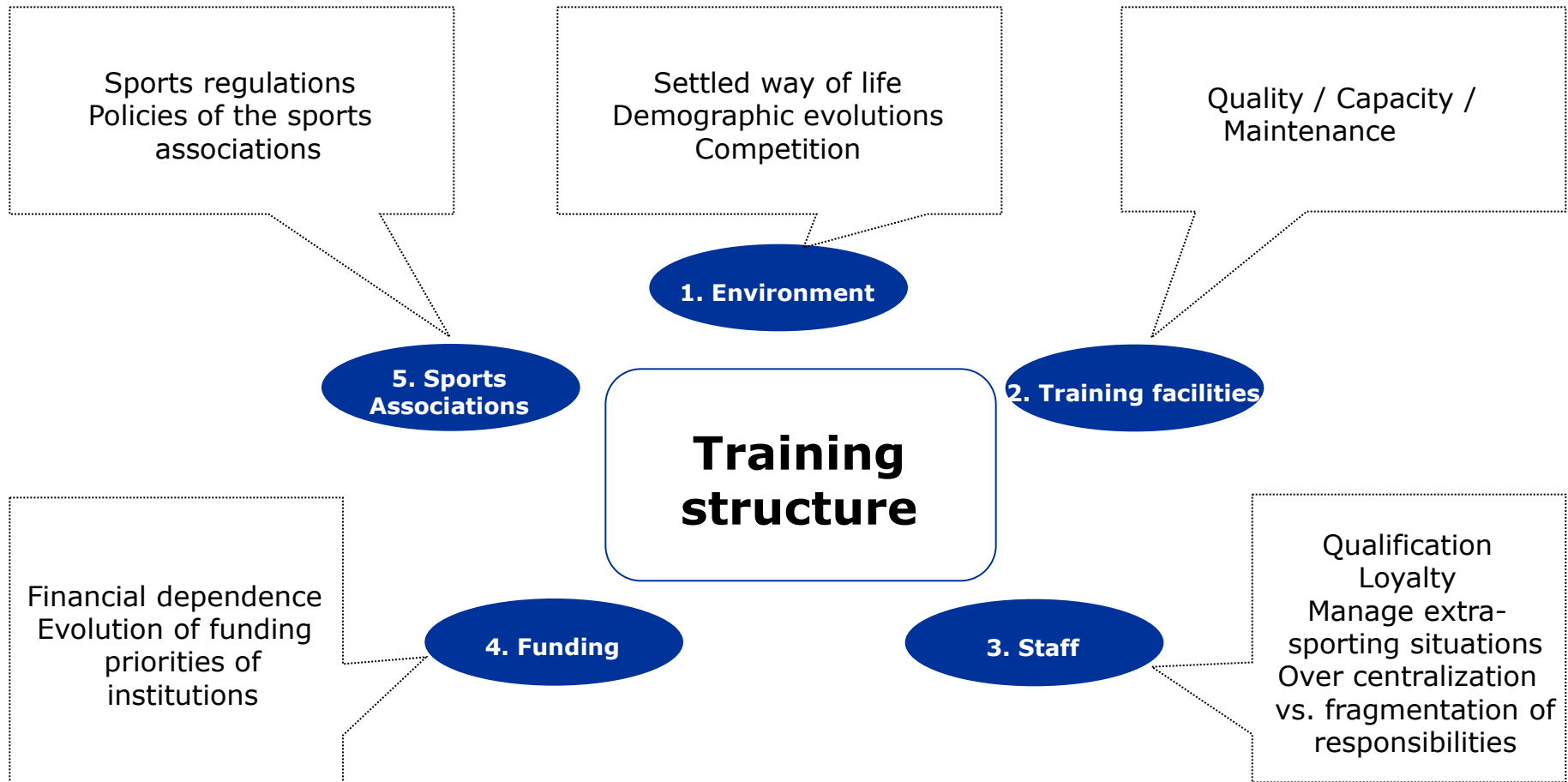
sports studied in 5 countries  
 sports studied in 4 countries



## Summary

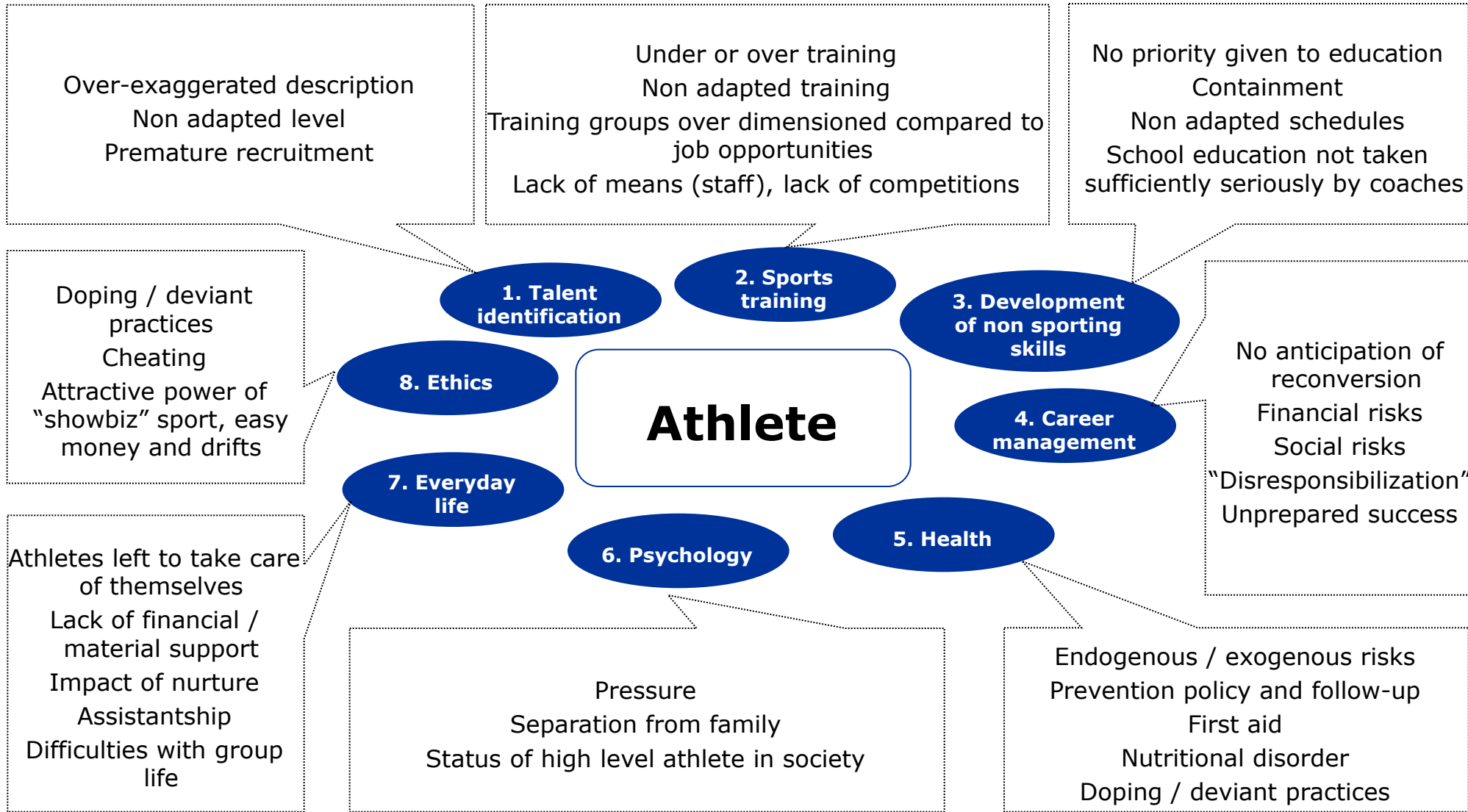
- 1. Background, objectives and methodology of the study
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# Risks related to the training structure



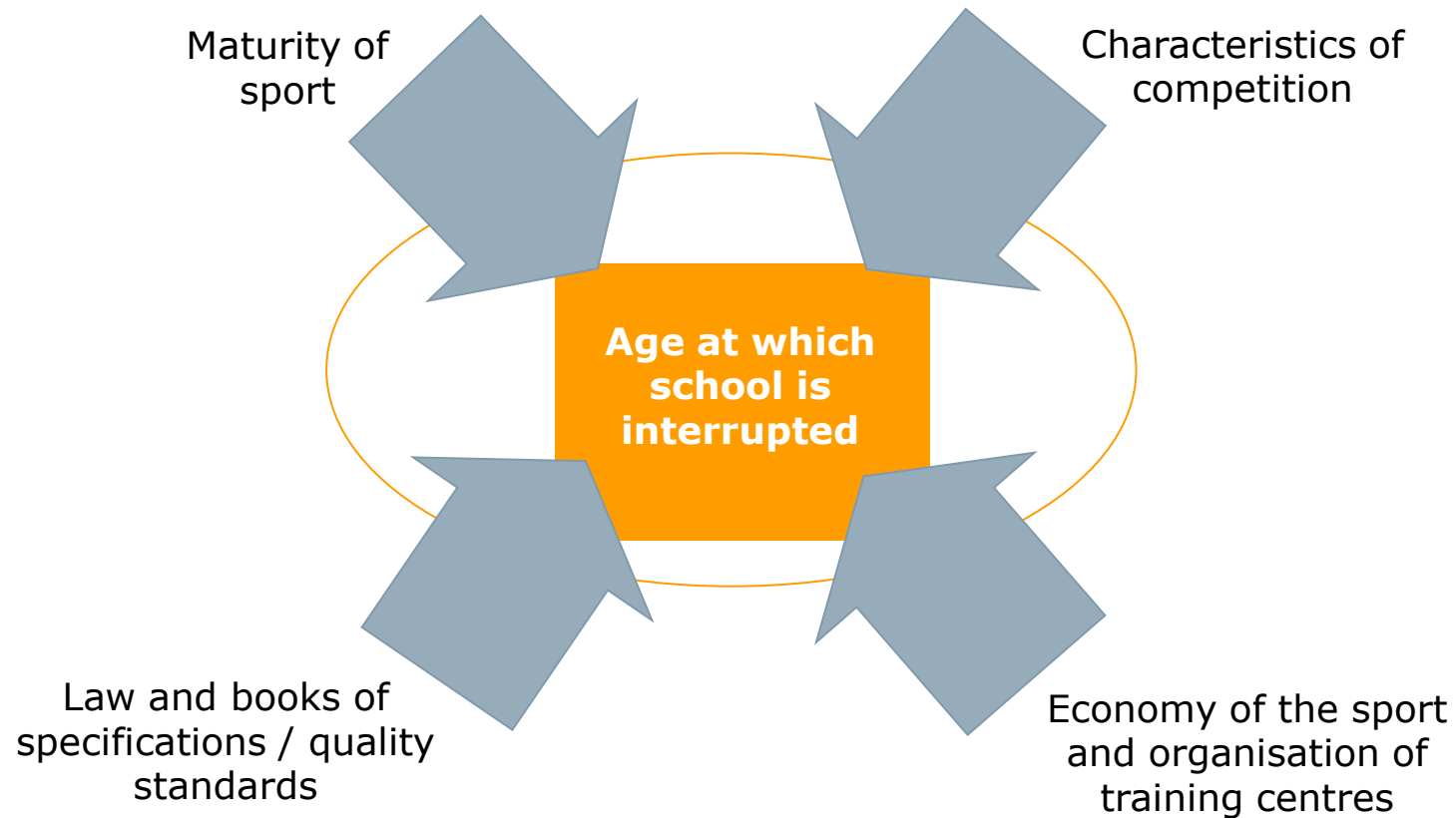
## 2. Presentation of existing risks

# Risks related to the athlete



## 2. Presentation of existing risks

# Main factors for leaving school





## Summary

- 1. Background, objectives and methodology of the study
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## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices

### Synthesis



A)	Promotion of a workforce with appropriate formal qualifications
B)	Protection of the health and the environment of young high-level athletes
C)	Promotion of the dialogue and cooperation between sports and education at all levels
D)	Promotion of new financing mechanisms for the training of young high-level athletes
E)	Promotion of the societal role of sports
F)	Protection of young professional athletes
G)	Creation of a European label for training centres

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



A)

Promotion of a workforce with appropriate formal qualifications

### Recommendations

Recommendation (1) : To promote the recognition of equivalences of qualifications at the European level for all types of actors involved in the training of high level young athletes

Recommendation (2) : To ensure that sports trainers benefit from a lifelong vocational training

Recommendation (3) : To promote the role of women in sports management and training

### Examples of best practices

Football – England:

- Specific license for the management of a training centre.

Football – France :

- Specific diploma in order to train young football players in training centres.

Several sports-Hungary:

- Regulations on necessary qualifications for some professions relating to the sports sector.

Basket ball– Austria:

- One vocational training per year.

Football – Finland :

- Vocational trainings at least every two years.

Several sports – Latvia :

- One vocational training per year.

Several sports– France :

Multisports – France :

- Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports and the CNOSF – Set up of a national and regional contests regarding Women and sports..

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



B)

### Protection of the health and the environment of the young high-level athlete

#### Recommendations

Recommandation (4) : To promote a regular medical follow-up of young high-level athletes

Recommandation (5) : To promote the limitation by sports associations of the length of training and of the number of competitions for high-level young athletes, in order to safeguard their health and to preserve their chance of performing a dual career (sport & school)

Recommandation (6) : To promote existing best practices related to pensions and health insurance of young high-level athletes

#### Examples of best practices

Several sports – Belgium:

- Mandatory check-up by medicinal practitioners who practice in specific centres.

Several sports – France :

- Specific legal provisions for several sports (rugby, cycling, diving,...).

Basketball – France :

- Electrocardiograms /MRI when the athlete joins the training centre and thereafter every 4 years.

Football/Rugby– France :

- Defibrillators made available in every professional club.

Several sports – Slovakia:

- One annual medical visit which is mandatory for all athletes in training.

Several sports – Sweden:

- General guidelines relating to medical check-up of high-level athletes.

Several Sports– Belgium:

- Minimum age for starting training and competitions.

Several sports – Latvia:

- Training volume is regulated.

Several sports – Slovenia:

- Training volume is regulated ( role of sports associations, Ministry of Education and Sports and the Slovenian Olympic Committee).

Several sports – Finland / Luxemburg :

- Specific regulations regarding social security and pension schemes for young high-level athletes.

Several sports – Luxemburg / Czech Republic/ Slovenia :

- The State pays the social security of young high-level athletes.

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



c)

### Promotion of the dialogue and cooperation between sports and education at all levels

#### Recommendations

Recommendation (7) : To promote the dialogue between sports and education at both national and local levels in order to develop flexible systems for combining sports and academic education

*(first part)*

#### Examples of best practices

##### **Mandatory and high school level**

Several Sports – Germany/Austria / Finland/ France / Latvia/ Lithuania / Luxembourg/ Netherlands/ Poland/ Slovakia / Slovenia

- Those Member States set forth a regulation for sports classes in regular schools

Several sports– Germany/ Austria/ Belgium/ Bulgaria / Denmark / Estonia / Spain/ Finland / Italia / Latvia/ Lithuania / Luxembourg / Netherlands/ Poland / Romania / Sweden/ Czech Republic/ Slovakia/ United Kingdom...

- Those Member States created specific sports schools where sports play a major role.

Several Sports – Belgium/ Portugal / Slovenia

- Specific status for young sportsmen in training who benefit of advantages (absence during competitions, flexible schedules, financial support...)

## 2. 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



c)

### Promotion of the dialogue and cooperation between sports and education at all levels

#### Recommendations

Recommendation (7) : To promote the dialogue between sports and education at both national and local levels in order to develop flexible systems for combining sports and academic education

*(second part)*

Recommendation (8) : To promote the dialogue between sports and education at both national and local levels in order to develop possibilities for young athletes to go back to their studies when they stop high level training

Recommendation (9) : To promote top European athletes who were successful in high-level studies

#### Examples of best practices

##### University level

Several Sports– Bulgaria / France / Finland / Poland / Czech Republic/ Slovakia/ Romania

- Those Member States create sport.

Several sports – Germany:

- More than 100 universities allowing high-level athletes to extend their studies.

Several sports – Finland :

Creation of an academy network with the goal to support young high-level athletes

Several sports– France :

- Paths dedicated to high-level sportsmen in prestigious colleges and universities and 20 high-level athletes may access directly into the school of physiotherapy.

Football – France :

- The club of the LOSC (Lille) set up a system of recognition of the knowledge of the players in training.

Football – Ireland :

Specific trust which provides funding to football players in order to facilitate their placement into educational programmes of universities or other educational establishments.

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



D)

### Promotion of a more diverse system for providing and financing education and sports training

#### Recommendations

Recommandation (10) : To promote private funding of training centres and young athletes (charities, trusts, foundations, lotteries...)

Recommandation (11) : To encourage sports organisations and sports clubs involved in the training of young athletes to share knowledge and means

Recommandation (12) : To contemplate an evolution of the current compensation fees system in football and develop similar mechanisms in other collective sports

#### Examples of best practices

Several sports– England:

- The State set up in 2006 the National Sports Foundation in order to encourage private financing in sports.

Several sports– Germany/ United Kingdom/ Austria/ France / Czech Republic:

- Contributions of State lotteries.

Several sports– France :

- Apprenticeship tax.

Football – Austria:

- Set up of regional structures.

Football – Netherlands:

- Set up of joint training structure (precursors: Heracles Almelo / FC Twente Enschede, AGOVV Apeldoorn / Vitesse Arnhem, Fortuna Sittard / FCVVV / MVV Maastricht / Roda JC).

Football – England:

- Between English clubs, a training indemnity is complemented by an indemnity calculated on the future performance of the player.

Football – France :

Between French clubs of L1 and L2, a new system was negotiated between the unions of clubs and players based on a training indemnity , an indemnity relating to the future performance of the player and an indemnity in case of extension of the players' contract or in case of transfer.

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



E)

Promotion of the societal role of sports

### Recommendations

Recommendation (13) : To develop high-level sports training for young disabled athletes and common facilities and competitions

### Examples of best practices

Several sports– Germany/ Belgium/ Denmark/ Spain/ Latvia/ Sweden:

- Sports schools that welcome disabled athletes.

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



F)

### Protection of young professional athletes

#### Recommendations

Recommendation (14) : To take into account specific issues related to the training of young high level athletes in a future European social dialogue

Recommendation (15) : To pay a special attention to the conditions of residence in Europe of young foreign athletes (including visa, residence permit, etc.).

#### Examples of best practices

Football – European Commission:

- European Commission, Football players, / clubs/ professional leagues: in July 2008, set-up of a social dialogue.

Football – England:

- Labor contracts for each trial of player.

Football – Belgium:

- Specific obligations to be honored by professional clubs.

## 2. Presentation of our main recommendations and examples of best practices



G)

### Creation of a European label for training centres

#### Recommendations

Recommendation (16) : To promote, on a voluntary basis, the creation of a European label for training centres

#### Examples of best practices

##### Football – England:

- A book of specifications drafted by the English Football Association regarding the academies of professional clubs.

##### Several Sports– France :

- Compliance with specific criteria checked by the Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports (for approval).

##### Basketball– Portugal :

- Rules regarding the qualification of the staff, services, personal development and school results (for national centres).

##### Judo – Slovenia:

- A book of specifications setting forth the training conditions and the competitions including elements regarding education and ethical values.

##### Football – UEFA :

- A system of licenses given to clubs which respect specific quality standards especially regarding training, administration, legal and financial aspects (mandatory for playing in European championships).

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