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FIRST TRANSNATIONAL MEETING - REPORT

Thursday 22nd - Friday 23rd February 2018

Kuldiga, Latvia

The first transnational meeting within the project "Sport together, active forever" (Erasmus+ Sport - Small Collaborative Partnerships: 590526–EPP–1–2017–1–RO–SPO–SSCP; Grant Agreement: 2017–3137/001–001) was held between 22nd and 23rd of February 2018 at Kuldiga, Latvia.

To this meeting, 13 persons participated which represented the four partner institutions:

- National University of Physical Education and Sports Bucharest (NUPES) – 5 persons
- Sport Club Alba, Tàrrega, Spain – 3 persons
- Special Sports Center, Kuldiga, Latvia – 2 persons
- Down Plus Bucharest Association, Romania – 3 persons.

In this period of time, two activities were performed. **The kick-off meeting took place in the first day (22.02.2018).** At this first meeting, 13 persons participated, representing the four partner institutions. The activities performed in that day:

- the welcome speech addressed to the participants by the Mayor of Kuldiga
- the presentation of the partner institutions
- four interventions about the project presented by NUPES as its coordinator:
 - a. The presentation of the project; the precise implementation activities and methods – coordinators: Valeria Cristina Balan and Ana Maria Mujea;
 - b. The project's financial and administrative problems – coordinators: Valeria Cristina Balan and Carmen Liliana Gherghel;
 - c. dissemination strategy and project sustainability - coordinators: Valeria Cristina Balan and Ana Maria Mujea;



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d. The quality of the project and risk factors; evaluation instruments – coordinators: Valeria Cristina Balan and Carmen Liliana Gherghel.

All these presentations were based on the information presented in the Grant Agreement of the project, in "Guidance on Contractual Project Management" and on the materials presented at the meeting of the project managers, held in January 2018.

The quality of the materials presented by the project manager was evaluated by using an enquiry. It comprised closed-ended questions providing answer versions and open-ended questions to which the participants had to answer depending on the clarification degree of the discussed problems. As a summary, we concluded:

- the information received at the kick-off meeting will be useful to the entire project team during its performance;
- the participants obtained valuable information on the projects Erasmus+ Sport which are the basis of future competences used when writing new projects;
- the participants understood the project and its activities much better;
- the presentations were interesting and precise and clarified some aspects of the project's implementation method;
- the participants met European citizens from states with whom they had not previously interacted.

Each part of the program was concluded with a session of questions and answers to which the project manager answered, based on the information from the project's Grant Agreement and from the "Guidance on Contractual Project Management". This session generated a series of discussions regarding certain actions which, in order to be compliant with the criteria requested by the project's guides, necessitated the phrasing of questions addressed to the coordinator from Brussels. The answers were subsequently sent by e-mail to the partners.

The four presentations of the project's coordinating team were evaluated by the participants based on scores. The average of the scores granted for all the interventions presented to the kick-off meeting was 8.90.

The partners from Latvia prepared for that day a visit to the City Hall and a short meeting with the officials at their workplace.

In the second day of the meeting (23.02.2018), **the workshop "Bocce – a sport discipline practiced by the mental disabled persons"** took place. It was coordinated by the hosts of this meeting: Specialais Sporta Centrs.



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To this workshop, 29 persons attended: 13 members of the project team and 16 persons invited by the organizers: experts – bocce coaches, volunteers, social workers, parents, persons with disabilities, representatives of certain local institutions involved in sports activities addressed to persons with disabilities.

The organizers (as experts of the bocce sport discipline) presented the game (equipment, field, referees, divisioning and the final competition), the precise training method and several successions of exercises used in the training sessions. Also, materials regarding the precise methods of involving the volunteers in the events and/or activities organized in Kuldiga were presented to us.

In the afternoon, the workshop continued with a practical lesson in which the 13 persons present at the transnational meeting played the bocce and boccia game. The experts of the partner from Latvia played both games (bocce and boccia), explained them (the description of the balls, field and game surface, etc.), answered to all the questions of the participants and coached teaching competitions.

During the workshop, the experts worked very well with each other and showed a lot of professional experience. In the same time, they created a pleasant environment, they taught us the two games (bocce and boccia), and provided us materials (one book) on the bocce game.

Also the activities performed during the workshop were evaluated by an enquiry. 11 of the 13 members of the project team answered to this enquiry.

Following the interpretation of the evaluation enquiry's answers, it was found that the partner from Latvia prepared very well the workshop, the best practice exchange was excellent and the skills acquired by the other members of the project's implementation team will prove their utility in the coaching sessions addressed to children and adults with mental retardation. Obviously, the experts showed their availability to answer the questions related to the bocce game throughout the entire period of the project's implementation.

The partners from Latvia prepared for this day a visit to the youth centre from Kuldiga and a short meeting with the attending youth (without disabilities). The activities in which they are involved and the precise support received by the youth from the employed staff are highlighted.

PROJECT COORDINATOR
VALERIA CRISTINA BALAN