



Skills acquired through  
Volunteering in Sport

## A EUROPEAN PROJECT FOCUSING ON VOLUNTEERS IN SPORT

### RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

Volunteers make a huge contribution to sport and play a vital role in sustaining delivery at every level, from grassroots participation to elite competition.

Through their tireless commitment, volunteers gain so much informal learning which often goes unnoticed and unrewarded. If they could make their skills visible, this would be a powerful incentive to volunteer recruitment, ease transition into paid employment and address skills gaps in the sport sector.

V4V is working with the same concept adopted by EU Member States, namely that volunteering describes actions which:

- + are performed with the free will of the individual
- + are developed in the framework of non-profit, non-governmental organisations
- + are non-paid and carried out for the benefit of the community or third party.

## GOALS

The overall goals of this transnational initiative are to:

- + Produce a **Comprehensive Mapping of the European sport volunteer workforce**, finding out more about its size and characteristics, the roles which volunteers perform, their incentives and aspirations, and the realities and challenges they face
- + Develop a **practical and easy-to-use Volunteer Toolkit** which sport organisations can use to facilitate and improve the engagement, management and retention of volunteers
- + Create an **innovative EU Competency-Based Self-Assessment Tool** which volunteers can use to identify, record and showcase the skills gained while participating in sport volunteering and make these visible to potential employers and education providers
- + Publish a **Sustainability and Implementation Strategic Action Plan** with a series of concrete recommendations to increase visibility of skills acquired through volunteering experience and to stimulate more citizens to become a volunteer
- + Organise the first ever **European Sport Volunteering Skills Summit** which will attract stakeholders from all parts of the EU to explore the project's outputs and begin to put in place sustainable solutions



## EXPECTED BENEFITS

V4V sets out to have the following impacts:

- + Improve the sector's understanding of the sport volunteer workforce so that sport organisations can better appreciate its valuable contribution to the sector.
- + Raise the profile of sport volunteers and highlight what motivates them to volunteer and the challenges they face.
- + Create a much better understanding of the skills and competences which sport volunteers acquire and how these can be transferred into paid employment in sport or other sectors.
- + Raise the profile of sport volunteers and emphasise the value and benefits of volunteering experiences
- + Improve volunteer recruitment, management and retention, and smooth the transition from voluntary to paid employment for those who want it, thereby helping to address current skill shortages.

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## THE PARTNERSHIP

Coordinated by the European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE), the V4V partnership is a powerful mix of 13 stakeholders from across the EU which brings together national and international sport federations, a government organisation, training providers, research centres, and networks with numerous contacts all over the continent and beyond, including other sectors where volunteering plays an important role.



European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE)  
France / Europe - Coordinator



International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)  
Denmark / Europe / Global



European Volunteer Centre (CEV)  
Belgium / Europe



World Rugby  
Ireland / Global



International Judo Federation Academy Foundation (IJF)  
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Romanian Football Federation (FRF)  
Romania



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Estonian Foundation of Sports Education and Information (FSEI)  
Estonia



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