

Ethics4Sports - An ERASMUS+ co-funded project surrounding perceptions of fairness in grassroots sport.

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Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Ethics4Sports (E4S) Project
We are working to promote ethics and positive values in grassroots sport across Europe.

Introduction

Hi from the E4S project!

The E4S initiative is an exciting new ERASMUS+ funded pan-European network, which connects scholars, local officials, representatives and volunteers in local sport from five countries – the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Germany and Spain – and which works across a wide range of local sports, including roller-hockey (Germany), volleyball (Italy), local football (United Kingdom) and a wide range of grassroots sports in Spain.

The E4S project involves sports clubs in Spain, the UK, Italy and Germany, a local authority in Sant Cugat in Spain, and also academics from the University of Leicester in the UK and the University of Rennes 2 in France. We have already met for discussions in Spain and in Modena in Italy in order to develop our relationship and ideas and to begin collecting some relevant data. We are currently working on an electronic Handbook of Good Practice to highlight the positive things which are already going on in grassroots sport in Europe.

The E4S intervention and research complements and supports perfectly the EU study on "*Contribution of Sports to Economic Growth*" from November 2012 and the recent *Good Governance in Grassroots Sport (2011-2013)* project which received support from the European Commission, Education and Culture

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Image: The E4S Team members in Sant Cugat de Valles January 2016



The Project

The E4S Team members in Barcelona January 2016

Aims of the Project

The project offers some enticing prospects for learning across national borders and has the following practical specific aims:

1. To develop and improve on a new **Code of Ethics for sporting bodies and clubs** in Europe in order to promote ethical values in sport, including new approaches to fairness and inclusivity and to challenge discrimination and prejudice.
2. To help **enforce** the Codes of Ethics developed and make the most of **new technologies** to fulfil this aim, by conducting pilot tests.
3. To develop a **set of verifiable indicators** to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of how ethics codes work and are enforced in local sport.
4. By **testing, monitoring and evaluating our** new ethics code we aim to learn lessons to ensure **replicability** around Europe;
5. Finally, to set-up a **public-private network** of institutions aimed at co-operating and exchanging in the field of ethics in grassroots sport, and at the same time identifying new members across Europe who will be

The App

E4S Ethics App

A central tool for the E4S project in ensuring more effective reporting, monitoring and evaluation of ethical questions in local sport will be the development of the **E4S Ethics App**, a free application that will be accessible for anyone from any modern electronic device (smart-phone, tablet, lap-top or computer). Using the App, anyone can participate in the project by reporting events and processes in local sports clubs which have ethical implications (both positive or negative). These might occur in training or in play during matches or contests. We have been working hard on devising an App that will be applicable to all sports and which will produce data offering the sort of detail we need to begin to measure what is happening in local sport.

We are hoping to build up a database of material from across Europe to try to assess the current state of affairs in different sports, building on work already being undertaken on ethics and values in sport by one of the project partners, in Sant Cugat in Spain. The monitoring and analysis of the results produced by the new App will allow us further to develop and refine our ideas on a code of ethics in local sport which is easy to understand, effective and relevant to different sports in different European countries. By piloting the App among E4S members we aim to improve and refine it until the App is ready to promote among other partners across the EU.

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Help team-mates, respect opponents



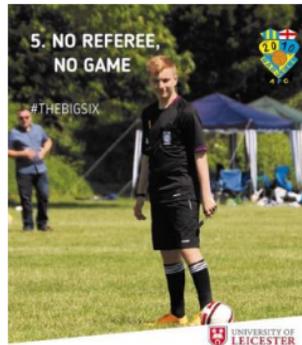
Follow the rules and laws



Play fair, don't cheat



Only hear the coach



No referee, no game



Have fun and try to win!

What is 'The Big Six' ?

Another of the tools we have also already developed as part of the E4S project is the 'Big Six' guide to the core principles of an ethics code in grassroots sport. We have been piloting this at a junior soccer club in the United Kingdom, AFC Barwell in Leicestershire. We are already collecting data on its impact in that setting.

The 'Big Six' idea involves producing a series of posters aimed at younger sports players – you can see the soccer versions of these posters below. We have conducted interviews at AFC Barwell to find out what parents and coaches feel about fairness in their club and the next step is to test the local impact of the Big Six campaign. Other E4S partners are also applying the 'Big Six' to their own sports settings. We hope it will have an international impact.

The E4S international survey

The E4S International Survey

We have also been working with a common questionnaire we have developed for use at sports clubs in Spain Italy, France, Germany and the UK. This E4S

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their response to opponents and officials. We will report on some of these early findings in our next E4S Newsletter.

The Next Steps

In our next E4S Newsletter we will report on the outcome of our third E4S meeting in Rennes in France, on the early findings of the international E4S survey, on progress on the production of the E4S App, and on the latest developments concerning the electronic Handbook of Good Practice on ethics in sport. We will also report on our discussions of exclusion as an aspect of unfairness in a sporting context.

We hope you have found this first E4S Newsletter both interesting and stimulating – we have certainly found our international collaboration rewarding and insightful and we are looking forward to the crucial next steps.

Stay In Touch

You can stay in touch with the E4S project as it progresses by following us on social media or by visiting our website using the links below.

The group can be contacted via email by using the contact form [here](#).

We look forward to hearing from you.



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Programme: Erasmus+
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