

New initiative seeking sportsmen and women with a pioneer spirit

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Are you a sports enthusiast? Here's an EU-wide initiative you should definitely check out...

Last week was the European Week of Sport and the EP hosted a session on 27 September in the framework of this event, organised under the auspices of EurETHICS. This workshop and discussion was the occasion for EurETHICS to display its work and aims.

A key aim of EurETHICS (a contraction of "European Education Through Inter Cultural Studies and Sport") is to develop and high-level certification standards in various fields - sports obviously, but not only - including the application of the European Qualification Framework in order to see these standards recognised throughout the EU.



What does EurETHICS do exactly?

EurETHICS are partners of the House of Sport in Brussels and is aiming to become a full-fledged Academy capable of delivering certificates. In fact, it has already developed its very own certification - known as EurETHICS ETSIA - which not only meets EQF standards but also meets the rigorous standards imposed by ISO/IEC 17024:2012.

And EurETHICS also has a list of training centres, academies and instructors it has recognised and certified.

What is the aim?

The EQF is an extremely useful tool when it comes to establishing an equivalence or having a qualification officially recognised between EU Member States.

However, the EQF is often used in order to reach mutual recognition of qualifications in the field of formal education (especially higher education), meaning that disciplines in which qualifications and/or experience is gained through informal education (sports for instance) are less likely to resort to the EQF - something EurETHICS is busy reversing.

What does this mean in practice? Let's take martial arts as an example. Let's say you've reached 1st Dan in Shotokan Karate: this level of achievement may be recognised in your own country but not necessarily in another EU Member State.

This means you will have to "prove your worth" every time you enter a "foreign" dojo. Also, if you ever wanted to start giving lessons yourself, your potential students would have no way of checking your credentials or pitting them against rigorous quality standards.

So EurETHICS' goal is to see the House of Sport become a kind of certification centre for sports men and women wishing to see their qualification and achievements automatically recognised everywhere in the EU. Long-term, the idea would ultimately be to deliver an "ID card" of sorts, which would give the carrier access to insurance coverage and similar services which are essential to regular sports practitioners.

Where do I fit in to all of this?

As with any budding and ambitious initiative, EurETHICS needs enthusiastic men and women from every horizon and from as many sports backgrounds and disciplines as possible in order to succeed in reaching its long-term plans.

And that's where you come in: for the time being, EurETHICS only covers a relatively small range of disciplines... so, if you're well-connected in a certain discipline not yet covered by this initiative, please feel free to get in touch with the good folks running the show and let them know you're available to become one of their sports pioneers.

Naturally, you should feel free to contact them if you practice a discipline they already cover...

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