

## The project YIAP held the first European Training Course for Young Ambassadors on February 9<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> in Lisbon, hosted by the Portuguese Sport Confederation.

In the nice framework of the Portuguese capital, on February 9th/15th, YIAP partners invited the 36 young people selected in their organizations to take part in the first European Training Course for Young Ambassadors of Integrity.

With the aim of empowering young people and making them acquire this new leading role of Young Ambassadors of Integrity in their sport clubs and confederations, during the past months ENGSO & ENGSO Youth coordinated the Expert Committee YSIEC in charge of creating the educational programme used in the training course.

Built on the best practices of all the partners involved, the organizations put together their expertise in order to support young people in being protagonists of a positive change in their own communities.

The training course tried to operate at different levels.

After a first "*getting to know each other*" day, in which icebreakers and activities of non formal education were the ingredients used to create a nice environment of trust, respect and mutual comprehension, the training course entered more into the topic.

A common understanding of *integrity* was established at the beginning of the week thanks to the guide of the European Lotteries, main associated partner in the project and Paul Standaert, president of Panathlon Belgium and secretary of Panathlon EU Brussels. Being the keynote speaker at the event in Lisbon, he accompanied the young participants into discovering ethics and a more concrete meaning of the container term of integrity. He moreover presented the [Integrity Management Framework](#), and brought to light, as an example, some actual stories happened in the sport field in the Gymnastics Federation in Flanders, and the far-reaching initiatives taken, in order to control cross-border behaviours.

With the aim of demonstrating the importance of creating an environment built and based on integrity, the participants had the chance to ask Paul many questions about the characteristics of a good Ambassador, how to be effective in their work and how to overcome barriers.

After a solid preparation on contents, the training course moved towards the presentation of several tools to be used by YIAP participants. Each partner offered its expertise, in order for the young people involved to have all the necessary resources to be the leaders of positive change.

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia started with a workshop on inclusive leadership, guiding the ambassadors through the characteristics and the skills to develop in order to lead a team, and the importance of creating a meaningful environment within and outside sport activities. The sessions

were guided by Jenni Hakkinen, Schools and University Engagement Manager in SOEE. Jenni was also supported by the team of Special Olympics Portugal, which joined the activities of YIAP for two days.

EUSA's Workshops on the following day were instead focused on "Media, Integrity and Leadership in sport", how to use online spaces to pass a message, how to shape those messages in a way that can reach massive audience, how to be effective in our communication and what are the steps and the characteristics to keep into consideration, to turn an idea into an action and create a campaign. Kiki Hristova, communication officer in EUSA, was the expert in the workshop.

Between those sessions, the participants had the opportunity to share their experiences in an open mic session, to bring up examples of lack of integrity having an impact on their personal contexts and lives. RF Småland guided the session with their athletes, to then "pass the mic" to the rest of the plenary and make it a very felt moment.

Moreover, sport has been always a core part of the TC, so thanks to OPES, SOEE and ENGSO Youth, the young ambassadors had the chance to be involved in physical activities, with the multiple purpose of having a concrete example on how to make sure of including the values of integrity & accessibility, bonding and reinforcing the relationship among the young participants, create an environment of positive support for mental health and learning. OPES organised a guided sport session, SOEE and SOEE Portugal challenged the participants in a basketball match and ENGSO Youth introduced "The Fair Throw", one of the activities of the [MANUAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION THROUGH SPORT](#), ideated by the participants of the project Back to Basic: Human Rights Education through Sport programme.

After an orientation game in the city in day 4, organised by ENGSO Youth and PSC, during which participants had the chance to discover Lisbon, its landmarks, the local culture, the food and to bond even more, OPES took care of the last sessions of the TC, guiding participants in the ideation of their local activities of integrity.

A template was elaborated and shared to support the ambassadors to build their ideas step by step and finally create a joint YIAP campaign.

### YIAP Dissemination Campaign

Thanks to the educational path followed during the training course, and the ideation of their local activities with the main objective of *dissemination*, the young ambassadors will now train nationally their peers to actively identify, prevent and react against dishonest, chicanery and crooked practices within the sport sector. Their local campaigns will contribute to spreading the culture of integrity at the grassroot sport level among youth communities, sport clubs, schools and universities, by taking into consideration the knowledge on the contents and the tools acquired during the European Training Course.

At the same time, they'll be active online. Using the online tools and platforms they'll identify as the most adequate for their local contexts, the dissemination campaign will be continued online, to open spaces of discussion about integrity among young people and also to maximise the impact and the number of people reached.

## Next Steps

The development of the Training Course was the first step for testing the educational path put together by the Youth and Sport Integrity Expert Committee in the last months.

Through the feedback of the new young ambassadors and of the partners involved, OPES will now take care of finalising a toolkit that will contain all the steps to replicate the training and to organise the local dissemination activities. The toolkit will be also completed with tips and indications of the participants, to warn of the possible difficulties they might encounter and guide whoever will want to use it.

Moreover, a second collection of useful information, tools, resources and guidance documents, will be used by The Swedish Sport Confederation to create the Youth Integrity Ambassadors Campaign Tool(s), useful to support instead the creation of online actions and campaigns, shaped in order to better match the needs and the environment of the ambassadors, taking into account the diversity of individuals within their group and their designated target group(s).

The following months will be then dedicated to dissemination and to train new young ambassadors, testing once again the educational tools and reinforcing the sense of integrity in the local sport communities. Representatives of the national teams will then gather in Sweden, in March 2024, to present the results of their actions and campaigns, during the final YIAP events hosted by the Swedish Sport Confederation.

Next steps were also discussed during a coordination meeting held on February 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> in Lisbon, in parallel to the training course. The coordinators of each partner had this way the chance to know the future plans of the ambassadors first hand, and the possibility to support the shaping of the ideas.