



ENSE

European Network of Sport Education

ENSE as a resource for the European Sport Sector and the implementation of EU policies in the area of Sport Education, Training and Employment

December 2015

The *European Network of Sport Education* (ENSE) – formerly known as *European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment* (ENSSEE) – is an international non-profit organisation established in 1989 and registered in France, focused on sport education & training, and its relation with sport science and employment. It is a network of educational/training institutions, open to individual members, intended as the ideal meeting place for all stakeholders to develop synergies, ideas and common initiatives.

ENSE has offices in Rome (*University of Rome “Foro Italico” – the Italian Sport University*), Cologne (*German Sport University*) and Vienna (*University of Vienna*), and a membership involving all EU countries and neighboring regions, with provisions for Regional Chapters and National Delegates. Its Committees cover a variety of areas and involve well-known experts from all countries and domains.

In its 26 years of existence ENSE has come to bring together the community of education & training institutions and other stakeholders, promoting an increasing harmonization, dialogue and exchanges, and several cooperative programs, which have in many cases become standard references. Examples are the *European Qualification Framework for the five levels of Coach Education*, *European Masters and Intensive Programmes*, the *Nomenclature of Sport Economic Activities (NEARS) and Occupations (NEORS)*, or the *Report on Sport Employment in Europe*, supported by the EU former DG X in 1999.

Its Thematic Network AEHESIS – *Aligning a European Higher Educational Structure in Sport Science* (2002-2007), was nominated by the EU an Erasmus Success Story. Through it, the Network brought together some 90 organisations from 29 countries in a 4-year-long effort resulting in the extensive mapping of existing study programs and the design of reference curricula in the four identified main areas: *Physical Education, Coaching, Health & Fitness, Sport Management*.

The Network also started several *Joint Curricula*, which played a major role in promoting mobility and cooperation, and set the scene for the development of full teaching programs with joint degrees, such as the *European Master in Health and Physical Activity* (Rome-Vienna-Cologne-Odense-Oslo), increasingly successful since over ten years, or the recent *Bachelor on Physical Activity and Lifestyle* (PALC), etc. This, and the reference curricula designed through AEHESIS, have also been instrumental in several Tempus JEPs and other EU interventions promoting the Bologna Process and an upgrading of sport science in EU neighboring areas, such as Egypt and the Balkans. ENSE is currently contributing to the Tempus project SPEED (*Sport Professions: Education, Employment & Development*) and the Erasmus+ project SPEACH (*Sport, Physical Education and Coaching in Health*).

Many of the existing organisations in the European sport sector have actually derived from ENSE, the oldest umbrella organisation of an originally unitary area, which maintains with all excellent relations.

The development of ENSE with former subgroups and related organisations

Year	Organisational development
1989	Establishment of the “European Network of Sport Science in Higher Education (ENSSHE)”
1993	“European Association of Sport Management (EASM)” established as separate organisation
1994	“Vocational Fitness” considered a subgroup of ENSSHE
1995	“European College of Sport Science (ECSS)” and “European Committee for Sports History (CESH)” established as separate organisations
1996	ENSSHE selected by the EU to be the Thematic Network for research, training and the study of qualifications and employment in the field of sport
1997	“European Observatoire of Sport and Employment (EOSE)” considered a subgroup of ENSSHE
2001	ENSSHE becomes the “European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment (ENSSEE)” “European Network of Fitness Associations (ENFA)” established as separate organisation renamed “European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA)”
2002	EOSE established as separate organisation
2003	Start of the project “AEHESIS - Aligning a European Higher Education Structure in Sport Science”
2005	“European Coaching Council (ECC)” considered a subgroup of ENSSEE
2007	End of the AEHESIS project Launch of the European Sport Education Information Platform SOPHELIA that bundles up-to-date information about sport education in Europe as a result of the AEHESIS project
2008	The AEHESIS project gets nominated an “ERASMUS Success Story” by the European Commission
2009	ENSSEE’s 20 th Anniversary and 10 th Forum in Ragusa/ Italy
2015	13 th Forum in Rome/ Italy and adoption of new statutes - ENSSEE becomes the “European Network of Sport Education (ENSE)”

ENSE's role, specificity and activities

ENSE's role and specificity in regard to the sport sector is defined through four factors:

- a) its expertise and tradition in the area of sport education, training and employment;
- b) its network character and membership constellation (involving Universities, Sport Federations, Olympic Committees, other training organisations);
- c) its relations with several other European and international organisations and stakeholders;
- d) an Executive Board (list below) of high-level academic and professional background, working on voluntary basis to help develop the sport sector, supported by a Council, Committees on various issues and areas, and a professional office ensuring back-up, information and communication with members and other stakeholders, and all other business.

Future activities will include:

- 1) Promote cooperation among the different stakeholders and organisations in the European sport sector specifically regarding education & training and its relation to employment.
- 2) Make use of existing networks and information channels (ENSE's platform, newsletter, projects, etc.) to reach the sport education community in the various EU and neighbouring countries and promote cooperation toward European aims and specific national objectives.
- 3) Promote and strengthen the relation between research, education and training in the sport sector.
- 4) Maximize alignment between the educational program of Higher Education and NQF/EQF in the context of a clear occupational map for the sport sector.

ENSE as a resource for the European sport sector

This unique position makes ENSE the ideal partner and initial contact for the EU's new competencies in the field of sport and especially the area of sport education, which is outlined as one of the priority subjects in the future EU strategy. With its already existing or planned infrastructures - such as a vast database of contacts, a regular newsletter, and an updated website, in addition to its regular meetings and projects, and its history and successful background - ENSE could be the driving force behind an enhanced cooperation within the sport sector and the European Commission.

With the Lisbon Treaty and the White Paper on Sport, and with its work plan on Sport 2014–2017, the whole European sport sector has been put in a new frame. The new competencies assigned to the European Commission in the sector as well as the specific promotion program under Erasmus+ already changed and will continue to change the sport sector in the near future.

ENSE would be pleased to put its 26-year old tradition, resources and potentialities at the service of the EC Sport Unit and contribute to it as a valuable partner. By way of examples:

- ENSE could share its knowledge and expertise in sport education, or provide tools and services as distribution channels and a vivid network to facilitate surveys, projects and cooperation.
- ENSE's composition (involving universities, sport organisations, Federations, etc.) could offer great opportunities to undertake mapping surveys, questionnaire studies, stakeholder analyses, or implement results and outcomes in the most direct and efficient way.
- With its expertise, ENSE could represent a point of reference for educational institutions in the implementation of their research and educational policies in the new framework set by the Lisbon Treaty, the White Paper on Sport, the Bologna Process, or Education and Training 2020.
- Based on the AEHESIS Project, an extensive database could be developed involving around 500 relevant stakeholders (university and non-university) in all EU countries.
- European curricula with joint titles (such as the European Master in Health and Physical Activity) could be further promoted and new curricula developed also in neighbouring regions, etc.

These are only possible examples of the many ways in which ENSE could contribute, and the potentialities are manifold. ENSE feels highly committed and would be glad to actively participate in all possible ways to the promotion of the European dimension in sport and education as fundamental tools for European harmonization and individual and social health and development.

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Executive Board, 2016-2018

- President:** **Paolo Parisi** (Italy)
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- President Elect:** **Karen Petry** (Germany)
Researcher and Head, Institute of European Studies, German Sport University, Cologne
- Past President:** **José Rodrigues** (Portugal)
Professor and Former Head, Rio Maior Sports Center, International School Coordinator, Polytechnic of Santarem
- Secretary General:** **Harald Tschan** (Austria)
Professor and Head, Department of Training and Movement Science, University of Vienna
- Treasurer:** **Ladislav Petrovic** (UK)
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- Members:** **Paul De Knop** (Belgium)
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Project Leaders

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Forum Organizers

Aarhus 2017: **Jens Behrend Christensen** (DK) - Vienna 2019: **Harald Tschan** (AU)