



EuropeActive and EC-OE joint statement on cooperation The Active Leisure Alliance Development of a Sector Skills Alliance

As the EU-wide representatives of the Fitness and of the Outdoor Sectors identified as the main actors of the Active Leisure Sector according to the Eurofound Study on Representativeness¹ and as defined within the NACE Rev.2 classifications 93.13 (Fitness facilities) and 93.29 (other amusement and recreation activities) which represents some 80.000 private companies, employing approximately 500.000 of the 800.000 employees of the whole "Sports and Active Leisure" Sector (Vocasport, 2004)², EuropeActive and the European Confederation of Outdoor Employers (EC-OE) hereby confirm to extend their existing cooperation through the **Active Leisure Alliance (ALA)** which was agreed and signed in November 2012.

In recognition of the publication of the New Skills Agenda³, including the review of the European Qualification Framework (EQF), and the work of the Erasmus+ project Key Action 3: The relevance of the Active Leisure Sector and International Qualification Framework to the EQF⁴ the principle objectives of the new cooperation between EuropeActive and EC-OE as the two originating and representative employer organisations is:

To establish a **Sector Skills Alliance (SSA)** which is designed to tackle the skills agenda for the Active Leisure Sector by aligning Vocational Education and Training (VET) systems with labour market needs. This will be done by:

- modernising VET by adapting to skills needs and integrating work-based learning,
- strengthening the exchange of knowledge and best practices,
- improving labour market mobility,
- increasing the recognition of qualifications.

The SSA for Active Leisure offers the opportunity to increase Sectoral cooperation in order to design and deliver joint curricula and methods targeting the Sector specific professions and occupations while providing the identified vocational skills required by the labour market. The main goal is a systemic impact on vocational training in the Active Leisure Sector in order to boost the quality and relevance of VET provision and increase competitiveness and growth of the Sector and beyond.

The SSA will develop vocational skills from the perspective of labour market needs (and especially as it will be employer-led), and to ensure cooperation between education and employment. The SSA will address the challenges of vocational skills mismatches and shortages - and to project future skills needs for the Active Leisure Sector.

¹ Representativeness study on Sport and Active Leisure industry; European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, 2012

² Vocasport (2004), project pages 17 & 74, supported by the European Commission (DG Education and Culture, Contract n° 2003-4463/001-001)

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council and the Committee of the Regions – a New Skills Agenda for Europe - SWD(2016) 195

⁴ <http://www.europeActive.eu/projects/siqaf-project>

Signed in Athens on Thursday November 17th 2016.



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