

Strengthening Athlete Power in Sport

Closing conference of the SAPIS project

Thursday 28 September 2023 from 9.00-16.30

The Faculty Club, Groot Begijnhof 14, 3000 Leuven, Belgium

The conference is co-hosted by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Ethics and Regulation in Sport (ICERiS) at KU Leuven

All programme elements are subject to change. Last updated 21 September

Hour	Presentation title	Presenter(s)	Position	Country
09:00	Registration, coffee, tea			
09:30-10:30	Opening session	Chaired by Mike McNamee		
	Words of welcome	Mike McNamee	Professor, Swansea University and KU Leuven. Director of ICERiS at KU Leuven	UK/Belgium
	Pioneer story: Unleashing the athlete voice in Modern Pentathlon	Kate Allenby	Former Olympian, MBE	UK
	EACEA and the athletes of Europe	Valentina Maria Colangelo	Project officer, European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)	Belgium
	Athletes' rights and human rights in sport: an obvious connection	Frank Hendrickx	Professor of labour Law, KU Leuven	Belgium
10:30-10:45	Short break			
10:45-12:00	SAPIS - what we found and what we learned	Chaired by Chiel Warners	Former member of athletes' committees, NOC*NSF and WADA	The Netherlands
	Recent trends and future challenges of athlete representation	Jens Sejer Andersen	International director, Play the Game	Denmark
	Three types of democracy and what they mean to athletes	Arnout Geeraert	Assistant professor, Utrecht University	The Netherlands
	How do athletes' representatives assess their own situation?	Maarten van Bottenburg	Professor, Utrecht University	The Netherlands
	SAPIS main findings and conclusions	Mike McNamee	Professor, Swansea University and KU Leuven. Director of ICERiS at KU Leuven	UK/Belgium
	Q&A on SAPIS			
12:00-13:00	Lunch break			

13:00-14:15	Athletes organising and cooperating	Chair to be confirmed		
	Pioneer story: Building a union from scratch	Natalia Orive Siviter	President of the International Women's Futsal Players Association (AJFSF)	Spain
	Raising the athlete voice at IOC	Kady Kanoute Tounkara	Former Olympian, IOC Athlete's Entourage Committee Member	Mali
	Running an independent athlete association with government support	Tarek Elias	Athleten Deutschland	Germany
	What unions can achieve - and how to build them	Matthew Graham	Interim executive director, World Players Association	Switzerland
	Panel on cooperation between athlete groups			
14:15-14:40	Coffee break			
14:40-16:00	Athlete representation by law	Chaired by Jens Sejer Andersen	International director, Play the Game	Denmark
	Pioneer story: How athletes changed the sports law of Brazil	Rafael Lane	Executive director, Atletas pelo Brazil	Brazil
	Why US law-makers secured the athlete voice	Allison Wagner	USADA	USA
	Athlete employment in the European Model of Sport	Lorenz Fiege	EMPLOYS-project, German Sport University Cologne	Germany
	What can the EU do to support athlete representation/1 - in the European Parliament	Katarzyna Biniaszczyk	Coordinator of the Sports Group, advisor to MEP Frankowski	Poland/Belgium
	What can the EU do to support athlete representation/2 - in the European Commission	Matteo Zacchetti	Policy officer, EU Sports Unit	Belgium
	Panel: How should public authorities support athletes' rights?			
16:00-16:30	Does AI stand for Athlete Intelligence?			
	AI: A threat or an opportunity for athlete representation?	Alberto Carrio Sampedro	Professor, director, Universidad Pompeu Fabra	Spain
	Winding up	Jens Sejer Andersen	International director, Play the Game	Denmark

Register for the conference: <https://event.it/playthegame/event/n847oj>



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union