November 2023

Standards for the Recognition of Talented Children

Work Package 2

The Identification of standards for talented children consisted of two main activities, the Desk Analysis and Best Practices across the Partners' countries and the Identification of the standards for talented kids.

What is this document about?

The developed document constitutes the TALENT Transnational Report, depicting and summarising the efforts made in the participating countries by coaches and educators to identify and support talented student-athletes. The facilitators applied the questionnaire template agreed upon by the consortium; however, measures were taken to best fit the particularities of each national context and participants' backgrounds.

The TALENT project conducted a total of 14 focus groups across six countries, engaging educators and coaches in discussions about the recognition and support of talented student-athletes pursuing dual careers. One hundred fifty (150) participants contributed their valuable insights and experiences, with 77 teachers/educators and 73 coaches.

The focus groups in Greece, Italy, Serbia, Croatia, Cyprus, and Bosnia and Herzegovina provided valuable insights into the challenges and strategies for identifying and nurturing talented children in sports. Common themes emerged, underscoring the importance of a holistic approach to talent development. The findings from the partner countries underscore the importance of recognising the multifaceted nature of talent identification and development. Bridging the gap between sports clubs and educational institutions, establishing formal guidelines, fostering cooperation, and providing adequate resources are

key steps toward effectively meeting the specific needs of talented children, ensuring their holistic development, and nurturing their academic and athletic potential. The insights gained from these diverse perspectives offer valuable input for future research and policy formulation in the field of talent identification and support.

Workshop in Gaeta

After successfully implementing the focus groups, the project partners diligently collated the invaluable feedback and insights shared by the participants. This wealth of information was distilled into a series of impactful "statements" that encapsulated the core findings and recommendations arising from the discussions. To further emphasise these statements' significance and reach a consensus on their relevance, importance, and necessity, a pivotal workshop was convened in Gaeta, Italy, on 3 and 4 October 2023, by the project partner European Athlete Student (EAS). The EAS Conference represents the annual meeting point for international experts to discuss and share policies and initiatives to support the compatibility of sport and academic/work careers (e.g., dual career) of the sportspersons, including lectures, workshops, and round tables on relevant aspects of dual career.

Standards for the recognition of students' talent emerged from the workshop. Among other things, the discussion with experts also brought out standards that are more relevant than others. The involvement of the experts, academics and scholars on dual careers could represent a desire to look at the issue through the eyes of those who are *super partes* in order to give relevance to the person experiencing the dual career condition.

If you want to learn more about the results, you can visit the TALENT website and read the Report.