

Steering Committee Members made further steps in the development of the ASPIRE training module

Paris, 7-8 June 2017

ASPIRE Steering Committee members gathered in Paris on 7-8 June 2017 to clarify fundamental concepts and questions related to the next project activity: the development and testing of the ASPIRE training module. The meeting also marked a milestone in the project drawing conclusions from the outcomes of the research carried out by the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) in the first half of the year.

Steering Committee members include specialised and sports organisations responsible for the development and testing of the ASPIRE training module, namely:

- International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE),
- Caritas Academy Styria, Austria,
- Minon-Ndako (centre for unaccompanied minor refugees), Belgium,
- German Olympic Sports Federation (DOSB),
- Swedish Sports Confederation (RF), and
- ENGSO – The European Sports NGO.

The ASPIRE training module will guide sports organisation to be more accessible and will support individuals with sporting background to adapt existing coaching activities to the special needs of migrants and refugees. It will cover four main topics: (1) Migration, (2) Intercultural understanding, (3) Psychosocial support, and (4) Accessible sports organisations.

Our main aim of offering migrants and refugees opportunities for participation in sport has been realised in the Steering Committee meeting, when two refugees from the KIRON programme (Open Higher Education Programme for Refugees) joined us. We are truly thankful for KIRON for allowing us to have two amazing and competent people from Bangladesh with us giving their valuable input.

The first ASPIRE Steering Committee meeting has been a great opportunity to gain a common understanding on basic terms and integrate the research outcomes into the development of the training module. The Steering Committee Members also consulted on the format and the concrete content of the training material. It is a pleasure to announce that the ASPIRE project is working towards inventing a definition for ‘accessibility’ with regards to sports organisations. We hope that it can contribute to the European scientific discourse on social inclusion through sport as well as evidence-base policy making.

On behalf of the project team, we would also like to thank all the Expert Group Members who contributed to the study.

Commenting on the meeting, Work Package Leader Sallie Barker noted “We are really satisfied with the cooperation so far and look forward to further expert input from our partners”.