

STARTING 11 - The European Dual Career Toolkit (EAC/A05/2017)

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Abstract

Dual career programmes depend on the **quality of implementation** at professional levels close to the athlete. However, a substantial amount of EU member states self-rate their status of support arrangements as negative (19%) or mediocre (55%) (European Commission, 2017). To tackle this problem, the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and TW1N have co-designed the Erasmus+ project **STARTING 11**. Alongside the project leaders, the partners represent a manifold selection of European dual career service providers: **Sportlycée Luxembourg**, Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (**TASS**), German University Sports Federation (**ADH**), European Athlete Student (**EAS**) and **CREPS Toulouse**.

STARTING 11 aims to **stimulate national, regional and local dual career practice** in the EU. In a multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural approach, the partnership is about to create the European Dual Career Toolkit, targeting sectoral dual career service providers in sport, education and the labour market.

The toolkit will supply a broad set of self-applicable tools covering 3 main service areas of dual career support: *MANAGE* helps build the political, theoretical and infrastructural know-how to implement and administrate dual career services as well as to efficiently communicate towards the most relevant dual career stakeholders. *TRAIN* helps prepare, sensitize and empower athletes by providing them with knowledge, inspiration and skills to successfully pursue their dual careers. *COUNSEL* helps professionalize inter-personal counselling services to foster the coping, decision-making and planning ability of athletes in times of fundamental change and transition.

At this moment, the project enters its test phase. In this course, institutional stakeholders across Europe will apply and evaluate the first version of the tools. Based on their feedbacks, the tools will be refined. In late 2021, the European Dual Career will be presented in the final STARTING 11 Conference in Amsterdam and subsequently made freely accessible via www.starting11.eu.

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