



Decisions of Vienna



„Good Governance in Sport – sport as a role model for the new civil society”

Introduction

In April 2004, Austria took over the chair of the European Women and Sport network and chose „**Good Governance in sport – sport as a role model for the new civil society**“ as title for the period until 2006.

The principles of “good governance” embrace the (new) role of sport organisations in relation to drawing up rules for the sport, developing and promoting it, widening its popularity and representing all those involved in it. This will be achieved through the principles of democracy, independence, fairness, solidarity and transparency.

Clear structures, responsibilities which are similar to those of corporate boards, a clear chain of decision-making processes and accountability shall be defined and set out in writing.

In all cases decisions must be taken from an informed position which takes the diverse interests of different local, regional, national, amateur and professional groups into account.

Rules that govern elections and appointments shall be clear, transparent and objective and include the gender perspective. The views of those entitled to vote shall be reflected.

Transparency and intensive communication with all members are important aspects of good governance. The quality of communication in sports organisations is a key indicator of the quality of the leadership processes.

In addition to the accountability to its members, the social and cultural cohesion through sport is very important, discrimination based on any grounds shall be prohibited.

With regard to the principles of good governance and being aware, that “women and sport” questions – though a lot has happened already – still require utmost attention, the EWS wants to achieve their aims under the headline

„Equality in and through Sport”

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The 7th European Women and Sport Conference, taking into account the principles of good governance and the aims of the EWS decides therefore:

1- Gender perspective

The rules of good governance focus on democracy and fairness, clear leadership structures and the inclusion of all those concerned by decisions in sport organisations. Taking all this into account, it is of utmost importance not to forget the promotion of women, because this is a precondition to achieve the aims of good governance.

The same importance as promotion of women has to be given to principles of gender awareness. This includes the need to consider all issues from the position of women AND men.

The 7th European Women and Sport Conference therefore clearly states, that a dual strategy is necessary and must be pursued:

- focus on promotion of women, in order to achieve the ideal of good governance
- gender sensitive thinking and acting, to sensitize women and men in order to set up strategies together to increase the number of women in sport.

2- (E)quality:

Quality goes hand in hand with equality. Quality is a precondition to achieve equality.

Quality in sport encompasses highest quality in the field of education and further education for coaches as well as for sports officers. It is important here to live the rules of good governance and to take into account the gender perspective.

For athletes, quality is connected with the possibility to combine sport, education/profession and family. This includes the help of economy to spot and enhance the potentials of athletes and to facilitate or enable the transition to a professional life after the sports career. Both partners, economy and sport can gain a lot from the strengths of the other – a win-win situation develops. A stronger network is to be strived for.

Sport for all must be on offer in a way that it is possible to enjoy sport without competition. This is important for young girls and boys, as for this age most sports offers include the competition aspect, but is also true for all other age groups.

The calls for quality lead to equality, which can be spotted in sport for example in the field of equal prize money for women and men, balanced representation at major sport events and in the sports media, but also in the field of a closer cooperation between economy – sponsors – sport for the benefit of all. Good examples from the economy can be transferred to the world of sport.

Derived from the points above, the request is:

Quality through equality

3- Evolution of organisational structure:

The EWS, having worked since its inception in 1993 on women and sports themes, has to base its work on a broader basis. This is due to the changing social, financial and economic environmental conditions in Europe. It is noted, that the situation for women has taken a positive development, but a lot still remains to be done. The EWS sees itself as carrier for “equality in and through sport” and is aware, that “women’s themes” are a cross section subject.

In order to address the challenges and to pursue the main policies, a development of the organisational structure is necessary. This especially when taking into account, that good ideas or innovative projects are easily lost, due to the inevitable lack of continuity. This also weakens the own position for negotiations.

A strong network, stronger ties with partner organisations and the realisation of projects are only possible, if the EWS acts within a clear, legal frame.

This is especially true for possible financial support, which only a legal entity can receive.

Taking into account the „European Year of Equal Opportunities for All 2007“, the conference therefore tasks the new EWS steering committee to develop the organisational structure for the EWS as a legal entity.

The adaptation of the EWS guidelines and all further steps necessary will be conducted under the chair of Cyprus, the next chair of the EWS.

The timeframe includes development of the concept until end of 2006 and the inclusion of consultation with all stakeholders.