



# Global Network on Sport Skills (GNSS)

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

In 2020, the world changed in a rush. The COVID-19 crisis has brought to light the need for organizations, employers and workers, young people to adapt and embrace a new reality of how the world of work operates. Going forward, skills such as adaptability, agility, resilience, teamwork, communication and creativity, are likely to be part of the key employable skills. All those skills can be learned in and through sports. Having these skills should enable workers and their family to endure the lasting effect of the pandemic, on working conditions, social relations, and use of technology.

For the sporting industry to recover, and for sports to be able to play its positive role in skills development, a strong grassroots strategy is needed to allow children, young people and the wider population to have access to and continue practicing sports. Sports need to be recognised by both its physical and mental benefits. In the world of work, social partners, private and public sectors businesses have worked for years researching the connection between sports and employability. Despite wider support, there is not consistent recognition of such skills including certification.

Coordination across sectors and at the enterprise level is paramount, with concrete multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and actions. To this end various stakeholders have come together, to create the Global Network on Sport Skills.

### Purpose

The Global Network on Sport Skills (GNSS) operates as a cooperative network to support, consult and consolidate efforts towards the recognition of skills learned in and through sports. The Network aims at organizing activities and promote the work of GNSS members, advocating for global recognition of sport skills and on the connection between sports and employability.



## Goals

- Create awareness of employability skills learned in and through sports
- Promote flexible and value-added, implementable skills frameworks based on agreed skills and recognized skills benchmarks
- Develop skills framework and/or support members to tailor their approach to skills learned in and through sports for the members
- Mobilize collaboration among stakeholders and resources towards action-research
- Promote the work and accelerate the initiatives carried out by the members and the Network

## Membership

- The membership of the GNSS will allow in its initial phase some flexibility for newcomers, based on their respective contribution to the Network and their mandates and in line with the GNSS overall goals
- The members of the GNSS join to provide and receive technical assistance and to learn and share on the above topic areas.

## Peer Review Group (PRG)

- The PRG includes those members who have carried out the skills framework process so far, namely the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Adecco Group, the European Platform for Sport Innovation (EPSI) and the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS).
- The GNSS peer review group (PRG) is established with the immediate tasks of:
  - Developing guidelines on the process used to support members and for other stakeholders, based on the on-going experiences from ILO, the Adecco Group EPSI and ICSS.
  - Supporting EPSI to finalize its skills framework and consolidate the on-going processes of EPSI and ICSS leading to testing/implementing the developed tools in their own respective areas and/or mandates.
  - Participating in selected virtual events<sup>1</sup>.
  - Exploring the feasibility of reviewing a curricula and skills development training for coaches with a 360° degree perspective, considering integrity at the core.
  - Exploring ways to review and enrich curricula for teachers at school by including sport skills as main assets (UNESCO-BEI).

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<sup>1</sup> i.e. SIGA youth week in January 2021 and in the UN Social Summit of February 2021 co-organized by UNDESA, under the form of panel discussions, to present the GNSS skills framework process and the aim of the Network



## Expected outcome of GNSS

- The GNSS guidelines should present a unifying skills framework with the aim of assisting other stakeholders to develop their own competency/skills framework.
- The above initiatives should contribute to brand GNSS and its future related service proposal.

## Next steps of the GNSS

The next steps of the GNSS are:

- Set up the peer review group
- Assess the feasibility of a Theory of change (ToC)
- Evaluate the design of indicators with the SD as guiding principles
- Engage in a broad lobbying activity on skill's learning in and through sport
- Prepare project proposals to gather momentum around skills in the sport ecosystem.

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