

Skills4Sports

Skills4Sports is an EU-funded project, which aims to increase the employability of young NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) by tackling the skills gap in the sports sector.

Learn more [here](#).

THE LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

State of the Project

2021 was a difficult year worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Mediterranean region was no exception.

Skills4Sports moved most of its activities online throughout the year or, wherever possible, held smaller events, observing all COVID-19 preventive measures. The pandemic situation started improving towards the end of the year allowing for the opening conference to go ahead in Malta in December of 2021.

Gradually, in the new year, more in-person events started being organised. Over the course of the first half of 2022, memorandums of agreement were signed with stakeholders in Palestine and Infodays were organised in Malta, Spain, and Italy, increasing the number of stakeholders committed to Skills4Sports and of young NEETs interested and informed about the project.

2022 also saw the publication of the country situation analysis reports and the synthesis of the cross-border analysis report, which offer information and insights regarding unemployment in the six Mediterranean countries where the project is being carried out.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter, we invite you to follow us on our social media and hope to see you at our events!

State of the Project

Opening Conference in Malta,
Stakeholder Meetings in Palestine,
Infodays in Italy, Malta and Spain

Upcoming events

1st Cross-Border Capacity
Building Workshop,
3rd Project Meeting, Press
Conference

The Observer

Sports, Youth, Employment,
NEETS: developments in the
Mediterranean

Publications

International Women's Day
campaign featured article,
publication of Country situation
analysis reports and of the
Synthesis of the cross-border
analysis report



Opening Conference in Malta

Working together for almost a year without meeting each other in person, the Skills4Sports Opening Conference that was held in Malta in December 2021 was the greatest reward for the Partners who finally managed to meet for the first time. The Opening Conference, which was organised by the Malta Football Association, was a high-profile event, well-attended, and gave the Partners the opportunity to meet, present the Project and their work, and to network with key stakeholders of the sports industry. The attendees shared their vision of the sports sector and their commitment to fighting youth unemployment. This conference was the first step towards forging a Mediterranean Alliance of stakeholders determined to increase the employability of young people by offering them skills training courses, specific to the sports industry.



The conference was attended by a total number of approximately 50 high-profile participants from six countries including stakeholders and representatives of each partner organisation.

Each organization contributed an analysis of the situation with regards to unemployment and the sports sector in their country, focusing specifically on NEETs -- i.e. young people aged 15-29 who are not in employment, education or training -- and explained the opportunities and challenges that each organisation is facing locally, in terms of implementing the project.

You can read more [here](#).

1st Cross-Border Capacity Building Workshop 6 - 10 June 2022, organised by TREK Development. The past 6 months the Skills4Sports Partners have been working intensively on designing 9 New Curricula for Sports Professionals, with the aim to cultivate new skills and open new career paths to NEETs of the Mediterranean region. Now is time to review their work, provide feedback to each other and finalise the Curricula which will be launched in late summer 2022.

3rd Project Meeting - Chalkida, Evia Greece, organised by the Development Agency of Evia - On Wednesday 8 June 2022, the Skills4Sports Partners will discuss and review the Project Progress of the last 6 months and plan the next steps in moving forward with the Skills4Sports Trainings for NEETs and the creation of more collaboration opportunities in the Mediterranean in the framework of the "Strategic Alliance for Skills4Sports".

Skills4Sports Press Conference - Wednesday 8 June 2022, Chalkida, Greece.

Stay tuned for "Strategic Alliance for Skills4Sports" events that will be announced soon.

Upcoming Events



Event Highlights

On 6 January 2022, Palestinian project partner Salfit Development Association (SDA) invited representatives of 40 entities from the public and private sector, youth and women's centres, NGOs, sports organisations and government authorities to join the Skills4Sports Strategic Alliance. A memorandum was signed and the Alliance members committed to increasing youth employment in the sports sector. An important step in this direction will be the development of 12 training courses. More information can be found [here](#).

The Italian project partner, International Cooperation South South (CISS), met with Mr. Paolo Petralia Camassa, Sports Councillor of the Municipality of Palermo, who expressed his eagerness to support the project. This meeting, as well as small-scale events and an Infoday informing young people about the project were held in February of 2022. In one these events, in which it was recognised that sports can break barriers, from the 15 NEETs who attended, some were foreigners, raising the interesting and challenging question of whether the trainings can be held in two or more languages in each project country. You can read more about these events [here](#) and [here](#).

On 24 March 2022, the Catalan Association Cluster of Sports Industry (INDESCAT) held an Infoday in Barcelona, announcing that it will create 9 trainings in order to increase youth employment in the sports sector. The event was attended by more than 40 professionals from the Catalan sports sector, who had the chance to be informed about the results of the study for the project 'Skills4Sports: Increasing the Employability of NEETs by tackling the skills gap in the Catalan Sports Sector'. Read more [here](#).

On 29 March 2022, Palestinian project partner Palestine Sports for Life (PS4L) held an Infoday and also initiated the signing of an agreement by 32 representatives from governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, universities and the private sector who all committed to the Skills4Sports Strategic Alliance's goal of increasing youth employment in the sports sector. Read more [here](#).

On 29 March 2022, the Maltese Football Association (MFA), informed more than 30 young Maltese people aged 17 to 22 about the project and offered advice on how to become more marketable in the sports sector. Read more [here](#).

On World Sports Day, 6 April 2022, CISS brought together young people and eminent athletes who spoke about the challenges and the benefits of sports and presented the project. This discussion was followed by a workout session held outdoors in Palermo. You can read about the event [here](#) and also see a short video [here](#).

PS4L also held online campaigns highlighting the achievements and presenting the work of women in sports while also informing the public about Skills4Sports. You can read about the efforts and experiences of Palestinian professional athletes, coaches, professors and sport directors in breaking the barrier for women in sports [here](#).

Publications

The Situation Analysis Reports of each partner and the Synthesis of the Cross-border Analysis Report have been published and uploaded on our website's [library](#).

Tamara Awartani, founder and director of Palestine Sports for Life, was featured in an ENI CBC MED article on the occasion of International Women's Day. Tamara has been a basketball player, swimmer, and karate athlete and has also coached boys' and girls' basketball teams in Palestine, breaking stereotypes and empowering Palestinian youth. Her inspiring story was published [here](#).

The Observer

The Synthesis of the Cross-Border Analysis Report offers an in-depth discussion of youth unemployment in Mediterranean countries. According to this report:

The proportion of young people not in education, employment or training has increased since the financial crisis, and in many countries youth unemployment rates are higher than unemployment in the older working age population. Over the last years, unemployment rates in the Mediterranean – especially in the sports sector, which has been identified as a growth area with job creation potential – have risen more rapidly due to the recent economic crisis.

Another critical factor that has been observed to affect the absorption of young people in the labour market, is the mismatch of skills that exist between the real skills that the labour market seeks and the skills that young job seekers are ultimately armed with. Prominent economic sectors, such as the sports industry, face challenges in finding the right skills for their growing needs when recruiting employees.

For more information regarding youth unemployment as that relates to Spain, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta and Palestine, please refer to the Situation Analysis Reports of each project partner, which include detailed information and insights. These reports, along with the Synthesis of the Cross-Border Analysis Report, which provides a synthesis and overview of the research thus far conducted, can be found at the [library](#) section of the project's website.



Project Partners



The Development Agency of Evia SA is an important business pillar of development policies, monitors, informs and actively participates in the implementation of programmes that encourage and strengthen the efforts of the local economy and the improvement of the local market conditions that utilize the potential of Evia, Greece.



TREK Development is among the top Development & Management Services, private held company in the region. Established in 1995, it offers Management, Development and Technical Assistance services to Public, semi-Public Organizations, Regional Authorities and SMEs. The main focus is on Project development & Finance, Regional Development, Technical Assistance - Programs Management, Largely experienced in Technical assistance (especially for Energy Infrastructures), Urban Planning, and financial tools for corporate & Development Projects. Experience with International donors, the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EiB), European Investment Fund (EiF) and other numerous International Organizations.



The Malta Football Association is committed to growing and improving the game of football and the people in it at all levels; fostering a positive social change to embrace a sporting culture; championing national pride and unity as it strives to inspire people and achieve high standards.



International Cooperation South South is an Italian non-governmental organization working with grassroots communities, associations, NGOs, and local authorities on international cooperation activities and local development initiatives for the benefit of marginalized sectors of the population, immigrants and refugees.



INDESCAT is the Catalan Sports Industry Cluster, a private entity led by companies. As a cluster, it brings together companies and organizations related to the world of sport, with the main objective of developing actions that improve their competitiveness and also that of their environment.



The Salfit Development Association is an organisation working with youth and addressing a wider range of issue that young people are faced with, transferring knowledge, building capacity and creating ownership.



Palestine Sports for Life is a leading Palestinian non-profit Sport for Development organisation based in Ramallah that responds to developmental needs in the marginalized Palestinian communities through sport and life skills and empowers youth and women by operating in a global context and aligning its developmental activities and programmes with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The René Moawad Foundation's mission is to promote social, economic and rural development in Lebanon and the MENA region and to contribute to building a responsible civil society that reinforces democratic values, justice, pluralism and moderation.

Project Associates

State of Palestine
Ministry of Education

UEFA Foundation for Children



Malta Football Association:
Infoday in Malta (29.04.2022).



International Cooperation South South :
World Sports Day event in Italy (06.04.2022).



INDESCAT: Infoday in Spain (24.04.2022).



International Cooperation South
South meeting with Mr. Paolo
Petralia Camassa, Sports
Councillor of the Municipality of
Palermo (03.02.2022).



Salfit Development Association,
Palestine: signing of memorandum
for Skills4Sports Strategic Alliance
in Palestine (06.01.2022).



Palestine Sports for Life: Infoday and
signing of memorandum for
Skills4Sports Strategic Alliance in
Palestine (29.03.2022).



International Cooperation South
South: Infoday at La Casa della
Cooperazione, Italy (25.02.2022).