



A EUROPEAN PROJECT TO **INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPORT OFFICIALS**



RATIONALE & BACKGROUND

From the grassroots to elite international competitions watched by millions across the world, sport would grind to a halt without officials – referees, umpires, judges, timekeepers and others in officiating roles.

The message is simple:

NO SPORT OFFICIALS = NO SPORT

But officials move on, the more experienced ones retire, and, in some sports, many leave due to the pressures of the role. For sport to continue and the values of sport to be upheld, we need an ongoing pipeline of children and teenagers joining and coming up through the ranks.

Sport is attractive to young people, but not everyone can be a star performer. Officiating offers them a chance to be important players, but in a different way. It's a great option for young people who love sport and want to play a meaningful role. Sadly, many of them are not shown these opportunities, and the public image is often boring or even negative.

REFS aims to help the world of sport to inform, inspire and support them!



GOALS

The overall goals of this three-year transnational partnership project are to:

- Carry out EU-wide research into children and young people in sport officiating.
- Compile a European Compendium of Good Practice Examples on the Perception, Recruitment and Retention of Children and Young People in Sport Officiating.
- Develop Guidelines for the Engagement of Children and Young People in Sport Officiating.
- Create a Series of Video Clips for Children and Young People to Inspire the Next Generation of Sport Officials.
- Organise a Europe-wide conference on the Engagement of Children and Young People in Sport Officiating.



EXPECTED BENEFITS

REFS will result in more young people in Europe demonstrating the positive values of sport through engagement with officiating, children having an improved image of the role of the official, and more young people wishing to take up, and remain in, officiating roles which are vital to the ongoing success of sport from grassroots to elite level.

THE PARTNERSHIP

Coordinated by EOSE, REFS gathers stakeholders including European sport federations combined with a university, the Olympic movement and sport officials' associations: a true partnership between education and employment to engage more children and young people in this key role in sport and provide wide consultation and dissemination.



European Observatoire of Sport
and Employment (EOSE)
France / Europe



Association Française du Corps
Arbitral Multisports (AFCAM)
France



Badminton Europe
Denmark / Europe



Coventry University
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Dutch Olympic Committee * Dutch
Sports Federation (NOC*NSF)
Netherlands



EuroHockey
Belgium / Europe



International Federation
for Sports Officials (IFSO)
Netherlands / International



SportMalta
Malta

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VISIT REFS WEBSITE



www.refs-sport.eu



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