



Memorandum of Understanding

between

The European Paralympic Committee

and

**European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth
(ENGSO Youth)**

1. Definitions

European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation Youth (ENGSO Youth) is the youth branch of ENGSO, a non-profit making umbrella sports organization. ENGSO Youth presently has 40 European National Sport confederations and National Olympic Committees as members.

The European Paralympic Committee is an international non profit-making organisation formed and run by European National Paralympic Committees and the European branches of the International Organisations of Sports for Athletes with disabilities.

EPC is responsible for the development of disability sports in Europe.

2. Background & Purpose

The European Paralympic Committee and ENGSO Youth are two strong bodies operating within the Sport sector in Europe. With a deep respect for each other's history, traditions and differences, we accept each other as two autonomous organisations, with some differences in activities and member profiles; however the two organisations have much in common with respect to their philosophies, aims and objectives.

Sport for athletes with disabilities has evolved in recent years and continues to gain momentum. For this reason, there is an ever increasing need for the flagship organisations of this movement to understand and cooperate with each other to lead the movement in the right direction. A strong alliance between EPC and ENGSO Youth would create the foundation for more effective influence, and could provide the level of international cooperation necessary to reach the common goals of all those who defend and promote the values of Sport for all and especially for disabled people.

Through its recent orientations, ENGSO Youth has developed several workshops and seminars addressing the inclusion of people with disabilities in the society through sport. ENGSO Youth also wants to include people with disabilities in its activities and events and wants to create possibilities to raise awareness about the thematic of young people with disabilities to a broader network of actors and its member organizations. EPC being a key actor in the field of sport for disabled people, their expertise and knowledge is expected to be the base of the partnership between EPC and ENGSO Youth.

ENGSO Youth and the EPC want to show their interest in long-term cooperation and support of the values of their organizations. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to define the principles of cooperation between EPC and ENGSO Youth. This agreement does not apply to financial commitments from either organisation, should these be necessary in the future, a separate agreement will be formulated between the EPC and ENGSO Youth.

3. Principles of Cooperation

The objectives of the cooperation between EPC and ENGSO Youth are:

- To support and promote a youth movement within EPC, raise the awareness and the importance of youth co-determination
- To raise the awareness of young European people on the issue of disability and the way it can be handled through sports for young people,
- To develop, include and encourage activities which aim to educate young Europeans through sports in the EPC's program,
- To create inclusive approaches when designing youth events,
- To sensitize ENGSO Youth and its member organizations about the needs, wants and challenges of young people with disabilities in sports,
- To enable close contact with the target group of young people with disabilities, creating direct possibilities for communication between young people with and without disabilities
- To supply experts in the field of young people with disabilities for future events and co-operations
- To supply experts, coaches, facilitators and trainers for workshops and events,
- To increase political power in sport through a common voice and potentially joint programs and events,
- To support the sport political activities of both parties in dealings with other governmental and non-governmental organizations, and
- To search for synergy between the two organisations and to explore and utilise the resources of their different networks.

To reach these objectives, EPC and ENGSO Youth will:

- Be in more regular contact, and share information pertaining to upcoming programs and events, and the issue of sport for people with disabilities,
- Be open to identifying potential areas for practical cooperation, for example programs and events, that will be decided upon individually (see Appendix A for a list of potential projects for cooperation),
- Advise each other of any upcoming projects which may be appropriate for, and of interest to, the other party to cooperate on, and
- Be open to nominating project areas, e.g. particular occasions, European Youth Olympic Festival, Paralympic events, youth sport seminars, and
- Be in close relations to work together on events dealing with both youth and disability issues.

In the spirit of cooperation, both parties agree to:

- Support each other in their respective endeavours, including programs and events;
- Acknowledge this Memorandum of Understanding in organisational communications, including website, newsletters, etc., and include the other parties logo with a link to its website on their website,
- Be open, frank, honest and constructive in all dealings with each other; and
- Optimise the value and benefit delivered to the organisations members and participants in the global issue of youth sport and disability in Europe.

