

ALL-IN: Developing Pathways of Lifelong Physical Activity for People with a Disability in Europe. 2018 Wrap up.

The end to a busy second year of the project "ALL-IN; Developing Pathways of Lifelong Physical Activity for People with a Disability in Europe" is approaching. The project which runs for 3 years is co-financed through the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and seeks to establish a cross-sectoral cooperation model at a European sub-regional level that develops, exploits and implements good practices for integrated pathways of lifelong physical activity for people with a disability.

In collaboration with a strong partnership which includes Parasport Denmark (DEN), the Finnish Paralympic Committee, the Finnish Sports Association for Persons with Disabilities, Laajasalo Folk School (FIN) the Icelandic Sport Organisation for the Disabled and Paralympic Committee (ISL), the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports, the Norwegian Ski Federation, NPC Faroe Islands, the City of Östersund (SWE), Mid-Sweden University, the Swedish Confederation of Sport, the European Observatoire of Sport and Employment, the European Paralympic Committee and SPIN Sport Innovation (DE) the project will work to develop 5 distinct areas of Parasport in the Nordic region, Marketing, Recruitment, Competition, Classification and Governance.

There has been plenty of activity in the 5 areas, some highlights of which include:

Six Nations One Team – Training Camp

During August a Six Nations – One Team multi-sport event was hosted by Parasport Denmark in Vejen. Where athletes from across the six Nordic nations train and compete together, promoting collaboration, exchange and understanding between the coaches and athletes.

A total of 105 participants attended, with all athletes aged between 12-20 years of age and representing one of the Nordic Nations. The sports on show included Athletics, Goalball, Judo, Swimming, Table Tennis, Para Dressage, Football and the newest Paralympic Sport; Racerunning.

Alongside the sporting programme the participants took part in a varied 'off the field' programme with workshops, seminars and talks in the areas of; Pilates for young para-athletes, Dual Careers for young para-athletes, Fitness/Judo for young para-athletes and Functional Training for young para-athletes. In an additional workshop the coaches exchanged their experiences regarding talent development.

John Petersson, President of Parasport Denmark "Such camps are essential for athlete development. The Nordic nations are committed to establishing clear pathways, both to achieve Paralympic success and to motivate and provide the opportunity for more people with a disability to be physically active. If you look at a camp like this, it's a great example of how we can both develop the athletes we have and inspire more to join us."

Recruitment

During 2018 the National Paralympic Committee of Finland delivered two Recruitment Days using a tool, commonly developed through Nordic cooperation. The Para Talent Day has been developed to better place athletes in sports and spot talent for development pathways, both essential features in reducing drop out figures in Parasport and contributing to lifelong activity. Two events took place during June and November with another event planned for late 2019.

"It's been a busy year" commented Johan Strid, Secretary General of Parasport Sweden, the co-ordinator of the project "We're putting together some quite important foundations behind the scenes, in the areas of governance and classification as well as the more public elements like the recruitment days and the Six Nations One Team Training Camp. 2019 looks like it's going to be another great year."

Classification

During autumn 2018 the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports hosted 2 classification events. Within the All>In project the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports is responsible for the development and implementation of a Nordic Classification Seminar in September 2019.

The All-In project will run until the end of 2019 and will seek to define common elements in the collaborative process in the Nordic region in order to then provide the basis for successful models of co-operation to be established in other sub-regions of Europe.

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