





Supporting Women Athletes from Europe (SWAFE)

Erasmus+ Sport: Small collaborative partnership

Start date: 01/01/2017 End date: 31/12/2017

Coordinator: European Elite Athletes Association 
Partners: Association de jugadoras de futbol sala femenino 
 Hellenic Professional Volleyball Players Association 
 Women Gaelic Players Association 

EU Athletes is committed to bringing the European player associations together to work on areas of common interest, gender equality being one of its main priorities. SWAFE aims to improve the support that the professional player associations in Europe provide for women athletes.

There is little doubt that female athletes suffer from discrimination, especially when compared to their male counterparts, in almost every professional sport. There are a number of reports detailing examples of unequal treatment and often shocking experiences of women athletes.

The European model of sport recognizes the role that the sports trade unions and player associations have in aiming to improve athletes' working conditions and environment. Ensuring that the unions are well equipped to represent women's interests will favour a progress in dealing with gender equality issues.

Additionally, elite level athletes are the "shop window" for the grass roots and have a role to play in promoting sport participation. Promoting gender equality for them will encourage more girls to take sport seriously and engage in physical activity.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE SWAFE PROJECT	
National Research March-May 2017	WGPA, AJFSF and HPVPA will undertake research (via questionnaires distributed to their members) into the working conditions and standards of women players in Ireland, Spain and Greece.
Player Assos. Research March-May 2017	EU Athletes will conduct research into how different player associations across Europe cover women athletes, aiming to identify any issues or good practices.
Big Conference Athens 15 th -16 th of June 2017	25 player associations and other stakeholders will be invited to attend. The results of the research will be presented and tackled within round table discussions, presentations, workshops and exchanges in order to come up with concrete actions and policies to promote and improve player association support for female athletes.
Best Practice Guidelines December 2017	Project staff, under the lead of EU Athletes, will prepare a booklet detailing the practical outcomes of the research and the Big Conference, with a clear focus on what next steps should be taken by the player associations.



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