



The EWA (Empowering Women Athletes) project has been approved within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme and officially started on the 1st of January 2021 for a duration of 30 months.

Objectives

This project aims to fight harassment and discrimination against women in sport.

How? Developing a community of female athletes, professionals, sport managers and policy-makers in Europe who actively prevent and counter violence, abuse, harassment, and discrimination against female athletes in key sports environments, providing them with the necessary knowledge, education, and practical tools.

Actions

More concretely, the following actions will be developed together by the 8 partner countries of the EWA consortium (Italy, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Belgium, Lithuania, Latvia, Cyprus):

- Creation of a network of **Ambassadors of Equal Rights in Sports**: a group of female athletes selected and trained during the project, whose mission will be to empower other **female athletes in Europe** (whether they are beginners, amateurs or professionals) as well as **sport professionals** (executives, coaches, health professionals...) to fight the chauvinist culture in all sport environments;
- Implementation of a **grass-roots awareness-raising campaign through different (social) media** aiming at acknowledging and valorising the role of women in sports;
- Creation of a **Petition** that will be submitted to the EU, in order to encourage relevant authorities to implement efficient measures.



How can you support us?

Join us on our social media – and soon the project website – follow our activities and take part in our awareness campaign.

The movement has already started

In Belgium, the **#balancetonsport** movement was launched on the 8th of March 2021, the International Women's Rights Day, on the initiative of judokas Charline Van Snick and Lola Mansour. The first action consists in a compilation of video testimonials by professional and amateur female athletes denouncing violence they were subjected to in sport environments.

The videos are available (in French) on Charline Van Snick's Facebook and Instagram pages and [YouTube](#) channel.

[Article and video report by RTL \(Belgium\)](#)

"Woman Means...": Great online event

In Greece, the Athens Chamber of Commerce (ACC) and the Committee on Women Entrepreneurship of ACC on Monday, March 8, 2021, celebrated International Women's Day with a big online celebration entitled "Woman Means...".

event was honoured with the participation of successful women from the politics, business, art, sports and social arena, but also with men who have offered a lot to women. Women had the chance to pass their strong message highlighting the multidimensional and decisive role of women, especially in this period. Women mean a lot to society and the economy, especially during the coronavirus pandemic. The event took place online via [Zoom](#).

[Announcement of the event](#)

Bulgaria accepts the New Strategy for Gender Equality

The Bulgarian government accepted the New Strategy for Gender Equality. The main goal of the document is to contribute for the equal opportunities in every aspect of the economy including sports and the value that it has on people's lives. The strategy has five main pillars, all correlated and striving for the overcoming of stereotypes and discrimination.

Women's economic empowerment is a key prerequisite for achieving gender equality. The female participation in the economy mobilizes their potential and talent. It encourages their realization in all spheres of life.

[Announcement of the event](#)

A dedicated fund for professionalism in women's sports has been established in Italy

The decree establishing the Fund for professionalism in women's sports has been published in the Official Journal of the Italian Republic, with a total budget of 10.7 million euros available. Among the novelties there is also the chapter dedicated to the promotion of gender equality. From the labour and social security protections for all workers in the world of sport, to the rules for amateur sports associations and clubs, there are many and innovations introduced by the provision: these include the creation of a Fund aimed at encouraging the professionalism of women's sports.

To access this fund, Italian National sports federations that intend to access the Fund must approve the transition to sports professionalism of women's championships: this must then take place definitively by December 31, 2022.

Furthermore, the legislative decree of 28 February 2021 provides that Italian Regions, the Autonomous Provinces and CONI (the Italian National Olympic Committee) undertake actions to promote gender equality at all levels and in every structure, favouring the inclusion of women in management and responsibility roles. The CONI will establish a regulation, to be issued by next summer, with guiding principles for the statutes of national sports federations, associated sports disciplines and meritorious associations.

[Official link to the fund](#)

EWA Consortium

ENDAS - *Italy*

Asociacia za razvitie na bulgarskiasport - *Bulgaria*

Catalca ilce milli egitim mudurlugu - *Turkey*

Eyropaiko institoyto topikhs anaptykshs - *Greece*

Genc girisim egitim genclik ve spor kulubu dernegi - *Turkey*

INFOREF - *Belgium*

Inovaciju akademija - *Lithuania*

Latvijas sporta federaciju padome - *Latvia*

Technologiko panepistimio kyprou - *Cyprus*



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