

iCoachKids: Innovative Education and Training for a Specialist Children & Youth Coaching Workforce

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Background

Millions of children and young people take part in sport and physical activity across Europe every day. However, the majority of their coaches are either not qualified or hold lower level generic qualifications that do not prepare them specifically to work with this age-group. For as long as this is the case, society and sport pay lip service to the potential of sport to provide positive experiences for children and to contribute to their overall development.

Objectives

iCoachKids (iCK) is an international, collaborative, multi-agency¹, Erasmus+ co-funded project aiming to support the development of a Specialist Children and Youth Coaching Workforce across the EU. It aims to ensure all youth sport participants have a positive experience led by suitably trained coaches. It will do so through the provision of free high quality open access resources and training opportunities for children and youth sport coaches of all sports.

Structure and Deliverables

iCK will use a learner-centred, community-based, collaborative approach to create innovative learning and development opportunities for those coaching children and young people. These include:

- An interactive online platform where coaches can share and learn from each other – January 2017
- FREE e-learning in the shape of three newly developed Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) – Summer 2018
- A repository of new and existing resources and materials from all over the world aimed at youth coaches and parents – January 2017
- Regular blogs and articles from expert international contributors – January 2017
- A European Coaching Children Curriculum – Autumn 2017
- A report on the nature of the Coaching Children Workforce across seven European Countries – Summer 2017
- A collection of case studies of good practice in the education and development of children and youth coaches – Autumn 2017

iCK project principal investigator Sergio Lara-Bercial will present the early outputs of the project and provide an overview of the process to completion between September 2017 and August 2019.

¹ iCK is led by Leeds Beckett University and brings together a consortium of eight organisations including the International Council for Coaching Excellence (ICCE), Sport Ireland, the Hungarian Coaching Association, Netherlands Olympic Committee (NOC*NSF), Universidad Europea in Spain, Lithuanian Sports University and the Royal Belgian Football Association.