23rd Annual EAS Conference 2026, Oulu, Finland

Sunday 4th October: 18:00 – 19:30 Possibility to register in Lasaretti lobby

Monday 5th October (Lasaretti Conference Center, address: Kasarmintie 13b, Oulu)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration (EAS info 2nd floor)
09:00 – 09:50 Registration (EAS info 2nd floor) and Coffee (Aurora hall)

09:55 – 10:00 General information for Participants of EAS 2026 Conference (Aurora hall)
Simo Kekäläinen, Host of EAS 2026 Conference

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome to the 23rd Annual EAS Conference 2026 in Oulu
Jani Syrjälä, Principal, Kastelli Upper Secondary Sports School
Olli Kohonen, Chair of the Education and Culture Committee of the City of Oulu
Mika Penttilä, Director of Education and Culture, City of Oulu

10:10 – 10:20 Official Opening Ceremony of the 23rd Annual EAS Conference 2026
Laura Capranica, President of EAS

10:20 – 10:40 Presentation of the Founding members of EAS
Risto Keskitalo, Honorary President of EAS
Marit Stub Nybelius, Doctor, Dalarna University

10:40 – 10:50 Greetings from The Finnish Olympic Committee
Liisa Ahlqvist-Lehkosuo, Sports Director, The Finnish Olympic Committee

10:50 – 11:20 Erasmus+ funding opportunities in Sport (online presentation)
Helena Kamencikova, Programme Manager, European Education and Culture Executive Agency

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11:20 – 11:25 Announcing the Bengt Nybelius Award Winner

Laura Capranica, President of EAS, **Risto Keskitalo**, EAS, **Marit Stub Nybelius**, Dalarna University

11:25 – 11:45 Bengt Nybelius Award Winner: Dual Career In European Universities Websites: Student-Sportpersons' Needs of Digital Information and Services

Raluca Onose, Associate Professor, PhD, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi

11:45 – 12:00 Keynote: Building an Evidence-Based Digital Platform for Elite Athletes' Dual Career, Career Transitions and Mental Health: The PORTAL Project

Francesca Di Rocco, Researcher, San Raffaele University of Rome

12:00 – 13:00 Active Break and Lunch (Joki hall 2nd floor)

13:00 – 13:20 Brazilian Dual Career System and Transitions Between Education Levels

Felipe Costa, Doctor, University of Brasilia

13:20 – 13:40 Overview of the Dual Career System in Finland

Jukka Tirri, Special Advisor, University Sport, The Finnish Olympic Committee
Juha Dahlström, Dual Career Specialist / High Performance Director, The Finnish Olympic Committee / National Olympic Training Center Helsinki

13:40 – 14:00 Overview of the Dual Career System in Denmark

Mikkel Larsen, Director, Elite Sports Aarhus & ESAA

14:00 – 14:20 Overview of the Dual Career System in Norway

Christian Thue Bjørndal, Professor, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

14:20 – 14:40 Overview of the Dual Career System in Sweden

Marit Stub Nybelius, Doctor, Dalarna University

14:40 – 15:00 Overview of the Dual Career System in Iceland

Daði Rafnsson, Dual Career Manager, Menntaskólinn í Kópavogi

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15:00 – 16:00 EAS Group Photo and Coffee (Aurora hall)

16:00 – 17:10 WORKSHOPS: Nordic Dual Career Systems and Transitions Between Educational Levels

16:00 – 16:30, AURORA HALL Chair: **Laura Capranica,** EAS	**16:00 – 16:30, PUISTO HALL** Chair: **Risto Keskitalo,** EAS	**16:00 – 16:30, MERIKOSKI HALL** Chair: **Laurence Blondel,** EAS
Concrete examples and experiences from Finland, Discussion and Q&A **Jukka Tirri**, Special Advisor, University Sport, The Finnish Olympic Committee **Juha Dahlström**, Dual Career Specialist The Finnish Olympic Committee / NOTC Helsinki	Concrete examples and experiences from Sweden Discussion and Q&A **Marit Stub Nybelius**, Doctor Dalarna University	Concrete examples and experiences from Norway Discussion and Q&A **Christian Thue Bjørndal**, Professor, Norwegian School of Sport Sciences
16:40 – 17:10, AURORA HALL Chair: **Laura Capranica,** EAS	**16:40 – 17:10, PUISTO HALL** Chair: **Risto Keskitalo,** EAS	**16:40 – 17:10, MERIKOSKI HALL** Chair: **Laurence Blondel,** EAS
Concrete examples and experiences from Finland Discussion and Q&A **Jukka Tirri**, Special Advisor, University Sport, The Finnish Olympic Committee **Juha Dahlström**, Dual Career Specialist The Finnish Olympic Committee / NOTC Helsinki	Concrete examples and experiences from Iceland Discussion and Q&A **Daði Rafnsson**, Dual Career Manager Menntaskólinn í Kópavogi	Concrete examples and experiences from Denmark Discussion and Q&A **Mikkel Larsen**, Director Elite Sports Aarhus & ESAA **Tine Ørum Secher**, Vice Principal Aarhus Akademi

17:10 – 18:45 Free time

18:45 – 20:30 Official City of Oulu Reception, Oulu City Hall (address: Kirkkokatu 2a, Oulu)

Remember your conference badge. Dress code: Smart Casual. Please arrive before 18:45.

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Tuesday 6th October (Lasaretti Conference Center)

09:00 – 10:00 What the Game Taught Us (Aurora hall)

Lasse Kukkonen & Jussi Jokinen, two former professional ice hockey players, multiple Olympic and WC medals

10:00 – 10:10 Active Break

10:10 – 12:00 Dual Career Parallel sessions (Please choose in advance which session you will attend.)

AURORA HALL	**PUISTO HALL** (10 min. each) Chair: 10:10 – 11:10 Dr. **Ilvis Ābeļkalns** EAS Chair: 11:10 – 12:00 **Ole Keldorf,** EAS
10:10 – 11:10 "Give Sport a Say" workshop (60 min.) The Give Sport a Say project aims to harness the unique power of grassroots sports to promote EU fundamental values, democracy, and human rights, engaging citizens directly with policy-makers to shape the future of EU sport policy. **Workshop hosts:** **Andrej Pisl**, Director European University Sports Association **Sara Massini**, Head of EU and International Affairs Department OPES **Frigga Franke**, Project Coordinator TAFISA **Laura Capranica**, President of EAS **Mojca Doupona**, Professor, University of Ljubljana Chair 11:10 – 12:00: prof. **António Figueiredo,** EAS 11:10 – 11:20 Sport and Academic Motivation Among Student-Athletes at the Academy of Physical Education in Katowice (Poland), **Rajmund Tomik**, Professor, Academy of Physical Education in Katowice	10:10 – 10:20 The Brazilian State as a Regulator of Student-Athlete Support, **Hugo da Rocha,** Doctor, Colégio Pedro II 10:20 – 10:30 From Institutional Support to Individual Responsibility: Dual-Career Provision in a CBF-Certified Brazilian Women's Football Club, **Hugo da Rocha,** Doctor, Colégio Pedro II 10:30 – 10:40 The structure of the high-performance unit that supports student-athletes, **Hervé Bizzotto,** Director, INSA, Lyon 10:40 – 10:50 DUALPATH: Building Institutional Excellence for Dual Career in Higher Education, **Francisco José Cánovas Álvarez**, Assistant Professor, Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia 10:50 – 11:00 Beyond the Athletic Career: JUSTMOVE and Adapted Physical Activity as a Professional Pathway for Student-Athletes, **Francisco José Cánovas Álvarez,** Assistant Professor, Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia 11:00 – 11:10 Learning from Practice: A Process Evaluation of a University Dual Career Programme, **Alessia Ferraboli**, PhD Student, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

11:20 – 11:30 Sport Specialization and Its Determinants Among Finnish Upper Secondary Sports School Students and Associated Factors **Elsa Parikka**, Bachelor of Sport Sciences, University of Jyväskylä **Petra Palmio**, Bachelor of Sport Sciences, University of Jyväskylä 11:30 – 11:40 Beyond Project Completion: Assessing the Sustainability Readiness of the FIND ME European Dual Career Platform, **Nenad Stojiljkovic,** Professor, University of Niš 11:40 – 11:50 FOCUS project: From Lived Experience to Adaptive Change: A Complexity-Informed Methodology for Dual Career and Long-Term Athlete Development in European Football, **Mojca Doupona**, Professor, University of Ljubljana 11:50 – 12:00 EduChamp DC: Enhancing Dual Career Awareness and Stakeholder Cooperation across School and University Contexts, **Francesca Salvia**, Sport Manager, S.S. Pingwings	11:10 – 11:20 NADEAN Questionnaire: Assessing the Needs of Dual Career Student-Athletes to Design University Mentoring Programmes, **Marta Bobo**, Dr., University of A Coruña 11:20 – 11:30 From Classroom to Competition: The Birth of a Student-Athlete Powerlifting Team as a Grassroots Pathway to Dual Career at the University of Chieti-Pescara, **Pascal Izzicupo**, Associate Professor, University of Chieti-Pescara 11:30 – 11:40 Role Strain and Sociocultural Barriers in Youth Dual Careers, **Iza Šraj Miklič**, Assistant, University of Ljubljana 11:40 – 11:50 Career Management Competencies and Perceived Dual Career Support Among Student-Athletes in Latvia: A Cross-Sectional Survey, **Agita Abele**, Professor, Latvian University Sports Federation 11:50 – 12:00 Extra Break

12:00 – 13:00 Active Break and Lunch (Joki hall 2nd floor)

13:00 – 14:30 PUISTO HALL (EAS PROGRAM)	13:00 – 14:30 AURORA HALL
EAS General Assembly and EAS Board Elections EAS Executive Committee	Finnish Dual Career Networks assembly (session in Finnish) You are welcome to listen to our beautiful Finnish language if you are not attending to EAS General Assembly

14:30 – 15:00 Active Break and Coffee (Puisto hall)

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15:00 – 15:20 Findings about Elite Athlete Friendly Universities in Finland
Aku Nikander, University Teacher, University of Jyväskylä / FISU Education Committee Member

15:20 – 16:10 The 5Cs Framework: Supporting Collaborative and Creative Psychosocial Development through Sport
Chris Harwood, Director, Health and Performance Enhancement Research Centre, Nottingham Trent University

16:10 – 16:30 Striving for Success: Empowering Dual Careers in Sports and Studies
Henna Anunti, Vice Principal, Kastelli Upper Secondary Sports School
Tine Ørum Secher, Vice Principal, Aarhus Akademi
Daði Rafnsson, Dual Career Manager, Menntaskólinn í Kópavogi

16:30 – 16:45 AI-WELL: Rethinking Sustainable Youth Development through Machine Learning in the Nordic Model of Athlete Education
Milla Saarinen, Associate Professor, University of Stavanger

16:45 – 17:00 DualWell - "Athletic and academic well-being among student-athletes in higher education"
Tiia Gustafsson, Doctoral Researcher, Åbo Akademi University

17:00 – 17:15 The EDUcation for Dual Careers of football talents
Ole Keldorf, Sport Consultant / EAS Board Member

17:15 – 17:25 Presenting the EAS Conference 2027, University of Iasi, Romania
Raluca Onose, Associate Professor, PhD, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi

17:25 – 19:25 Free time

19:30 – 23:00 Official EAS Dinner with Finnish Dual Career Networks, Lasaretti Aurora hall
Dress code: Smart Casual. Remember your conference badge.

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Wednesday 7th October

08:30 – 08:50 Bus from GreenStar Hotel and Lasaretti to Kastelli Upper Secondary Sports School (address: Sairaalanrinne 5, Oulu)

08:50 – 09:50 Tour de Kastelli and Sports Facilities

09:50 – 10:10 Bus from Kastelli to Lasaretti Conference Center (address: Kasarmintie 13b, Oulu)

10:30 – 10:40 **Mari-Leena Talvitie**, Minister of Science and Culture, Ministry of Education and Culture (Aurora hall)

10:40 – 11:25 Panel Discussion: "Importance of Dual Career for Athlete" (Aurora hall)

Glenn Micallef, Commissioner, Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, European Commission
Mojca Doupona, Professor, University of Ljubljana / European Athlete as Student Network
Sonja Stång, Student-athlete, Track & Field, University of Oulu, Oulu Business School
Miro Manderbacka, Student-athlete, Weightlifting, University of Oulu, Faculty of Technology
Ella Pruikkonen, Student-athlete, Dancesport, Kastelli Upper Secondary Sport School

11:25 – 11:30 Official EAS 2026 Conference Closing Ceremony (Aurora hall)

11:30 – 12:15 Coffee and Networking with the Commissioner Glenn Micallef (Aurora hall)

12:15 – 13:00 Lunch (Joki hall)

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