

ATHLETES FRIENDLY EDUCATION

1. General information about the Project Athletes Friendly Education

Athletes Friendly Education (AFE) is a certificate for Educational Institutions supporting Dual Careers of Athletes.

The objectives and legacy of the project Athletes Friendly Education (AFE):

The Athletes Friendly Education certification programme is focused on the promotion of Dual Careers of athletes and the support to innovative educational approaches and good governance in sport. It is relevant to the objectives of the EU policies in the field of sport and in pursuit of the objectives from the European Union Commission Guidelines on Dual Career of Athletes. The legacy of the project is to find the most effective way to improve athletes' education through an innovative educational approach that can be implemented in Dual Career programs in the EU framework and at national levels of the EU Member states.

The AFE project is therefore aiming to:

Upgrade the objectives of promoting the Dual Career Guidelines and spread the awareness and good practice among the institutions, which are already supporting athletes in these terms.

Set the minimum quality standards of Educational and Training institutions at the EU level. Also, reach and connect various stakeholders, policy makers and experts in the field of supporting athletes' education and employability.

Establish certification system as a framework at the level of certification of such institutions.

*Partners' efforts will create new instruments of cooperation and securing sustainable partnership between higher education and business and **establish a list of educational programs, at the EU level, with already developed mechanisms.***

Raise awareness on importance of education of the Athletes at the National levels and offer tools for athletes, managers, coaches and parents to take responsible decisions about athletes Education.

More on Athletes Friendly Education [Erasmus+ project card](#).



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Project Partner Organisations

The certificate has been developed as part of an Erasmus+ project involving eight partner organizations from six European countries under the coordination of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia.

[Olympic Committee of Slovenia \(SLO\) - Coordinator](#)

[Olympic Committee of Portugal \(POR\)](#)

[Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee \(BEL\)](#)

[German Olympic Academy \(GER\)](#)

[Croatian Olympic Academy \(CRO\)](#)

[University of Maribor's Faculty of Organisational Sciences \(SLO\)](#)

[University of Rijeka's Faculty of Maritime Studies \(CRO\)](#)

[Volleyball Federation of Macedonia \(MKD\)](#)

[EUSA Institute \(SLO\)](#)

Due to country-specific conditions, there are different departments responsible for the submission of the certificate. Representatives of all partners, experts in different fields regarding the dual career support of athletes, are involved in each process of developing the certificate and its regulations and provide their respective national experiences.

2. Athletes Friendly Education

2.1 What is the Aim of "AFE" Accreditation?

The aim of evaluating athlete-friendly education (AFE) is to find facts and proof of the athlete-friendly education attributes in an institution.

AFE accreditation is voluntary. The principle of voluntary certification is very similar to the "brand" philosophy. The brand also contains a "**promise.**"

2.2 What does term "Athletes-Friendly Education" mean?

Athletes-friendly education (AFE) is a type of schooling continually planning, organizing, and improving a system of adaptations included in a school's educational process and infrastructure. These adaptations are implemented voluntarily and in a benevolent, systematic, comprehensive, and transparent manner, with the explicit aim to help athletes engage in sport and simultaneously achieve goals and competencies set out in the educational program and thus complete their education.

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Athlete friendly education has the following **attributes**:

- adaptations;
- rather than being discrete, these adaptations constitute a system;
- adaptations are organized and managed by school management;
- institutions introduce the adaptations voluntarily;
- adaptations are based on pre-existing legal frameworks and internal institutional regulations;
- institutions need to possess adequate competencies or experience; they need to be "trustworthy," in other words.

A **system of adaptations** is a collection of individual components that form a logical whole; the interconnections between them are all aimed at a common goal. Adaptations aim to help athletes engage in sport and simultaneously achieve goals and competencies set out in the educational program and complete their education.

3. Regulations of the Certificate Athletes Friendly Education

The **Athletes Friendly Education certificate** is supposed to provide instruments and mechanisms for a Europe-wide label to award educational institutions with special dual career services.

The AFE certificate is intended as an incentive in the field of education in order to:

1. Support athletes with the information regarding their choice of educational organisations and programs with optimal educational opportunities, with the intent to support athletes in completing at least secondary level education.
2. Provide educational institutions with an added value, by validating their comparative advantage (sports programs, other programs) and giving the educational institutions a basis for obtaining systemic resources aimed at supporting athletes and their dual careers.

The legacy of the project is to find the most effective way to improve athlete's education through innovative educational approach that can be implemented in the Dual Career programs in the EU framework and at the national levels of the EU Member states.

4. Aims

4.1 The aims of awarding the certificate

The aim of awarding the AFE certificate is not to achieve a specific ranking or compete with other schools.

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The aims of awarding the AFE certificate are:

- to raise awareness about the importance of including an adaptation system for professional athletes in educational processes and infrastructure;
- to raise awareness about the importance of planning and organising the introduction and implementation of the adaptation system, which must be in the purview of the management;
- to promote good practices;
- to identify and exchange good practices;
- to establish a plan for continuous improvement.

4.2 The aims of the evaluation

The aim of the evaluation process that is carried out before awarding the first certificate is to establish athlete-friendly education attributes. Above all, it is aimed at establishing whether:

- a school voluntarily implemented the adaptation system for professional athletes into its educational processes and infrastructure;
- the introduction of an adaptation system was not done by chance, but rather as a planned and organized process;
- the school's actions are voluntary, and its motives moral, ethical, philanthropic, well-meaning, consistent, and transparent.

Before extending the certificate's validity, the evaluation process aims to establish whether there have been any improvements since the previous evaluation.