

Dual Career: 1st workshop Conclusions

University of Thessaly



Introduction

- The Department of Physical Education and Sport Science of University of Thessaly has organized the 1st Workshop of Dual Career in the Region of Thessaly and particularly in the City of Trikala (where the Department is situated).
- The basic goal of the workshop was to address the issues and the framework of Dual Career for the students-athletes in Greece.

Key results of the Workshop

- At the present context there is no any fundamental institutional approach concerning the students/athletes.
- In most cases their dual career arrangements often depend on the goodwill of persons in key positions of their Institutions (e.g. faculty).
- All of the participants agreed that until recently all the efforts to help Greek athletes to shift from viewing the world as an athlete to a post-athletic perspective have met with limited degrees of success.

- There was a detailed reference to relevant practices that were introduced in the past
- Specifically traditional “dual-career” initiatives such as “Athletic Schools” and “Mentor” (merely adopted from Sport Departments of Greek Universities) basically introduced in a pilot “status” and actually failed due to the absence of a broader institutional framework that could support the concept of “dual-career” ensuring the existence of these initiatives for a long period.

- The two Olympic Athletes agreed on the absence of an integrated institutionalized framework of support for students/athletes
- The academics that participated in this first workshop mentioned that students/athletes with high performance are facing a particularly busy (that actually approaches the limits of exhaustive) curriculum which affect their performance (sport & academic).
- A substantial number of student athletes are neither graduating nor entering the professional ranks.

- Due to their busy program during their studies many athletes are feeling occupational “isolated” and subsequently are not seeking occupational information and assistance from relevant bodies (e.g. career centers, training opportunities).

- All the participants recognized the necessity for the development of a “Dual-Career” model for the Greek athletes/students
- The proposed “Dual-Career” model should address not only the students-athletes but also all the relevant actors (faculty, coaches, parents, administrators, etc.).

Basic recommendations

- *Development of a better understanding of the broader students-athletes context.*
- *Development of an institutional approach*
- *Adjustment to the demanding “Career” environment*

Development of a better understanding of the broader students-athletes context.

- All the participants recommended the emergence of developing a better understanding of both the importance and the role of high performance athletes at their own institutions.

Development of an institutional approach

- “Task” force teams should be prepared to develop institutional strategies and action plans that include policies, programs, and services that will facilitate the development of the institutional model of Dual Career not only in the tertiary education but to the broader educational context in Greece.

Adjustment to the demanding “Career” environment

- Students–athletes should be aware of the continuous changing and demanding economic environment that might affect their transition (after their sport performance) to the labor market.
- Therefore, application of education and career oriented programs is key to ensuring the effective transition from the “sport life” to the labor market.

Thank you for your attention