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# Building Bridges

*- Progress report -*

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## 1. General overview

The *Building Bridges* project is progressing in line with the planned timeline and responsibilities shared among partners. The first phase has focused on setting up coordination mechanisms, aligning implementation procedures with local and internal contexts of partners, and launching the starting the methodology development process. Several foundational activities have already been carried out or are currently ongoing, successfully preparing the ground for the second, more practical phase of the project. This next phase will focus on finalizing and testing the newly developed training methodology for future wheelchair basketball coaches, and engaging more directly with sport professionals and disability sport networks across partner countries.

So far, the cooperation among the five participating organizations Barcel'hona Sport Events from Spain, AWBC and KOM018 from Serbia, Portuguese Basketball Federation, Irish Wheelchair Association, and Hope Sport from North Macedonia, has proven to be structured and effective. All partners have contributed actively to the project implementation process, and the project team has remained consistent in maintaining communication, managing deliverables, and supporting each other across technical and content-related tasks.

**Overall aim: To foster international cooperation in the field of wheelchair basketball and use sport as a tool for social inclusion.**

**Specific objectives:**

- To increase the competences and knowledge of coaches who work with basketball players in wheelchairs.
- To create more opportunities for athletes in wheelchairs.
- To raise awareness and improve visibility of wheelchair basketball while encouraging greater participation in sport among people with disabilities.

These objectives reflect the project's focus on both professional development and inclusive sport practice.

## **2. Implemented and ongoing activities**

### **WP 1.1. Project Management – *ongoing***

The project management team, led by project coordinator Barcel'hona Sport Events, is overseeing the quality and timely delivery of all activities. Coordination tools such as Google Drive are being actively used by all partners to support digital collaboration, documentation of all activities and results, and communication both internal and outreach. Meetings are regularly organized, every 2 months, to address planning and preparation of upcoming activities, progress tracking, and small technical issues, such as synchronizing internal timelines and ensuring full partner involvement in dissemination efforts. So far, the team has managed to maintain momentum and keep implementation on track.

### **WP 1.2. Online Partner Meeting – *implemented***

Project management team was formally established during this project activity. An online partner meeting was organized on 14 November 2024, bringing together 15 participants from all six organizations. The meeting focused on clarifying financial responsibilities, administrative rules, internal communication methods, and the overall timeline. Partners also agreed on monitoring and evaluation tools, introduced the use of a shared online platform, and discussed participant selection procedures for upcoming activities. This meeting was particularly helpful for partners newer to Erasmus+ Sport, as it provided clear guidance through examples and practical documentation from previous projects. A regular schedule for progress meetings was agreed to ensure continuity in communication and coordination.

### **WP 1.3. Meeting of Experts – *implemented***

Ahead of this activity, the project team organized an internal planning session to define the expert selection process and outline the preparation steps. Partners discussed the needed competencies for contributing to the training module and agreed that the experts should have backgrounds in wheelchair basketball, basketball, sport education, disability inclusion, and non-formal learning. Based on this shared understanding, each partner nominated two to three professionals from their local teams who met the required profile. The expert meeting was organized in Niš, Serbia, from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025, and it was co-hosted by KOM018 and AWBC. It brought together 16 experts, who spent 2 working days defining the structure, content, and session formats of the training module for coaches. During the meeting, experts worked in thematic groups, reviewed existing materials, shared experiences, and drafted outlines for each of the ten main segments of the module. A key part of the program included a field visit to a local wheelchair basketball club, where participants observed a training session, met with players and coaches, and engaged in open discussions with club management. These direct exchanges provided valuable insight into everyday practice and challenges in the field, which the experts later incorporated into the content planning. The meeting concluded with a common structure for the module, assigned responsibilities for each thematic unit, and a working calendar for content creation and internal review.

### **WP 1.4. Development of the Methodology Module – *ongoing***

Since the expert meeting, the development of the training module has been ongoing. The module is designed to support coaches working with athletes in wheelchairs and includes ten comprehensive segments: *Introduction to wheelchair basketball*, *Understanding disabilities*, *Coaching principles and practices*, *Skill development*, *Tactical concepts and strategies*, *Player management and inclusion*, *Adaptive equipment and modifications*, *Ethical and legal considerations*, *Emergency preparedness*, and *Professional development and continuing education*. Each partner has taken responsibility for specific thematic areas. Practical sessions are being developed according to a shared structure, including objectives, session overview, materials, preparation for facilitators, step-by-step instructions, evaluation, and handouts. The approach combines technical coaching content with non-formal education tools, placing emphasis on inclusion, communication, and empowerment.

So far, 2 joint expert meetings have been organized online to coordinate progress and ensure consistency in structure and quality. In addition, 2 bilateral meetings were organized to provide extra support to teams working on more complex or interlinked topics. The first full draft of the module is nearly complete, and a

review board meeting is scheduled for the first week of June 2025, where final adjustments will be made before the content is translated and prepared for testing.

#### **WP1.8 Visibility and Dissemination activities – *ongoing***

Dissemination activities are being carried out in line with the agreed plan and regularly tracked through a shared dissemination tracker. Partners are promoting the project through social media, websites, and local media, with a special focus on visibility of wheelchair basketball and inclusion in sport. Messaging is consistent across countries, and content is being adapted to national contexts to ensure relevance. As the project moves into the next phase, visibility actions will focus on promoting the final training module and gathering interest for local actions and multiplier events.

### **3. Achieved results and preliminary impact**

At this stage of implementation, the project has already produced meaningful results:

- The partnership is functioning effectively, with a strong coordination system, clearly assigned roles, and open communication between all partners.
- The internal and external structure for implementation has been set, including tools for monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination.
- Experts from five countries are working jointly on a methodology module that reflects both practical realities in the field and educational priorities related to disability sport and inclusion.
- The nearly completed draft of the module is already demonstrating a strong integration of key values: equity, empowerment, professional development, and accessibility in coaching.
- Early visibility efforts have already raised awareness about the project among local wheelchair basketball communities, coaching networks, and wider stakeholders in inclusive sport.

Through a combination of field experience, expert exchange, and structured planning, the *Building Bridges* project is on a clear path toward developing sustainable outcomes with lasting local and European impact. The training module is not only a tool for professional development, but also a contribution to broader efforts in making sport accessible, inclusive, and empowering for all.



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**Kick off meeting**  
**Online, Zoom – 14. 11. 2024**

<b>14<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	
10:00-12:30	Introduction of partners and partner organizations Introduction to the main aim and objectives and overview of the application process Presentation of the project's work package and activities
12:30 – 13:00	Break
13:00 – 15:00	Presentation of the continues reporting tools and project's deliverables Presentation of Visibility and Dissemination strategy Presentation of project budget and Lump sum grants Q&A

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# Meeting of experts Nis, Serbia February 2025



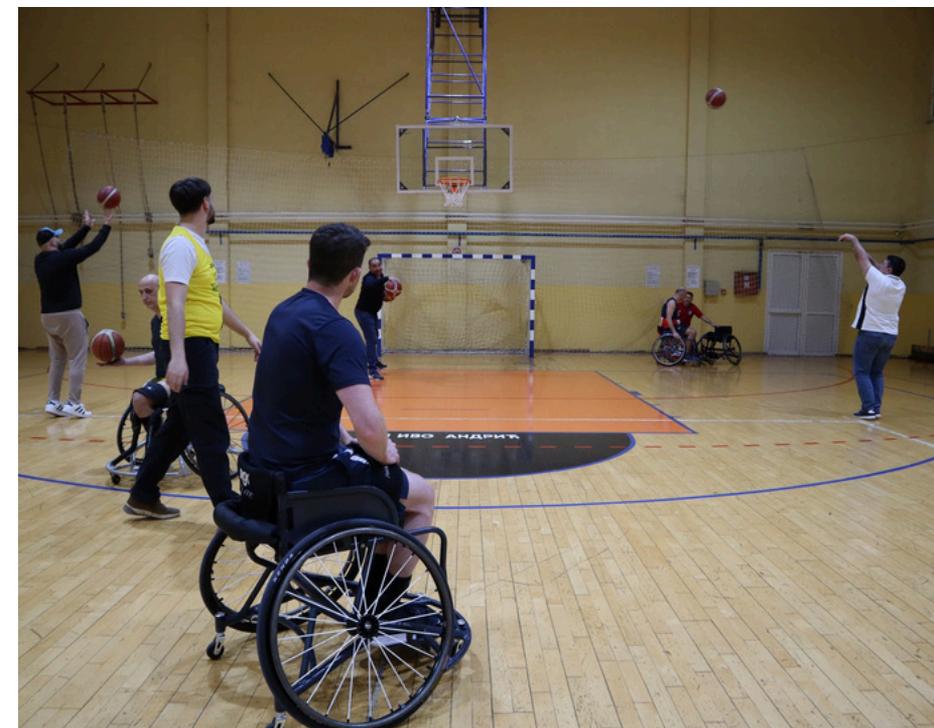
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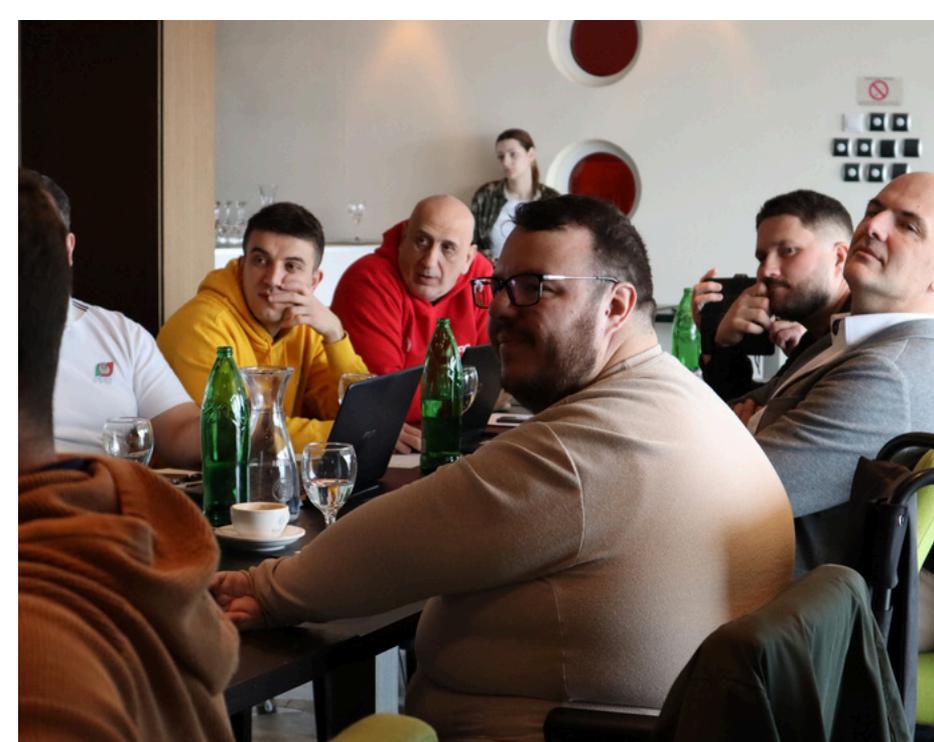
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