

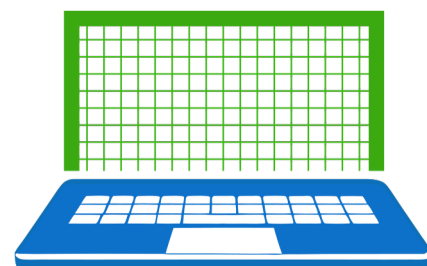
ABOUT THE PROJECT

EDUr-DC (Education for Dual Careers of Football Talents) is an Erasmus+ Sport project that supports young football players in balancing sport, education and personal development. By working with clubs, federations and experts across Europe, the project aims to strengthen dual career pathways and help athletes prepare for success both during and after their sporting careers.

MORE THAN LOGO

“We want to bring Dual Career in the locker room”

(Ole Keldorf, Dual Career expert of DBU)



The EDU-DC logo combines the two core pillars of the project: football and education. The lower part of the logo is shaped like a computer, representing digital learning and education, while the upper part resembles a football goal net, symbolising football. The green colour represents growth, learning and personal development, while blue stands for trust, stability and support. Together, the logo reflects EDU-DC's mission to help young football players successfully combine sport with education and prepare for life beyond the pitch.

THE EDU-DC WEBSITE IS LIVE

The official [EDU-DC website](#) is now live, providing a central hub for everything related to the project. Visitors can explore the latest news, project activities, partner updates, best practices, educational resources and upcoming events. Our goal is for the website to become the go-to platform for dual careers in football, supporting clubs and the professionals who work with young players.

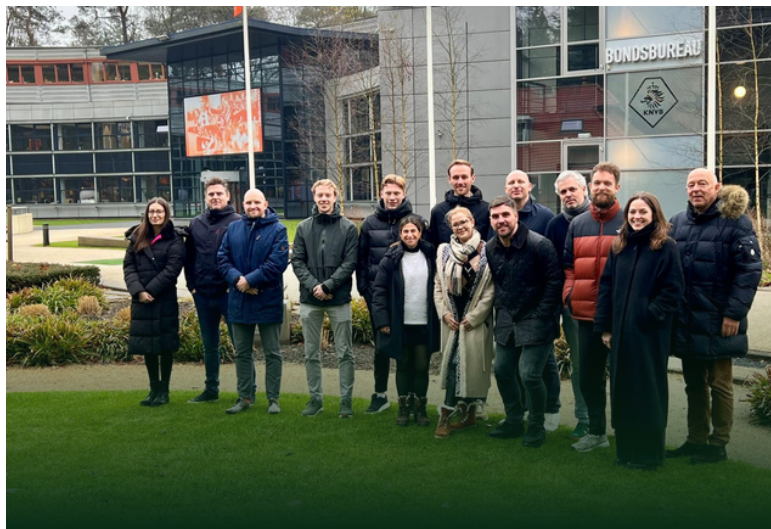
THE EDU-DC LINKEDIN PROFILE

Stay up to date with all the latest EDU-DC news, project activities, interviews, events and educational resources by following our [EDU-DC LinkedIn page](#). If you support our mission, help us reach even more people by sharing our posts with your network. Together, we can raise awareness of the importance of dual careers in football across Europe.



EDU-DC KICKS OFF IN THE NETHERLANDS

In February 2025, the EDU-DC partnership officially launched the project during a kick-off meeting hosted by the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB) in Zeist, the Netherlands. Representatives of all partner organisations gathered to discuss project objectives, upcoming activities and the shared vision of strengthening dual career support for young football players across Europe.



MEETING IN COPENHAGEN

In October 2025, the EDU-DC partnership met in Copenhagen, Denmark, to validate the project's new Educational Programme for Dual Careers in football. Based on insights gathered from more than 500 participants across Europe, partners reviewed research findings, exchanged experiences and confirmed the structure of a training framework designed to help young football players balance sport, education and personal development.



EDU-DC MEETING IN SOFIA

In March 2026, the EDU-DC partnership met in Sofia, Bulgaria, for an intermediate project meeting hosted by the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU). Partners reviewed the implementation of the educational programme, discussed the training of Dual Career Coordinators and exchanged ideas on supporting young football players. The meeting also included a learning session with 20 representatives from Bulgarian football organisations, followed by an interactive workshop for youth football clubs.



SAVE

THE DATE

DUAL CAREERS
IN FOOTBALL
EDU DC



International conference on Dual Career

HOW TO SUPPORT FOOTBALL PLAYERS ON AND OFF THE PITCH

**MAKE DUAL CAREER
PART OF PLAN A AT YOUR CLUB!**



Co-funded by
the European Union

ORGANISED BY:



EDU-DC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026

On 25 September 2026 the EDU-DC project will reach a milestone with its International Conference on Dual Career at the iconic BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany. The event will bring together football federations, clubs, coaches, dual career experts and researchers from across Europe to explore and inspire how football organisations can better support young players both on and off the pitch.

The conference will present the main outcomes of the EDU-DC project, feature inspiring keynote speakers, practical workshops and introduce the EDU-DC Ambassadors Team.

To learn more about the conference programme, speakers and workshops, visit the [EDU-DC website](#).

To secure your place, simply scan the QR code and complete your free registration.



AMBASSADORS TEAM

DUAL CAREERS
IN FOOTBALL
EDU DC

PLAYERS



SARI VAN VEENENDAAL

Former Dutch international goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal (91 caps) is one of the EDU-DC Ambassadors. After an outstanding professional playing career, she successfully transitioned into a new role as Women's Football Advisor at the Royal Netherlands Football Association (KNVB). Through her own experience, Sari encourages young athletes to look beyond football, invest in their personal development and start preparing for life after sport while they are still competing.

PADDY KAVANAGH

Former Bohemian FC player Paddy Kavanagh is one of the EDU-DC Ambassadors, demonstrating that a successful dual career is possible throughout a professional football journey. While competing in the League of Ireland for 15 years, he also built a full-time career in the construction and engineering sector. Today, Paddy encourages young players to enjoy football while investing in their education, skills and future beyond the game.



NADIA NADIM

Danish international Nadia Nadim is one of the EDU-DC Ambassadors, showing that excellence in sport and education can go hand in hand. Alongside an outstanding football career with clubs including Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain, AC Milan and HB Køge, she completed her medical degree and became a qualified doctor. Through her story, Nadia encourages young athletes to trust their instincts, make confident decisions and invest in their future both on and off the pitch.



AMBASSADORS TEAM



BEST PRACTICE (STAFF MEMBERS)



ARSENAL FC

Arsenal FC represents a valuable best practice example from the staff perspective. Its model shows that dual career in football is strongest when it is not reduced to school timetables or academic requirements alone, but understood as part of a wider culture of care, responsibility and long-term development.

“The aim is that every player achieves more at school because of the support they receive within the academy.”

- Matthew Henly, Head of Education at Arsenal FC

SC FREIBURG

SC Freiburg highlights the importance of developing the person behind the player. The club demonstrates how education, psychological wellbeing and personal development are integrated into everyday academy life, creating an environment where young footballers can grow with confidence both on and off the pitch.

“We have people here, not just footballers.”

- Philipp Himstedt, Sports Psychologist at SC Freiburg



ATHLETIC CLUB BILBAO

Athletic is a unique club that plays exclusively with Basque players and is a best practice in the field of holistic talent development. The club has a separate program (garATHuz) focused on broad identity development, based on the belief that all (former) Athletic players give something back to the community as a result.

“The Garathuz project seeks to empower conscious, responsible players who are connected to their environment”

- Iñaki Azkarraga Ripoll, Cordinator Residential Facilities

AMBASSADORS TEAM

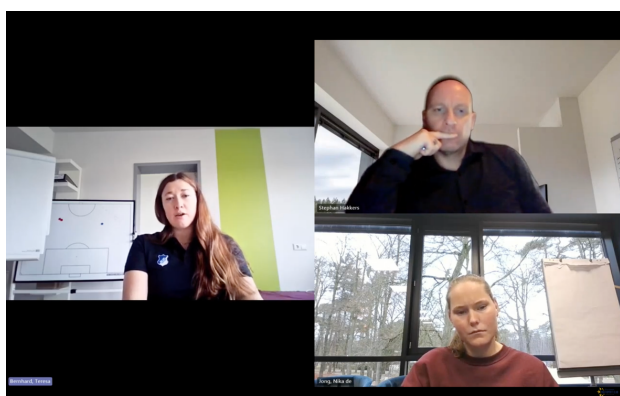


CRYSTAL PALACE F.C.

Crystal Palace places strong emphasis on **player care**. This includes wellbeing, life skills, identity development, transitions and communication with parents. The goal is not only to produce better footballers, but to help young people understand themselves beyond the game. Leaving the academy is not treated as failure, but as a step into a different path. Support begins early and continues even after players leave (after care program).

“Support does not end when a player leaves the academy.”

- Alex Wynter, Head of Player care at Crystal Palace



TSG HOFFENHEIM

In the women's programme of Hoffenheim, dual career is a normal and expected part of player development. The club specializes in career guidance and works in long-term collaboration with **Anpfiff ins Leben**. They support flexible study options, extra academic help at the training centre, close communication with parents and access to internships or workplace experiences through the club's wider network.

“Dual career means building security — not only financially, but also in terms of interests, values and future direction.”

- Theresa Bernhard, Career Counsellor at TSG Hoffenheim

HANNOVER 96

A central part of Hannover's philosophy is the **Plan A** program. Unlike the traditional idea of a “Plan B,” Hannover wants players to prepare for the best possible future in every area of life from the beginning. The **96Skills program** is once a week, players attend sessions at the KGS Hemmingen school focused on life skills and personal development. Guest speakers lead workshops on topics such as communication, mental skills, social competencies, leadership and self-management.

“The 96Skills program helps us think beyond football.”

- Youth player Hannover 96

