



EDU DC
DUAL CAREERS
IN FOOTBALL

Deliverable 3.2

Implementation Progress

(from 01/11/2024 to 28/02/2026)

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union





About EDU-DC

The 'EDUcation for Dual Careers of football talents (EDU-DC)' project aims at empowering talented football players from 16 to 21 years old in Europe by developing their dual careers (DC). The main goal of this integrated approach targeting both women and men players will be achieved by reinforcing the capacities of DC Coordinators and important staff members (football coaches, manager of Academies, life skills coaches and career counsellors / study coaches) from European Football Federations & Clubs through a comprehensive & holistic Educational Programme tackling the diverse dimensions of the DCs and by testing several Pilot Actions by engaging football federations & clubs across 4 EU countries. DCs are tackled through different angles, following a holistic approach that covers sports performance, education, employability, wellbeing, life skills & competencies, identity development and financial skills.

The partnership will create an online Educational Programme to train 20 DC Coordinators appointed by the 4 Football Associations and by 16 football clubs cooperating with EDU-DC. These trained staff will then transfer the knowledge on a successful DC management to 200 coaches and 60 specialists from the ecosystem of the participating organisations. The EDU-DC approach has been conceived to combine theoretical learnings with practical actions, and thus a set of pilot activities engaging 400 football players will happen to test the new acquired knowledge. Once completed the course, 280 staff & 400 players will have then experimented a strong collaboration to achieve a common goal: creating a sound and robust DC environment in the targeted sports organisations fruit of a collaborative work. EDU-DC will scale-up the project results by disseminating the key project outputs in at least 2 international capitalisation events; these outputs will be openly & freely accessible. EDU-DC is led by KNVB and has BFU, DBU, FAI, EMCA and VUB as partners.

About D3.2 Implementation Progress

This report outlines the progress made by the EDU-DC partnership toward its objectives during the first half of the project, covering November 2024 to February 2026. It focuses on the activities implemented and the results achieved to date.



Progress achieved during the first half of the project

EDU-DC is progressing smoothly towards achieving its objectives. During the first half of the project, the partnership focused on completing *WP1 – Building*, thereby directly contributing to *Specific Objective 1: creating and delivering an educational programme on dual career (DC) support for football players (women and men)*, targeting European football federations, clubs and academies.

At this stage, the project is about to deliver one of its key outputs: the **EDU-DC Educational Programme (Project Output 1)**. The Programme will count with **6 educational modules** that are currently being developed:

1. Setting the corner flags of Dual Careers (Online)
2. Mapping your Dual Career environment (Offline in 4 Pilot countries)
3. Communication in the athletic triangle (Online)
4. Scheduling and load (Online)
 - a) Building real relationships (Offline in 4 Pilot countries)
 - b) Individual career guidance (Offline in 4 Pilot countries)
5. Create a Dual Career network (Offline in 4 Pilot countries)
6. Building a Dual Career culture (Offline in 4 Pilot countries)

Each module will follow the same structure, with topic-specific **Content** (PDF), **Literature** (articles, papers, etc.), **Inspiration** (videos featuring role models, ambassadors, etc.), and **Best Practices and Exercises** (quizzes, tests, etc.).

To this end, the WP1 activities have been completed:

T1.1 – Mapping the right profiles

Each European federation successfully identified the pilot clubs it will cooperate with within the project and, based on this, mapped the key profiles needed to build a robust dual career environment. A key profile is the **DC Coordinator** at federation and club levels. In total, **20 DC profiles** have been selected.

The following clubs have been selected as testbeds in each country:

- **Bulgaria:** 1) Levski Sofia (M/F); 2) Ludogorec (M/F); 3) CSKA Sofia (M/F); 4) NSA (F)
- **Netherlands:** 1) FC Emmen; 2) SC Cambuur; 3) FC Utrecht (M/F); 4) AZ Alkmaar (M/F); and possible 5) Go-Ahead Eagles (M/F)

- **Denmark:** 1) AGF (M); 2) Lyngby BK (M); 3) AGF (F); 4) FC Nordsjælland (M/F); 5)
- **Ireland:** 1) Finn Harps FC (M); 2) Klub Kildare (M); 3) Wexford FC (F); 4) Treaty United FC (F)

Based on the federation and pilot club structure, **32 Dual Career Coordinators** (at federation and pilot club level) have been identified: KNVB: 1 (Federation) + 7 (clubs). Total: 8

- ❖ BFU: 3 (Federation) + 4 (clubs). Total: 7
- ❖ FAI: 2 (Federation) + 4 (clubs). Total: 6
- ❖ DBU: 3 (Federation) + 8 (clubs). Total: 11

T1.2 – Quantitative research: surveys

Led by VUB, this quantitative survey aimed to understand players' lived experiences of combining football with study or work, including wellbeing, satisfaction, and perceived support. Key statistics from the survey process are as follows:

- **Players' survey:** 920 started → 530 completed (**58% completion rate**)
 - 66% under 18 years old
 - 35% female
 - 89% engaged in a dual career (68% education; 6% work; 15% education + work)

Countries and languages: the surveys were translated into national languages across partner countries (e.g., Dutch, Danish, Bulgarian, English). Participation was voluntary and anonymous, and informed consent was obtained in accordance with university ethics guidelines. This exercise led to the delivery of **D1.1 Survey Reports**, approved by the Project Officer.

T1.3 – Qualitative research: interviews and testimonials

To complement the quantitative findings, EDU-DC conducted several focus groups with pilot clubs and recorded interviews and testimonials to gather qualitative insights that support the development of the educational programme.

Project federations are now finalising the recording of interviews with staff and players from the pilot clubs. A compilation of this video material will soon be published on the project website and delivered to EACEA (**D1.2**).

T1.4 – Needs analysis and diagnosis of pilots

The federations conducted several focus groups with key target groups in the pilot clubs (staff, coaches, players, etc.). Combined with the earlier research tasks, these inputs informed a comprehensive needs analysis underpinning the educational programme. The findings are included in **Deliverable D1.1 (Survey Report)**.

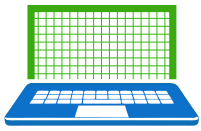
T1.5 – DC experts’ meetings

A main experts’ meeting took place in **Copenhagen** on **10 October 2025**, hosted by DBU. The event, titled “*EDU-DC milestone in Copenhagen: shaping the future of Dual Careers in European football*”, enabled EDU-DC to:

- bring together international experts and researchers in dual career and football development;
- share and discuss the main findings of the initial research phase (WP1);
- validate the content and approach of the educational programme—an essential step before implementation in pilot clubs across Europe;
- hear testimonials from stakeholders, coaches and players, bridging theory and real-life experience.

Although not originally planned in the application form, a second experts’ meeting was organised in **Amsterdam** on **10 December 2025** by KNVB. Ten experts from the Netherlands and Belgium participated, reflecting on the research outcomes and contributing their expertise to discussions on the modules. The experts worked in small groups on the modules for DC Coordinators, and each contributed from their professional background. Expertise from various sports and perspectives was connected to the context of football.

KNVB also organised an internal meeting with experts on **11 February 2026**. Four experts from the Academy, National Teams, and the Men’s and Women’s Football departments joined the session and shared insights during interactive discussions on the educational modules for DC Coordinators. The experts reviewed and discussed the modules developed within the project to validate whether the content aligns with practice and is suitable for the educational programme. The feedback gathered during this collaborative exchange represents an important step in further strengthening the quality and practical relevance of the EDU-DC programme.



EDU DC DUAL CAREERS IN FOOTBALL

Finally, on February 25th 2026, a panel with Bulgaria clubs in Sofia, along with the celebration of the Steering Committee in Bulgaria, took place to introduce the main pillars of a DC environment.



Experts' meeting in Copenhagen & Zeist



Dual Career Panel in Sofia (Bulgaria) with Bulgarian pilot clubs

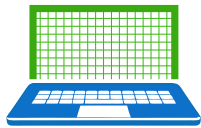
T1.6 – Building the educational programme

By consolidating the knowledge generated under WP1 and validated through the experts' meetings, EDU-DC partners are currently developing the education and training modules (6 modules in total) for the Educational Programme. These will be made available through a digital platform for rollout under WP2. Delivery of all completed modules is expected at the end of August 2026.



Co-funded by
the European Union





EDU DC DUAL CAREERS IN FOOTBALL

Impact and achievements

The project is making significant progress towards achieving its KPIs. At this stage, the **4 federations** are actively enhancing their own Dual Career (DC) environments, and **18 pilot clubs have been selected**, surpassing the original target of 16. The research component has also been successfully completed, with 920 players beginning the survey and 530 completing it—a high response rate. Additionally, **4 ambassadors** (Sari van Veenendaal from the Netherlands, Paddy Kavanagh and Rachel Kelly from Ireland, and Nadia Nadim from Denmark) have been interviewed as testimonials. The project is on track to meet the KPI of 16 ambassadors in the coming months. Furthermore, **32 Dual Career Coordinators** from federations and pilot clubs have been identified and selected for training through the Educational Programme, exceeding the initial KPI of 20. The remaining KPIs, related to the rollout of the Educational Programme, will be closely monitored during the second phase of the project.

Communication and dissemination actions

The EDU-DC project followed a strategic communication and dissemination strategy (D4.1) designed by EMCA at the project's outset. The visibility of EU funding was a priority, with the EU logo prominently displayed across all materials and activities.

❖ **Logo and templates**

Project logos in various formats and brand colours were developed. Online templates were created and shared with partners, allowing autonomous and consistent use of the project's visual identity in line with the strategic plan.

❖ **Online presence**

Website: A dedicated project website has been set up, showcasing project updates, activity reports, partner presentations, objectives, deliverables, etc.

❖ **Social media accounts**

[LinkedIn](#)

In addition to the project's official social media channels, all partners share project updates via their own social media accounts, leveraging their well-established networks to amplify reach.

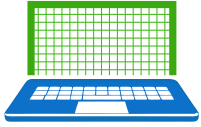
❖ **Newsletters**

The first newsletter is scheduled to be issued immediately after the upcoming project meeting in Sofia, highlighting the project's main achievements and deliverables.



Co-funded by
the European Union





EDU DC DUAL CAREERS IN FOOTBALL

❖ Events, meetings and conferences

Project information and visibility have been ensured at all events with external audiences, including the experts' meetings. The main project event to date is planned for September 2026 as part of the EMCA Connect Conference in Lisbon (Portugal), under the theme "Dual Career and (Multi)Sport".



Co-funded by
the European Union

