



FREE

Football Research in
an Enlarged Europe

NEWSLETTER

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Motivation is everything!

Anyone who has ever stood as a teacher in front of a class of students (of any age) or as coach in front of a team of players (of any sport), knows – at least intuitively – about the different between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Why and by what are people motivated? This is undoubtedly a fundamental question in many situations in social life.

Do we respect red traffic lights and speed limits because we're scared of the radar or because we want to act responsibly? Do we sort our garbage because we feel morally obliged to protect the environment or because we want to avoid being publicly shamed by the environmentalist who lives on the 1st floor? The list of such questions is endless.

Those of us who have done at least rudimentary studies in educational psychology have learnt the difference between extrinsic and intrinsic motivation. In a nutshell, the former is driven by anticipated rewards and/or sanctions, while the latter is based on a self-sustained desire to move on, by a fundamental interest in the forthcoming task itself.

Some bankers may disagree with me, but there is a general tendency to consider intrinsic motivation to be somewhat more 'noble' and virtuous than extrinsic motivation. This is one of the reasons why the World Cup, despite all efforts of FIFA to ruin it, has managed to preserve such a halo of magic. People have the impression that the players would participate even if they had to walk there and play barefoot. Simply for the 'honour' of playing in the World Cup, or because it's the realisation of their childhood's dream. As one manager from a major football federation once told me when talking about the pre-tournament negotiation of bonuses, 'They're so tame! Everything goes incredibly smoothly, you don't recognise them anymore!'

This brings us to the question: what motivates the

researcher? Funding success and academic tourism; or citation indices and publication incentives?

This may be difficult to believe in today's academic environment where the pressure of assessment and the technocratic quantification of intellectual work is constant, but the FREE Project seems to be mainly driven by the intrinsic motivation of gaining a better understanding of the object it has researched. The project's three-year funding period came to an end in March, the scientific and financial reporting was done by the end of May, and FREE researchers keep on writing and talking about football!

There is no contractual obligation to continue taking the pains of drafting, compiling and sending out this newsletter, but chances are this eighth edition will not be the last one. And its contents give evidence to the sustained intellectual curiosity that has underpinned the whole project from the beginning.

We are of course grateful to the opportunities provided by the generous funding of FP7 between 2012 and 2015 and most of the activities reported in this newsletter would

never have been possible without this material support. Needless to say some of these activities will slow down somewhat with more limited means. But the intellectual motivation to explore this intriguing social, cultural and increasingly political phenomenon remains intact.

At a moment when the entire context of higher education appears to be hijacked by extrinsic motives and purposes, it's a nice break to see a team play its game for the intrinsic interest it arises in the players and for the sheer pleasure of knowledge.

Albrecht Sonntag

(ESSCA School of Management)



The FREE – Football Research in an Enlarged Europe – project has received funding between 2012 and 2015 from the European Union's 7th Framework Programme for research, technological development & demonstration under grant agreement N° 290805.

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Sharing ideas, engaging in debate

Report on the FREE final conference in Brussels, Committee of the Region, 17 March 2015

In the capital

Like the English FA Cup final, the *Finale de la Coupe de France* or the *DFB-Pokal -Endspiel*, the final of the FREE project was played in the capital city. FREE being a European project, the concluding conference could only take place in Brussels, in the 'arena' of the Committee of the Regions, who kindly accepted to host the event.

Contrary to previous academic conferences, the event had an explicit dissemination purpose, and the public it addressed clearly went beyond the scientific community, targeting civil society and policy-makers in the largest sense. The title of the event announced 'Findings, Insight, Recommendations from the FREE project', but rather than simply communicating these findings in a one-way presentation, the idea was to critically discuss them in public and to engage in a debate with the audience.

For this purpose, a series of roundtables were organised, and external experts were invited. Each of these roundtables was preceded by a succinct 20-minute presentation from a FREE work package leader and followed by questions from the audience and answers from the panel.

Somewhat surprisingly the conference started with some congratulations: **Philippe Keraudren**, head of the 'Reflexive Societies' unit in the European Commission's DG Research, recalled how the project had managed to impose a seemingly peripheral topic on the agenda of the 7th European Framework Programme. He also urged the consortium not to simply move on to other tasks or new projects after completing the three years of research, but focus on exploiting the very promising data that has been accumulated and to pursue its dissemination strategy.

In a second welcome speech **Laurent Thieule**, director of communication at the Committee of the Regions, addressed the audience not only as the host of the event, but also as the co-founder and president of the Sport & Citizenship think-tank. Having followed the project over three years with great attention, he showed his great satisfaction with the academic work on football carried out by such multi-national researcher group. As president – for twenty years already! – of an amateur football club in the suburbs of

Brussels that counts 45 different nationalities among its members, Laurent Thieule also strongly insisted on the fact that research, rather than only studying phenomena in elite and spectator sports, should never lose touch with the grassroots level, which is where sport's capacity of playing a positive role in social inclusion and fostering diversity is most efficient and visible.



Laurent Thieule

In the focus

His message fitted well with the objectives of the FREE Project, since the focus of its research has always been on those who watch the game, are touched by it and react to it in different ways, as **Albrecht Sonntag** recalled in the keynote speech that followed the introductory messages.

Expressing his thanks to DG Research for a competent and supportive accompaniment over the entire duration of the project, as well as to the Committee of the Region for providing an excellent venue for this concluding event, he summed up why football had gained such an important, almost disproportionate role in society:

- 🎯 Football moves and mobilises, it produces uncensored emotions and triggers revealing reactions in people.
- 🎯 Football is always, invariably a social event: it makes sense only when it is shared, when it is reconstructed in discourse, when it becomes the thread of collective narratives.
- 🎯 Football is a 360 degree projection screen that has the capacity of showing several films at the same time, a screen onto which individuals and groups have almost unlimited potential to project what they desire.

Philippe Keraudren then announced the three expert roundtables on areas of policy-relevance that were to discuss research findings & recommendations during the day.



Philippe Keraudren

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In the gender gap

The first roundtable was on women's football and female fans, introduced by a recapitulative presentation from **Gertrud Pfister** under the title 'Still a men's game?' (her exposé can be downloaded [here](#)). Gertrud concluded by detailing four recommendations that can also be found in the [FREE Policy Brief on the issue](#): the promotion of women's football through the development of grassroots football for women of all age, radical measures to increase the place of women in the governance of football, equal access to the media, and monitoring sexism in the stadia and in the media.



The following roundtable on female fans and women's football in Europe included **Alexandre Mestre** (President of the 'Women & Sport' network of Sport & Citizenship), **Sandra Schwedler** (President of the Board of FC Sankt Pauli), **Stacey Pope** (Lecturer at Durham University and an expert on female fandom), **Marie-Luise Klein** (Professor at Ruhr-University Bochum and expert on the economy of women's football). The very lively debate was moderated by **Dàvid Ranc** (ESSCA School of Management & FREE project).

Alexandre Mestre declared himself 'tired of laws that have no consequences'. He emphasised that through a number of treaties and conventions, the legal framework is already in place to ensure equal access of women to football but that governments are failing to be up to their engagements and enforce these regulations. **Stacey Pope** insisted on the necessity to fight sexism and to neither dismiss nor trivialise sexism in the stands. She conceded, though, that it was difficult to make the fans understand that there is a huge difference between what an in-group says is meant as a simple joke ('banter') and what an out-group perceives on the receiving end.

Sandra Schwedler confirmed this observation – 'they don't know what they're doing!' – but also said that women increasingly stand up against the tendency to trivialise. She related football-specific issues to society-wide issues: in theory women can do what men can do; in reality there are structural resistances which means that they have to fight more than men. According to her, clubs and federations are reluctant to change, but football is definitely changing. At the same time, she admitted that she had always been opposed to gender quotas, and had indeed obtained her current position without such quotas, but was considering changing her mind on this issue. **Marie-Luise Klein**

offered that one of the keys to the development of women's football is access to resources and that national associations can do a lot. For example, they can sell the TV rights for men and women's football together (although it is difficult to impact broadcast) like in Germany.

Questions from the audience revolved around very different topics, for instance the need (or lack thereof) to change the rules of women's football in order to make it more attractive. Although **Alexandre Mestre** and **Gertrud Pfister** were not opposed to this in principle, **Marie-Luise Klein** took position against it (recommending instead a different calendar and a reduction of the number of clubs in top-flight leagues), and no consensus was reached on this proposition. **Stacey Pope** argued that the lack of media coverage led to 'punctual direct competition' between men's and women's football and therefore to taking the women's game less seriously.

Everybody agreed however that sexism and homophobia were linked and should be fought together. **Mark Doidge** from the audience referred to the pan-European activists against racism and homophobia and regretted the absence of similar anti-sexism groups. Also from the audience, **Chris Stone** called on the mass media to assume their responsibility of challenging what happens in the stadium and not only focus on match reports and security issues.

In search of stakeholder involvement

Borja García introduced the second roundtable on football governance and stakeholders. The policy recommendations based on the work of the research strand he managed exist (and can be downloaded) in various versions: as a [Policy Brief](#), as a series of [detailed policy papers](#), or in a [succinct presentation](#).

The expert panel on the topic brought together **William Gaillard** (special advisor to the UEFA President), **Zenon Severis** (from the sports unit of the European Commission), **Dariusz Łapiński** (supporters liaison officer of the Polish Football Association), **Heidi Thaler** (from the *Koordinationsstelle Fanprojekte*, Frankfurt), as well as **Jo Welford** from Loughborough University, member of the FREE team. The roundtable was moderated by **Jürgen Mittag**, Jean-Monnet Professor at the German Sport University in Cologne, who started the debate with a discussion on the survey data presented in the introductory exposé.

William Gaillard was particularly interested by the





survey results on ‘trust’. He was not surprised to see that there was a higher level of trust in Germany because self-regulation seems to be working there rather well, the access to the stadium is very democratic, and ownership has been regulated for many years. The most striking result to him was the fact that the UK had the richest league in the world, but at the same time people were not satisfied, and that this discrepancy needed to be further investigated.

Zenon Severis admitted that there was a limit to what the European Commission can do and that EU member-states are in charge for nearly all the issues discussed. At the same time, he pointed out that there was a strong suggestion through the important data collected by FREE that more involvement was necessary, especially at the levels of consultation, involvement, and concertation.

In his work for the Polish football association (and his previous position at EURO2012), **Dariusz Łapiński** has been in permanent contact with football supporters for years. He sincerely regretted that fans currently have no power, no representation. They look for allies, and they put their trust into institutions with hope for change, but also in a kind of ‘trial and error’ manner. Fans should definitely be more involved, not only because they want to, but also because football needs them. Federations must ask themselves whether they want to see the fans’ energy and power as a problem or rather deal with it in a constructive way.

Representing the grassroots level of fan projects, **Heidi Thaler** recalled how German football learnt over the last decades how important it was to work with fans and to support their own networks and also their capacity of self-criticism. After all, it’s the fans who are the real experts of what the game is all about! The very positive effect of the German ‘Fanprojekte’ was also pointed out by **Dariusz Łapiński** who saw them as a way for football supporters to build entities that are part of civil society and represent their own interest in a more serious manner. Heidi Thaler was also confirmed in her view by **Jo Welford**, who said it was essential to make the link between the best practices in Europe. She found particularly striking to see that

satisfaction with football was much higher in Germany despite claims in other countries that the Bundesliga had become less attractive for reasons of over-dominance by one team, while in England the title race seemed to be more open, yet satisfaction was low.

To **William Gaillard**, Michel Platini was right in claiming that fans were ‘the only real stakeholders in football because players, owner, coaches, sponsors come and go, but the fans stay where they are, always faithful’. At the same time, it was difficult to satisfy all stakeholders of football who turn to UEFA with contradictory requests. It is therefore essential to find compromises, even if that means that all stakeholders are mildly dissatisfied in the end. After all, that’s what compromise is about.

In the public sphere

Contrary to the two previous roundtables, the last panel of the conference did not bring together invited external experts, but some representatives from the FREE consortium who had worked on the historical and anthropological aspects of European football. It was introduced by a presentation from **Özgehan Şenyuva**, who summed up what the FREE research had shown on the emergence of a Public Sphere of European Football. His [presentation](#), as well as the [policy brief](#) to which he referred, are available on the FREE website.

His convincing plea for seeing football as a case of Europeanisation from below, backed up by evidence for the different surveys was followed by a roundtable including the FREE Project’s historians **Paul Dietschy** and **Nils Havemann**, as well as anthropologists **Alexandra Schwell**, **Nina Szogs** and **Gosia Kowalska**.

Putting trends into a historical perspective, **Paul Dietschy** pointed out that the Europeanisation of football was actually not a recent phenomenon. There was already a space for European football in the inter-war years, with important inter-cities matches that were related in various media across Europe. The first pan-European competition, however, was only created when the time was ripe for it. On the question whether this Europeanisation process actually also creates a shared collective memory of European foot-



ball, **Nils Havemann** proved to be more sceptical. Yes, European football creates legends, myths, jargons, and it is indeed possible to speak of a public sphere where these issues are discussed. On the other hand, like for the political memory of Europe, interpretations of historical events vary widely according to national cultural preferences and societal values. Football brings people together, but football also reveals the persistent differences in fundamental attitudes across the continent.

Moving to a different topic, **Albrecht Sonntag** admitted his surprise at seeing in the survey results just how many respondents had an experience of short-term or long-term mobility, which resulted in what could be termed 'fluid loyalties'. He questioned **Nina Szogs** on her study of Galatasaray and Fenerbahçe's 'diaspora fans' in Vienna. She confirmed the complex interplay of loyalties and rivalries, the issue of plural belongings and the often contradictory behaviour that came from the permanent renegotiation of these loyalties.

Alexandra Schwel was focused on East-West perceptions as expressed in football, especially on the question whether football has the capacity to put stereotypes and prejudice into question or rather the tendency to confirm them? Her research around EURO2012 shows that it probably does both: the building up of a mega-event is always rife with stereotypes, while the event itself provides an unequalled opportunity to question and relativize them. One way or another, football is a catalyst that accelerates the processes which reveal uncensored discourse.

Also on the issue of football mega-events, though with a very different approach, **Gosia Kowalska** commented on her research in the city of Poznań and the remarkable evolution of political discourse that has taken place between the build-up to EURO2012 and the follow-up. Used first by the political and economic elite as a means to legitimise a neo-liberal perspective on urban management and business development, the event rather unexpectedly reinforced the public debate on the shape of local democracy in Poland, actually. The intensive anthropological research on the Poznań case study illustrates the extent to which such sports mega-events can be seen as a litmus test for power relations in democracy.

In the discussion that followed, the audience asked whether the FREE consortium, 'as a research group funded by the European Commission', was really independent – especially on the questions of what is good for European society. Özgehan Şenyuva replied on behalf of the project, insisting on the fact that the FREE consortium did not see

itself as 'willing executers of the European Commission', but actually the opposite: starting with research questions, they were totally free to do what they wanted to do. The consortium was not surprised to have contradictory findings. These are now to be interpreted, in total academic independence.

In conclusion

The event was wrapped up at the end of the afternoon by an informal, spontaneous exchange between **Jonathan Michael Hill** (Head of cabinet of Commissioner Tibor Navracsics), **Simon Kuper** (the renowned football writer and columnist for the *Financial Times*) and **Albrecht Sonntag**, the coordinator of FREE.

For **Jonathan Hill** there was no doubt that the project had confirmed that sport in general, and football in particular, offers a place where we learn to live with people from other cultures. European football is a microcosm of European social life. **Simon Kuper** confirmed this view with his own observations especially during football mega-events over the last decades: people travel even if they do not have tickets and no chance of obtaining any, precisely because it is an opportunity to share their own passion with people from other cultures. He expressed his intellectual satisfaction of having his journalistic observations found laid out with scientific legitimacy by FREE



The three speakers agreed on the fact that the massive commercialisation of football has actually made the supporters even more important. First as major consumers: tickets, shirts, all kinds of products and services and, of course, expensive TV channel subscriptions are all bought by fans. And secondly as producers of the atmosphere that has made football into what

it is in the first place. No one would subscribe to a paying TV channel if the games were played in sterile, silent stadia... As a result, stronger supporter involvement can only be beneficial for the game, even for those who think of it as, first and foremost, a business.

When, in concluding, Jonathan Hill and Simon Kuper expressed their great pleasure to see football research taken beyond its traditional limits thanks to the opportunity offered by the 7th Framework Programme to original and innovative ideas, Albrecht Sonntag had no reason to contradict them. He then closed the day with thanks to his research consortium for three exciting years of stimulating collaboration and extending it to all participants for their active contribution to the enriching debate of this final conference.



The first two FREE books are published

Here they are, ready to be purchased quickly, read attentively and laid out proudly on your coffee tables: the first two books of the 'Football Research in an Enlarged Europe' book series: *European Football and Collective Memory* edited by Wolfram Pyta and Nils Havemann, and *Spanish Football and Social Change* by Ramón Llopis-Goig. Congratulations to the authors and editors for their excellent work.

Both can be ordered online directly from [Palgrave Macmillan](http://www.palgrave-macmillan.com). For the subscribers of this newsletter a special discount of 30% has been offered by the publishers: just use the code 'PM15THIRTY' when ordering.

Subscribers interested in writing a book review for an academic journal or other relevant publication should feel FREE to contact directly the series editors [Albrecht Sonntag](mailto:albrecht.sonntag@uni-wuerzburg.de) and [David Ranc](mailto:David.Ranc@uni-wuerzburg.de).



First FREE PhD successfully defended

Sincere congratulations to **Svenja-Maria Mintert**, who was the first PhD candidate of the FREE Project to defend her PhD thesis publicly on 4 May 2015 in Copenhagen!

The PhD thesis entitled '*Football-Feminisation-Fans. Explorative Studies in a European Context*' was a cumulative dissertation based on qualitative research on women's football and female fans. It represents a truly interdisciplinary piece of research situated at the crossroads between sociology, ethnography and gender studies. The field work was almost exclusively carried out in Denmark. The most interesting findings, especially about women's socialisation as football fans and their strategies of adaptation to what

has been referred to as the 'hegemonic masculinity' of the football stadium, have provided input into the FREE Project's policy brief on women's football that was recently submitted to the European Commission.

Regarding the PhD jury, however, there was no trace whatsoever of 'hegemonic masculinity'! Among the group composed of the PhD candidate, jury chair **Laila Ottesen** and thesis supervisor **Gertrud Pfister** (both University of Copenhagen), as well as external examiner **Annette Hofmann** (Pedagogical University of Ludwigsburg, Germany), Albrecht Sonntag rather found himself to be a kind of 'alibi male' in a fully female environment...

After an initial presentation of the main contents and findings of the dissertation and two long rounds of critical questions forwarded by the two opponents, Svenja Mintert was visibly relieved to have successfully passed this demanding examination. In good Scandinavian tradition, she was not only congratulated and applauded by the public, but also awarded with a rather original, very impressive 'doctoral hat'.

Sincere thanks to Svenja for her contribution to the project and all best wishes for her future professional career!



Albrecht Sonntag in a 'threatening' environment of 'hegemonic femininity' (with Laila Ottesen, Svenja-Maria Mintert, Annette Hofmann, and Gertrud Pfister).



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Spreading the word

Even though the funding received from the European Union stopped in March, the FREE team members actively pursue their dissemination work in summer 2015

On 25 and 26 June 2015, the **Angers** campus of ESSCA School of Management had the honour (and pleasure!) to host the the **10th Annual Conference of the Sport&EU** academic network.

At this anniversary conference, the FREE team was strongly represented. **Özgehan Şenyuva** (Middle East Technical University) gave an introductory keynote speech on the relevance of sport and football research for European integration studies.



In addition, **Borja García García** (Loughborough University) and **David Ranc** (ESSCA School of Management), both co-founders of the association, as well as **Ramon Llopis-Goig** (University of Valencia) and **Albrecht Sonntag** presented papers and/or participated in roundtables.

Some weeks earlier, the FREE dissemination summer had started with the **World Congress of Science and Football**, held in Copenhagen between 20 and 23 May 2015. Both **Gertrud Pfister** (University of Copenhagen) and **Albrecht Sonntag** (ESSCA School of Management), as members of the scientific committee, staunchly defended the social sciences and humanities in this event dominated by the 'hard sciences', and presented findings from the FREE project in their quality as invited speakers. More information under <http://wcsf2015.ku.dk/>.

A full-fledged FREE panel is included in the programme of the **22nd International Conference of Europeanists** organised by the **Council for European Studies** at Sciences Po **Paris** from 8 to 10 July 2015. Under the title, 'The Vanity Fair of European Football: Performances, Representations, Identities', **Başak Alpan** (Middle East Technical University), **Alexandra Schwell**, **Nina Szogs** (both University of Vienna) and **Borja García** were firmly determined to make the case for European football research in front of

an interdisciplinary audience of European scholars.

Also in the field of interdisciplinary European Studies, the **45th UACES Annual Conference in Bilbao** (7 to 9 Sept. 2015) is a must-go venue. All the more so as the very first draft of what was to become the FREE Project was done at the 2008 conference in Edinburgh. Seven years later it is time to take stock of what has been achieved. In a panel entitled 'What Football Says about Contemporary Europe', **Başak Alpan** (already present in 2008), **Borja García García** and **Albrecht Sonntag** will present their conclusions and refer to the already available publications. In a more global perspective **Paul Dietschy** (Université de Franche-Comté) has convened a very ambitious panel named 'Football: a mirror of Globalisation history?' for the **22nd Congress of the International Committee of Historical Science** held in **Jinan, China**, from 23 to 29 August 2015. **Paul Dietschy** also gave a conference « From Paris to Zagreb : a football perspective » at the Institut Culturel Français de Zagreb, on 11 June 2015.

Academic conferences are, of course, not the only dissemination target. Reaching out to civil society remains a major objective. On 11 June 2015, **David Ranc** was asked to talk in the hour-long show 'Esprit de Justice' on **France Culture**, a national radio station with a daily audience of one million listeners. The results of the FREE survey were consulted in order to understand European opinions towards FIFA (podcast [here](#)). A discussion with **Nils Havemann** (**Deutschlandfunk** (University of Stuttgart), **Alexandra Schwell** and **Albrecht Sonntag** was featured in the 'Sportgespräch' on the **Deutschlandfunk** radio channel (podcast [here](#)).

Borja García García attended the **Supporters Direct Scotland Annual Congress** at **Hampden Park** (Glasgow) on 21 June 2015. An audience of policy makers (representatives from supporters organisations and supporters trust of Scottish football clubs, members of the Scottish Parliament and representatives of the Scottish League and Scottish FA) had the opportunity to pick up print information on the FREE project or ask questions.

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Recommendations for policy change

All FREE policy briefs and policy papers have been made publicly available

FREE has made a series of policy-relevant documents available that were produced as project deliverables. They include three so-called 'Policy briefs' that provide a summary of relevant evidence and a series of conclusions and recommendations to policy-makers in a format common to all projects funded under the 7th Framework Programme:

- ☉ [Policy Brief Nº1](#) on 'European Football and the Public Sphere' summarises results from the project's historical, sociological and anthropological research streams.
- ☉ [Policy Brief Nº2](#) focuses on the conclusions and recommendations of the 'Football Stakeholders and Governance' research stream.

- ☉ [Policy Brief Nº3](#) deals with the situation of both women's football and female football fans, and provides policy recommendations in this field.

In addition, **Borja García García** has also published a series of four longer Policy Papers that develop the research evidence and policy recommendations in the field of football stakeholders and governance in a more detailed manner:

1. [What is wrong with football?](#)
2. [What could be done to improve football governance?](#)
3. [Are supporters getting involved in governance?](#)
4. [Supporter ownership and the Supporter Trust model in Europe](#)

Through the eyes of many supporters

The FREE exhibition 'Whose Game Is It?' on show in Brussels and Bilbao

After having been on show at the [National Football Museum in Manchester](#) between January & March 2015 (reaching approx. 60 000 visitors), the FREE exhibition 'Whose Game is it?' on the results of FREE's Work Package 8 led by the team from Loughborough University moved to the Berlaymont building in Brussels, the home of the European Commission.

In September it should move to the Basque country in order to be displayed in Bilbao, in collaboration with the Athletic Club and in parallel to the UACES Annual Research Conference held at Deusto University, in Bilbao.



A warm thank-you to Aline Brisset!



Aline Brisset, proudly flagging one of the project's main conclusions: 'Football is the beautiful game!'

Aline has been a pivot of the FREE Project since its very inception, from organising the first exploratory meeting on ESSCA's Paris campus in 2010 to the concluding conference in Brussels in March 2015. In between, her organisational skills turned out to be absolutely indispensable for hosting the kick-off conference in Angers in spring 2012 and setting up the meeting of the scientific advisory board at half-time in Vienna in autumn 2013, juggling with travel time-tables, hotel bookings, invoices and minutes, switching from English to German or French as needed. Her impressive stamina was fuelled by several hundred high-quality dark chocolate bars (which do definitely not figure on any known doping list, but are unfortunately not eligible as direct costs under FP7 budgetary provisions – something the Commission should think over).

Now that she has been instrumental in bringing the FREE Project to a safe harbour, Aline will follow her husband to the city of Compiègne, located north-east of Paris. She will take with her all the friendships she has made from Ankara to Valencia. Aline will surely be missed by the team in Angers. But we find comfort in knowing that she will be forever unable to watch a football match without remembering the FREE Project!

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