



**CREPS**

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes  
– Vallon-Pont-d'Arc



Press Release

# The European Centre for Outdoor Sports is launched

6th October 2018, the CREPS Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (France) is moving to better respond to the needs of individuals, federations and local communities; it is adapting, anticipating and innovating by becoming the first **European Centre of Outdoor Sports**.

## A New European Ambition!

After having been a National Centre for Outdoor Activities in the 60's, the site in Vallon Pont d'Arc is where the French National Resources Centre for Outdoor Sports (PRNSN) has developed multidimensional expertise and has led a national network, since 2004. Simultaneously, the CREPS education department has continually improved its professional education diplomas in the training & supervising of outdoor sports, to become the reference in canyoning, climbing in natural milieus, in speleology, mountain biking, canoeing, and in kayaking.

A network of associated instructors is deployed to complete the CREPS team, and 35 professionals in Outdoor Sports, who adhere to a chart of quality and of security, enrich the courses.

Since 2014, the CREPS has presided and animated, with the PRNSN, the ENOS (European Network of Outdoor Sports), that brings together more than 30 structures from 15 European countries (<http://www.outdoor-sports-network.eu/about-us/#section-network>).

The CREPS is chairing an ERASMUS + Sport project with 11 partners from 9 European countries and a budget of 500,000€. This ambitious project seeks to quantify and to qualify the social benefits of outdoor sports for European citizens (<https://outdoorsportsbenefits.eu>).

In 2018, the student trainees receiving state diplomas from the Vallon site will receive a booklet of skills in English, certifying their level and allowing them to gain in mobility throughout Europe. Student trainees from other countries (Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Equator...) regularly attend the CREPS courses and also to validate *special certificates* in Canyoning.

creps-rhonealpes.sports.gouv.fr



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All of this has allowed the CREPS to acquire a European outlook. With the support of the French state and of the Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes Region <sup>1</sup>, the CREPS has thus become the first European Centre of Outdoor Sports in order to develop other innovative actions:

- **Accompanying local communities in their outdoor sports territorial development plans**, like they have done in the Massif Central area of France.
- **Participating in European projects**, such as Erasmus+ or H2020 as the partner or chairman, with the objective of sharing, developing enriching or promoting outdoor sports health factors of European citizens at little cost for society.
- **Developing monitoring & research** on the outdoors and those practising in link with, notably, Union Sport & Cycle, Outdoor Sport Valley, the Mountain Cluster and the European Outdoor Group.
- **Promoting French expertise in outdoor sports**, in terms of access, sustainable development, partnerships, of education, in rules or in training & supervising, and its enrichment through European partnerships. This image is also promoted by producing technical references, such as the “Professional Manual of Canyoning” <http://www.creps-rhonealpes.sports.gouv.fr/manuel-professionnel-canyonisme>, which will soon be translated and available in English and made available outside of France.
- **Sharing professional education** better with European partners, notably by participating in cooperative work to produce European standards, <http://eo-mtbing.eu/>
- Working with partners, the Europark network, the Natural Areas network in France and the Natural Regional Parks network (PNR) to **promote good practices in physical activity, health and in environment**.



*Le label Centre Européen des Sports de Nature*

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