

MONTHLY REPORT

November - December 2022



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MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2022



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Yves Le Lostecque - Head of Erasmus Mundus & Sport Unit - EACEA



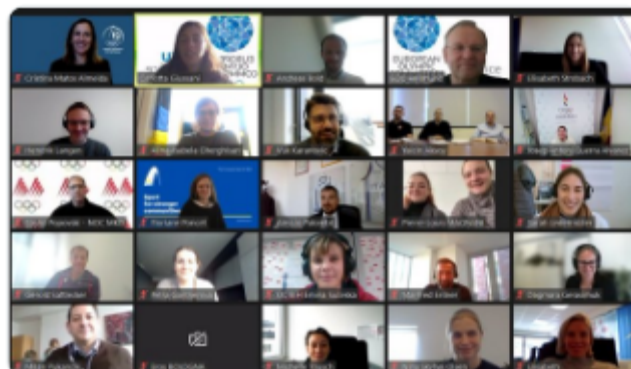
"I consider that the support to mobility projects in the field of sport is great news for the European sport family. Within the Erasmus + programme, this new measure gives to sport organisations the same possibilities that those which were already existing in the fields of education and youth."

See full interview on page 6

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The @EOCEUOffice thanks everyone who attended the webinar on the Erasmus+ Programme 2023! 🇪🇺 Today's webinar provided insights into the @EUErasmusPlus structure and priorities so for partners and European NOCs to be ready to apply in 2023. @EOCmedia @EuSport



11:48 AM · Dec 12, 2022

BEST OF MEETING YOU IN 2022



European Evening of Sports



EOC GA



GAMES



Athletes' forum



RINGS



Annual Partner Meeting



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

If you missed our monthly report at the beginning of December, that is because we decided to combine the months of November and December in one edition.

December still has a lot to offer from a sports policy perspective. First, the issue of human rights in Qatar has overshadowed the coverage of the actual sport in some parts of Europe. Looking at the debate from a European perspective, it must be said that the fierce criticism of the hosts was only carried by a limited number of north-western European countries. Even within the European Union, many governments were very restrained with their statements and found themselves in good hands with the premise formulated by French President Macron, “a separation of sport and politics”. It is good that the IOC, with its recently presented Strategic Framework on Human Rights, wants to take an active role and at the same time clearly define where sport must position itself and where, however, its limits lie. Nelson Mandela's often-quoted phrase: “Sport has the power to change the world” has in the past raised expectations of sport to heights it cannot live up to.

The corruption scandal in the European Parliament has also reached sport. Allegations against the Co-Chair of the European Parliament's Sport Group, Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE), have led to his resignation as Co-Chair. His position will be taken over by the Spanish Socialist Iban Garcia Del Blanco.

The European Court of Justice ended the year with a bang in the legal dispute between UEFA/FIFA and the European Super League. On 15 December, Advocate General Rantos clearly sided with the existing European Model of Sport in his plea he assigned UEFA/FIFA far-reaching powers within the framework of their function as regulators of football. The elements associated with the European Model of Sport, such as the pyramid system, financial solidarity or the system of promotion and relegation, were classified as legitimate values that must be preserved and, in case of doubt, can also lead to restrictions of competition law. At the same time, the European Super League remains free to organise a separate competition, but UEFA/FIFA and the national leagues are to retain the right to remove the clubs involved from their respective competitions. The ruling of the EU Court of Justice, which is expected in the spring, may still deviate from the Advocate General's plea and will possibly do so in nuances, but a complete U-turn is not to be expected. Therefore, the interpretation presented by Rantos is at this stage only a partial victory, but at the same time a clear sign that the European Model of Sport goes beyond pure profit maximisation and must be preserved.

On behalf of the EOC EU Office, I wish all readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Yves Le Lostecque has worked for fifteen years at the European Commission, where he was Head of the Sport Unit. He began his career by working for the French National Ministry for Youth and Sport. His first position with the Commission was as a lawyer for the DG Internal Market, before being appointed to be in charge for inter-institutional issues in DG Education and Culture. He also served as a Cabinet Member for Romanian Commissioner Leonard Orban as well as assistant to two Directors General, Odile Quintin and Jan Trzuszczński. Yves holds a Master's degree from the University of Rennes, where he studied Public, International and European Law.

1. In your former position as the Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, you designed the sport chapter of the Erasmus+ Programme. Now, in the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), you oversee its implementation. How do you assess the overall development of the programme related to participation and content?

I had the chance to become the Commission's Head of the Sport unit in 2013, at a moment when the first Erasmus + programme 2014-2021 was about to be adopted. One major step forward for the sport movement had been the introduction of a sport chapter representing 1.8 % of the budget (Now 1.9 %). Even if representing a limited part of the whole programme, it was the first time ever that a specific EU budget was dedicated to sport. A couple of years later, I consider that we have made the best use of this financial support. We have constantly adapted the implementation modalities in close connection with the sport movement and Member States.

Now, I am in a central position in the implementation of the second generation of the Erasmus+ programme (2021-2027). In this capacity, I can measure the concrete improvements which have been introduced over the years.

We have for instance made the sport chapter more "democratic", more open to smaller organisations with the creation of small collaborative partnerships, now called small-scale partnerships with a maximum budget of 60.000 €.

We have also adapted the programme to the needs of sport organisations and put priorities of subject of major concern for the sport movement for instance social inclusion through sport, healthy lifestyle, integrity, values, education in and through sport, etc. We have opened the programme to mobility, which was not the case before 2021.

In conclusion, I consider that the programme has developed in the right direction, with more budget, less procedures and permanent adaptation to the needs and values of European sport.

2. Do you see any room for simplification of the application process in order to allow more (grassroots) sport clubs to apply successfully?

The simplification of the programme has been one of the major concerns of the European Commission when preparing the new generation.

We are aware of the time and energy needed to prepare a good application. This challenge is particularly demanding for small, amateur sport organisations.

With Erasmus+ 2021-2027, the Commission had the clear ambition to try and attract newcomers, in particular grassroots organisations. The small-scale partnership action has been designed with this objective in mind. These projects require just two partner organisations. This action should be seen as an entry point in the programme. The mechanism of lump sum was also designed to simplify the sport actions as it does not require the drafting of a budget with actual costs.

We must be aware that the system of submission is set up at Commission level. This means that specific policy areas have limited margin of manoeuvre to adapt the process, but be ensured that we take every opportunity of simplification.

In particular, we are working on simplified application forms.

Nevertheless, the system of identification when applying is the same for all EU funding mechanisms and there is no way around it. Luckily, once organisations have done the whole process, it gets easier.

To those interested in applying, we insist on attending our now traditional Sport Info Day where we present the application and selection process and give very useful tips to increase stakeholders' chances of success. The next edition of the sport info day will take place on 30 January in Brussels.

3. The call “Capacity building in the field of sports” was launched in 2022 with the aim being building and strengthening the capacities of sports organisations, principally in partner countries. In 2022, capacity building in the field of sport targeted Western Balkans countries. Is the call “Capacity building in the field of sports” foreseen to focus on other non-EU countries (ie Eastern Partnership), in future?

Generally speaking, the new Erasmus+ 2021-2027 will be much more open to the participation of international cooperation in the field of sport.

The action for capacity building in the field of sport is a good illustration of this orientation. It was introduced for the first time in 2022 with a budget of 755,000 euros. It translates in sport the policy priority given to the relations between the EU and Western Balkans at EU level.

Considering the current budget (1M€ in 2023), the extension of the action is not planned for the time being and for this particular action.

However, we must remember that substantial parts of the sport chapter are open to non-EU countries.

4. Mobility in the area of sport (Key Action 1) will be supported for the first time with the upcoming call in 2023. What do you expect from this call and what kind of projects is the Agency aims to support?

I consider that the support to mobility projects in the field of sport is great news for the European sport family. Within the Erasmus + programme, this new measure gives to sport organisations the same possibilities that those which were already existing in the fields of education and youth.

This new action will surely give the opportunity to staff of sport organisations to improve their competences, qualifications and acquire new skills through learning mobility by spending a short period abroad.

In terms of procedure, these new Mobility actions in the area of sport will be managed by the Erasmus+ National Agencies and therefore our Agency is not involved in supporting these projects.

We have already some precise ideas about the kind of activities which will be supported. First of all, we will favour “Job shadowing” of 2-14 days with the aim of learning new practices and gathering new ideas in another country through observation and interaction with other staff and coaches.

5. Mobility actions in the area of sport will be implemented by National Erasmus+ Agencies. Do you foresee that other sport actions could move from central management by the EACEA to the National Agencies? Do you expect National Agencies to advise applicants not only on mobility actions but also on other sport actions (e.g. cooperation partnerships) that are managed by the EACEA?

All scenarios are possible in the long term and it will be up to the co-legislator to decide on possible evolutions of the programme. However, such transfer of competences and responsibilities are not considered in the short term.

Given the amount of budget we are discussing, it can be better to keep many actions at centralized level. Otherwise for some actions, some individual Member States would have a really limited budget to implement. Centralization can sometimes be better in terms of economy of scale.

Therefore within the current Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027) it will be difficult to have other actions transferred from the centralised funding support via our Agency to the decentralised one via the E+ National Agencies.

Traditionally E+ National Agencies had no sport actions in their portfolio. However, their task has always been to inform about the whole Erasmus+ programme.

We will also support coaching assignments of 15-60 days at a hosting organisation in another country, providing coaching and training programmes to learn through completing tasks and exchanging with peers.

This includes sport. For years, some national agencies have been very active in the sport area.

For example, in some countries, they have nominated a sport contact point who provides information and assistance to the sport national stakeholders. Sometimes, they even support the sport organisations in preparing their proposals.

We have a stable cooperation with them and, when possible, we participate in their events to disseminate the E+ programme. They are also always invited to one of our major events, the E+ Sport Info.

It is clear that with the management of the mobility sport actions, the E+ National Agencies will certainly become even more involved in the sport actions.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Yves Le Lostecque for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Advocate General's opinions on the Super League case and ISU case



On 15 December, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) published two Advocate General Rantos' Opinions regarding the European Super League case vs UEFA/FIFA and the International Skating Union vs Commission case.

The Advocate General confirmed the role of federations to govern their sport and in particular he asked the Court to acknowledge the compatibility of European Union competition law with FIFA-UEFA rules. He clarified that organizers are allowed to create their own competitions outside of UEFA and FIFA, however, without their approval, clubs playing in this new leagues are not permitted to participate in UEFA and FIFA tournaments. According to the Advocate General EU competition rules do not prohibit FIFA, UEFA, their member federations, or their national leagues from issuing sanctions against clubs when those participate in a new competition that would risk undermining the objectives that those federations legitimately pursue.

The Opinion strengthens the European Sport Model ("Article 165 TFEU gives expression to the 'constitutional' recognition of the 'European Sports Model'") and also reinforces Art. 165 of the Lisbon Treaty in the application of competition policy to sport "(Art. 165 ... emphasises the special social character of that economic activity (of sport), which may justify a difference in treatment in certain respects").

The General Advocate identified the various components of the European Sport Model, including its pyramidal structure, open competitions and financial solidarity as legitimate objectives to pursue in the organisation of sports in the EU. In the application of competition policy to sport, the preservation of these aspects might justify a restriction of competition.

According to a different Advocate General's Opinion, Rantos has requested that the judgment of the General Court of the European Union of 16 December 2020, *International Skating Union (ISU) v Commission (T-93/18)*, be set aside partially and requests that it be referred to the ECJ. In particular, the opinion states that sports federations can prevent athletes from competing in alternative tournaments in some situations without breaking competition law. Sports federations are allowed to act as regulators of their sport and event organisers at the same time as already stated at the *MOTOE* case in 2007. However, market access of third-party organisers can only be denied if legitimate interests are pursued, the objective is reasonable, and the measures are proportionate.

In addition, Rantos conceded that the accusation of cartelisation between ISU and the national federations must be withdrawn. The assumption made in this context of an intended restriction of competition ("by objective") is also rejected by Rantos. For the burden of proof, the distinction between "by objective" and "by effect" makes a big difference. If a restriction of competition is assumed "by effect", the actual damage must be proven in the individual case, which is not the case if a "by objective" case is assumed.

Finally, Rantos strengthened arbitration in sport by the CAS, by stating: "that the exclusive and binding recourse to arbitration is not to be interpreted as an "enhancing factor" in the sense of a restriction of competition".

The European Court of Justice's final decision in the Super League case is expected in spring. The ECJ generally abides by Advocate General's recommendations.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Opinion SuperLeague case](#)

[Opinion ISU vs Commission](#)

2023 Erasmus+ Programme Guide published & #BeActive Awards Ceremony

On 23 November, the European Commission published the Erasmus+ Guide 2023 whilst the related Calls for Proposals are foreseen to be launched soon. In the Erasmus+ Programme 2023, the Partnerships for Cooperation, Not-for-profit European Sports Events and Capacity Building in the field of Sport continue to be financeable activities. The big novelty is the inclusion of the "Mobility Project in the field of Sport" under Key Action 1.

The 2023 Erasmus+ Programme Guide – available in 23 EU languages – consists of four parts:

- General information about the programme: Overview of the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ programme (inclusion and diversity; environment and fight against climate change; digital transformation, as well as values, civic engagement and participation), the managing authorities and eligible countries, among other information.
- Specific information about the Actions of the programme: Information on the available actions within the Programme. Notably, the most relevant actions for sports are available under Key Action 1 and Key Action 2: Mobility Project in the field of Sport, Collaborative Partnerships; Small Collaborative Partnerships, Non-For-Profit European Sport Events and Capacity-building in the field of sport.



- Information for Applicants: Detailed information on procedures for grant application and submission, contractual and financial conditions as well as the Programme criteria (i.e eligibility, admissibility, exclusion, selection...).
- Glossary: Definitions of key notions and commonly used terms related to the Erasmus+ Programme and/or concepts (i.e associated partners, consortium, job shadowing, work package, sports staff...).

Key Action 1 – Mobility Project in the Field of Sport (NEW)

Mobility project in the field of sport aspires to provide the staff of sport organisations, primarily in grassroots sport, with the opportunity to improve their competencies, and qualifications and to acquire new skills through learning mobility by spending a period abroad, thus contributing to the capacity building and development of sport organisations.

In this context, sports staff refers to a person involved in the instruction, training and management of a sports team or individual sports people either on a paid basis or on a voluntary basis (i.e administrators, coaches, officials). The project foresees a maximum of 10 participants and is expected to have an overall timeframe ranging between 3 and 18 months. Within this timeframe, two set of activities can be organised:

- Job shadowing/observation, ie. activities in which participants spend 2-14 consecutive days at a hosting organisation to learn through observation and peer-to-peer interactions.
- Coaching/Training Assignments in which participants spend 15-60 consecutive days coaching or providing training at a hosting organisation abroad, as a way to learn through completing tasks and exchanging with peers.

Key Action 2 – Partnerships for Cooperation

The specific priorities pursued by the Partnerships for Cooperation in the field of sport apply to both cooperation partnerships and small-scale cooperation partnerships. In this context, Partnerships for Cooperation are expected to contribute to key policy documents including the Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024) or the Council recommendation of health-enhancing physical activity. Accordingly, the sport-specific priorities are:

- Encouraging healthy lifestyles for all
- Promoting integrity and values in sport
- Promoting education in and through sport
- Promoting equality and European values in and through sport

Cooperation Partnerships

Cooperation Partnerships provide an opportunity to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices in different areas relating to sport and physical activity between various organisations and actors in and outside sport.

At least three organisations from three different programme countries must be involved in these partnerships whilst there is no maximum number of participating organisations in the partnership. Notably, third countries not associated to the Programme can only participate as partners, in duly justified cases. There are three possible grants in the form of “lump sum” equivalent to €120.000, €250.000 or €400.000 while projects can have a timeframe between 12 and 36 months.

Small Scale Cooperation Partnerships

Small-scale Cooperation Partnerships are designed for less experienced organisations and newcomers to the programme as this has simpler administrative requirements. These partnerships support activities with transnational and national level whilst ensuring the European dimension. Activities may include organisations to increase their capacity to operate at transnational level, and exchange good practices relating to sport and physical activity. At least two organisations from two programme countries are required as partners in these projects whilst there is no maximum number of participating organisations in the partnership. And yet, it is recommended to include one local or regional sports club in the consortium, at least. There are two possible grants in the form of “lump sum” equivalent to €30.000 or €60.000 and projects can have a timeframe between 6 and 24 months.

Key Action 2 - Not-For-Profit European Sport Events

Not-for-profit European Sport Events aim to support volunteering in sport, social inclusion through sport, fight against discrimination in sport, including gender equality and encouraging healthy lifestyle for all. And yet, sport competitions organised by international, European or national sport federations/leagues on a regular basis or professional sport competitions are not eligible for funding.

Not-for-profit European sports events include two different types of Europe-wide events (single event in a country) and European local events Type I and II (multiple events in multiple EU countries).

The eligible period for projects remains 12 or 18 months across the different types of events. And yet, these events differ on the number of requested partners for the consortium and allocated budget.

- European local event Type I requires the consortium to have between three and five organisations with each organisation coming from a different EU Member States and Programme countries with a maximum budget of €200.000.
- European local event Type II requires a minimum of six organisations coming from six different EU Member States and Programme countries whilst the maximum budget is €300.000.
- European-wide event requires a minimum of ten organisations (a single applicant and nine participating organisations) coming from ten different EU Member States and Programme countries whilst the maximum budget is €450.000.

Key Action 2 - Capacity-building in the field of sport

Capacity-building in the field of sport are multilateral partnerships between sports organisations in Programme countries and countries not associated to the Programme, in particular the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro) for 2023. This with the aim being to support grassroots sports activities and policies in these counties, as well as promote social inclusion, positive values and cooperation across different regions through joint initiatives. Projects should involve at least four organisations from minimum three countries; and yet, the number of organisations from EU Member States and Programme countries may not be higher than the number of organisations from countries not associated to the programme*. Project should have a timeframe of 12, 24 or 36 months with a grant which vary from a minimum €100.000 to a maximum of €200.000.

Management and Deadlines

The management of Mobility in the Field of Sport is decentralised; accordingly, applications must be submitted via the [Erasmus+ National Agencies](#) in respective countries by 23 February at 12:00 (CET). In addition, National Agencies may decide to open an additional round, an additional round is organised, and applicants have to submit their applications by 4 October 2023.

The Partnerships for Cooperation, Not-for-profit European Sports Events and Capacity Building in the field of Sport are all centrally managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency; accordingly, applications must be submitted via the [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#) by the 22 March at 17:00 (CET).

Next steps

The EOC EU Office warmly encourages the organised sport and its partners to actively apply funding from the Erasmus+ and to reach out to the EU Funding Officer (Giussani@euoffice.eurolympic.org) to receive support and/or clarifications.

For further relevant information, please refer to the [Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#).

European Commission celebrates the #BeActive Awards 2022

On 28 November, the European Commission has organised the 7th edition of the #BeActive Awards 2022 in Brussels. #BeActive Awards continued to recognise and celebrate outstanding sport-related projects which have been successfully implemented to promote participation in sport and physical activity in the EU Member States and countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme.

In 2022, the #BeActive Awards has featured four categories:

- **#BeActive Across Generation Award (New)** aspired to reward projects promoting inter-generational sport, celebrating the fact that everyone can benefit from activities that improve health and well-being.
- **#BeActive Education Award** aimed to demonstrate how education can encourage kids to be more active in sports and physical activity outside the typical school curriculum dedicated to those activities.
- **#BeActive Workplace Award** celebrated exemplary activities in the workplace that encourage an active work environment for all employees.
- **#BeActive Local Hero Award** recognised those individuals who work consistently to motivate others to participate in sport and physical activity in their local community.

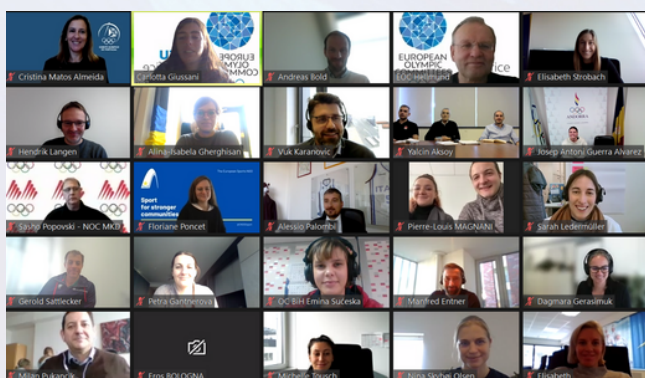
Mariya Gabriel (European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth) has awarded €10.000 to the winners for each of the prize categories being:



- **Education:** Akademia Krokieta I Lamy (Poland)
- **Workplace:** Azur Sport Santé (France)
- **Local Hero:** Elias Mastoras (Greece)
- **Across Generation:** Universitas Labacensis 1919 (Slovenia)

Furthermore, the 8 finalists who ranked 2nd and 3rd in their categories were also awarded €2.500 each. Hence, the EOC EU Office congratulates all finalists of the #BeActive Awards 2022 for their project whilst encouraging its partners and European NOCs to actively engage on the #BeActive Awards, in future!

EOC EU Office organises webinars on the Erasmus+ Programme 2023 and EU Funding for International Cooperation



Webinar on the Erasmus+ Programme 2023

On 12 December, the EOC EU Office continued its series dedicated to the topic of EU funding with a webinar dedicated to the Erasmus+ 2023 programme.

The webinar aspired to provide attendees with up-to-date information on the Erasmus+ programme, its structure, priorities and suitability of different project proposals, as well as promote understanding of the technical aspects of the application and submission procedure. Hence, the webinar was attended by more than 50 attendees from 28 National Olympic Committees and 10 sport federations.

Folker Hellmund - EOC EU Office Director - opened the webinar by warmly inviting partners and European NOCs to start working on the project proposals to engage with the financial support available through the Erasmus+ Programme in 2023.

Subsequently, Carlotta Guissani and Andy Bold from the EOC EU Office provided a brief introduction on the horizontal priorities and the eligibility of countries in the Erasmus+ Programme.

Subsequently, the webinar showcased the key elements, requirements and expectations for sport-related calls; including the Partnership for Cooperation, Not for Profit European Sport Events, the Capacity Building in the Field of Sport, as well as the new actions Mobility Projects in the field of Sports. Notably, Hendrik Langen (Akademie des Sports im Landessportbund Niedersachsen) shared its experience with a Mobility Project in the field of Adult Education in order to provide the attendees with initial insights on the practicalities and lessons learnt in relation to the Mobility Projects.

After which, the EOC EU Office provided further guidance regarding the completion of the technical and budgetary forms for Erasmus+ projects, as well as showcasing the submission procedure and key functionalities both for Key Action 1 and 2. Ultimately, a series of practical tips to overcome the main challenges related to the Erasmus+ projects have been shared with all attendees. Hence, the webinar promoted a shared understanding regarding the writing of project applications whilst building the knowledge and capacities within the organizations' to successfully engage with the Erasmus+ Programme.

The webinar concluded with partners and NOCs using the webinar as a platform to present their project ideas and identify suitable partners for the Erasmus+ 2023. The EOC EU Office has warmly invited partners and European NOCs interested to apply for the 2023 Erasmus+ programme to reach out to the EOC EU Office to receive support, guidance and knowledge if needed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023](#)



Webinar on EU Funding for International Cooperation

On 15 November, the EOC EU Office continued its series of webinars dedicated to the topic of EU funding. The fourth webinar was dedicated to the EU's funding for international cooperation and brought together 37 attendees from 19 National Olympic Committees and 5 European/International sports federations. The webinar provided attendees with valuable information regarding the structure and EU priorities in this area, as well as the relevance of the respective programmes to sport.

The webinar was opened by EOC EU Office Director, Folker Hellmund, who warmly invited partners and European NOCs to become active and engage with the available financial instruments. Subsequently, the EOC EU Office provided a brief introduction and valuable insights on each of the relevant programmes for International Cooperation:

- [Global Europe](#)
- [IPA III Programme](#)

Jana Janotova (Policy Officer) and Carlotta Giussani (EU Funding Officer) presented the key objectives, priorities and stakeholders, as well as the modus operandi and relevant projects examples from the Global Europe and IPA III Programmes. Besides, a series of common challenges and relevant mitigation actions were described to promote awareness of the required steps to access and tailor the EU Funding for international cooperation to sport-related projects.



Furthermore, an overview of additional EU funding programmes relevant to non-EU sport organisations was provided to encourage these organisations to also benefit from resources available through the EU Delegations and centralised EU Funding Programmes such as Erasmus+ (Cooperation Partnership and Capacity Building in Sport only), LIFE, Horizon Europe and European Solidarity Corps, among others.

Notably, the webinar was enriched by two testimonials: Natasa Jankovic (Olympic Values Promotion Manager, NOC Serbia) who showcased a long-term cooperation between the NOC and the EU Delegation in Serbia and highlighted its benefits for the NOC both at EU and at national level.

In addition, Georgia Papataniou (Project Manager, NOC of Greece) illustrated key insights on the core implementation principles for Cross Border projects and highlighted common challenges whilst reiterating the relevance of timing, partnership, resources and strategic planning for a successful application.

Following the testimonials, the EOC EU Office moderated an open discussion to better comprehend the experiences and challenges encountered by the attendees in accessing EU's funding for international cooperation. The webinar was concluded by the EOC EU Office Director who provided an overview of the next steps in terms of EU's funding for international cooperation and introduced the upcoming activities and services that the EOC EU Office plans in the realm of EU funding.

The EOC EU Office thanks all participants for their interest and stands ready to support its partners on their way to accessing the EU' funding for international cooperation.

EU Sports Ministers discuss sustainable sports infrastructures and human rights

On 29 November, EU Ministers responsible for Sport met in Brussels for a Council meeting, the last EU sport-related event under the Czech Council Presidency.

The main topics on the agenda were the adoption of [Council Conclusions on Sustainable and Accessible Sports Infrastructure](#) and a debate on how to turn the current crises, which the sports sector is facing, into opportunities. Priorities of the Swedish Council Presidency on sport were outlined, and the Dutch Minister responsible for Sport brought up the topic of human rights and sport to the table at the end of the discussion.

Reacting to the current crisis et ensuring more sustainable and accessible sports Infrastructure

During the Council meeting, Member States representatives highlighted several initiatives and good practice examples developed in their countries during the ongoing pandemic or energy crisis.

The development of digital tools or the transition of sports infrastructure towards sustainable and energy-efficient sources of energy were mentioned by most of the countries. The seriousness of the current energy crisis for the sport sector, especially at grassroots level, was acknowledged.

The emergency for sports infrastructures to become more sustainable and accessible was stressed through the [Council Conclusions](#) as key to help sports organisations reduce their energy consumption and become more resilient in times of crisis,

while providing barrier-free access to sports for all citizens- regardless of their specific physical accessibility requirements.

Swedish Council Presidency: priorities on sport unveiled

Representatives of the upcoming Swedish Council Presidency outlined the country's priorities in the field of sport for the next 6 months: good governance and the promotion of physical activity.

The below infographic provides an overview of planned meetings:



These priorities were confirmed in the Swedish Presidency Programme [published](#) on 14 December. Sport is mentioned page 34 as follows: "Sweden will work on current matters such as the [EU Work Plan for Sport 2020-2024](#), which includes good governance and administration in sport. The EU's work in the World Anti-Doping Agency will also be highlighted."

Discussion on human rights and sport

The Council meeting ended with a discussion on the topic of Human Rights, on the initiative of the Netherlands.

Czech Presidency Conference on Anti-Doping stresses need for wider EU cooperation

On 7-8 November, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU organised in Prague a Conference on Anti-Doping, which gathered several sports organisations representatives and policymakers from several countries.

First, the Baltic countries and Poland stated their continued opposition to the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in sporting events.

The Netherlands invited the European Commission to map actions undertaken regarding the protection of human rights in major sports events assignment processes. However, Commissioner responsible for Sports Maryia Gabriel declared that the Commission could not interfere with Member States' autonomy on this matter.

Next steps

Sweden will officially take over the Council of the European Union Presidency on 1 January 2023.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Conclusions of the Council of the European Union on Sustainable and Accessible Sports Infrastructures](#)

[Swedish Council Presidency website](#)

[Swedish Presidency Programme](#)

[Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024](#)

he highlighted WADA's collaboration with the European Commission in the framework of the [HealthyLifestyleForAll campaign](#), to which WADA contributed with a pledge to implement a new education programme on its Anti-Doping Education and Learning Platform.

During the first panel discussion, "Clean Sport – Youth athletes and healthy lifestyle", Senior Programme Manager of the Anti-Doping Unit of the Council of Europe (CoE) Liene Kozlovskā shared insights on the role of the Council of Europe to fight doping in at all levels of sport.

The CoE is currently working on a study regarding the risks of recreational doping named 'Healthy lifestyles and anti-doping policies: raising awareness on the health risks of doping in sport for all'. The study gathers experiences from all over Europe and aims to address the lack of awareness on the health risks related to the use of performance-enhancing drugs among recreational athletes, as well as the consumption of supplements such as energy drinks or protein powders.

Afterwards, Tomáš Kukal, Policy Officer at the DG EAC Sport Unit, provided more details on the HealthyLifestyleForAll campaign, which currently include 85 pledges. In concluding the panel, its participants highlighted the need for more data and evidence and the necessity to maintain and consolidate the cooperation between the EU, CoE, WADA and UNESCO to further fight against, and address, doping-related issues.

Before moving to the next part of the conference, findings of the European Commission's [Study on the fight against anabolic steroids and human growth hormones in sport within the EU](#) were presented. The study formulated several recommendations, at both EU and Member States' level, notably:

- To raise awareness and educate on associated health risks
- To develop EU cooperation with international bodies to establish communities of practice that bring national actors together and enhance cooperation with CoE and WADA
- To implement anti-doping practices and policies in both elite and recreational sport
- To prioritise preventive measures and learn from existing practices in targeting recreational use
- To implement stricter and more consistent monitoring and evaluation procedures
- To consider developing legislation aimed at greater levels of transnational cooperation

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Recording Day 1](#)

[Recording Day 2](#)

[WADA President statement](#)

European Parliament discusses workers' rights in Qatar amid corruption allegations

This article was written before the disclosure of the corruption scandal within the European Parliament, which revealed that several individuals linked to the European Parliament had been arrested as a result of an investigation into corruption, money laundering and criminal organisation involving World Cup host Qatar.

On 14 November, the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) held a hearing with Qatari Labour Minister Ali bin Samikh Al Marri regarding the working conditions of migrant workers in Qatar prior to the kick-off of the FIFA World Cup. Most MEPs criticised the treatment of foreign workers as well as the country's policies towards women and the LGBT+ community.

In response, Bin Samikh Al Marri stated that many improvements had been made over the past years. His former position as chairman of the national human rights committee was a testament to the direction the government was taking, he argued. His statements were supported by Max Tuñón, head of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) office in Doha. Minky Worden (Human Rights Watch) argued, however, that the reforms remained unsatisfactory, notably emphasising insufficient protections for migrant workers.

MEPs highlighted the need for efficient data collection and better transparency, notably asking the Labour Minister to let the EU investigate the situation. MEPs also called for the European Parliament to be more involved in the data collection and analysis process so as to ensure that the new measures mentioned by Bin Samikh Al Marri are being implemented.

Ten days later, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) regarding the situation of human rights in the context of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Through this resolution, MEPs also denounced the fact that the country had been awarded the organisation of the World Cup amid bribery and corruption allegations. As a result, MEPs urged EU Member States – specifically countries with large national football leagues – to exert pressure on UEFA and FIFA to help reform FIFA. As part of these reforms, the aim would be to achieve more transparency in tournament awarding processes, as well as stringent human rights compliance and enforcement of sustainability standards.

While MEPs acknowledged that the Qatari government had compensated victims of wage abuse through the “Workers’ Support and Insurance Fund”, they indicated that the fund did not extend coverage to many workers in Qatar. Correspondingly, they demanded that the fund covers all workers affected, including those who had suffered other human rights violations in consequence.

Accordingly, Parliament called upon Qatar to thoroughly investigate fatalities among migrant workers in the country and compensate family members in cases where workers died due to unsafe working conditions.

European Parliament adopts resolution on esports and video games

On 11 November, the European Parliament adopted the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)’s [resolution on esports and video games](#).

Considerations regarding esports

The report considers that esports and sports are different sectors, since esports are played in a digital environment and belong to private companies with complete legal control that own all exclusive and unrestricted rights over the video games. The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) believe, however, that both sectors may complement each other, learn from one another, and promote similar positive values.

Furthermore, MEPs recognise the potential of virtual sports to involve fans and to boost the proportion of young people participating in physical activity. The European Parliament also encourages collaboration between all pertinent parties in the video game and sports sectors to develop new projects that will benefit players and audiences.

The report also deals with new needs related to the development of esports and the defence of the integrity of competitions, considering the negatives that may emerge such as addiction and toxic behaviour, match fixing, doping and illegal gambling.

Relevance of the report and next steps

This report marks the first stance taken on e-sports and video games by an EU institution. Although there will not be any legislative repercussions, it is nonetheless important to note that EU institutions are beginning to consider the topic, which could lead to additional efforts, such as an EU strategy on videogames.

With its approval in the plenary of the European Parliament the report has reached the final stage. The EOC EU Office has been closely monitoring the file to make sure the interests of the sports movement are preserved. In general, the report adopts a fair-minded stance and is compatible with the interests of the sports movement. The content creates foundations for continued collaboration between organised sport and e-sport.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Parliament's information page on E-Sport](#)

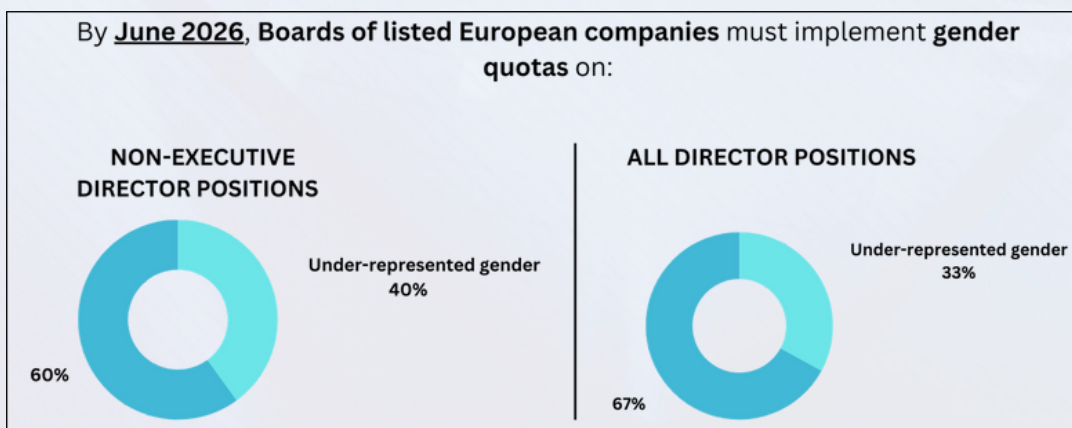
European Parliament approves directive to strengthen gender equality on corporate boards

On 22 November, the European Parliament approved the directive on gender balance among directors of listed companies – also known as the ‘Women on Boards’ directive – to enhance gender equality on corporate boards by boosting women’s presence in leadership/decision-making positions.

The approval of the directive, which opens the way for its final adoption, comes ten years after the European Commission introduced its initial [proposal](#). Since the European Parliament adopted its negotiating position in 2013, the file had been stalled in the Council for nearly ten years. Employment and Social Affairs Ministers eventually came to an agreement through their joint position in March 2022. Subsequently, a deal was reached between the Parliament and Council in June 2022.

The directive strives for better transparency in the recruitment processes of listed companies to ensure that at least 40% of non-executive director posts or 33% of all director positions go to the under-represented gender by June 2026. Additionally, the directive calls for Member States to implement strict penalties for businesses that do not comply with these measures.

A “listed company” is defined as a stock exchange-listed company wherein the shares are openly tradable. In other words, listed companies are acquired by several shareholders. Therefore, non-listed companies and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) with fewer than 250 employees will be exempted.



Monitoring measures

Once a year, companies will have to provide information about the gender representation on their boards and the measures they are taking to achieve the 33% or 40% objective.

Member states will publish once a year a list of the companies that have achieved the directive's objectives.

Impact on sports organisations

This new promising directive is not applicable to sports organisations. Yet, it is a first step that opens the door to other binding measures with broader scopes implemented at the European level. The promotion of gender equality within sports organisations is one of the priorities of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (starting on 1 July 2023).

The GAMES project – Guidance to Achieve More Equal leadership in Sport

As such, the Parliament's new rules to boost female participation on company boards strongly reinforce the topicality of the [GAMES Project](#), coordinated by the EOC EU Office, which aims at improving gender equality in the key leadership and decision-making positions of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and National Federations.

As the GAMES project has moved towards the elaboration of the "Global Pool of Actions" divided in key pillars to implement policies to boost gender equality across European NOCs and provide pathways for sport governing bodies to develop capacity in gender equality. In concomitance, the other key objective of the project is to enable each partner NOC to elaborate, adopt, and implement a tailored gender equality strategy within its organisation whilst addressing also the member federations. As the European legislation seems to be positively moving towards gender equality, the GAMES project outputs become even more topical to all European sports stakeholders.



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European Chemicals Agency's scientific committees assess the restriction of lead in sports shooting

The ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) have formulated their position on ECHA's proposed restriction on lead in ammunition for outdoor shooting and in fishing.

ECHA's restriction proposal

The European Commission requested ECHA to prepare a restriction proposal on the use of lead in ammunition for outdoor shooting and in fishing in July 2019. ECHA submitted its proposal in January 2021. In summary, the proposal contains the following:

- sale and use of lead gunshot: ban after a five-year transition period. As current rules of international competitions specify the use of lead ammunition for certain disciplines, ECHA presents - as an option for the decision-maker - a derogation for use of lead gunshot for sports shooting by licensed individuals only under strict conditions, i.e. when releases to the environment are minimised.
- use of lead in bullets and other projectiles for sports shooting: use can continue if releases to the environment are minimised within a five-year transition period.

This means that sports shooting ranges are equipped either with trap chambers or ‘best practice’ sand traps.

Opinion of ECHA’s committees

Both the Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and the Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) do generally support the proposed restriction. Their comments regarding sports shooting are the following:

- RAC: Derogation for lead gunshot in sports shooting: RAC considers that enforcement of the restriction would be simplified if this derogation was not implemented. This is in line with the preferred restriction option identified by ECHA. However, if the decision maker decides that this derogation is needed, RAC suggests that it should be limited to shot sizes used in sports shooting (between 1.9 and 2.6 mm).
- SEAC: Derogation for lead gunshot in sports shooting: Similar to RAC, SEAC considers that if a derogation for lead gunshot in sports shooting is preferred by the decision maker, it should be limited to the shot sizes used in sports shooting. This means shot sizes between 1.9 and 2.6 mm

Next steps

The combined opinion of RAC and SEAC that then will be sent to the European Commission is expected in early 2023.

If the Commission moves ahead with a legislative proposal to amend the list of restrictions (Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation), it will consult all EU countries through the REACH Committee. The final proposal will be voted upon by all EU countries. Moreover, the European Parliament and the Council will scrutinise the restriction before it can be adopted.

As far as the EOC EU Office is aware, shooting sport federations are especially concerned about the potential licencing of individuals for disciplines using lead gunshot. This might lead to a situation where those disciplines are no longer accessible for sport shooting at grassroots level.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA News](#)

[ECHA Q&A](#)

[ECHA main page of the restriction proposal \(incl. stakeholder comments\)](#)

[ECHA Lead Overview Page](#)

International Betting Integrity Association’s conference at European Parliament: fight against match-fixing

On 15 November, the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) and the European Gaming & Betting Association (EGBA) held a conference at the European Parliament (EP) on ‘Who is going to win the 2022 World Cup?’.

MEP Tomasz Frankowski, co-chair of the EP Sports Group, opened the conference by underlining the importance the fight against match-fixing and the education of athletes on the matter. He called on European sports organisations to enhance good governance.

Then, Adrien Julian, Head of Corporate Affairs France, Kindred Group, and Jean-François Reymond, IBIA Education Ambassador, led an exchange on the educational best practices to prevent match-fixing. They regretted the fact that national sports federations were not armed to educate athletes against match-fixing. A third independent party would be necessary to take over the educational mission. They provided concrete examples and best practices developed by Kindred Group and IBIA together with sports clubs to educate athletes and enable them to face and report “criminals” trying to bribe them.

Their key takeaway is that regulated sports betting companies have put in play education programmes with athletes and work hand in hand with sports leagues and federations.

In the second part of the conference, Jason Murphy from the Irish gambling holding company, and Duncan Alexander from the British sports analytics company Opta Analyst, explained how the analysis and predictions of who will win the World Cup were made. They shared their predictions of the upcoming World Cup, based on their analysis.

Olympic Movement's activities against match-fixing and corruption

The Olympic Charter provides for all sports organisations and their members to be “committed to take all appropriate steps within their powers to incorporate the [Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions \(PMC\)](#) by reference (just like the World Anti-Doping Code)”. Lastly [amended](#) by the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions (“[OM Unit PMC](#)”) in September 2022, the purpose of this Code is to provide all sports organisations and their members with harmonised regulations to protect all competitions from the risk of manipulation.



The [EOC works together](#) with the IOC to promote the application of the Code on PMC and therefore, is in line with MEP Frankowski's call upon sports organisations to enhance good governance.

NOCs that have questions about their activation are very welcome to contact the Olympic Movement's PMC Unit directly at omunitpmc@olympic.org.



PARTNERS' CORNER

The Special Competence Seminar of the EOC EU Office gathers partners to discuss current issues in international and European Sport

The annual Special Competence Seminar organised by the EOC EU Office took place on 8 December in hybrid form. Partner NOCs and sport federations gathered to address, share and discuss the topics on the rich agenda. EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund opened and moderated the meeting.

IOC Strategic Framework on Human Rights

Magali Martowicz, Head of Human Rights at the International Olympic Committee, presented the IOC's [Strategic Framework on Human Rights](#). The rich Q&A session focused on the implementation of this strategic framework and the role of NOCs and IFs.

Energy crisis and sport organisations

The topic of discussion then shifted to the energy crisis and its effect on sport organisations. Measures from the EU level that revolve around diversifying supply and decreasing demand were outlined.

Thereafter, good practices from umbrella organisations that have already developed concepts to safeguard the continuity of their activities were presented by ENGSO, showing a clear tendency towards a two-fold approach: on the one hand, data collection to enter discussions with national policymakers to have sport recognized in hardship funds and, on the other hand, practical measures to save energy with marginal investments.

Participants were encouraged to also explore the European Structural and Investments Funds and National Recovery Plans for the long-term sustainable development of their infrastructure.

Current topics of EU sport policy

The meeting continued with the presentation of current topics of EU sports policy, including updates on the European Super League, EU environmental and energy regulatory framework, E-sports and piracy of live content. In particular, the proposal for restriction of microplastic in artificial turf pitches and E-sports development attracted the attention of the participants who showed a particular intention to follow up on these topics. Gender equality, restriction of lead in outdoor shooting and restriction on pesticides were also addressed.

The activities of the Czech Presidency of the Council were described, with a subsequent insight into the priorities and events of the future Swedish and Spanish presidencies.

EU funding services and ongoing Erasmus+ projects

The EOC EU Office then provided an update on EU funding services offered in 2022 and showed the progress of projects managed by the office and co-financed by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme:

- OCEAN on NOCs' carbon footprint and reduction strategies
- GAMES on gender equality in leadership positions
- RINGS on strategic management of NOCs and federations

The chapter on EU funding then concluded with an overview of the 2023 Erasmus+ call for proposals and a recap of other funding opportunities for sport in 2023.

Participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes

The EOC EU Office then presented the current state of play of the EU's restrictive measures concerning Russia and Belarus, with an in-depth look at the Member States' visa policy and the participation of Russian and Belarussian athletes in sports competitions, which led to a discussion among partners.

The end of the seminar involved director Folker Hellmund presenting the 2023 EOC EU Office's work plan with future activities with partners.

The RINGS Project on strategic management of Sport Organisations ends with the Final Conference and leaves a legacy of 4 practical tools



The Final Conference of the RINGS project, co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, was held on 7 December, alongside the last meeting of the project's partners.

The Final Partners Meeting was the occasion for a discussion among the consortium representatives (EOC EU Office, NOC Belgium, NOC Bosnia and Herzegovina, NOC Cyprus, NOC Denmark, NOC Greece, NOC Italy, NOC Liechtenstein, NOC Lithuania, NOC the Netherlands, NOC Slovakia, NOC Turkey, University of Mainz) on how to disseminate the project's results among the Olympic world and to continue working together on the topic of strategic management.

The Final Conference provided an opportunity to recall the project's relevance in a changing world and to highlight its deliverables, in the presence of numerous representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

Former 400m Olympic runner and CEO of the Belgian NOC Cédric van Branteghem gave a keynote speech on how the principles of adaptability, proactivity, creativity were relevant to both his careers as a high-level athlete and a leader of a sport organisation.



Former 400m Olympic runner and CEO of the Belgian NOC Cédric van Branteghem gave a keynote speech on how the principles of adaptability, proactivity, creativity were relevant to both his careers as a high-level athlete and a leader of a sport organisation.

After the introduction of the project by EOC EU Office Director Folker Hellmund, the various speakers disclosed and presented the 4 tools representing the legacy of the RINGS project.

Strategic Management Handbook

Professor Holger Preuß presented the [Handbook on Strategic Management and Crisis Management of sport organisations](#), written by his team at the University of Mainz, with the close support of partner NOCs.

In an ever-changing world in which the importance of sport is becoming more and more pronounced, Olympic committees and sports federations face new strategic challenges. The Handbook leads to purpose-driven and practical change in NOCs showing existing best practices, strategic tools, case studies, and illustrations not only as a guide but also to stimulate conversations among staff and board members, support planning and action. The goal is to ensure alignment of NOCs' strategies with the expectations and needs of the broader national communities.



Public Affairs Guidelines

Poul Broberg, Director of Public Affairs of the NOC Denmark, explained the [Public Affairs Guidelines for National Olympic Committees](#) developed by the Danish NOC. The aim of the guidelines is to provide NOCs with the keys to understanding public affairs, influencing public authorities and representing the interests of the sports world through the correct use of communication channels.

This helps to strengthen the reputation of the organisation, its legitimacy and relations with stakeholders, and to gain skills in influencing the decision-making process thus gaining political leverage.



The Stakeholders' Tool

Afterwards, Eva Rebmann, Acting Deputy Director of the EOC EU Office, illustrated the [Stakeholders Tool](#) developed in cooperation with the IT company Symantra. This provides sports organisations an easy-to-use tool to visualise their ecosystem and start acting with the stakeholders. After the mapping, the tool provides a customised roadmap with a personalised action list to improve the strategic governance and influence.

The Online Platform

The [Online Platform](#) represents the synthesis of the project results. It brings together on one site all the tools developed by the EOC EU Office through Erasmus+ projects. Through the toolbox, sport organisations can improve their governance, management and impact, discovering interactive instruments, good practice examples, personalised action plans and roadmaps to adapt the challenges of our time.

The two versions of the Handbook, one [shorter](#) and one [complete](#) with all bibliographical references, the Public Affairs Guidelines and the Stakeholders' Tool are all accessible via the [Online Platform](#).

The conference ended with testimonials by Neşe Gündoğan, Secretary General of NOC Turkey, and Beat Wachter, Secretary General of NOC Liechtenstein, partners involved in the project.

The EOC EU Office would like to thank all partners that have made this project a success. We will continue to cooperate in the field of strategic management and public affairs in the upcoming months.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[RINGS Project Results](#)



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Last National Training Workshops of the RINGS Project occur in Türkiye, the Netherlands and Italy

The National Olympic Committees of Türkiye, the Netherlands and Italy hosted the last three National Training Workshops of the RINGS project on strategic management of NOCs in November.

Workshop in Türkiye – Innovative governance of NOCs and grassroots sport organisations

The NOC of Türkiye organised its national workshop on innovative governance of NOCs on 2 November.

Nese Gundogan, Secretary General of the Turkish NOC, introduced the workshop with an introductory speech, followed by Eva Rebmann, Acting Deputy Director of the EOC EU Office, who presented the RINGS project.

The heart of the workshop consisted of a presentation by Prof. Preuss from the University of Mainz on the importance of strategic planning in sport federations, and how to manage external and internal changes, nourished by concrete examples collected from other sport organisations.



Workshop in the Netherlands – Stakeholders management applied to NOC*NSF Sport Agenda

The national workshop organised by the Dutch Olympic Committee* Dutch Sports Federation was held on 8 November in Breda.

Following the presentation of the RINGS project and its main deliverables by Eva Rebmann from the EOC EU Office, the workshop focused on stakeholders mapping and management. Carlijn Mol from NOC*NSF presented how she and her colleagues have been using the principles of stakeholders' management and public affairs for NOC*NSF's framework document for the years to come, the Sport Agenda 2030. The second part of the meeting provided participants with the opportunity to test the RINGS [Stakeholders Mapping tool](#), applying it to concrete examples that sport organisations can face.

The National Workshop was organised in the framework of NOC*NSF's Public Affairs Masterclass, which gathers representatives of federations in a group to coordinate Dutch sport's public affairs strategy.



Workshop in Italy – Strategic management of sport organisations

The last national workshop of the RINGS project took place on 2 December at the Olympic Preparation Center in Rome.

The workshop gathered an unprecedented number of representatives of national federations, national sport associations, sport promotion organisations and the NOC of Italy (CONI), for a high-level event on strategic management of sport organisations.

Following an opening speech by CONI President Giovanni Malago and CONI Secretary General Carlo Mornati, Eva Rebmann presented the RINGS project, while Marco Arpino and Paolo Pizzo described CONI's involvement in the project. The morning session was concluded by a speech by Ms. Silvia Salis, Deputy Director of CONI.

Participants then heard from Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, who shared his insights on the strategic management of sport organisations, based on his life-long experience in the matter.

EOC European Union & International Relations Commission meet in Brussels

On 29 November, the members of the EOC European Union and International Relations Commission met at the EOC EU Office premises in Brussels, Belgium.

About the RINGS project

The main purpose of the RINGS project is to develop and modernise the strategic management of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Europe. In addition, the tools and outputs, developed during the project, equip and support the NOCs in their daily operational management and thus improve their governance. Co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the RINGS project gathers an important consortium with 13 organisations including 11 NOCs (Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Slovakia and Turkey), the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, and the EOC EU Office as project leader.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[RINGS Project website](#)



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Folker Hellmund, EOC EU Office Director, alongside his colleagues Eva Rebmann (Acting Deputy Director) and Carlotta Giussani (Funding Officer), introduced the commission members to the last updates on current European sports policy and funding. The following topics were discussed:

- sanctions towards Russia and Belarus
- upcoming legislation on energy efficiency and enforcement of ban on single-use plastics
- restriction of microplastics in artificial turf pitches, of lead in outdoor shooting, of pesticides on sports grounds
- report adopted by the European Parliament on e-sport and videogames
- upcoming European Commission recommendations on the fight against piracy of live sport broadcasts
- MEPs activities to protect human rights linked with sports events
- 2023 Erasmus+ Call and EU funding webinar series

This update on European activities and legislation impacting directly or indirectly sport was followed by a discussion on Safe Sport, held by Annamarie Phelps, Vice-President of the British Olympic Association and EOC ExCom member, and Eunice Lebre, Sports Manager at the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG).

Annamarie Phelps underlined the fact that ensuring safe sports- a sporting environment that is respectful, fair, and free from all forms of harassment and abuse- was part of the EOC Gender Equality and Diversity Commission framework and strategic priorities. Eunice Lebre presented FIG's strategy and approach to tackle the issue of safeguarding in her sport.

On Day 2, 30 November, Magali Martowicz, Head of Human Rights at the IOC, presented online the [IOC Strategic Framework on Human Rights](#) approved on September 2022. She introduced the specific action plans for each of the IOC's three spheres of activity (as an organisation, as the owner of the Olympic Games, and as leader of the Olympic Movement). Her presentation led to a fruitful discussion on the topic of sport and human rights.

A few weeks before the publication of the Opinion of Advocate General Rantos in the European Super League (ESL) case, Benoit Keane, Sports Lawyer and part of the UEFA legal team, presented the state of play of the case and the impact the final decision will have on the European Sport Model (ESM).

José Manuel Araujo closed the meeting by mentioning the future activities of the EOC European Union and International Relations commission.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EOC Press release](#)

Dutch sport federations representatives discussing EU sport policy making at EOC EU Office



On 9 November, the EOC EU Office welcomed a delegation of representatives from Dutch sport organisations and the Dutch Olympic Committee* Dutch Sports Federation (NOC*NSF).

The EOC EU Office team provided an overview of EU sport policy making, with a presentation of the main stakeholders and of current legislative files that (will) have an impact on sport, especially related to the European Sport Model and sustainability (e.g. pesticides, microplastics), but also e-sports and the piracy of online sports events. The EOC EU Office also provided an overview of EU Funding opportunities for sport.

The visit to the EOC EU Office was part of the Masterclass Public Affairs – EU Edition, organised in Brussels by NOC*NSF for representatives of sport organisations. Overall, the objective was to discuss the way policies are made in Brussels and the role of the EOC EU Office in this regard, in parallel with other sport organisations.



UPCOMING EVENTS

16 - 17 January 2023

GAMES TPM - EOC EU Office - Istanbul

18 January 2023

Expert Group Covid-10 recovery of the sport sector - EU Commission - Brussels

21 - 28 January 2023

Winter EYOF - EOC - Friuli Venezia Giulia

23 January 2023

Erasmus+ Coordinators Meeting (kick-off Meeting) - EU Commission - Brussels

26 January 2023

Expert Group Green Sport meeting - EU Commission - Brussels

30 January 2023

Erasmus+ Info day - EU Commission - Brussels



EOC EU Office
71, Avenue de Cortenbergh
1000 Brussels, Belgium



+32 2 738 03 20



info@euoffice.eurolympic.org



www.euoffice.eurolympic.org



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