

# MONTHLY REPORT

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February 2024



EUROPEAN  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEES



**EU**  
Office

The EOC EU Office is celebrating its 15th anniversary and promises to continue to represent the voice of the organised sport movement in Brussels.

We are looking back proudly to our achievements such as:

- ◆ The growing number of partner NOCs and Federations from 14 to 35.
- ◆ 8 Erasmus+ Projects coordinated (Athletes2Business, S4GG, SIGGS, POINTS, RINGS, GAMES, OCEAN, SIGGS 3.0), and many more sport organisations supported to access EU funding.
- ◆ The Arrangement for Cooperation signed with the European Commission.

We express gratitude to all our partner sport organisations and political stakeholders for an excellent cooperation. And of course, we would not be there without such competent and motivated staff members over all these years!

Here's to 15 years and many more to make the voice of sport organisations heard at European level and reinforce sport organisations' societal impact!



New EOC EU Office in Brussels 2017



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### EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

15 years ago, exactly on 20 February 2009, the EOC EU Office was officially opened. In the same year, the Lisbon Treaty entered into force, providing the EU a competence for sport for the first time. This competence enabled the EU Commission to set up a separate EU funding programme. Erasmus+Sport launched the possibility for all sport stakeholders in Europe to carry out transnational cooperation projects in almost all areas of sport. With its projects on governance in sport (including SIGGS, POINTS, RINGS, GAMES) and carbon footprint reduction (OCEAN), the EOC EU Office has also addressed important topics in organised sport with a large number of partners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 35 partner organisations of the EOC EU Office for their excellent cooperation in recent years. The simultaneous co-operation with international/European sports federations and National Olympic Committees has greatly enriched our work and is unique in this form. My special thanks go to all former and current employees whose commitment and expertise have made the success of the EOC EU Office possible over the past 15 years!

The EOC EU Office is involved in a wide range of activities in March. On 8 March, the final event of the GAMES project will take place in Brussels. With GAMES, we have dealt with the promotion of women in leadership positions in sport over the past two and a half years. Among other things, a comprehensive "Pool of Actions" will be presented at the Final Conference – this is already available on the website of the EOC EU Office. On 7 March, the EOC EU Office is organising a conference on the topic of safeguarding in sport together with the EOC GEDI Commission. The EOC EU Office will also be submitting a project proposal on this important topic as part of the current Erasmus+Sport call for proposals. Later on in March, the EOC EU Office will organise the mid-term conference of the OCEAN project in Lausanne with the support of the IOC and ANOC. While the first part of the project focused on measuring the NOCs' carbon footprint, the second part until June 2025 will focus on developing an online tool and drawing up carbon reduction plans for the 18 participating NOCs.

The Belgian Council Presidency is on its way to finalising discussions on the Work Plan of the Sports Ministers and the Council Conclusions on non-organised sport in Europe. The draft Council conclusions in particular have raised critical questions from a large number of Member States and are currently being fundamentally revised.

The EU Sport Forum, the European Commission's largest event dedicated to sports, will take place on 16-17 April in Liège. The programme includes discussions on communicating values through the Olympic and Paralympic Games, athletes' rights and the future structure of European football following the failure of the European Super League.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund  
Director EOC EU Office



### INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



#### Theo Ploegmakers, President of the European Equestrian Federation

The EEF represents 40 European National Equestrian federations, working to maximize the potential and development of equestrianism throughout the continent. Through promoting the sport of equestrianism and its good practices, developing the sport across Europe, the EEF provides a collective European voice in the sport.

#### 1. The European Equestrian Federation (EEF) has just joined the European Olympic Committees EU Office. Would you like to introduce current challenges and subsequent priorities and activities of the EEF?

There are two core, interlinked, areas of concern for our sport at the moment. The first is social licence and the growing and changing opinions of the public in particular with regards to horse welfare. We live in an era now where information is shared and processed very quickly, and as a result, opinions are also formed and changed rapidly. We need to be agile and aware to this, and proactively communicate what we do well, whilst being open to changing how we do things to keep being better. At a European level we see issues around the horse categorised in an agricultural area, under similar regulations to other livestock, or as a sports horse where other standards may be required.

The second major issue is sustainability. We at the EEF talk about sustainability as a holistic topic, across horse welfare, humans and the environment. It's intertwined with social licence, as for the sport to continue and have a social licence, we must be sustainable. This requires a considerable amount of change and education, to bring new standards and ways of working e.g concerning water consumption and how we prepare riding arenas, or how we continue to encourage participation and the next wave of riders. Some of this change will be led by regulations, with 2030 climate goal deadlines creating some policy shifts within governments, however, we should not be waiting for these to force change. We want to lead our members to be proactive in this area.

#### 2. How can the partnership with the EOC EU Office help to overcome these challenges?

There are many EU regulations in place that affect our sport and horses now, and with rising concern on an environmental level we expect more to come in the future. We hope working closely with the EOC EU Office means we can be on the pulse of these updates, and help to provide insight and experience on the individual matters of equestrianism.

In addition, as the EEF we are currently benefitting from Erasmus+ funding to run our Equestrian Young Leaders Europe programme. This is a really exciting concept and it is clear that through Erasmus+ there are other projects we, and our national federation members, could embark on. Learning from the EOC EU Office on the process and projects they have assisted in will be very beneficial.

### 3. Equestrian is a particular sport involving the well-being of animals. However, it also has similar challenges to other sports. In which parts of your governance are you hoping to benefit from the network of partners that the EOC EU Office offers?

The sustainability topic is now dominating all sports, and this is an area we would love to engage in sharing best practices and experiences within the EOC network. The climate crisis should be a concern to all, but it is certainly something many sports fans are aware of and they are voicing their opinions on host countries, venue selections and practices on site.

There are a lot of innovative solutions coming to the fore to help reduce carbon emissions, particularly around events, so it would be great to openly share experiences and learn from each other.

### 4. Sustainability of sport practices is a key priority for EU institutions, but also increasingly so for fans, athletes and all stakeholders. How is the EEF working to adapt its practices?

We have worked on our sustainability strategy, with increasing goals over the coming years focused on optimising the EEF's own behaviour and influencing our members to adopt sustainable practices too. We have green policies and event strategies for our Longines EEF Series to ensure our events are meeting sustainable goals and we are monitoring these year by year to make improvements and create higher standards.

Alongside this, we want to be leaders in education and raising awareness of some of the key issues. We host a webinar series for the members and the wider equine community, bringing in specific experts to share knowledge, and where we don't yet have answers we go to find them. Last year we partnered with Wageningen University & Research to study the carbon emissions of a horse, something that had never been done before. We wanted to see objectively where the great cause of emissions come from, so we can take that knowledge and look for ways to reduce this.

### 5. In many federations, cases of mistreatment of athletes are being revealed – how is the EEF dealing with potential cases?

The EEF is the continental representative of the FEI. It is the FEI which is responsible for maintaining the policies and regulations regarding human and equine athletes' treatment. However, the EEF is important to convince stakeholders in the equestrian sport that both equine and human athletes should be respected.

Respect for participants, athletes and all stakeholders is an important part of the EEF's social License strategy.

**6. It appears that equestrianism has some barriers to participation. It is often viewed as an expensive sport and appears rather female dominated. How to ensure attractiveness for youngsters from different backgrounds?**

This is true, although the female dominance is rather more a perception of grassroot levels. If you follow the gender balance up to the top level the participation is far more equal. We support the international federation, the FEI, with their inclusivity policies and all our EU members are similarly engaged. Concerning the expense of the sport it's again an issue we have a strong awareness of, given the equipment (including our equine counterpart) is far more substantial than other sports so some cost is unavoidable.

On a proactive level this is a responsibility our members take up, with many working directly with riding clubs to offer incentives and affordable options for people to access horse riding and something we look to share the best practice of between our members to encourage similar initiatives.

**7. The EEF has just launched its Erasmus+-funded project Equestrian Young Leaders Europe (EYLE). Can you share the main objectives and goals of the project and what the European sport movement could learn from it?**

This is one of our key priorities as an organisation currently. The project began in its planning phase at the end of 2022, and now just over a year on we have over 200 children actively participating, with many more soon to enrol. The programme is currently in a pilot phase within Bulgaria, Hungary and Norway and the concept is to offer important stable management and equine education, while in turn building key leadership competencies in the young attendees.

For example, as they learn about horse first aid, they will then take turns to present and demonstrate the skill, building confidence, communication and teamwork skills. We know that when young people are engaged in something they are passionate about, their aptitude for learning is greatly increased, so we have high hopes for the programme's success.

**The EOC EU Office is thanking Theo Ploegmakers for his interview and contribution to the Monthly Report.**



### EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

## Belgian Presidency Conference on non-organised sport and free physical activity

The thematic conference of the Belgian Council Presidency took place in Genval, Belgium on 20-21 February. It aimed to facilitate discussions and exchanges among the sport movement, European Commission, Member State representatives, and academics regarding non-organised sport and free physical activity. As one of the Presidency's priorities and the subject of Council Conclusions currently under preparation, the conference provided an opportunity to clarify the intentions and concepts related to non-organised sport.

In general, the Presidency Conference mirrored the perceived challenges in the drafting of the Council Conclusions on the same subject. The level of ambition and the definition of non-organised sport remain ambiguous. The EOC EU Office remains committed to monitoring these developments, with the next draft presented for discussion at the Council Working Party on Sport on 8 March 2024.



### Setting the Scene of the Conference

Taking into account the insights gained from the Covid-19 pandemic, Pierre-Yves Jeholet, Minister-President of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, attempted to introduce the concept of non-organised sport as having encouraged the population to engage in physical activity in parks and other outdoor spaces, particularly during the periods when traditional sports clubs were unable to operate. Georg Häusler, Director of DG EAC, further expanded on this concept, outlining it as sport practiced outside of formal structures and emphasizing its alignment with the idea of health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA).

As representatives of organized sport, Jean-Michel Saive, President, and Cédric van Branteghem, CEO of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee, emphasized the complementarity of organised and non-organised sport. They acknowledged that many individuals initially engage in sport through informal means, such as children playing football in the backyard or adults cycling on weekends, highlighting the importance of this space. Nonetheless, they illustrated the positive impact of elite sport on participation rates, talent development, and societal well-being. Sport clubs and grassroots sport offer certified coaching, social connections, safe environments, and competitive opportunities. Emphasizing the IOC's vision of using sport, without mention of the format, to build a better world and promote Olympic values, the stage was set for the conference.

### European Sport Model

In an effort to explore the relationship between non-organised sport and the European Sport Model, scholars and researchers were invited to engage in discussions. However, the speakers and examples presented during the discussions were not all well-suited for the intended purpose. EOC EU Office representatives attending the Conference observed academics discussing sport topics despite lacking direct involvement or expertise in the field, which compromised the accuracy of their contributions.

Arthur Le Gall, Director of KEA European Affairs, presented the [Study on the European Sport Model](#) commissioned in 2022 by the European Commission and emphasized that the European Sport Model primarily pertains to the structure of organised sport in Europe and does not encompass non-organised sport activities.



Even with differences between sports, the data of the study gave evidence that general features including the solidarity mechanisms, volunteer-based organisations and a pyramidal structure are valid. In contrast, Jeroen Scheerder, a professor at KU Leuven, expressed scepticism about the hierarchical structure of the model and advocated for a more inclusive approach involving governments and commercial actors alongside clubs and federations.

During the Q&A session, Roberto Pella from the Council of Regions, rapporteur of the "[Building a values-based, bottom-up European sports model](#)" report in 2023, reiterated the importance of grassroots sport and its role within the model. Unfortunately, this remained the only mention of grassroots sports, and consequently, led to neglecting its crucial role in fostering participation and promoting physical activity at the community level during the conference.

Tijl Smits, European President of the International Federation of Sport Climbing, the other representative of organised sport in the panels, provided insights into the complementarity of non-organised and organised settings using climbing as an example. He highlighted the evolution of climbing from a recreational activity to a sport, emphasizing the need for organization to ensure its sustainability.

Emine Bozkurt, Chair of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality, emphasised that without formal organisation, concerns and shortcomings in non-organised sport may go unnoticed, hindering progress in policy development and implementation.

During the discussions, the concept of non-organised sport did not become any clearer but instead became more complex. Academics often preferred the term "self-organised," adding to the intricacy of the topic. Additionally, there was a recurring notion that organised sport possesses qualities that non-organised sport is perceived to lack, hinting at the conclusion that organised sport may inherently excel in areas where non-organised sport falls short.

The remainder of the conference was filled with presentations of specific examples and projects on the societal impact of non-organised sport and physical activity at a local level.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Council Working Party on Sport](#)

## EU Commission publishes report on EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024

The European Commission has published its [report on the "Implementation and relevance of the European Union Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024 and on the Recommendation on promoting health-enhancing physical activity \(HEPA\) across sectors"](#) as the result of an online public consultation to which 72 stakeholders (Member States, sport organisations including the EOC EU Office and NOCs, and other stakeholders) took part. This report coincides with the preparations for the upcoming EU Work Plan for Sport, which is foreseen to be adopted by EU Sport Ministers on 14 May.

The EOC EU Office is heavily engaged in this process, actively participating in the stakeholder consultation through written submission and in-person meetings.

Additionally, the EOC EU Office submitted a position paper offering assessment and recommendations to contribute to the work in progress.

### Feedback on the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024

The implementation of the fourth strategic roadmap for EU sport policy was significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, and subsequent energy crises and inflation, the Commission states.

The report addresses concerns raised by the sport movement regarding the need for adjustments in how actions are designed to ensure more regular communication of results and dissemination of outputs. A good example of concrete cooperation is the peer-learning activities that appear to be positively evaluated.

Another point of criticism voiced by the EOC EU Office and mentioned in the report is the limited flow of information and communication with the sport movement, as well as the need for better connection and logical follow-up of the individual activities in the Work Plan.

Topical priorities of the Work Plan were generally considered as appropriate by respondents.

### EU Work Plan 2024-2027

The upcoming EU Work Plan for Sport is currently being drafted by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Commission's report lists several potential topics for consideration, including:

- Promoting the European Sport Model
- Shaping values-based sport governance
- Upholding high standards of integrity
- Green Sport
- Upholding the rights of athletes
- Equal and fair access to sport participation

Further recommendations from the EOC EU Office included the topics of safe sport and more flexibility in the working methods, especially with regards to the Expert Groups.

Implementation of the recommendation on promoting HEPA

Annex II of the report addresses the specific question of the stakeholder consultation on the relevance of the Council Recommendations on HEPA. Even with the Covid-19 pandemic, good progress in the implementation of the Recommendation was detected, however, physical activity levels remain low. Consequently, it is to be expected that HEPA remains on the agenda to further strive towards the WHO global target of 15% reduction of physical inactivity levels in EU Member States by 2030.

The EOC EU Office will keep its partners informed about the next EU Work Plan for Sport.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

[Press Release EU Commission](#)

[Commission Report](#)

## European Commission launches SHARE 2.0



The Kick-off meeting of the [SHARE 2.0 initiative](#) took place on 20 February 2024, organised by the European Commission.

SHARE 2.0 is the follow-up of the [SHARE initiative](#), which ran between 2018 and 2023 and aimed to support local and regional sport stakeholders in accessing EU funding. The EOC EU Office was actively involved in the initial SHARE initiative.

Four Communities of Practice (CoP) were officially launched: a general one on EU Funding, and three thematic ones on Health, Innovation and Green and Sustainable Sport. All organisations who are participating in SHARE 2.0 will be automatically part of the Community on EU Funding, while participation in the thematic Communities will depend on expression of interest.

Each Community will be structured in three layers:

- the Community at large, including all the members,
- a Steering Group, a small group of 5-8 organisations driving the work of the Community,

- a Lead/Co-Lead, one organisation/member organising and leading the work of the CoP, supported by a staff member from the Sport Unit of the European Commission.

The CoP on EU Funding will focus on identifying, building capacity and sharing best practices on new funding sources for the sport sector, beyond Erasmus+ and will be led by Mr. Vassos Koutsoundas, from Cyprus Sport Organisation. The first topic the CoP will focus on is “Funding for sustainable sport infrastructure”.

The CoP on Health will be working on following up on the HealthyLifestyle4All Initiative and focus on topics as mental health, lifelong sport and sedentary lifestyle. It will be led by Mr Andreu Raya Demidoff, from Sport for Education and Health, and will start its work with the topic “How to make city designs that encourage sport”.

The CoP on Innovation aims to discuss how to overcome challenges to innovation in the sport sector and facilitate the circulation of innovative ideas, especially focusing on technological and digital innovation. It will be led by Mr. Grzegorz Botwina, from the Institute for Sport Governance and will first focus on “Getting grassroots sport clubs future ready”.

Lastly, the CoP on Green and Sustainable Sport will provide a platform to continue the work started within the Green Sport Expert Group and guidance for the implementation of the “Sport’s contribution to the European Green Deal – A sport sector playbook”, published as a result of the work of the Expert Group. The first topic will be “Capacity building for green sport – what is it and how to do it?”.

All CoPs will start to work in the coming weeks and aim to form the Steering Group and have the first meetings by mid-March. The EOC EU Office will be actively involved in the SHARE 2.0 initiative and will share relevant information with its partners. Communities of Practice are open to all (grassroots) sports organisations, public authorities, policymaker or sport enthusiasts at large. The EOC EU Office encourages all partners interested in exploring development opportunities for their sport or exchanging with their peers to manifest interest [here](#).



## PARTNERS' CORNER

### Sustainability strategies in sport - Workshop in Monaco

Provided by ENGSO



On 15-16 February 2024, World Athletics, the International University of Monaco and EASM-European Association of Sport Management, organised a workshop on sustainability strategies in Monaco.

The workshop focused on emphasizing best practices, challenges and ways forward for sport organisations to prioritise sustainability.

Speakers presented practices related to environmental and social sustainability, and one of the most important highlights was the acknowledgment that the two other pillars of sustainability (economic and institutional) should

be prioritized to achieve the overall sustainable development of sport organisations and the communities they serve.

H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco and Lord Sebastian Coe, President of World Athletics, made opening remarks highlighting the bi-directional role of sport and the environment and the responsibility of sport organisations to address and make concerted efforts to move the sport sustainability agenda forward.

Other eminent speakers representing academia and the organized sport sector included Professor Vassil Girginov, President of the EASM, Bob Ramsak, Head of Sustainability at World Athletics, Professors Paul Hardy and Frédérique Reynertz from the International University of Monaco, Professor Joel Maxcy from Drexel University, USA, the President of Match poker Association Patrick Nally and Mike Laflin, CEO of Global Sustainable Sport.

Speakers emphasised the importance of addressing sustainability holistically in and through sport, recognised the importance of collaborations and partnerships alongside communication to both raise awareness among their participants, members and wider communities but also in advocating for consistent tools and mechanisms and concerted efforts in addressing institutional viability, social inequalities, environmental degradation and responsibility in sport.

ENGSO was represented by Dr Niki Koutrou who presented other sustainability-related projects for grassroots sport in ENGSO is currently involved (CHANGE, or recently concluded, PlayGreen), underlining the best practices in addressing environmental and social sustainability and key learnings for future grassroots-based projects focusing on sustainability.

The workshop is part of the Erasmus+ co-funded project “Sustainable Sport Management” which aims to explore how national and international sport organisations implement sustainability strategies.

The consortium includes the universities of KU Leuven (Belgium), Brunel London (UK), JAMK (Finland), Malmoe (Sweden), Drexel (USA) and the European Association for Sport Management (EASM). Project’s partners from the sport industry include World Athletics, the International Federation of Match Poker (e-sport) and the European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation (ENGSO).

### ENGSO EU Advisory Committee webinar on sport and the European Parliament elections

Provided by ENGSO

On the occasion of the upcoming European Parliament elections, on 21 February the ENGSO EU Advisory Committee organized a webinar on sport and the European Parliament elections.

The webinar aimed to achieve twofold objectives:

- to prioritize sport in the upcoming EU elections,
- and to inspire national advocacy campaigns promoting a stronger EU sport policy and the election of MEP candidates with an interest in sport-related issues.



The webinar was opened by Sara Massini, ENGSO Secretary General, presenting the recently released ENGSO position paper on the EU Work Plan for Sport, underlining the need for a shift to a broader EU strategy on sport and a physically active lifestyle.

The European Parliament was represented by MEP Tomasz Frankowski, who emphasized the achievements of the current Parliament mandate, including the report on [EU sports policy](#). MEP Frankowski underlined the need of increasing the attention on sport for the next mandate and stressed the importance of re-establishing the Sport Intergroup within the Parliament and adding sport to the title of the relevant European Commissioner.

Theo Neyenhuis, Public Affairs Advisor at NOC\*NSF, presented the national-level campaign organised by NOC\*NSF before the recent national election in Netherlands to maintain and strengthen the position of sport in political priorities. Successful campaigns included video clips featuring professional athletes and political leaders, resulting in widespread media coverage on social media, TV, and radio. It was an important example for the participants to understand how and what could be organised at national level in order to rise the attention on sport for the political agenda of the country.

The final speaker was Arthur Garrido, representing ANESTAPS, the national French association of students and young people in the field of sports. During the webinar he illustrated their own strategy made at national level to influence more candidates in taking into consideration sport in their political agenda when elected.

The strategy is composed by a wider campaign and events to promote stronger sport in the European Union. Arthur invited the participants to use their strategy as an example to engage with people and raise awareness in their own country.

At the end, space was left for a lively exchange between the audience and speakers.

Following are the highlights that emerged from the discussion to try to create influencing actions at a national level:

- Sport is a transversal sector so when it comes to bring sport into the political agenda there is not only one referent party, but rather it is important to speak to everyone to be sure that sport will be considered whoever win the elections,
- It is important to identify clear objectives and not to have a too general approach when speak to candidates for EU Elections,
- Good practices and realities from other countries can be good inspiration to start its own advocacy action.
- It is crucial to raise awareness among people, especially young people, regarding the impact they may have in the policy work at EU level. This is because there is no clear understanding of the impact that every citizen may have in the European parliament, and many may decide not to express their voting right.

The webinar has been published on [ENGSO's website](#) in order to give sport organizations the possibility to take inspiration from the speakers about strategies and campaigns to be implemented in their countries and about topic/objectives to be addressed.

## EU Funded Project "GUARD" Kicks Off with Transnational Meeting in Zagreb

Provided by NOC Croatia



Zagreb, February 20, 2024 – The start of the EU-funded project, "Safeguarding Children in Sports" (GUARD), marked a significant milestone with its inaugural transnational meeting held in Zagreb.

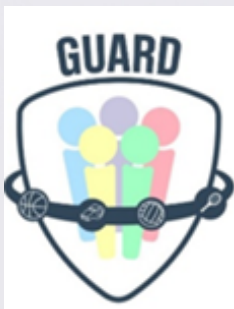
The meeting, hosted by the Croatian Olympic Committee (NOC Croatia), convened representatives from partner organizations across Europe.

The event commenced with warm welcome speeches from Morana Paliković Gruden, Vice President of the NOC Croatia, and Natalija Haviđić, Director of Strategic Planning,

Digitalization, and EU Funds at the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia.

Their remarks highlighted the shared commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and youth participating in sports activities.

Partners participating in the GUARD project include the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, NOC Poland, NOC Slovenia, NOC Romania, NOC Greece, NOC Lithuania, and the NOC of North Macedonia.



During the transnational meeting, discussions revolved around detailed project activities, timelines, and duty allocation among the partner organizations as well as upcoming deliverable deadlines.

Participants seized the opportunity to delineate their roles in developing safeguarding structures, procedures, and educational materials for Child Safeguarding Officers. Lastly, the official logo of the project was presented and approved by the consortium.

During the transnational meeting, discussions revolved around detailed project activities, timelines, and duty allocation among the partner organizations as well as upcoming deliverable deadlines. Participants seized the opportunity to delineate their roles in developing safeguarding structures, procedures, and educational materials for Child Safeguarding Officers. Lastly, the official logo of the project was presented and approved by the consortium.

On the second day, two presentations were held on the topic of child safeguarding in sport. Doc. dr. sc. Zrinka Greblo Jurakić, as a member of the Pool of international experts on safe sport by the Council of Europe presented the research study - Game Changers: Enhancing Youth Sports through Child Safeguarding, while the Workpackage 2 Lead and Child Safeguarding Officer of NOC Croatia, Matea Horvat, had an intro to the policies including the International Olympic Committee, EU and national policies.

The meeting underscored the collective motivation among partners to collaborate, pool resources, and leverage expertise to achieve tangible results. By joining forces, the GUARD project aims to effect positive changes in safeguarding practices within the realm of youth sports.

"This transnational meeting in Zagreb has set a solid foundation for our collaborative efforts in safeguarding children in sports," stated Morana Palikovic Gruden. "We are excited to embark on this journey with our esteemed partners and are confident in our collective ability to make a meaningful difference." Natalija Havidic added, "The Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia is proud to support the GUARD project and looks forward to contributing to the development of robust safeguarding mechanisms that prioritize the well-being of young athletes."

As the GUARD project moves forward, partners are energized and committed to advancing its objectives and delivering on its promises. Together, they are poised to create safer environments for children participating in sports activities across Europe.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

06 - 08 March 2024

GAMES Final conference & Workshop on Safeguarding and Female Athletes' Health (Brussels)

18 - 21 March 2024

OCEAN Project Meeting and Module 3 (Lausanne)

16 - 17 April 2024

EU Sport Forum (Liège)



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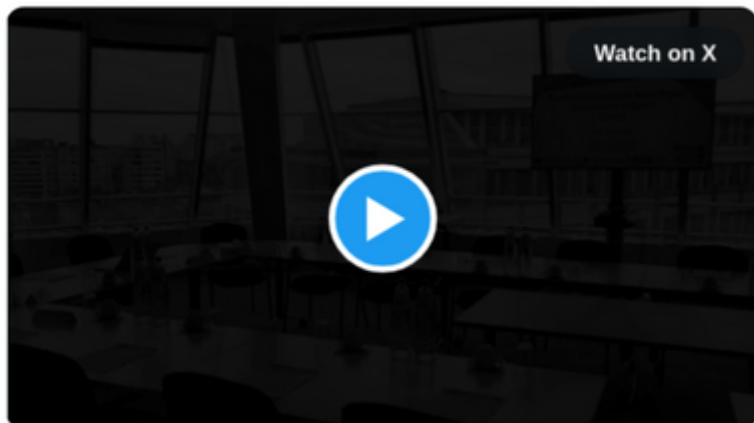


In exactly 1 week the #GAMESPROJECT's consortium 🇧🇪 🇷🇺 🇩🇪 🇬🇷 🇮🇹 🇳🇱 🇵🇹 will gather for the Final Conference!

Get ready to celebrate GAMES achievements all together during this special event 🙌🏻

SAVE THE DATE 📅

📅 8 March 2024  
📍 Brussels 🇧🇪



8:46 AM · Mar 1, 2024



GAMES Erasmus+ Project  
@GamesErasmus · Follow



📄 DELIVERABLE 📄

🇪🇺 The #GAMESPROJECT submitted its "Global Pool of Actions", a collection of concrete actions to promote #GenderEquality ♀️ in leadership positions in Europe 🇪🇺 and beyond 🌍

Find out more about the recommendations 📄  
[shorturl.at/chsx8](https://shorturl.at/chsx8)



12:00 PM · Feb 21, 2024





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



+32 2 738 03 20



[info@euoffice.eurolympic.org](mailto:info@euoffice.eurolympic.org)



[www.euoffice.eurolympic.org](http://www.euoffice.eurolympic.org)



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