

MONTHLY REPORT

June 2023



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OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



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REDUCE ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



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EOC EU Office @EOCEUOffice · Jun 23

The EOC EU Office team is attending the @eg2023en in Poland 🇵🇱 and congratulates @The_EOC and the Polish NOC @PKOL_pl for organising an amazing 3rd edition of the #EuropeanGames - with an outstanding Opening Ceremony 🎉

We wish all the best to the 6.850 European athletes! 🙌



Eva and 5 others



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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The 3rd European Games came to an end on 2 July in Krakow-Malopolska. With around 6500 athletes, the European Games in 2023 were the largest multi-sport event in Europe. The Polish hosts have shown that they are capable of staging major sporting events even in politically and economically difficult times and have thus also made themselves interesting as possible hosts of other major sporting events.

Even though the EOC will only evaluate the Games in detail in the coming weeks, some positive conclusions can already be drawn. The mixture of European Championships in some sports and the possibility to achieve quota places for the Olympic Games in Paris 2024 have ensured the high quality of the competitions. The decision to include young sports such as 3x3 basketball, padel or teqball in the programme has also proved successful. The organisation and the quality of the venues were very good. There is certainly still room for improvement in the marketing of the games and in a higher level of live coverage by national public broadcasters. All in all, the Games have proved that they rightly claim a place in the international sports calendar.

The Bulgarian government has proposed Iliana Ivanova, a former MEP, as the successor to Mariya Gabriel, the Commissioner for Sport who left in May. It is not expected that her former colleagues in the European Parliament will refuse to give their consent in the hearing that will take place soon. However, it is still unclear whether Ivanova will take over the entire portfolio of her predecessor or whether sport will remain in the hands of Vice-President Schinas.

The Spanish Council Presidency took over the six-month leadership of the European Union on 1 July. In the area of sport, the agenda will focus on Safe Sport and Gender Equality. Council conclusions are also expected on the latter topic and an international conference, which will also be attended by sports ministers from Latin America, will be held on 14-15 November.

Another announcement on our own behalf. On 10 July, Elisabeth Strobach will take up her duties as an officer in the EOC EU Office. In her last position, she was ENGSO's representative in the EOC EU Office. We look forward to our collaboration with her and wish her every success in her new position.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Receive the first edition of the OCEAN Project Newsletter!

The OCEAN project's first Newsletter will be sent in the upcoming days! It is the opportunity to take stock of the project's progress, including key takeaways from the Training Course for Climate Action Officers representing the 18 partner NOCs, and from the Seminar on measuring the carbon footprint coordinated by the Öko-Institut. The newsletter

will also inform you on best practices implemented by various sports organisations... enough to give you some ideas! Finally, a brief update on EU environmental policy and forthcoming events can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Click [here](#) to subscribe, and do not hesitate to share it!

European Games 2023 successfully staged in Krakow-Malopolska



On 21 June, the opening ceremony launched the [3rd European Games](#) in Krakow-Malopolska, Poland which concluded on 2 July 2023. The 3rd edition of the European Games also reflected the first time that the event is held in an EU Member State after being held in Belarus (2019) and Azerbaijan (2015) beforehand.

This multi-sport event is being very successfully implemented by the Organising Committee of the Kraków-Malopolska 2023 of the Polish Olympic Committee under the patronage/coordination of the European Olympic Committees (EOC).

The 3rd edition of the European Games is organised across different cities in the Malopolska region in order to use existing infrastructure whilst supporting smaller cities to benefit in terms of regional development from major sports events.

Across its venues, the 3rd edition of the European Games involved around 6500 athletes from 48 countries competing across 29 sport disciplines. The 2023 European Games embrace an intergenerational approach with a great mixture of traditional sports and new sports with the programme including newly or recently joined the Olympic programme, among which breaking – foreseen to be included in the Olympic programme for the first time in Paris in 2024 - BMX Freestyle and sport climbing which joined the Olympic programme in Tokyo in 2021 only. Notably, the European Games are used as a platform by 10 disciplines of the 18 Olympic sports for the qualification's pathway to Paris 2024

The 2023 European Games registered twice more athletes as the previous edition. The 2023 European Games also represented the first time that the [EOC Refugee Team](#) competes at the continental Games such as the European Games.

The team who attended the Opening Ceremony includes taekwondo athletes Kasra Mehdipournejad, Kimia Alizadeh Zenooin and Dina Pouryounes Langeroudi and boxers Cindy Winner Djankeu Ngamba and Farid Walizadeh, among which Alizadeh and Pouryounes Langeroudi were part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team at Tokyo 2020. This further showcases the positive cooperation and joint effort of the EOC and Olympic Refugee Foundation in providing adequate support to refugee athletes (e.g. scholarship and support programmes).

Furthermore, thanks to an [agreement](#) signed with the the European Broadcasting Union, the European Games Krakow-Małopolska 2023 were broadcasted in 50 countries across two continents (America and Europe) whilst being possible to follow the results live via the European Games's [mobile application](#).

The 2023 European Games also included a series of side-events among which the Esports Championships which brought together top esports athletes and teams from across Europe.

The E-sports Championships features eFootball™ 2023 and Rocket League, and, as stated by the EOC President Spyros Capralos “the Esports Championships mark the beginning of a series of planned initiatives that aim to push the boundaries of sports entertainment”.

A small delegation from the EOC EU Office attended part of the [3rd European Games](#) which also provided a platform to network with European NOCs, share knowledge and good practices while discussing common challenges, as well as showcasing its projects co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme - namely [GAMES](#) and [OCEAN](#) - and their relevance across the Olympic movement activities and events, including the European Games.



European Commission and Ukraine enhanced cooperation on sport

On 15 June, Margaritis Schinas, the Vice-President of the European Commission, and Vadym Guttsait, the Minister for Youth and Sport of Ukraine signed an [arrangement for cooperation](#) in the field of youth and sport.

The arrangement for cooperation further reflects the support and cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine in the field of education and sport already showcased in the [EU-Ukraine Association Agreement signed on 21 March 2014](#) and in the backdrop of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Indeed, the European Commission had shown its solidarity with Ukraine, notably through the Erasmus+ programme whose budget has been increased by 100 million EUR to support those affected by the war. Besides, the European Commission launched the “Sport for Peace” awards under the BelInclusive EU Sport Awards of 2022 to recognise the value of projects using sport as a tool to promote European values and peace.

In this regard, the arrangement for cooperation further supports the cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine whilst laying the foundation for a common sport policy agenda. Therefore, concrete outcomes are expected from the arrangement for cooperation, among which:

- It has been decided to launch a new call under the [Erasmus+ programme](#) 2024 namely “Capacity building actions for youths and sport” for the [Eastern Partnership countries](#). This is expected to further allow Ukrainian organisations to participate in international cooperation projects.
- The relevance to reinforce cooperation between sports organisations in Ukraine and those in the EU Member States was acknowledged. Accordingly, the opportunity to organise annual webinars on the Erasmus+ Programme to promote cooperation and networking is mentioned. In this regard, a “pilot webinar” was jointly organised by the European Commission and the Ministry for Youth and Sport in Ukraine in March 2023. For further information on the “pilot webinar” please refer to the [recording](#) and [stakeholders list](#).

It has been decided to continue to finance volunteering activities aimed to support those affected by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine under the [European Solidarity Corps](#) in 2024.

Therefore, the [arrangement for cooperation](#) further reinforces the close and long-lasting cooperation between the European Union and Ukraine, in future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Arrangement for cooperation on Education \(June 2023\)](#)

[EU-Ukraine Association Agreement \(March 2014\)](#)

[Erasmus+ Pilot webinar \(March 2023\)](#)

[Erasmus+ Programme](#)

[European Solidarity Corps Programme](#)

Council of Europe: Charlotte Girard Fabre (IFSO) elected as Chair of the Consultative Committee



Source: Council of Europe

On 8 and 9 June, the Governing Board and Consultative Committee of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) gathered in Strasbourg for their annual joint plenary meeting.

Integrity in sports was at the centre of this year’s meeting. Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, opened the roundtable on integrity in sports by reiterating the importance of personal, competitive and organisational integrity as a major part of the European Sport Charter. The following two sessions focussed on different aspects of integrity in sports. The first session saw Giuseppe Deleonardis (IOC, Deputy Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer), Grit Hartmann (Journalist) and Satu Heikkinen (Senior Ministerial Adviser, Finland) discuss integrated approaches to integrity, among which the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) was highlighted. The second session offered opportunities to learn about specific tools to promote integrity in sports:

- The Network of Magistrates and Prosecutors Responsible for Sports (MARS)
- The Macolin Convention
- The Saint-Denis Convention

After the roundtable discussions, participants discussed a draft Declaration on Sport Integrity for consideration by the Committee of Ministers as well as the mandate of the International Network of Magistrates and Prosecutors responsible for Sport (MARS).

On the second day, the members of the Consultative Committee presented good practices that are aligned with and promote the recently updated European Sports Charter. Annamarie Phelps and Tone Jagodic represented the EOC and highlighted the activities of the EOC Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission and the EOC EU Office's [GAMES Project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal leadership in Sports) that aims at increasing gender equality in sports leadership.

The separate meetings also saw elections of the bureau of the Governing Board and the election of Charlotte Girard Fabre from the International Federation for Sports Officials (IFSO) as Chair of the Consultative Committee. Ms. Girard Fabre was the candidate of the organised sport movement and will hold the position until the next election in June 2024. Her vacant seat as a member of the bureau was filled by Andrej Pisl (European University Sports Association – EUSA).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[The European Sports Charter](#)

[International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport \(IPACS\)](#)

[Network of Magistrates and Prosecutors Responsible for Sports \(MARS\)](#)

[The Macolin Convention](#)

[The Saint-Denis Convention](#)

[GAMES-Project](#)

Third EPAS Forum on Human Rights in Sports focusses on data protection

On 30 June, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sports (EPAS) of the Council of Europe (CoE) organised the third Forum on Sport and Human Rights. This year, the forum focused on data protection in sports. Given the ongoing digital transformation of sports, the amount of often-sensitive data keeps increasing and raises concerns regarding data protection. Today, the need for appropriate measures to protect personal data in sports has become a crucial challenge.

The event took place in Strasbourg and gathered EPAS Governing Board and Consultative Committee members, Delegates from Sports Conventions Committees and the Committee of the Convention 108, Data Protection Specialists and representatives from sports organisations. The forum aimed to accelerate the exchange between experts from different fields and thereby opening the door to future cooperation between the present stakeholders.

After a short introduction and welcoming remarks by Jeroen Schoekkenbroek (Director of Anti-Discrimination, CoE), Patrick Penninckx (Head of Information Society Department, CoE) and Vesna Batistić Kos (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe), Daniel Ritiker from the European Court of Human Rights presented current case law from his court that relates to the topic of the forum.

Following this, the forum took off with four subsequent panel sessions on four different key areas of data protection in sports. In the first panel, discussants from FIFPRO, Clifford Chance, FIFA and the Data Protection Authority of Ireland exchanged positions on performance analysis and predictive technologies in sports. Athletes' access to and control of their own personal data, that is being processed by clubs, federations or third-parties was in the centre of this discussion.

Panellists named risks for an athlete's career that could arise from abuse of data initially gathered for positive reasons.

Panellists of the second panel from European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), Interpol CoE and Committee of Convention 108 presented the legal provisions with regards to the transborder data flows in the context of child safeguarding and discussed the limits. The first is the lack of convergence between national laws, but also the fact that sexual activity is considered a "special category" (article 6 of Convention 108) and is protected by confidentiality reminded Håvard B. Øvregård (Senior Adviser, Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sport). This means that when it comes to sexual abuse, we are not allowed to store and share data with other sports organisations and international transfers. It would be appropriate to develop measures, similar to the Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Competitions, on information sharing for sexual abuse to enable the exchange of information between stakeholders, sport organisations and sports bodies at the lowest level, and not just between governments.

In the third panel, participants engaged in a discussion on personal data in anti-doping. A topic brought to the European Court of Justice's attention by a case from Vienna on whether data on doping-rules infringement falls under the protection of health data. As anti-doping is in the middle of a digitalisation process, more and more athletes' anti-doping data are being collected. Yet, data privacy is part of athletes' rights and Stefan Brink (Executive Director, Wida Digital) reminded that there is no data protection system in sport in the EU.

Gianluca Siracusano (Head of Compliance, International Testing Agency) highlighted the need for national legislators to define anti-doping rules as part of national interests to better enforce anti-doping requirements. Paulina Tomczyk (Secretary General, EU Athletes) regretted that Players' Unions have systematically been excluded from discussions within the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), meaning that athletes are forced to follow anti-doping requirements without having the opportunity to discuss them.

In the final panel, participants debated on facial recognition and crowd control, that are especially relevant in major sporting events for security applications. The discussion was overshadowed by the recent adoption of the EU AI Act in June, that practically bans automatic facial recognition systems in the EU.

The forum concluded with some closing remarks by representatives from the CoE's Data Protection Unit and EPAS.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Request for a preliminary ruling from the Unabhängige Schiedskommission Wien \(Austria\) lodged on 17 February 2022 -Case C-115/22](#)

[Model Contractual Clauses for the Transfer of Personal Data](#)

European Commission's Expert Group for Green Sport finalises recommendations for sport organisations and public authorities

The Expert Group on Green Sport, gathering representatives of the European Commission, EU Member States and sport organisations, met on 6-7 June for the last time before Summer. After 8 meetings already and over a year of discussions and work on the Recommendations for a common framework for sustainable sport, the objective of this meeting was two-folded.

First, participants were meant to review and approve the final version of the Recommendations and discuss the dissemination of the document throughout the relevant authorities and sport organisations in their countries.

The Recommendations include guidelines for sport organisations and public authorities with regards to sustainable sport infrastructure and practices, alongside good practices and projects in place in sport organisations at all levels that can serve as inspiration.

The recommendations are now in the fine-tuning stage and should be officially adopted this summer. As an observer of the Expert Group, the EOC EU Office has taken part very actively in the drafting of the recommendations, namely by including good practices examples from its partner NOCs and federations.

The second objective of this meeting was to foresee the future of this Expert Group, after the adoption of the recommendations. Participants raised the wish to continue nourishing this network of stakeholders, while others mentioned an interest to use this platform as a forum to discuss current EU-legislative proposals that will have an impact on sport. The European Commission is now assessing the possibilities for the Expert Group in the future, in the framework of the reflections for the next Work Plan for Sport 2025-2028.

First, participants were meant to review and approve the final version of the Recommendations and discuss the dissemination of the document throughout the relevant authorities and sport organisations in their countries.

Similarly to previous meetings of the Expert Group, participants benefited from presentations of three sport organisations' sustainability initiatives, namely the International Biathlon Union, Eintracht Frankfurt AG, and an Erasmus+ project to measure football clubs' environmental footprint led by Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies.

The EOC EU Office will inform its partners once the Recommendations are out and will continue following the Expert Group's activities, which also serve the progress of the Erasmus+ [OCEAN project](#).



GreenSportsHub Europe project gathers sport and local authorities to discuss ways to green sport

On 8 June, ACR+ organised a sport, tourism and culture related EU Green Week within the framework of the Green Sports Hub Europe project, and with the support of Zero Waste Scotland.

The EOC EU Office had the opportunity to listen to insightful keynote presentations and panels, to which partners of the EOC EU Office participated, such as: Rugby Europe, the European Confederation of Volleyball (CEV), and the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of Slovenia. They took part in the event to reflect on key-policy recommendations for both public authorities and sports organisations to engage faster in the green transition, especially by joining their forces to benefit from the 'multiplier capacity' of sports organisations.

European Commission: update on the Expert Group on Green Sport

Peter Fischer, Policy Officer, Sport Unit, European Commission, presented the Expert Group on Green Sport and its objectives:

- identify sustainability opportunities and challenges,
- define the subject of green sport in Europe,
- promote environmental sustainability in sport and through sport,
- provide guidance to help EU Member States align the sport sector with Green Deal.

He listed the main topics covered by the Expert Group on Green Sport and mentioned the resulting 'recommendations for a common framework for sustainable sport' that should be published towards the end of summer 2023. Panel discussion: enabling actions and skills for improving environmental management in sports

Katrina Reuter, Development Coordinator, CEV, explained that CEV counts on its ‘multiplier capacity’ and uses online tools to guide organising committees of volleyball-related events, as well as its 56 member federations to meet sustainability requirements set up by the European Federation.

Raphael Moeremans, Sustainability Manager, Union Saint-Gilloise, recognized how important having the full support of the top management is when it comes to calculating sports organisations’ carbon footprint and implementing sustainability strategies. She received very positive feedback from the fan base of the football club regarding the implementation of a sustainability strategy and considers as ‘role models’ some of the biggest football clubs engaged in the Premier League that are performing both on the sport and sustainability levels.

Warren McIntyre, Programme manager, Zero Waste Scotland, reminded that ambassadors of sustainability are key. Even within small local sports clubs, their local reach capacity can be very powerful – especially since they can make sustainability look ‘easy’ and accessible to all.

Final remarks and presentation of the OCEAN project

As part of the final remarks, Eva Rebmann, Acting Deputy Director, EOC EU Office and OCEAN project manager, highlighted that ‘Sports must change and not only for image or marketing reasons’. She reminded that our societies suffer from climate change; yet, sports have the power to change mindsets. She highlighted that, despite the lack of political willingness, resources, or skills, a consequent number of tools, platforms, learning modules, and communication materials are emerging at the moment, showing the engagement of sports actors and other specific communities. She mentioned the [OCEAN project](#) as one of them, aiming at understanding climate change, measuring NOCs’ carbon footprint, reducing their impact and proactively acting for the sustainability of sport.



FURTHER INFORMATION

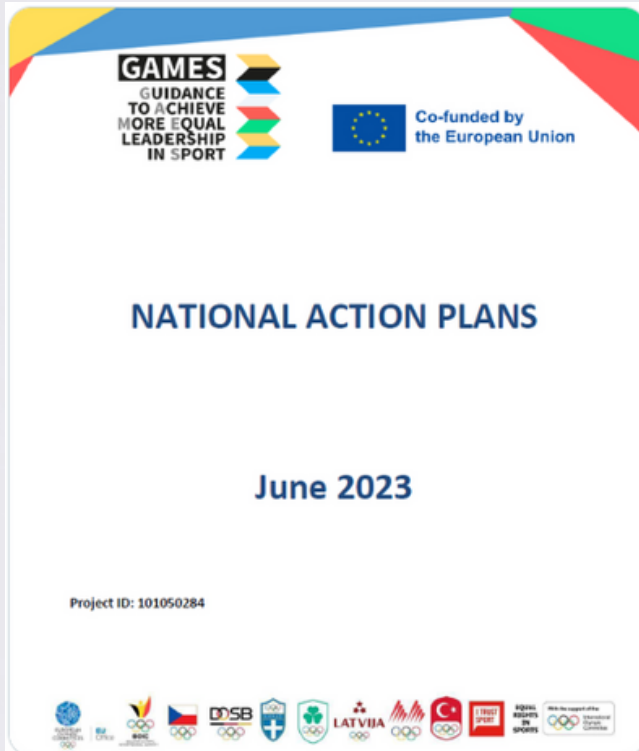
[Agenda](#)

[Green Sports Hub Europe](#)

[Green Sports Hub Resources Center](#)

[OCEAN project website](#)

GAMES Project submits its fifth deliverable: the NOCs' national action plans to boost gender equality in sports leadership



The GAMES project continues to proceed as scheduled with the fifth deliverable “National Action Plans” being submitted to the Executive Agency (EACEA) in June 2023.

The National Action Plans are strategic documents that define concrete objectives and actions of each partner National Olympic Committee (NOC) to improve gender equality in sports leadership. Accordingly, each National Action Plan sets the vision, core objectives, main actions, and specific tactics to boost gender equality in the leadership of the NOC and among its member federations.

Therefore, the National Action Plan should be understood as an “ambitious yet achievable” roadmap to guide the NOCs and their member organisations through key interventions to create structural and cultural changes whilst establishing pathways for women to enhance gender equality in sport governance/leadership. Yet the National Action Plans are designed taking into consideration the stage of readiness, operational capacity, and national context of each NOC and its member organisations.

Each NOC’s National Action Plan has already been approved or is foreseen to be approved by the NOC’s leadership within autumn 2023. Accordingly, all partner NOCs’ National Action Plans are designed to be implemented from 2023 onwards. Therefore, the National Action Plans should be understood also as “living documents” which continues evolving to reach the set target in terms of gender equality also beyond the project timeframe.

More information about each NOC’s National Action Plan will be published on the [GAMES website](#) during July and August 2023. Furthermore, each NOC is going to present its National Action Plan during the National Launching Events scheduled in their respective countries throughout 2023. In this regard, the National Launching Event aims to further promote knowledge and information regarding NOCs’ National Action Plan while further informing member organisations, relevant national/regional sport organisations, as well as policy makers and civil society on gender equality in sport governance.

Hence, stay tuned with the progress of the project via the [GAMES website](#) and the [Twitter account](#)!





PARTNERS' CORNER

EOC EU Office hosts its Annual Partners Meeting



On 6 June, the EOC EU Office hosted its Annual Partners Meeting, gathering 40 representatives of European and International Federations as well as National Olympic Committees and the International Olympic Committee. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of EU news related to sport policy and funding, and to have an open discussion about the office's needs and challenges they are facing.

The EOC EU Office started the meeting by sharing an overview of the latest policy developments at EU level, including regarding EU presidencies, EU sanctions against Russia or environmental policy (e.g. pesticides, microplastics, lead).

Following a presentation on the progress of the EOC EU Office's ongoing Erasmus+ projects ([GAMES](#) and [OCEAN](#)) coordinated by the EOC EU Office, some key information were provided with regards to EU funding opportunities available to NOCs and federations.

Partners had the opportunity to mention the issues they would like to see discussed further at European level in the context of the preparation of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2025-2028 and the forthcoming European elections. In addition, topics more directly related to sport organisations were addressed, such as gender equality in sport, athletes' rights and integrity. In a dedicated session on Esports, Vincent Pereira, Head of Esports at the IOC, presented the IOC's [vision for Esports](#), ahead of the Olympic Esports Week in Singapore, and Steve Scott from the EOC presented the European Games Esports Championships happening in concomitance with the European Games in Poland. Partners had the chance to raise their arguments with regards to the opportunities and challenges represented by Esports in relation to traditional sport.

The meeting concluded with a presentation of some of the partner NOCs' activities and of the EOC EU Office's upcoming activities until the end of 2023.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12 July 2023

Expert Group on Covid (European Commission, Brussels)

22 - 30 July 2023

Summer EYOF (EOC-EYOF, Maribor)

23 July

Executive Committee Meeting (EOC, Maribor)



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