MONTHLY REPORT

July 2023









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JULY 2023





EOC EU Office @EOCEUOffice · Jul 12

We invite all our partners to participate in the EC survey and share their views/feedback on the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024

The Work Plan for Sport is a key document defining the next sports-related priorities of the EU

#Funding #GreenSport #GenderEquality #Safeguarding

ta EOC EU Office Retweeted

EUSport @EuSport · Jul 5

The #EuropeanWeekofSport is coming soon!

- •• Expect a lot of exciting activities we're preparing for you this year, there will be something interesting for everyone.
- One message: sport improves life. Give it a chance!

Get ready to join the movement and stay tuned for more.



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

2023 is all about the European Olympic Committees' sporting events. After the winter edition of the EYOF in January in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy and the 3rd European Games in Krakow-Malopolska, Poland, more than 2500 young athletes will meet this week for the summer edition of the EYOF in Maribor, Slovenia. A big thank you goes not only to the oustandings hosts, but also to the European Commission, which co-sponsors these events through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme and thus also contributes to the success of these events.



Another announcement on our own behalf. The long-time Deputy Head of the EOC EU Office, Heidi Pekkola, has decided not to return to the EOC EU Office after her parental leave in October, but to seek a new professional challenge in Helsinki. With Heidi we are losing a highly appreciated and experienced colleague who has done valuable work in the field of political lobbying, international cooperation as well as in applying for and implementing European Union funded projects. We know that it was not easy for Heidi to say goodbye to Brussels, therefore we wish her even more success and satisfaction in her home country and look forward to seeing her again soon.

Kaikkea hyvää sinulle ja Lukalle Helsingissä!

The next issue of the Monthly Report will be published at the end of September.

The team of the EOC EU Office wishes all partners of the Office and readers of the Monthly Report a relaxing summer holiday. See you soon.

With kind regards,

Jolb. Celelle

Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office







EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Spain takes over Presidency of the Council of the EU

1. Spanish Presidency (July - December 2023)

In July, Spain took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU from Sweden for the upcoming 6 months.

The Presidency <u>programme</u> is structured around <u>four priorities</u>:

- · Strategic industries and technologies,
- Inclusive economy,
- Further integration,
- Reform of the electricity market and an increase in renewable energies.

With regards to sport, Spain pointed out that sport is a fundamental component of European society that fosters greater cohesion, respect, tolerance, as well as employment, progress and development, and will focus until the end of the year on creating safe sports areas, eradicating acts of hatred and promoting gender equality.

Programme of sport-related events under the Spanish Presidency:

- 21 September 2023 (Valencia, Spain): Directors General Meeting
- 22 September (Valencia, Spain): <u>Ministerial</u> <u>conference on "Safe environments in sport"</u>
- 23 September (Valencia, Spain): <u>Opening of</u> the European Week of Sport 2023
- 14 November (Madrid, Spain): <u>Conference on</u> "<u>Gender equality in sport</u>"
- 15-16 November (Madrid, Spain): <u>Meeting of</u> <u>the Major Events Expert Group (MSE)</u>
- 22 November 2023 (Brussels, Belgium): #BeActive Awards Ceremony

The EOC EU Office will maintain contact with the Presidency throughout the term to make sure that the Olympic movement is represented during the various events and is foreseeing to organise a roundtable discussion on Gender Equality Sport. The **GAMES** project in coordinated by the EOC EU Office and cofunded by the Erasmus+ programme is perfectly aligned with the Spanish presidency promoting the training, visibility, and leadership of women in sport.

2. Belgian Presidency (January – June 2024)

Belgium will take the Council Presidency in January 2024. The Presidency will be responsible for finalising the work on the new Work Plan for sport (2025-2028) and its priorities in the field of sport will focus on innovation, digitalisation, as well as grassroots sport.

The EU Sport Forum will be organised in Belgium, but most likely not in Brussels.

The EOC EU Office is in close contact with the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC) to secure a full involvement of the Olympic Movement in the Presidency programme.

FURTHER INFORMATION

<u>Programme of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU</u>

European Sport Model subject of discussion at the Committee of the Regions

On 10 July, the EOC EU Office participated in a stakeholder consultation on the European Sports Model that was organised by Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) of the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The exchange served as a preparatory event for the Committee's opinion on 'building a values-based, bottom-up European sports model: a vehicle for encouraging inclusion and social wellbeing among young Europeans'.





Roberto Pella, Mayor of the Municipality of Valdengo and rapporteur for this opinion emphasised the importance of sports as an instrument of social policy. He highlighted his desire for a bold opinion that strengthens European Sport.

The discussion was guided by 5 key questions posed by the rapporteur. They targeted the following topics:

- Measurement tools or practices for sports' positive social impact
- European sports and tourism
- Sustainability (financial and ecological)
- Changes in sports participation due to Covid-19 and approaches to meet the demand for unorganised sports
- Recognition of skills acquired through sports

Olivier Smith, who represented the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC) expressed the European Commission's support for the CoR's initiative and underlined its timeliness in view of:

- The creation of the new EU Work Plan for Sports in 2024.
- The Olympic Games of Paris 2024 and Milan-Cortina 2026 taking place in Europe.
- Public interest gained through the "Super League-Case" at the European Court of Justice.

Participants from the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), the European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation (ENGSO), the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI) and the EOC EU Office welcomed the ongoing discussion on the distinct features of the European Sport Model and provided further insights into each organisation's take on the current challenges of European Sports.

For UEFA breakaway leagues represent the biggest threat, while FESI identified accessibility and safety of sports facilities for woman as a major challenge. ENGSO added its Youth Committee work on the recognition of skills from sports referring to the current European Year of Skills.

For the EOC EU Office, Eva Rebmann (Acting Deputy Director), emphasised that the key features of the European Sport Model must be safeguarded to further reinforce social inclusion and wellbeing. Specific attention was given to the importance of volunteering and the financial solidarity mechanisms in European sports. Additionally, societal trends need to be considered, i.e., sustainability, safeguarding, gender equality and crisis adaption mechanisms. EU funding remains key to finance sport organisations' activities that benefit societal issues such as the integration of refugees, gender equality, safe sport and the environmental impact through the Erasmus+ programme but also the regional funds, which are managed by regional/local authorities and often miss out on using sport to achieve the programmes' objectives.

The EOC EU Office will monitor the consultation process and inform its partners in a timely manner, as the draft is meant to be adopted by the SEDEC-Commission on 2 October 2023, and in plenary on 29-30 November 2023.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Opinion on building a values-based, bottom-up European sports model: a vehicle for encouraging inclusion and social wellbeing among young Europeans'

SEDEC-Commission





Ongoing discussions about the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris

The IOC confirmed on 13 July that it would not be sending invitations for the Paris 2024 Games to the Russian and Belarus Olympic Committees on 26 July, Furthermore, President Thomas Bach informed that the decision on Russian athletes' participation will probably not be taken before the IOC Session in Mumbai in October 2023.

At the European level, the Council of the EU decided on 20 July to prolong the restrictive measures targeting specific sectors of the economy of the Russian Federation until 31 January 2024. Additionally, the question of whether Russian and Belarusian athletes should be allowed to participate in the Paris Olympic Games next year came up in several discussions throughout July.

1. European Parliament

Committee on Culture and Education

On 28 June MEPs of the CULT Committee held an exchange with members of the Ukrainian Parliament about the integration of Ukraine into the EU's education and funding programmes but also the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in international sporting events. During this exchange, MEP Michaela Sojdrova presented recommendations developed by the Czech NOC in cooperation with an independent expert Commission, which aims to provide a clear regulation for determining the neutrality of Russian and Belarusian athletes.

European Parliament

On 11 July, these <u>recommendations</u> were subject in an open discussion under the title "Should Russian and Belarusian athletes participate in the Olympics 2024?" co-hosted by EPP group MEPs Michaela Sojdrova and Tomasz Frankowski. Michael Zantovsky, the head of the expert group of the Czech Olympic Committee, explained the proposal on how to manage the readmissions of neutral athletes, considering the Olympic Charter and international frameworks like the <u>UN Charter</u>.

to According the recommendations, readmission of Russian and Belarusian athletes to the Olympic Games as neutral athletes, who are not attached to the military or security services, should follow a four-step approach, with the major element being a declaration condemning any act of aggression on the territorial integrity of any UN member state. The proposal was backed by several MEPs that followed the discussion and supported by Olympic Gold Medallist Dominik Hasek who stated that no game in the world was more important than the life of people and human rights.

Initiated by MEPs Michaela Sojdrova and Ivan Stefanec, a <u>letter</u> signed by 39 MEPs was sent to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach on 21 July. The MEPs call to "issue a clear decision stipulating the conditions of participation of the athletes from Russia and Belarus at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games". They furthermore put forward the recommendations of the independent expert Commission of the Czech Olympic Committee and ask to amend the IOC recommendations accordingly.

Committee on Foreign Affairs

On 18 July, AFET Committee <u>adopted</u> a Report on "Relations with Belarus" condemning the repression and human rights violations and Belarus' role as accomplice in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In the Report, MEPs also urges the International Olympic Committee and other international sports federations not to allow athletes from Belarus and the Russian Federation, many of whom support or even participate in Russia's unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, to compete at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games or any other international sports events. The report will be put to vote in plenary on 11 September 2023.

2. European Commission

On 18 July, CULT Committee held a structured dialogue with the Vice-President of the European Commission, Margaritis Schinas who covers the sport portfolio currently.





On the question of the European Commission's position on the exclusion of the Russian Federation and Belarus at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, Vice-President Schinas replied that the EU Commission fully respects the autonomy of international functioning organisations. Furthermore, the EU should not for political any opportunities propaganda that might be offered to regimes responsible for wars of aggression. Ensuring a process for verifying the neutrality of these athletes is crucial, yet the process and definition of the parameters of participation are to be discussed by the International Committee and relevant sport stakeholders still.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Recommendations by the Czech Olympic Committee

UN Charter

<u>AFET Committee - Relations with Belarus 2023/2041(INI)</u>

European Youth Olympic Festival gathers young athletes from 48 countries in Slovenia



On 23 July, the opening ceremony of the 17th Summer European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) kicked off a week of competitions in the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

The traditional event of the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the EYOF is the biggest Olympic multi-sports event for young athletes. This edition gathers 3,635 participants, among which more than 800 volunteers and 2,500 young athletes (aged 14 to 18) from 48 countries, who compete in 11 sports: artistic gymnastics, athletics. road cycling, mountain handball, judo, swimming, tennis, volleyball, skateboarding, and 3×3 basketball, Notably, the EYOF Maribor 2023 includes for the first time skateboarding, mountain biking, basketball.

The EOC Channel streams competitions live throughout the week, allowing a wide audience to enjoy the performance of those young athletes who, one day, will be competing at the highest level in senior categories.

Besides, the European Youth Olympics Ambassador program is running alongside the competitions. The 23 ambassadors are tasked to promote/disseminate different initiatives to encourage Olympism and Olympic values among athletes during the EYOF (and beyond).

Active, healthy, and happy volunteers at the EYOF 2023.

More than a sports events, the EYOF offers athletes and volunteers an incredible opportunity to connect with youngsters from all over Europe and experience European and Olympic values in practice.

The success of the volunteers' programme has been made possible thanks to the support of the European Union, as part of the Erasmus+ Sport project "Active, Healthy and Happy Volunteers in Maribor EYOF 2023" linked to the EYOF. The project aims to create a friendly environment for volunteers by offering targeted activities, mentoring, workshops, and cultural events that promote a healthy lifestyle and social inclusion.





Besides, the experience of EYOF Maribor 2023 is going to create a handbook for organisers of non-profit sports events and a digital tool for the management and coordination of volunteers that is expected to further inform other sport stakeholders on proven solutions for adequately rewarding volunteers and emphasize their participation as an asset.

The EOC EU Office supported the "Active, Healthy and Happy Volunteers in Maribor EYOF 2023" project application and was happy to see its successful implementation onsite in Maribor.

Working Meeting among European NOCs

The EOC EU Office is pleased to have contributed to the working meeting organised by the NOC Slovenia in the framework of the EYOF in Maribor.



The working meeting represented a key opportunity to discuss among attendees of the European NOCs opportunities for collaborative partnerships, successful examples of NOCs' EUfunded projects, and open discussion on future opportunities for EU funding and lasting cooperation among European NOCs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

EYOF's website

#BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards 2023 recognises sport as a tool for societal inclusion.



The European Commission has launched the #BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards 2023. The 7th edition of the #BeInclusive Awards continues to recognise and celebrate outstanding initiatives using sport as a tool to promote societal inclusion while working with groups with fewer opportunities (e.g. refugees, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, youth and others...). For this edition, the European Commission has maintained three categories for the #BeInclusive Awards 2023:

- 1. <u>Breaking Barriers in Sport</u> (ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-BBSA). This category aims to reward projects and organisations that give examples of good practice for overcoming obstacles to sport participation by empowering disadvantaged individuals; hence, project activities which encourage inclusion, dialogue, tolerance and enhance the participation of all.
- 2. <u>Promoting Gender Equality in Sport "Be Equal"</u> (ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-GENDER). Aligned with the <u>Report of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport</u>, this category rewards projects that recognise the added value of more gender equality in sport and carry out actions to close the gap between men and women in sport participation.
- 3. <u>Sport for Peace</u> (ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-PEACE): This category focuses on projects that put a special emphasis on the promotion of peace and European values through physical activity and sport; hence, project activities which use sport as a catalyst to promote EU values and peace.



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Therefore, eligible projects include any sports project – both national and/or transnational – aimed at promoting inclusion through sport, in the EU Member States or <u>third countries associated with the Erasmus+ programme</u>. Notwithstanding, projects that are still in the development phase and have not yet been implemented are not eligible.

Accordingly, any sport organisations established in the EU Member States or third countries associated with the Erasmus+ programme can directly apply for #BEINCLUSIVE EU Sport Awards by submitting the official forms (Part A and B) to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal of the European Commission prior to the deadline on the 28 September 2022 at 17.00 (Brussels Time).

The winners of each category are expected to receive €10.000 each whereas the finalists – those who ranked 2 and 3 – are going to be awarded €2.500 each.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Call Document #BEINCLUSIVE AWARDS 2023

#BeInclusive - Promoting Gender Equality in Sport "Be Equal"

#BeInclusive - Sport for Peace

#BeInclusive - Breaking Barriers in Sport

#Belnclusive - Previous winners

The Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2023 tackle relevant issues for the European sport movement

On the 24th of July 2023, the European Commission published the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPAs) in Sport for 2023.

The PPPAs are designed to assess the feasibility of new policy initiatives and/or lay the foundation for the adoption of future actions (e.g. EU policies, legislation, funding programs...). Accordingly, the PPPAs represent a valuable opportunity for the European Sport movement to further strengthen its activities and capacities, whilst receiving financial support for sports actions not funded through the Erasmus+ Programme.

The specific priorities of the PPPAs in sport change on an annual basis meanwhile some form of continuity can be seen throughout the years and the priorities do remain in accordance with those of the EU. In 2023, the PPPAs in sports are going to tackle the hereunder matters with an overall budget of €3.5 million distributed across the two calls:

- Pilot Project (2nd year): Sport for People and Planet - a new approach to sustainability through sport in Europe (€1.5 million)
- Pilot Project (NEW): 'Sports Supports' emergency sports actions for youth (€2 million)

The PP "Sport for People and Planet – a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe" is designed to promote activities aimed at raising awareness and inspiring behavioural changes in order to promote social and environmental transformation. Accordingly, it aims to engage EU citizens in co-creating and/or cooperating on sustainable sports practices (i.e environmentally sustainable solutions for sports events) with the ultimate intention to make the sports sector a model of sustainability, especially among youth Europeans.

The PP "Sport Supports – emergency sports actions for youth" seeks to create a sports emergency program in the context of a humanitarian crisis (e.g overcoming traumas, community bonds, adapting to new environments). Accordingly, it aims to support children and youth in improving their mental well-being and thereby facilitate integration into the education system and the labour market.

For both PP, the funding procedure is a budget-based real and unit costs grant with a maximum EU Grant of €400.000 per project at a co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs. Likewise, it is allowed to submit a proposal either as single applicants or as a consortium. Notwithstanding, the activities must be implemented in an EU Member State with a timeframe between 12-18 months.

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Therefore, any sports organisations established in the EU Member State can directly apply for the PP 2023 by submitting the official forms (Part A, Part B and related annexes) to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the <u>Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal</u> prior to the deadline on the 17 October 2023 at 17.00h (Brussels Time).

Furthermore, an info session is foreseen to be organised by EACEA to provide sports stakeholders with valuable insights on each action (e.g. objectives, activities, impact) and the administrative/financial aspects to prepare and submit successful PPPAs in mid-September 2023.

PREPARATORY ACTIONS
IN THE FIELD OF SPORT

Accordingly, the EOC EU Office is going to organise a "Q&A webinar on the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions 2023" to complement the info session delivered by EACEA by providing additional opportunities for questions and answers, as well as insights on the practicalities of the application procedures.

Insights from 2022

78 project proposals were submitted under the PP "Sport for People and Planet" in 2022 out of which 43 project proposals scored above the threshold; accordingly, 5 project proposals were proposed for funding in 2022. Therefore, the success rate was approx. 9% for the PP "Sport for People and Planet" in 2022.

GAMES PROJECT: 8 European NOCs finalise their National Action Plans to boost gender equality in sport leadership

The GAMES project continues to proceed as scheduled with the National Action Plans of the partners' National Olympic Committee (NOCs) - Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia, and Turkey - being submitted to the Executive Agency (EACEA) in June 2023.

The National Action Plans are strategic documents that define concrete objectives and actions of partners' NOCs 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 continue evolving to reach the set target in terms of gender equality also beyond the project timeframe.

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 NOC's 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.

More information about each NOC's National Action Plan is being published on the GAMES website (www.games-project.com) throughout July and August 2023.



Background information on GAMES project. The GAMES project is a 24-month project co-funded by the European Commission through the Programme Erasmus+ Sport 2021 coordinated by the EOC EU Office. It promotes integrity and good governance in sports by advocating for structural and cultural changes regarding gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions among NOCs and their member federations. The EOC EU Office is implementing GAMES together with 8 NOCs (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey) and renowned experts in the field of gender equality and good governance, including Professor Emerita Kari Fasting from Equal Rights in Sports and I TRUST Sport. Furthermore, the project **GAMES** supported by the is International Olympic Committee.

First OCEAN Newsletter is out

Wrapping up the first work phase, the OCEAN project (Olympic Committees of Europe Approaching Carbon Neutrality) sent out its first newsletter on 10 July.

Subscribers were able to find out about the activities organised and the progress made by the project to date, including the delivery of:

- the Module 1 and the first part of Module 2 of the Training Course aimed at empowering Climate Action Officers from the 18 partner European NOCs;
- the Seminar 1 on the carbon footprint measurement led by the Öko-Institut in May.

The main dissemination activities developed at national level by the NOCs were also presented.



In order to inspire the sports community, the OCEAN Newsletter provides information on good environmental practices recently implemented by and in other sports organisations.

Finally, as a European project fully in line with the aims of the Green Deal, an update on policies and new legislation in this area has also been provided.

The next newsletter will be sent out in winter 2023. It will provide an update on how Climate Action Officers have collected data on their NOCs' energy consumption and business travels, as well as the outputs from the upcoming two seminars on measuring carbon footprints.

To stay updated with the OCEAN project, please register <u>here</u>.







PARTNERS' CORNER

TAFISA World Congress 2023

From 1 to 5 November 2023, the 28th TAFISA World Congress will take place in Düsseldorf, Germany. More than 400 delegates from about 80 countries will discuss the latest developments and challenges of the worldwide "Sport for All" movement in a practice-oriented way.

This year's Congress theme, "Sport for All: More together than ever", will put a spotlight on how Sport for All can provide solutions and contribute to bring people, communities, and nations together, and create a common platform towards building a better world by 2030. There will be about 60 international speakers in around 15 different sessions highlighting the topics of Inclusion, Knowledge and Expertise, Active Spaces, and Well-Being as well as their impact on Peace, Climate Change, Major Sports Policy, and Youth.

The TAFISA World Congress offers the opportunity to get to know internationally successful best practice examples in the field of Sport for All and to debate social challenges and their solutions.

As the world's most important event in the field of "Sport for All", the TAFISA World Congress creates a unique space for exchange and networking with fellow practitioners and experts from all over the world. All participants can contribute with their own ideas and initiatives in open discussions with other experts and receive valuable impulses for their own work.

The Congress programme and first line up of speakers can be found at the official congress website:

www.tafisacongress-duesseldorf2023.com.

The <u>Registration</u> for the Congress is open.

The 28th TAFISA World Congress 2023 is organised by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) in cooperation with the Regional Sports Confederation of North Rhine-Westphalia, the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia and The Association of International Sports for All (TAFISA) the world's leading organisation of the "Sport for All" movement.

For any queries or questions please contact the project team by <u>e-mail</u>.







UPCOMING EVENTS

23 - 29 September 2023

European Week of Sport (EU Commission)

05 October 2023

EOC Executive Committee (Istanbul)

06 - 07 October 2023

EOC General Assembly (Istanbul)





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



+32 2 738 03 20



info@euoffice.eurolympic.org



www.euoffice.eurolympic.org



