

MONTHLY REPORT

August - September 2023



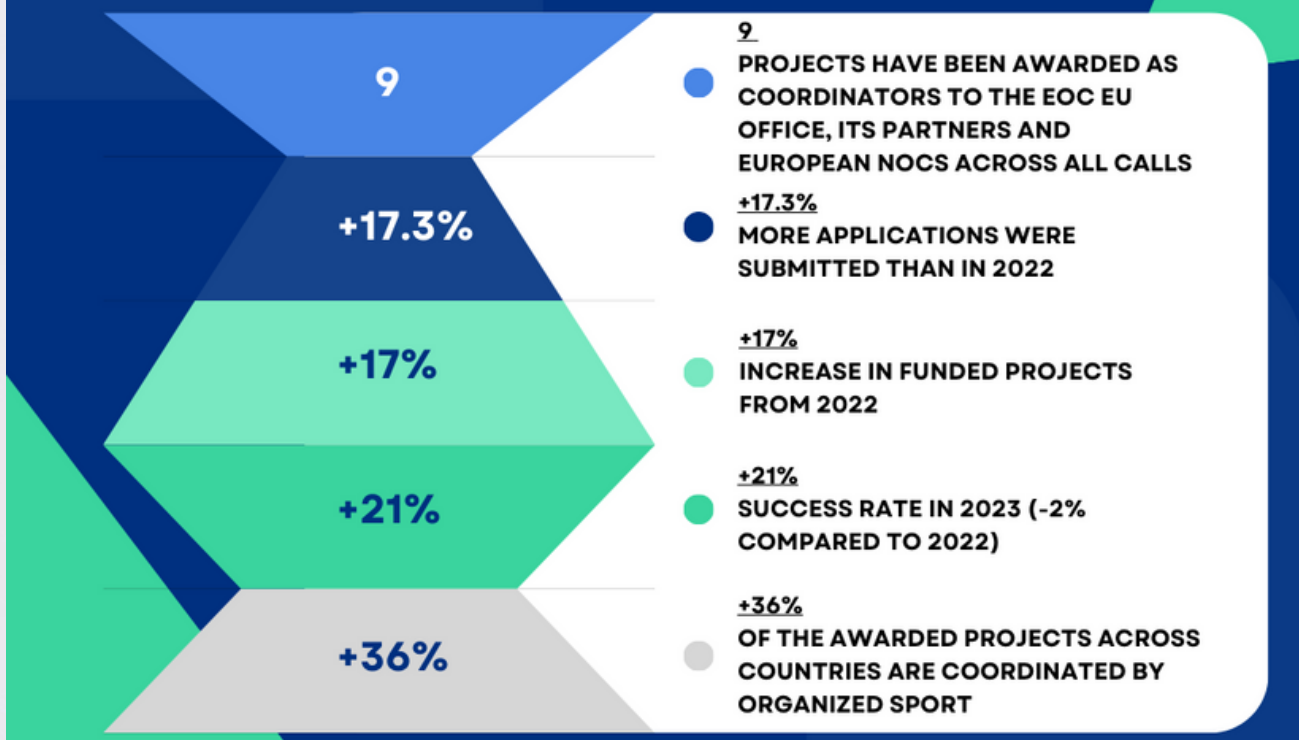
EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME 2023 BRIEF OF THE ANALYSIS: KEY ACTION 2 –SPORT

The budget available for the Erasmus+ Programme has increased across all calls in 2023 and an “exceptional call” for large-scale events was available



EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice · Follow

The @EOCEUOffice thanks @FranceOlympique 🇫🇷 & all participants of the Parcours Ambition Internationale #PAI for the interesting exchanges with @evarebmann, @lir_noemie & @HellmundFolker on the role of the @EOCEUOffice & the priorities of the Olympic Movement at the EU level 🇪🇺

Présentation du mouvement olympique à Bruxelles
Mercredi 27 septembre 2023
Eva Rebmann
Directrice Adjointe
Noémie Letellier
Chargée d'affaires publiques européennes

10:41 AM · Sep 27, 2023

EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice · Follow

The European Education and Culture Executive Agency (#EACEA) is holding an online info session on #EUSport Pilot Projects & Preparatory Actions to inform future applicants about how to apply to the latest calls.

➡ WHEN: 27.09.2023
➡ INFO & REGISTRATION:

**Online Information Session
Sport PPPA 2023**

eacea.ec.europa.eu
Online info session: Sport PPPA 2023
The session will provide the potential applicants with the necessary information on how to apply to the Sport Pilot Project...

- **Editorial** **4**



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- **Council of the EU: Priorities of the Spanish Presidency presented to European Parliament** **5**
- **New EU Commissioner in charge of sport** **6**
- **State of the European Union speech sets the tone for upcoming year** **7**
- **Debate on violence and discrimination in the world of sport** **8**
- **EOC EU Office hosts Roundtable on Gender Equality in Sport** **9**
- **Artificial turf pitches: European Commission adopts sales ban on microplastic infill granules from October 2031 onwards** **10**
- **Spanish Football League files competition complaint over Qatari financing of French club Paris St-Germain** **11**
- **Erasmus+ Sport Programme: awarded projects in 2023 & a comparative analysis to 2022** **11**
- **EACEA & EOC EU Office organise complementary info-session on the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport in 2023** **15**
- **Spanish Presidency organises Conference on Safe Environment in Sport** **17**
- **Project Partners meet online for 1st Consortium Call and 2nd Seminar on carbon footprint measurement** **18**



PARTNERS' CORNER

- **Parcours Ambition Internationale: CNOSF organises Brussels discovery session for national federation representatives** **18**
- **DOSB: Staff member Lukas Wiese interviewed about his Erasmus+ funded job shadowing at the Norwegian Olympic Committee** **19**
- **Upcoming events** **22**



EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The summer break is also over in Brussels and the European institutions are still trying to get as many legislative projects as possible off the ground before the European Parliament devotes itself exclusively to preparations for its own elections in June 2024.

As a new European Commission will also be formed at the end of 2024, a number of EU Commissioners are already on the verge of leaving their posts early. EU Commissioner Gabriel, who was responsible for sport, has been replaced by Iliana Ivanova, who has already been confirmed by the European Parliament, following Ms. Gabriel's move to the Bulgarian government.

The EU Commissioner for Competition Policy, Margrethe Vestager, who is dealing with legal sport cases, is currently on leave and is about to become President of the European Investment Bank in 2024. Her leave of absence has already led to a loss of leadership and clout at the Directorate General for Competition (DG COMP). Since DG COMP is chronically understaffed anyway, cases such as the complaint by the Spanish football league (La Liga) against Qatari investment for Paris St Germain, which are based on the new Foreign Subsidies Regulation" are currently not being given high priority. At least that is what was informally heard from the European Commission.

Then there remains the position of the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, who has already lost her most important Commissioner, Vice-President Frans Timmermans, to Dutch politics. It is neither clear whether von der Leyen wants to run again, nor whether she will receive the necessary political support. The question also arises as to with what élan the biggest legislative project of the current EU Commission, the Green Deal, will continue to be pursued. Especially since more and more countries are putting the brakes on the Member States in order not to increase the burden on companies and citizens too much.

Irrespective of this, the issue of sustainability in sport is playing an increasingly important role for federations, clubs and athletes. Inspired by its own OCEAN project, the EOC EU Office, like the EOC, is measuring its carbon footprint and working to reduce it. It is not enough to focus too much on the carbon footprint of major sporting events. These kinds of events have to make their contribution, but the day-to-day climate-friendly behaviour of every individual in sport is even more necessary to improve the climate footprint of sport as a whole.

On a personal note, Eva Rebmann has been appointed Deputy Head of the EOC EU Office as of 1 October, succeeding Heidi Pekkola, who has returned to her home country of Finland for personal reasons. We wish Eva all the best for the new task, which she had already filled on a temporary basis for a year.

The team of the EOC EU Office wishes all partners of the Office and readers an enjoyable reading of the Monthly Report!

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Council of the EU: Priorities of the Spanish Presidency presented to European Parliament

Since 1 July, and for a six-month period, Spain has taken over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, succeeding Sweden. It is the fifth time since Spain integrated the EU as a member state in 1986.

Spanish Presidency's priorities for sport

On 7 September, the acting Spanish Minister of Culture and Sport, Miquel Iceta, highlighted the ambitious program to make progress in sport as an objective of the Spanish Presidency in front of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT). The program is focused on the three areas of women and equality in sport, safe environments and eradicating hate acts.

Firstly, the Spanish Presidency is redacting the Council's Conclusions regarding equality between men and women in grassroots and elite sport.). M. Iceta expressed the Spanish Presidency's determination to address issues of abuse in sports, in line with the EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024 and to facilitate the access to safe sports environments. It will seek to establish strategies that minimise the risks to which athletes and fans might be exposed during their participation in sport events. A conference has already taken place on 22 September featuring, amongst others, the IOC Safe Sport Unit and the NOC of Portugal together with Professor Emerita Kari Fasting discussing harassment in the sports environment. This links to the Presidency's ambitions to promote the debate on the best channels for eradicating hate acts from sport.

The Spanish presidency has planned 3 events relevant to sports, namely:

- Meeting of Directors General (21 September)
- Conference on Safe Environments (22 September)
- Conference on Gender Equality (14 November)

During the presentation of the priorities, Members of the European Parliament (namely MEP Diana Riba I Giner from The Greens) enquired further with regards to the Presidency's commitment to gender equality and gender-based violence as well as safeguarding the European Model of Sport (especially MEP Tomasz Frankowski, a former football player representing the EPP). Lastly, MEP Laurence Farreng (Renew) directed the focus to the video games sector as she was the rapporteur for the report on [Esports and Video Games](#) (2022). The creation of a European video game industry strategy is on the agenda of the Spanish Presidency and considering the large e-sport scene in the country, the matter might come up again at the [Council meeting](#) in November.

General Priorities of the Spanish Presidency

More generally, the main political priorities of the Spanish presidency are divided into five groups:

- Reindustrialise the EU and ensure its open strategic autonomy
- Advance in the green transition and the environmental adaptation
- Promoting greater social and economic justice
- Strengthening European unity

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Programme of the Spanish Council Presidency](#)

[Spanish Presidency debriefs EP committees on priorities](#)

New EU Commissioner in charge of sport



Source: European Parliament

The new European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, in charge of Sport, Iliana Ivanova, will replace Mariya Gabriel until the end of the term of office of the European Commission (October 31, 2024). Iliana Ivanova was a member of the European Court of Auditors from 2013-2023 and Member of the European Parliament from 2009-2012 and has started her career as coordinator for international financial institutions for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Bulgaria (1999-2002), followed by being investment and business analyst in the US (2004-2006).

Preliminary questionnaire

Ms. Ivanova was officially appointed on 19 September following an agreement between the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the European Union. The process of appointment required an early enquiry via written questions followed by the hearing of the new Commissioner-Designate, held by the European Parliament on 5 September. In the written questionnaire, Ms. Ivanova had also noted that “by promoting a European dimension to sport, we create cohesive communities and encourage healthy lifestyles”. Moreover, she mentioned the areas in which EU measures should be taken for sport: safeguarding the European Sport Model as well as promoting Erasmus+ actions; using sport as leverage to enhance social inclusion, integrity, sustainable development, and gender equality.

Hearing and vote of the European Parliament

During the public hearing, Ms. Ivanova was addressed oral questions by MEPs from the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). Ms. Ivanova highlighted the cohesive role that sport represents within the EU and that sports events in Europe create opportunities to promote EU values and the European identity. Particularly, Ms. Ivanova addressed questions related to gender equality in sport (Ms. Riba I Giner, Greens) and physical activity in the EU (Tomasz Frankowski, EPP). While respecting the autonomy of sport governing bodies, Ms. Ivanova referred to the High-Level Group on Gender Equality recommendations as well as existing actions such as the #BeInclusive Awards, the European Week for Sport or the HealthyLifestyle4All initiative to complement and strengthen initiatives of sporting bodies. On 12 September, MEPs voted to support Ms. Ivanova’s candidacy with 522 votes in favour, 51 abstentions, and 27 votes against.

Approval of the Council of the EU and President of the European Commission

Ms. Ivanova was finally appointed by Ursula von der Leyen after the approval of the EU Council on 19 September. This designation will inevitably impact EU sports policies during the coming months.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE: Iliana Ivanova - Commissioner-designate for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education](#)

[Hearing of Commissioner-designate Iliana Ivanova](#)

State of the European Union speech sets the tone for upcoming year

September marked the period of rentrée for the whole institutions and this one was highlighted by the expected State of the Union Speech delivered every year by the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. This exercise is a key moment of the EU agenda and sets the tone for the following months with the European elections of June 2024 in the mind of every Parliamentarian and Commissioner.

The Commission President's address is an exercise established in 2010. This event is important in the European institutional environment as it acknowledges the Commission accountability towards the European Parliament with regards to its past and future achievements. Additionally, this enables to bring more transparency in the establishment of EU priorities and to communicate them to a wider audience.

In this one-hour speech, the head of the European executive body underlined the priorities that will be pushed forward until the end of her mandate. A key initiative which has been a landmark since the beginning of this College is the advancement of the European Green Deal. The president emphasised on the importance of maintaining a continuous dialogue with the industrial sector to develop an approach tailored to each industrial ecosystem.

The competitiveness of the Union was also part of the agenda. One priority for the months ahead is to address the challenges faced by SMEs in doing business (e.g. labour shortage, AI disruption). Furthermore, these objectives should consider the clean transition mentioned earlier.

The digital sector, growing in importance within the EU economy was identified as a domain requiring more regulation from the Commission. Thus, minimum global standards will be developed in collaboration with the business sector to harness the potential new technologies safely.

The war currently happening on the border of the Union was a major topic in the President's speech. This situation had impacted heavily numerous aspects of the daily life of Europeans, from the food and energy prices to the displacement of population fleeing the area of intense confrontation. The aid allocated to Ukraine for reparation and recovery will extend to the next 4 years.

Finally, the Commission President closed her speech on the enlargement of the Union and its role as a major partner with countries of the close neighbourhood. The relation foreseen will have to be mutually beneficial and in the prospective objective to enlarge the Union further, the Commission has presented a review of the pre-enlargement policy to adapt to a larger EU.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Full version of the State of the Union 2023](#)

[Video of State of the Union 2023](#)

[Achievements of the EU Commission](#)

Debate on violence and discrimination in the world of sport

Debate in the European Parliament

In response to the non-consensual kiss by former President of the Royal Spanish Football Association, Luis Rubiales, on Jennifer Hermoso during the awarding ceremony of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, the political group Greens requested a debate on gender-based violence and discrimination in the European Parliament. The discussion took place on 14 September during the plenary session in Strasbourg and was chaired by Elisa Ferreira, Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms on behalf of the Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas. Ms. Ferreira reiterated the commitment of the European Commission to gender equality through the Recommendations developed by the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport (2022), the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the 2021-2024 Work Plan for Sport. Moreover, Ms. Ferreira stated that the Commission welcomes the adherence of the EU to the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence and emphasized on the necessity to work on the adoption of an adequate directive.

MEPs from different political groups addressed key points regarding violence and discrimination in sports: Laurence Farreng (Renew) emphasized the existence of a code of silence - "omerta" - in sports and called for Parliament to advocate for women athletes and pressure sports organizations like FIFA to enforce legislation against violence and discrimination; Diana Riba I Giner (Greens) linked violence against women in sports to structural issues, particularly the wage gap between male and female athletes. The MEP highlighted the importance of enacting laws and increasing female representation in decision-making roles to promote equality; while Tomasz Frankowski (EPP) acknowledged the problem of violence in sports, both on and off the field, which harms the reputation of sports. The Chair of the European Parliament Sports Group mentioned the prevalence of violence, racism, and discrimination at various levels of sports and stressed the need for action by sports governing bodies;

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel (Greens) underscored the importance of consent in sports and the need for reforms to create a safe environment for athletes. She called for support of female athletes in establishing an anti-corruption agency to protect the integrity of sports; Karlo Ressler (EPP) advocated for gender equality in sports, highlighting that being a professional athlete requires hard work regardless of gender. He cautioned against erasing differences between men and women in sports while emphasizing the need to protect the dignity of the sport. Finally, Salima Yenbou (Renew) called for an end to impunity in cases of violence against women in sports. She criticized the delayed condemnation of such acts and emphasized the importance of bold action and protection for women athletes.

What happens next: following the debate

FIFA President Gianni Infantino was invited by MEPs from the Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) Committee and various political groups have invited to engage in a conversation regarding collaborative efforts to address issues related to violence, harassment, and discrimination against female players.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

[EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)

[Future on EU Sports Policy: Assessment and possible ways forward \(2021\)](#)

[Recommendations developed by the High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport \(2022\)](#)

[Violence and discrimination in the world of sports after the FIFA Women's World Cup](#)

EOC EU Office hosts Roundtable on Gender Equality in Sport



On 26 September the EOC EU Office organised an online roundtable on gender equality in sport. With the current uproar due to the incident at the Women's Football World Cup, gender equality is again experiencing high interest.

Within the session, the three invited speakers presented their unique angle on the topic and provided the audience with insights on how EU institutions, the European Olympic Movement and a good practice example all tackle the same topic, complement each other and create tangible impact.

Starting with the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU represented by Bárbara Fuertes Gonzalez, the audience got insights on the Presidency events including the Directors General meeting, the planned Congress on Gender Equality in November and the recently held Conference on Safe Environments in Sport. The Spanish Presidency is focussing its work on the fight against hate speech, safe environments and gender equality, aiming to tackle a plurality of dimensions from participation to leadership and decision-making positions and officiating. The work on the Council Conclusions that the Presidency is preparing appears to show the different stages of readiness of the Member States but also their willingness to collaborate to advance the topic of gender equality.

Annamarie Phelps, Chair of the EOC Gender Equality and Diversity (GEDI) Commission, exposed the situation in the European Olympic Movement. With striking charts and figures, Ms. Phelps outlined the journey so far and the persisting challenges to achieving gender equality in sport. She reminded the audience that sport has the power to transform lives; that women succeeding in sport also succeed in other areas of their lives because they are more healthy, more confident, have better life chances and that diverse boards are more successful. Reflecting on the recent crisis that the world faced (Covid-19) and the strong gendered impact it had, she highlighted that gender equality is a global issue but that solutions need to be holistic and targeted to local needs and fuelled by their means. Looking ahead several measures were presented to make Europe the leading continent regarding gender equality by 2032:

- [IOC's Priorities for NOCs](#) including measures for increased participation numbers, gender balance in leadership positions, adoption of safeguarding policies.
- Aspirations of EOC through [Strategic Agenda 2030](#) including gender balance in communications, gender budgeting, safeguarding policy for EOC events

Closing the panel of speakers, Carlotta Giussani, Project Manager [GAMES Project](#) and Funding Officer of the EOC EU Office, gave a comprehensive overview of a concrete initiative to promote and increase gender equality in sport. This project which will conclude in March 2024 has the objective to improve gender equality in the key leadership and decision-making positions of NOCs. This is achieved by promoting structural changes in governance and enhancing the understanding of the existing cultural barriers. The broad consortium united behind this project (8 NOCs, the IOC, ITrustSport and Equal Rights) is establishing a national action plan for each project partner. This project has already impressively demonstrated the multitude of possible hurdles towards increased gender equality such as getting the approval for structural changes by the leadership but also concerning the organisational culture when it comes to the implementation.

The GAMES Pool of Actions will be accessible as of February 2024 on the [Sport Governance Platform](#) of the EOC EU Office and will offer more than 35 actions across 9 topics and 3 pillars to start working on gender equality.

The EOC EU Office thanks its panellists and attendees for taking the time to join the roundtable.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Priorities of the Spanish Presidency](#)

[IOC Gender Equality in Sport](#)

[GAMES Project](#)

[EOC EU Office Good Governance Platform](#)

Artificial turf pitches: European Commission adopts sales ban on microplastic infill granules from October 2031 onwards



Copyright: DOSB

On 25 September, the European Commission adopted measures to prevent the release of intentionally added microplastics into the environment. The new rules will change the composition of artificial turf pitches in the long term, as synthetic granules used as infill material will be phased out.

Relevance for sport

From mid-October 2031 onwards, synthetic granules used as infill material on artificial turf fields may no longer be sold in the European single market. This way, the EU is ensuring that artificial turf pitches are built more sustainably in the future and that no more plastic granules are released into the environment.

At the same time, the transition period of eight years ensures that most turf pitches currently in place can be used until the end of their life cycle. The further use of synthetic granulates already used on sports facilities or in the possession of the sports facility operators is not prohibited.

The new rules will enter into force mid-October with various transition periods foreseen for the different sectors affected. In addition to artificial turf pitches, the rules also impact cosmetic products, detergents, fabric softeners, and plant protection products, among others. The Commission assumes that the measures will prevent the release to the environment of about half a million tons of microplastics.

With the adoption by the European Commission, a process that started in 2018 comes to an end. Legally speaking, the new rules will change the annex of the REACH regulation which is binding for EU Member States plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Background microplastic on artificial turf pitches

It is assumed that more than 20,000 artificial turf pitches of large size and more than 40,000 artificial turf pitches of small size exist in the EU (according to the European Chemicals Agency - ECHA). According to studies, an average loss per pitch of ~500 kg per year can be assumed, corresponding to an overall annual infill material loss in the EU in the range of 16 kilotons per year. According to the European Commission, artificial turf pitches are the largest source of intentionally added microplastics released into the environment.

The EOC EU Office followed the microplastic restriction process since the very beginning and is happy to assist its partners in case of any questions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Protecting environment and health: Commission adopts measures to restrict intentionally added microplastics](#)

[Detailed wording of the restriction](#)

[Questions and Answers on the restriction](#)

Spanish Football League files competition complaint over Qatari financing of French club Paris St-Germain

On 12 August, Spain's top professional football league La Liga filed a complaint to the European Commission's Directorate General for Competition against French club Paris St-Germain. La Liga argues that Qatari funding of the club severely distorts competition in the EU single market, as PSG can sign top players and coaches far beyond the club's potential under normal market conditions thanks to Qatari investments.

La Liga based its complaint on the new EU [Foreign Subsidies Regulation](#), which came into force on 12 July this year. The new rules empower the Commission to investigate financial contributions received by companies doing business in the EU from non-EU countries and to take action against distortions of competition that arise as a result. If the Commission finds that a third-country subsidy exists and distorts the internal market, it can impose structural or non-structural remedies on the concerned companies, according to the regulation.

The procedure for the examination of third-country subsidies includes a preliminary examination and, where there is sufficient evidence of the existence of a subsidy and a distortion of the internal market, an in-depth examination. The text of the law provides that the Commission shall endeavour to adopt a decision within 18 months of the initiation of the in-depth investigation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Statement by La Liga](#)

[About the EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation](#)

Erasmus+ Sport Programme: awarded projects in 2023 & a comparative analysis to 2022

In September, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) - which manages the Erasmus+ Sport programme (Key Action 2) - published the [results of the Erasmus+ Sport 2023](#).

9 projects have been awarded to the EOC EU Office, its partners and European NOCs as coordinators whilst many others have been successful as partners. The list of beneficiaries (coordinators only) of the Erasmus+ Sports Programme 2023 is available on the [EACEA website](#).

In 2023, EACEA received 1,500 project and event applications out of which 320 have been selected for funding, including:

- 113 Cooperation Partnerships
- 180 Small-scale Cooperation Partnerships
- 22 Not-for-profit European Sports Events
- 5 Capacity building in the field of Sport.

SIGGS 3.0: Support the Implementation of Good Governance in Sport 3.0.

The EOC EU Office was awarded a grant under the Small-Scale Cooperation Partnerships to implement a project called SIGGS 3.0, as a follow-up to the SIGGS project. This project aims to use digital technologies to better inform and guide European National Olympic Committees and international, European and National Federations in improving and implementing good governance principles. In other words, the SIGGS 3.0 project is designed to review the existing contents of the [SIGGS tool](#), adding new principles and topics related to good governance. Accordingly, the project includes a series of multiplier events to reach out to sports stakeholders at all levels. Hence, the project is expected to provide an up-to-date self-assessment tool for European National Olympic Committees and international, European and National Federations (among others) to benchmark their governance standards – also compared to other sports organisations in Europe.

Successful partners and European NOCs

8 projects have been awarded to the EOC EU Office's partners and European NOCs as coordinators which resulted in a minimal increase recorded for projects awarded under the Cooperation Partnerships (6 projects; +1%).

Cooperation Partnerships

- NOC Bulgaria - AthleteConnect
- NOC Croatia - Safeguarding Children in Sport
- NOC Poland - Olympic Committee's Leadership Programme
- NOC Portugal. Safe GRASSroot Sport
- FIBA Europe. Hoops4Schools
- ENGSO. Sport for Unity, Resilience and Empowerment

Not-for-Profit European Sports Events

- NOC Poland - European Games 2023: a model to enhance sports volunteering in Europe

Capacity building in Sport

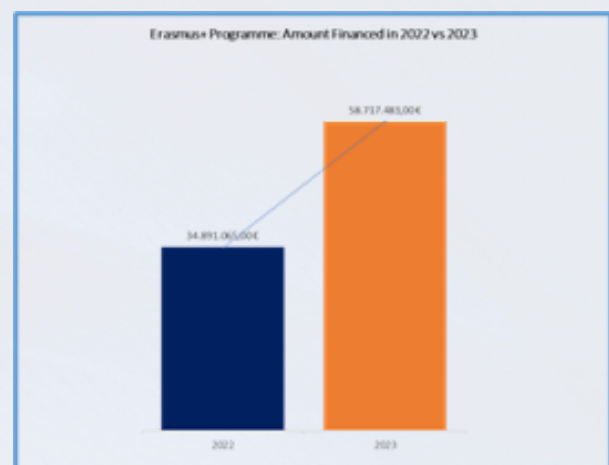
- NOC Montenegro - Building a positive coaching philosophy in grassroots sports

The EOC EU Office congratulates all awarded applicants and wishes all a successful implementation of the projects.

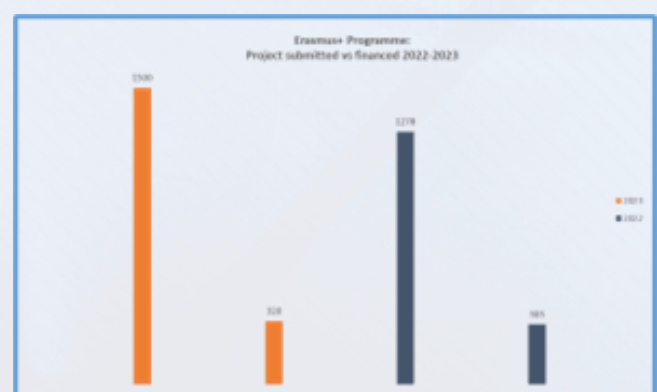
Comparative analysis of the results Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2022-2023.

The EOC EU Office performed a comprehensive analysis of the [results](#) of the Erasmus+ Sports Programme 2023 and 2022.

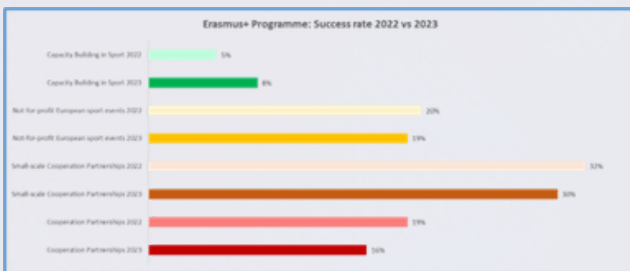
In 2023, the total budget awarded for the Erasmus+ Sports Programme (58.717.438,00 Euro) has increased by 23.826.418,00 Euro (+68%) compared to 2022.



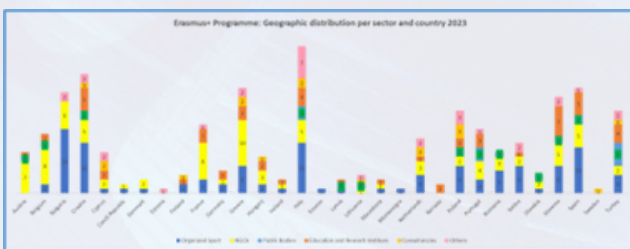
Besides in 2023, 222 (+17.3%) more applications were submitted than in 2022; accordingly, the number of funded projects increased from 303 to 320 (+17 projects).



In 2023, the overall success rate was 21% (-2% compared to 2022) with the highest success rate recorded for the Small-scale Cooperation Partnerships (30%); followed by the Not-for-profit European Sport Events (19%), Cooperation Partnerships (16%), and Capacity Building in Sport (8%). Therefore, compared to 2022, the success rate has decreased across all calls (between 1% and 3%) except for the capacity building in Sports (+3%).

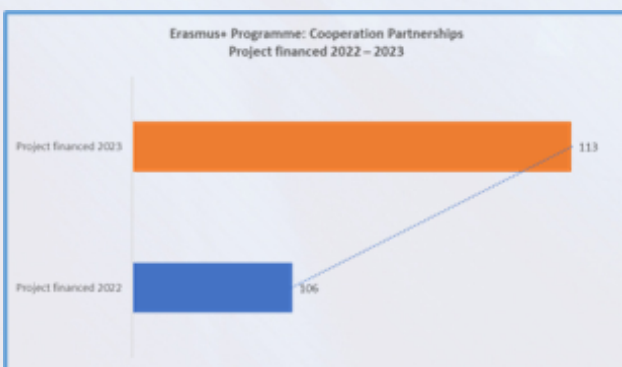


Organized sports represented 33% of the awarded projects in Europe, but there are significant differences across countries. Organized sports represented 50% or more of the awarded projects in 6 countries (Kosovo, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Czechia, and Finland) whilst in the remaining 24 countries organized sports accounted for 43% or less of the awarded projects in 2023.

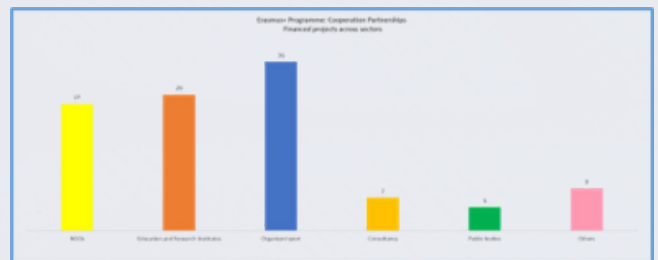


Cooperation Partnerships

In 2023, 113 projects were awarded out of the 723 projects submitted under the Cooperation Partnerships, which reflects an increase of 6.6% of financed projects from 2022.



Remarkably in 2023, 32% of the selected projects can be attributed to organized sports with a total number of 36 projects awarded. Accordingly, the share of financed projects for organized sport increased by 8.2% with an increase from 23.8% in 2022 to 32% in 2023. Notwithstanding, organized sports reclaimed less than one-third (32%) of the budget available under the Cooperation Partnerships.

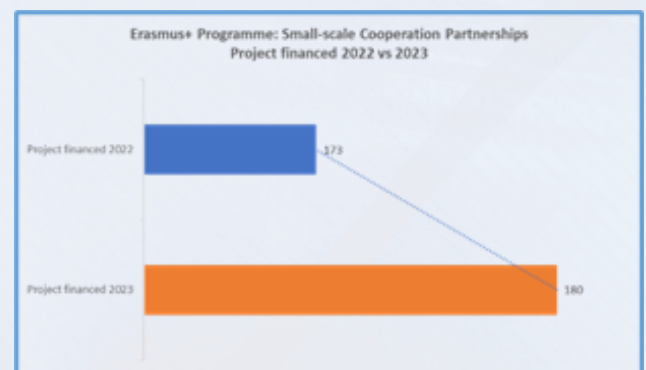


In terms of territorial distribution, Spain (12), Croatia (10), the Netherlands (10), Belgium (9), Turkey (8), France (8), Italy (8), Poland (7), and Cyprus (6) have more than 5 projects each awarded in 2023 whilst the remaining 11 countries reported 5 or fewer projects awarded in 2023.

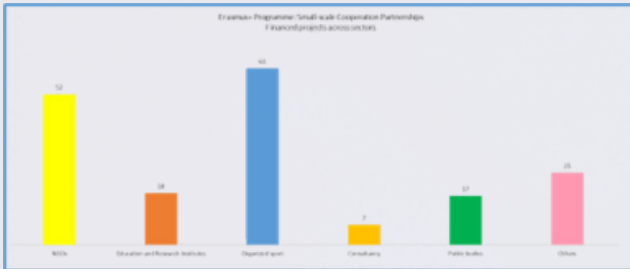


Small-scale Cooperation Partnerships

In 2023, 180 projects were awarded out of the 600 projects submitted which reflects an increase of 4% of financed projects from 2022.



In 2023, 33.8% of the selected projects can be attributed to organized sports with a total number of 61 projects awarded. Accordingly, the share of financed projects for organized sports increased by 6% with an increase from 33.9% in 2022 to 39.9% in 2023.

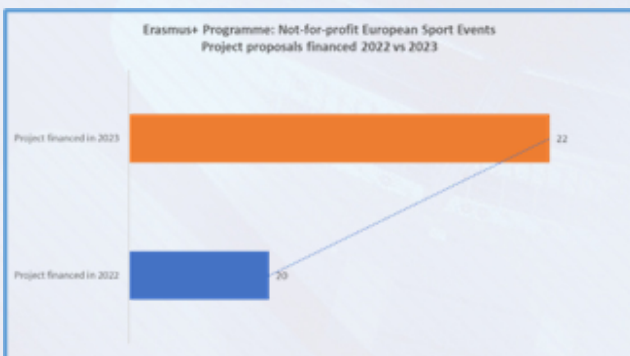


In terms of territorial distribution, Italy (20), Greece (18), Bulgaria (17), Croatia (16), Slovenia (16), and Portugal (11) are the countries with more than 10 projects each awarded in 2023 whilst the remaining countries reported between 1 and 10 projects each.

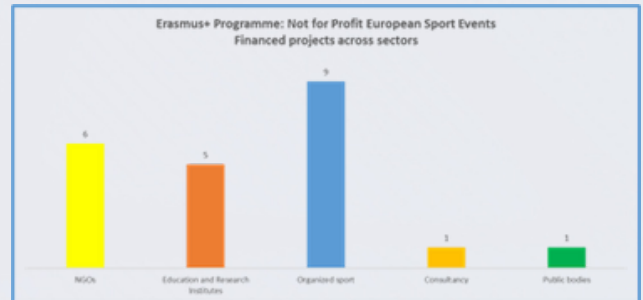


Not-For-Profit European Sports Events

In 2023, 22 projects were awarded out of the 114 projects submitted which reflects an increase of 10% of financed projects from 2022.



Notably in 2023, 40.9% of the selected projects can be attributed to organized sports with a total number of 9 projects awarded. Accordingly, the share of financed projects for organized sport increased by 21% with an increase from 20% in 2022 to 41% in 2023.

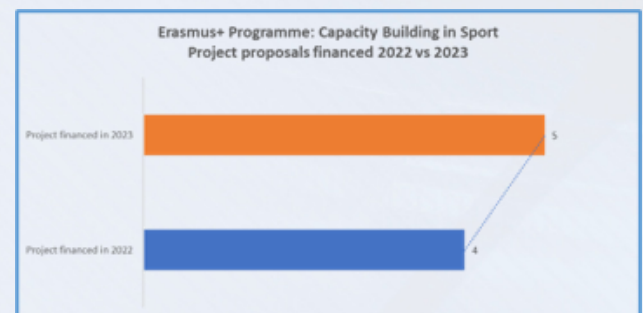


In terms of territorial distribution, Italy (4 projects) and France (3 projects) with 7 projects overall are the countries with the highest number of projects awarded in 2023 (31.8%), whilst the remaining (10 countries) reported 2 projects (5 countries) or 1 project (5 countries) each.

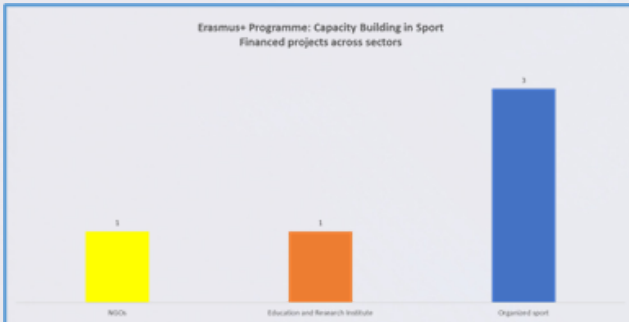


Capacity Building in Sport

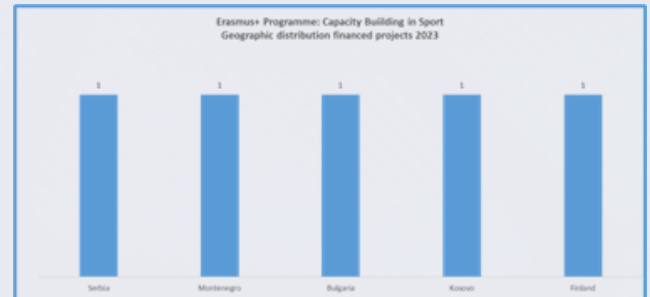
In 2023, 5 projects were awarded out of the 63 projects submitted which reflects an increase of 25% of financed projects from 2022.



In 2023, most of the selected projects (60%) can be attributed to organized sports with a total number of 3 projects awarded. Accordingly, the share of financed projects for organized sports increased by 35% with an increase from 25% in 2022 to 60% in 2023.



Under the Capacity building in the field of sport, the awarded projects are equally distributed among countries: 1 per country (Bulgaria, Finland, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia).



This year again, the EOC EU Office will support its partner NOCs and Federations to ensure that Erasmus+ funding is more accessible, and benefits organized sport organisations as much as possible.

EACEA & EOC EU Office organise complementary info-session on the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport in 2023



EACEA Informative Session

On 27 September, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) organised an [informative session](#) to provide insights on the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2023 (PPPAs). The session aspired to provide attendees with a better understanding of the main characteristics of the PPPAs, an overview of the priorities of the PPPAs in 2023 and related budget, as well as showcasing the main novelties and administrative and financial procedures to successfully submit a project proposal under the PPPAs in 2023.

The informative session was opened by Yves Le Losteque (Head of Unit Erasmus Mundus, Sport) and Tiziana Beghin (MEP and Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Sport Group) who provided an overview of the European Parliament's annual voting procedure on the priorities of the PPPAs; accordingly, these showcased the defining characteristics and differences between Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions. Besides, the available budget for 2023 was showcased, as well as the roadmap for the deadline (17.10.2023), evaluation procedure (October 2023 - March 2024), notification of results (April 2024) and signature of the Grant Agreement (June/July 2024).

The session continued with an overview of the priorities of the PPPAs in 2023 and related novelties. In this regard, it was mentioned that the PPPAs in Sport in 2023 are going to tackle the hereunder matters with an overall budget of €3.3 million distributed across the two calls:

- Pilot Project (2nd year): Sport for People and Planet - a new approach to sustainability through sport in Europe (€1.4 million)
-

- Pilot Project (1st year): 'Sports Supports' - emergency sports actions for youth (€1.9 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.

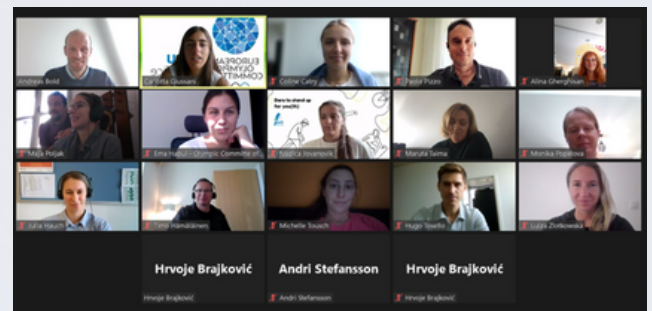
In this regard, it was mentioned that any sports organisations established in the EU Member State can directly apply for the Pilot Projects in 2023 by submitting the official forms (Part A, Part B and related annexes) to the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) via the [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#) prior to the deadline on 17 October 2023 at 17.00h (Brussels Time).

The main novelties and administrative and financial procedures to successfully submit a project proposal under the PPPAs in 2023 were presented. It is possible to submit a proposal either as a single applicant or as a consortium (e.g. multi-beneficiaries). The funding procedure is a budget-based real and unit costs grant with the introduction of unit costs under specific categories (e.g. personnel and purchases costs). Yet, the maximum EU Grant remains at €400.000 per project at a co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs; however, project proposals which require a smaller budget are eligible.

Notwithstanding, if the grant exceeds 350,000,00 EUR an external auditor to check the project’s finances is required.

Finally, attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions/clarifications regarding the PPPAs, the main novelties and administrative and financial procedures to successfully submit a project proposal under the PPPAs in 2023. After which, the informative session was concluded by Yves Le Losteque who invited those interested to apply within the set deadline: 17 October 2023.

EOC EU OFFICE Questions & Answers Webinar



On 28 September, the EOC EU Office organised a Questions & Answers webinar on the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2023 to complement the info session delivered by EACEA. Accordingly, the Questions & Answers webinar aspired to provide attendees with further insights and clarifications regarding the Pilot Projects in Sports in 2023, the novelties introduced in terms of consortium and financial requirements, as well as providing more in-depth insights on technical aspects of the application and submission procedure.

The webinar showcased the key elements, requirements, and expectations for the Pilot Projects: “Sport for People and Planet” and ‘Sports Supports: Emergency Youth’. Further guidance regarding the PPPAs’ call document, technical and budgetary forms were provided. Besides, a series of practical tips and considerations were highlighted in terms of content, layout, finances, and auditing (among others). The webinar promoted a shared understanding regarding the writing of project applications whilst building the knowledge and capacities within the organizations’ to successfully engage with the PPPAs.

The webinar concluded with an overview of the open calls relevant to sport such as the Erasmus+ Key Action1 Mobility in Sport and the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards 2023. Hence, the EOC EU Office thanks all participants for their interest and stands ready to support its partners and European NOCs on their way to applying for the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport in 2023.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Presentation EACEA Info-Session](#)

[Recording EACEA Info-Session](#)

Spanish Presidency organises Conference on Safe Environment in Sport

The first conference held under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU, focusing on the topic of Safe Environments in Sport, took place in Valencia on 22 September in the margin of the meeting of the Directors General for Sport and ahead of the European Week of Sport launch. The conference aimed at addressing gender-based violence, sexual abuse, harassment, discrimination and hate speech and gathered representatives from the Sport Movement, international organisations and government representatives.

Summary

The Council of Europe kicked off the conference with an introduction to the topic and outlining the scope which not only encompasses safe events for fans but also response and protection of victims and whistleblowers, safeguarding policies, and human rights.

Noting the inherent values of sport, the Spanish Presidency laid focus on hate speech and match-fixing as two factors negatively affecting athletes at all levels. For sports to remain a positive experience for everyone involved, knowledge and awareness have to be shared with the whole sports environment including coaches, families, schools, etc.

The Spanish Government has presented itself as a good practice example in is leading the discourse by example with human security being enshrined in the National Security Laws, which extends also to the sport as an element of daily life. Its core elements include training on the value of security, public communication and institutional disclosure, active participation of society, and relevance abroad.

Additionally, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior showcased a video which was developed to raise awareness whilst boosting all responsibilities to prevent/stop violence in sports (e.g. sexual harassment). Ultimately, the sports sector should work together to implement prevention, early detection, and response mechanisms while having zero-tolerance policies towards violence in sports.

Lastly, an overview on the Safe Space for Children Sport (SSCS) which is an initiative from the Fundación Deporte Joven and the High Council of Sport, was given. The SSCS recognises the progress in implementing legislation to protect vulnerable people in sports at all levels, yet it concluded that nothing will change until changes occur at the grassroots level too.

The Sport Movement was represented in the session on Harassment in the sports environment – Situation and protection mechanisms through Gloria Viseras, IOC. With the Safe Sport Unit and the course for Safeguarding Officers, the IOC is taking concrete steps and is proposing local solutions to a global issue; hence, this includes the Safe Sport Code/Convention, the regional systems of the Olympic Movement (e.g. continental organisations), the regional hubs and national mechanisms.

Cristina Almeida, NOC Portugal, presented the good practice in Portugal that 27 Federations already have a qualified Child Safeguarding Officer.

Yet, this number is expected to rise since there is a governmental proposal to have a qualified Child Safeguarding Officer as a mandatory requirement for sports organisations in Portugal. Prof. Kari Fasting added the perspective of academia and acknowledged the many good practices developed so far, but pointed out the lack of research/monitoring on their impact. Yet, policy should be informed by data both in terms of prevention and response.

The conference was closed by Pilar Barrero from the Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU with Spain. Spain will stay committed to the topic with their aim to become a role model in the realm of safe sport. This is reinforced by the new act for sport (2022) in which the notion of safe sports is addressed/tackled from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Next steps

The Spanish Presidency will organise its next event on 14 November, i.e. the Conference on Gender Equality in Sport.

Being active on both topics of safe sport and gender equality, the EOC EU Office continues to follow the Spanish Presidency's activities closely.

Project Partners meet online for 1st Consortium Call and 2nd Seminar on carbon footprint measurement

The OCEAN project is moving forward with the organization of a 2nd Seminar and the 1st Consortium Call. These two events were designed to bring further knowledge about the carbon measurement process, but also to gather partners' feedback. Moreover, partners received additional information about external projects binding together sport and environmental issues.

Seminar on carbon footprint measurement

On 19 September, the 2nd Online Seminar of the [Ocean project](#) led by the [Öko Institut](#) had the objective to refine the criteria which will be used in the measurement of the NOCs' carbon footprint and collect feedback on potential difficulties Climate Action Officers are facing during the data collection phase.

The project is now entering a new phase with the full completion of the measurement tool by the NOCs. The Öko Institut presented the tool they are currently designing and collected partners' input on potential further criteria to accurately determine their carbon consumption.

Additionally, partners received a presentation from [Paris 2024](#) Organising Committee and CNOSE. With the objective of supporting sport events organisers in making their events more sustainable, the French Ministry of Sport, in collaboration with ADEME (French Agency for the Energy Transition), the CNOSE and the Organizing Committee, developed a carbon footprint measurement tool to easily estimate and reduce the carbon footprint of events: [The Climate Coach for Events](#).

Another event punctuated the OCEAN Project agenda as on 20 September when the first consortium call was held. This online meeting was led by the EOC EU Office to establish a first feedback session on the different actions already initiated and provide an overview of upcoming tasks and meetings. The next step of the OCEAN project is scheduled to take place during the month of October with the beginning of Module 2.2. Climate Action Officers will now start the complete carbon footprint measurement of their organization.



PARTNERS' CORNER

Parcours Ambition Internationale: CNOSE organises Brussels discovery session for national federation representatives



Source: European Parliament

Every year in September, the French National Olympic Committee (CNOSE) organises a study trip to the EU and sport organisations in Brussels for representatives of national federations, public authorities and athletes, in the framework of the [Parcours Ambition Internationale](#). This training course aims at supporting national sport leaders in their commitment to international sports bodies by advancing their skills and knowledge and nurturing their network in Lausanne, Paris and Brussels.

This year again, the EOC EU Office was at the centre of the Brussels study trip, as it welcomed the group in its premises and provided participants with expertise on EU policy making and EU funding opportunities for sport.

Folker Hellmund (Director), Eva Rebmann (Deputy Director) and Noémie Letellier (Policy Officer) shared their insights on EU sport policy making, as representatives of the Olympic movement in Brussels, while Andreas Bold (Policy Officer and representative of the German Olympic Committee - DOSB) provided an overview of funding opportunities for sport organisations at the EU level.

Additionally, participants of Parcours Ambition Internationale got to engage with a French Member of the European Parliament (Laurence Farreng, Renew), the European Commission's Sport Unit (Olivier Smith - Deputy Head, Ignazio Cocchiere - Policy Officer) and visited the Council of the EU with representatives of the French to the EU (Guillaume Arduin - Sport Advisor, Cyril Piquemal - Deputy Permanent Representative). The programme was completed by presentations of the Think tank Sport and Citizenship and the Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (FESI).

The EOC EU Office team is happy to have welcomed a group of committed agents for sport and hopes to have prompted interest in sport policy and funding for sport at the EU level.

DOSB: Staff member Lukas Wiese interviewed about his Erasmus+ funded job shadowing at the Norwegian Olympic Committee

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ program for professional and volunteer sports staff, Lukas Wiese (DOSB's policy advocacy officer) spent time at the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF). In this interview, he talks about his experience.

Erasmus+ in sports supports job shadowing in the 27 EU Member States as well as in 6 third countries associated with the program. Why were you interested in Norway?

Lukas: With a population of just under 5.4 million, Norway is an extremely successful sports nation and has been for many decades.



Particularly at a time when we in Germany are both restructuring the promotion of top-level and competitive sports and drawing up a sports development plan for mass sports, it is all the more worthwhile to look beyond our own backyard.

How exactly did the job shadowing go?

Lukas: Generally, an Erasmus+ Sport project runs in four phases: Planning, preparation, implementation and follow-up. In the planning phase, it is important to determine the needs, goals and interests in a foreign observation and to derive a suitable host organization from this: what do I want to learn and from whom can I learn this? In my case, I was supported by the EOC (European Olympic Committees) EU office in Brussels in establishing contact with Norway. Together with the colleagues from the NIF, we then jointly defined a work program and the schedule for the activities via virtual preparation meetings.

In addition, I was supported by YOUTH for Europe, which implements the program in Germany as the National Agency, during the application process.

At digital information events and application consultations, information was provided on the general funding opportunities and conditions, and specific questions about the project applications were also addressed. This support was great - despite everything, one should not underestimate the scope and effort of an application and should plan enough time.

But now to the implementation: what did your on-site observation look like?

Lukas: Locally, I was assigned to the Public Relations and Sports Policy Department at Norges idrettsforbund. This is a fairly large department, which in addition to political advocacy also includes topics such as international relations, safe sport and development cooperation. In addition to gaining a general insight into the work processes, I was also able to exchange ideas with the respective colleagues on common challenges and compare our approaches - for example, in the development of sports infrastructure or the promotion of volunteerism. Particularly impressive was the digitalization in organized sports and clubs in Norway - definitely a role model for us.

In addition to the professional insights, I also very much appreciated the Norwegian hospitality and the good working atmosphere at NIF.

And what did you notice in Norway, especially in sports?

Lukas: The importance of sport and exercise in society was particularly impressive: 93% of Norwegian children and young people were or are members of a sports club. In this context, children in the club are encouraged to do as much sport as possible and to try their hand at many disciplines - initially only in a playful way with a focus on fun and community.

The basis of the Norwegian children's and youth sports system is formed by the so-called "Children's Rights in Sport" and the "Children's Sports Regulations": individual development instead of performance comparison as well as a broad basic education instead of early specialization - these catchwords describe some aspects that Norwegian sport has decided on 12 pages. For example, clubs are not allowed to keep performance tables or results lists for children up to the age of eleven, and participation in national or international championships is only permitted from the age of 13. In sum, "children should have a positive experience every time they participate in sport."

Good keywords: performance and current debates. Were there any points of contact for thoughts on a possible German bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games?

Lukas: During the visit, I also had the opportunity to talk to my colleagues at the Lillehammer Olympic Legacy Sports Centre (LOLSC). With a population of just over 28,000, Lillehammer - as host of the 1994 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games - represents an antithesis to the often-accused gigantism. The Games also had a far-reaching and lasting impact on the city and local grassroots sports structures. Even today, the competition venues are still used - whether on a daily basis by local clubs and residents or for major sporting events such as the Winter Youth Olympic Games in 2016. In addition, the LOLSC is available as a center of excellence for various winter sports for young athletes, coaches and sports executives. For example, the last "Lillehammer Young Leaders Programme" brought together 50 young leaders from 17 different nations. The "Olympic footprint" is omnipresent in the small city.

Do you have any other recommendations or advice for those interested in also doing a job shadowing abroad?

Lukas: As already mentioned, the scope and effort of an application should not be underestimated, and you should plan enough time. Here, one should make use of the counselling and support services offered by the National Agency. In addition, it is advisable to start searching for and approaching a host organization early enough to clarify mutual expectations and requirements. In order to get the most out of the work shadowing and experience abroad, I think it is important to clearly define the topic area in advance and to agree on specific activities or even joint projects in this regard.

About Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Sport offers employees and volunteers in grassroots sports organizations, whether coaches, trainers or employees in clubs, associations or institutions, the opportunity to expand their skills and qualifications through a European stay abroad and to contribute to the further development of grassroots sports in Europe. There are two application deadlines per year. The next deadline is 04/10/2023 at 12:00.

Each Erasmus+ Program Country has its own National Agency responsible for the implementation of Key Action 1.

In addition to the mobility of sports staff for individuals, the Erasmus+ program also promotes European cooperation between sports organizations in the framework of cooperation partnerships.



UPCOMING EVENTS

05 October 2023

EOC Executive Committee (Istanbul)

06 - 07 October 2023

EOC General Assembly (Istanbul)

17 October 2023

Expert Group on Green Sport (European Commission, Brussels)



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



+32 2 738 03 20



info@euoffice.eurolympic.org



www.euoffice.eurolympic.org



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office