

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2020



EU
Office
THE HOUSE
OF EUROPEAN
SPORT



Dear Partners, Colleagues and Friends,

In these particular times, the whole team of the EOC EU Office would like to send you and your family the warmest wishes for the upcoming holiday season. We hope to have a prosperous Olympic year with you in 2021 and would like to thank you all for your continuous trust, support and good partnership.

Folker Hellmund
Director of EOC EU Office



Tweets of the month



EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 14

After 2 years of efforts, fantastic news to hear that the share of [#sport](#) chapter is increasing up to 1.9% of the overall [@EUEras-musPlus](#) budget for the next period. Thanks [@GabrielMariya](#) [@EPCulture](#) [@SportsGroup2024](#) [@Kasia-binia](#) [@MilanZver](#) for the great co-operation & support

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 9

EU Sport Directors are discussing today the possibilities of different EU financial instruments for sport. [@FolkerF](#) encourages the Member States to tap the full potential in the future [#MFF](#) for sport and work for the [#mainstreaming](#) of [#sport](#).

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 9

Event organised by [@UNODC](#) & [@SportsGroup2024](#) on how to safeguard sport from [#Corruption](#) during [#IACD2020](#) [@iocmedia](#) & whole Olympic Movement involved in many multi-stakeholders initiatives on the area Check our [@POINTS EU](#) practical tools developed to tackle integrity issues!

EOC EU Office

@EOCEUOffice Dec 8

Congratulations to the selected experts of this High-Level Group! We are delighted to see the Olympic movement and our partners actively involved and look forward to future initiatives! [@MarisolCasado](#) [@CeoSarah](#) [@iocmedia](#) [@EOCmedia](#)

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@EOCEUOffice Dec 1

Kamil Novak, [@EuroBasket](#) Executive Director, addresses the EU [#sport](#) Ministers on the impact of [#COVID19](#) on sporting events and explains their strict rules in place for the "bubble" to organise the qualifiers.

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

In the last issue of the Monthly Report in 2020, it is appropriate to look back and draw a preliminary conclusion of this year of crisis and specific challenges.

It must remain a preliminary assessment for various reasons. Why? First of all, the medium and long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be finally assessed. Many federations and clubs were able to survive the first months of the crisis economically thanks to their own reserves, support from government programmes and help from sponsors. With each additional month, the crisis will make it more difficult for organised sport to survive. Not all clubs, whether at the professional or amateur level, will be able to keep their games and activities going. In order to keep this number as low as possible, it is of existential importance that aid measures for sport at European, national and regional level are continued and designed in such a way that they can be accessed quickly and that application hurdles are limited to what is really necessary.

From a European perspective, a dramatic crisis of the European Union was prevented thanks to the "last-minute" compromise on the Multiannual Financial Perspective 2021-27. The confirmation by the European Parliament is now only a formal act. This ensures that Covid-19 recovery programmes and all other funding programmes can start their implementation in 2021. The prerequisite, however, is that the negotiations on the respective regulations will end up as soon as possible. In the area of Erasmus+ Sport, a positive development is emerging. According to the latest information, the increase in the share of sport in the overall programme, which was also demanded by the EOC EU Office, has been included, which will contribute to a budget of about € 460 million for sport until 2027.

However, a significant increase of the share of applications and funded projects by the organised sport is needed. According to our own calculations, between 2014-2020 the share of organised sport in the funded projects was clearly below 30%. In other words, universities or NGOs are outstripping sport. However, the number and quality of projects proposed by organised sport will only improve through increasing support from advisory structures. In addition to the sports organisations themselves, National Agencies for the implementation of the Erasmus programme should set up or increase their services in this direction.

An agreement on the future structural funds programmes will be concluded by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council. Fortunately, it appears that the eligibility of sports infrastructures via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), as demanded by the EOC EU Office, will also be made possible.

Herewith, I would like to thank Yves le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the EU Commission, for the excellent cooperation and friendship in last years. Yves is turning a new page in his professional career as of next January. It was a pleasure to work with Yves and I am sure that we will see you soon in your new position and will discuss about football and Olympic Games! Take care and all the best from the EOC EU Office!

On behalf of the EOC EU Office, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all partners and colleagues for their intensive and constructive cooperation during this difficult year.

Stay healthy and close to the EOC EU Office!



Folker Hellmund

Director EOC EU Office

EUROPEAN UNION AND SPORT

EU Sport Ministers discuss international sporting events during Covid-19 pandemic

On 1 December, EU Sport Ministers met for their meeting during the German presidency. The agenda included a public discussion on the impact of the Corona pandemic on international sporting events, the adoption of the new EU Work Plan for Sport (see separate article) and the adoption of conclusions on cross-sectoral cooperation in sport.

Challenges in the organisation of European and international sports competitions were strongly promoted by the EOC EU Office in the past few months. The Presidency had invited representatives from the European Olympic Committees (EOC), FIBA-Europe, and the International Cycling Union (UCI) to share their views.

Niels Nygaard, the EOC acting President, focused his presentation on the impact of the pandemic on sports federations, athletes and clubs. He highlighted that, in addition to the direct €1.6 billion costs, the postponement of the Olympic Games, also creates important challenges for the National Olympic Committees (NOCs). As examples, he mentioned problems related to sponsoring contracts and the availability of national Olympic houses in Tokyo. He used the example of the Danish NOC which expects up to €6.5 million in additional costs. On the athletes' side, he pointed the significant losses of income and explained that the unpredictability of the competition calendar has also led to early career retirements. He also stressed that sports clubs are particularly threatened by the decline in their membership. Against this background, Nygaard thanked the sports ministers for their efforts to integrate sport into the EU's horizontal recovery programmes. Concluding, he said: **"It is important to underline, that sport can only make its contribution to society if its solidarity-based model of sport is recognised and**

supported by the public authorities and by the EU member states. This is why we need to strengthen the European Sport Model, its values and its solidarity funding mechanisms to ensure that this Model will also be in place after this crisis allowing people to participate in sport with low cost also at grassroots level."

FIBA Europe Secretary General Kamil Novak described how European basketball deals with the volatile framework conditions. He explained that EuroBasket 2021 had to be postponed to 2022 so as not to coincide with the Olympic Games next year. In the course of the year, the federation, together with the WHO and the IOC, had drawn up the "FIBA Return to Basketball Guidelines", which made a return to the court possible while adhering to a strict hygiene concept. Thus, the FIBA Europe managed to play various qualifying competitions in October in the "bubble" system. For this purpose, numerous Corona tests were carried out and it was ensured that only 2x negatively tested players and attendants were in the bubble. For the future, Novak wished for more coordination at the European level on quarantine measures and recognition of tests.

In her statement EU Commissioner for sport Maryia Gabriel pointed out, that **international sports competitions are an integral part of sport** and contribute significantly to the popularity of sport.

An exchange between the member states followed, which highlighted the need for better coordination regarding cross-border competitions and their testing and quarantine regulations in the individual member states. Stephan Mayer, Parliamentary

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State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior and representative of the German Council Presidency summed up the discussion:

*“Today, **athletes' freedom of movement within the EU is hampered by different national rules on testing and quarantine.** Health and hygiene-related rules also differ and evolve constantly, adding to the uncertainty experienced by the sport sector. Our debate today clearly showed the need for further exchange and cooperation at EU level in different areas, such as health, travel and transport. We should spare no efforts in trying to limit the further postponement of international sporting events and to help bringing the fans safely back into the stadiums as soon as the development of the COVID-19 pandemic within the member states allows us to relax the current restrictions.”*

In the non-public part, the Sport Ministers adopted both the new EU Work Plan for Sport and Council conclusions on the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation for the benefit of sport and physical activity in society.

The EOC EU Office welcomes the Council conclusions on cross-sectoral cooperation as they can contribute to a better mainstreaming of sport in other policy fields such as health, urban and rural development, mobility or democracy promotion.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Council press release including statements and videos](#)

[Conclusions on promoting cross-sectoral cooperation for the benefit of sport and physical activity in society](#)

New EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024

On Tuesday, 1 December, the EU Sport Ministers adopted a [new EU Work Plan for Sport](#) for the years 2021-2024. As a reminder, the EU Work Plan for Sport is a policy document adopted by Member States, which provides a framework for the European Commission and Member States to develop activities in the field of sport. The EOC EU Office was actively promoting the interests of the Olympic Sport Movement during the preparation and the negotiation of the plan.

As for the previous period, the work of the EU will be organised around 3 priority areas:

- Protect integrity and values in sport;
- Socio-economic and environmental dimensions of sport;
- Promotion of participation in sport and health-enhancing physical activity.

An important number of topics will be addressed during the 3.5 years of the work plan including key

subjects for the Olympic Movement strongly promoted by the EOC EU Office during the negotiation phase. The European Sport Model, Green sport, sport infrastructures and impacts of Covid-19 will notably be discussed by the different stakeholders.

A major challenge for the next period will be to ensure a stronger involvement of the sport movement in the preparation and the implementation of the different activities in order to fit with the actual needs of the sport movement and guarantee the sustainability of the initiatives.

Last but not least, the Work Plan aims at contribute to mainstream sport into other sectors by encouraging cooperation with stakeholders from different areas.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Presidencies of the Council of the EU have already announced some of their priorities. For 2021, it is worth to notice:

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- **Portuguese Presidency (Jan. - June 2021):**
 - Innovation and digitisation in sport
 - Sport Diplomacy
 - **Slovenian Presidency (July – Dec. 2021):**
 - European Model of Sport
 - Promoting Physical Activity
 - Athletes' Dual Career
-

General Court of the European Union rules in case of International Skating Union v EU Commission

On 16 December, the General Court of the EU [published a press release on its ruling](#) in the case of the International Skating Union (ISU) v Commission.

This is the first time that the European Court of Justice has ruled on whether rules adopted by a sport federation breach EU competition law.

The case originated in 2015, when the European Commission opened a formal antitrust investigation into ISU rules that threatened to permanently ban skaters from its competitions if they take part in events not approved by the federation. [The Commission, in 2017](#), found that the ISU eligibility rules were incompatible with EU competition rules. This decision was challenged by the ISU and thus brought before the General Court of the EU.

Overall, the General Court has now confirmed that the rules of the ISU providing for severe penalties for athletes taking part in speed skating events not recognised by ISU are contrary to EU competition law. The press release states that “the Commission was therefore right to conclude that the eligibility

rules reveal a sufficient degree of harm, in particular with regard to their content, to be regarded as restricting competition by object.”

On the other hand, it was acknowledged by the Court that it was legitimate for the ISU to establish rules seeking to protect the integrity of competitions with regard to the risk of the manipulation of competitions and betting and to ensure that sporting competitions meet common standards.

However, it is said that the ISU's measures to achieve these legitimate objectives went beyond what was necessary and were not proportionate.

Last but not least, the ISU was able to achieve a partial victory, as the Court ruled that the Commission was not entitled to consider that the ISU's arbitration rules to constitute an aggravated circumstance what would have justified a higher penalty.

An appeal may be brought before the Court of Justice against the decision of the General Court within two months and ten days of notification of the decision.

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EU's growing climate ambition and sport

Five years have passed since the landmark [Paris Agreement on climate change](#). A serious commitment to limit global warming to well below 2°C and to pursue efforts to keep temperature from raising above 1.5° compared to pre-industrial age has been made by almost all countries of the world. At the same time, the past five years have been the warmest on record, extreme weather events have been on rise globally, glaciers have been melting at record speed and the list could go on. Sport organisations, too, have started feeling the impact of climate change on their ability to plan and organise their competitions and events (e.g. unseasonal rainfall forcing cancellation or postponement of games, of seacoast having a direct impact on sport infrastructure in the affected areas, or warmer winters threatening ski resorts at lower altitudes).

In this context, the urgency to accelerate change and transformation is very tangible in the global political arena. In his speech during the [Climate Ambition Summit](#), the UN secretary general, António Guterres, [called on Governments around the world](#) to declare a state of climate emergency until the world has reached net zero CO2 emissions. Coincidentally with the Paris Agreement 5th and European Green Deal's 1st anniversary, also the EU Heads of State, meeting in the European Council on 10-11 December, [approved the Commission's proposal](#) to cut the blocks' emissions by 55% by 2030 (the original target was 40%).

Climate change, loss of biodiversity and "serious and continuing decline of nature in the EU" (confirmed by a [recent report](#) of the European Environmental Agency) are very closely interlinked and can be characterised as systemic challenges; wicked problems that require systems response, systems solutions. In other words, solutions where multitude of actors from the government, business, finance, non-profit, civil society... work together in a spirit of cooperation rather than competition. In the EU context, the European Green Deal presents such a general (mostly top-down) approach, while the [European Climate Pact](#), which has been

launched on 16 December, aims to support citizens' (bottom-up) dimension of such systems response.



As explained in the [Commission's Communication](#) establishing the Climate Pact, "*the many solutions outlined in the Green Deal can only succeed if (...) citizens, communities, companies and organisations play their part, alongside government policies and regulation.*"

Through the European Climate Pact, the EU aims to engage with different stakeholders and civil society with the aim to empower them in climate action and more sustainable behaviour. It will not build the initiatives from scratch, as its aim is work alongside numerous existing initiatives, networks and movements.

In concrete terms, the European Commission/Pact's secretariat aim to (among other initiatives):

- Spread knowledge about climate change and translate scientific information into concrete tips for action;
- Promote climate literacy, in particular in schools;
- Establish a network of Climate Pact Ambassadors;
- Encourage citizens and organisations (incl. sport) to commit to certain change by the means of a pledge;

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- Set-up a knowledge hub to build on and support the many initiatives that already exist, including information regarding funding opportunities. Initially, the Pact will prioritise actions focused on green areas, green mobility, efficient buildings and training for green jobs, within existing and relevant Commission support mechanisms.

Even though the Climate Pact will not offer direct financial support to projects and initiatives, it will provide a good platform for the Olympic sport movement, as part of civil society, to engage with the EU on sustainability issues, profit from the planned knowledge hub, and explore potential partnerships and cooperation with the multitude of actors that the Pact will engage. Indeed, the sport movement, in particular under the guidance of the IOC, is becoming more concerned about the impact of climate change and nature degradation on its operations, as well as about the impact these operations (e.g. event organisation) have on climate and the nature. One indicator of this trend is the growing number of sport organisation signing up to the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#), other may be the interest of sport organisations and athletes in the Climate Pact Launch Event.

At the same time, the European Commission (and not only the Sport Unit of DG Education and Culture) is becoming more aware of the motivation and communications power of sport and its role as “enabler” of sustainable development ([2018 UN Resolution](#)), including when it comes to climate action. Indeed, the Olympic sport movement has helped shape the European Climate Pact through a regular dialogue and information, as well as through first concrete activities. For example, Norwegian Olympic rower Martin Helseth, who leads a crowdfunding campaign to clean the sea (for every 1 euro collected, 1 kg of trash picked up), has become one of the first Climate Pact Ambassadors. And UEFA has taken one of the first pledges under the Climate Pact, to, among other things, set science-based targets to reduce its CO2 emissions, or to create a TV ad campaign promoting the Pact and the Green Deal.



The European Climate Pact can help sport organisations become more engaged in climate protection, it can facilitate partnerships and access to information, but, as mentioned above, it cannot provide concrete financial support. Such support and incentives for sport stakeholders may be found in other instruments. With the gradual adoption of the new Multiannual Financial Framework and Next Generation EU, the possibilities start to take more concrete shape:

- Regional development – at least 30 % of the relevant regional development funds will support green transition;
- [Renovation Wave](#) – European Commission aims to at least double the annual energy renovation rate of residential and non-residential buildings, including schools and public infrastructure (potentially sport infrastructure) by 2030;
- Erasmus + Programme - “green sport” should figure among supported topics/objectives.

Following the general trends outlined above, green transition and sustainability are to find their place high also on the EU sport policy agenda. The new [EU Work Plan for Sport \(2021-2024\)](#) counts, among other things, with the establishment of an expert group on “green sport”, possible Resolution on a Green pact for sport, or Conclusions on sustainable and accessible of sport infrastructure.

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UNODC and EP Sport Group organised a webinar on safeguarding sport from corruption

The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) Brussels Office together with the EP Sport Group organised a webinar on 9 December on “How to safeguard sport from corruption? A multi-stakeholder discussion on challenges and opportunities”. The webinar was organised to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day and addressed several important subjects including competition manipulation, corruption and doping in sport. The discussion was moderated by Ronan Lorcan o Laoire (UNODC) and several panellists were invited: MEPs Viola von Cramon and Daniel Freund, the first being from the EP Sport Group and the second from the Anti-Corruption Intergroup; Yatta Dakowah (UNODC); Paolo Bertaccini, Advisor for the Italian G20 Presidency; Pâquerette Girard Zapelli (IOC) and Matteo Zacchetti (DG EAC).

The aim of the webinar was to raise awareness on the topics of corruption and unethical behaviours in sport as well as to exchange views and propose potential tools to address the different issues. A lively discussion took place regarding the role played by political stakeholders in sport. While MEPs advocated for increased monitoring of sport,

the other speakers defended the responsible autonomy of sport and called for a multi-stakeholder approach in this regard. As good practices illustrations, IPACS and the Macolin Convention were mentioned.

Pâquerette Girard Zapelli recalled the strong commitment of the Olympic movement to safeguarding values in sport, including ethics, transparency and good governance. She also reminded participants and listeners that corruption constitutes crimes, sometimes with the support of organised crime organisations, and that sport sector does not always have the capacity or resources to face these challenges alone. Cooperation with governments and law enforcement institutions, such as Europol, Interpol or IPACS are central to make progress in the area.

Overall, it was said that with the increasing economic importance of sport, a stronger cooperation is needed to address the challenges of corruption in sport as well as further discussions on the ways - whether legal, political or educational - to tackle unethical behaviours.

European Commission organised an online breakfast on representativeness of sport stakeholders at EU level

On 16 December, the Sport Unit of the European Commission organised the latest online breakfast meeting of 2020 with a focus on the following question “Who can speak on behalf of sport at the EU level?”.

Moderating by Alexandre Husting, Sport attaché at Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU, the event gathered three representatives of organised sport – Folker Hellmund, Director of the

EOC EU Office, Annaliza Tsakona (FIFA) and Kaisa Larjomaa (ENGSO) – and Lukas Declercq (Europe Active). All panellists started by describing the different processes in place to involve their members when preparing common positions at EU level.

Then, the discussion moved to the legitimacy of representing sport in EU discussions. Both the

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EOC EU Office and ENGSO stressed that all organisations should be welcomed to express their views while making clear and transparent which actors and interests they are really representing. Folker Hellmund acknowledged that sport landscape evolved in recent years with the raising of new actors in the sport sector and EU surrounding but recalls that organised sport remains the key actor when it comes to discuss and implement policies.

In addition to that, Folker Hellmund highlighted that the vast majority of topics included in the Work Plan are relevant for the organised sport. Sport organisations must be better involved in order to better

cope with the challenges they are facing. He proposed to better use the format of “Interested Member States” to intensify the cooperation with the Olympic Movement in the future.

The meeting was also the occasion for Yves Le Lo-
stecque, head of the Sport Unit, to announce his departure to the EACEA and for all participants to praise him for the work done with the Unit.

The EOC EU Office would also like to thank Yves for his commitment to promote sporting interests and the fantastic cooperation we experienced since 7 years.

#BeActive awards ceremony, debriefing, and plans for 2021

As the majority of festive events in the field of sport this year, also the [BeActive Awards ceremony](#) took place in the online environment. Even though nominees, stakeholders, and fans could not meet each other in person, the emotions and happiness of the winners could be felt even through the screen.

The 2020 edition of the Awards, which are an integral part of the [BeActive campaign](#) coordinated and co-financed by the European Commission, was not special only given its e-format, but also regarding the record number of applications. A high-level jury had the difficult task to select three finalists and winners for each of the three categories – education, workplace, and BeActive hero - from 95 submitted applications (= 50% increase compared to last year). The winners were unveiled by the European Commissioner responsible for sport, Mariya Gabriel, who, besides congratulating all applicants for their great projects, mentioned that a follow-up to the [Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle](#) is currently being crafted.

- BeActive Education Award winner: Primary School Petra Preradovića, Croatia
- BeActive Workplace Award winner: House of Code, Denmark

- BeActive Local Hero Award winner: Tomáš Slavata, Czech Republic



Words of appreciation for the winners' and nominees' work were also raised by special guests invited by the European Commission: Zlatko Matesa, president of the Croatian Olympic Committee; Niels Nygaard, President of the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark and acting president of the European Olympic Committees; and Robert Plaga, Minister of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic.

The Awards ceremony, though, was not the only BeActive event that took place at the beginning of

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December. National Coordinating Bodies (NCBs) and partners of the European Week of Sport met online to debrief about the 2020 edition. Despite the Covid-19 pandemics-related challenges, NCBs and partners proved great resilience and flexibility and managed to attract over 15.5 million participants in more than 32 600 events all over Europe. One good example was presented by the European Handball Federation, which coordinated its

traditional “[European Open Week of Handball](#)” offering a wide range of handball activities to many different target groups.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Week of Sport](#)

Study on the benefits of intergenerational sport activities

On 11 December, the Commission released a [Mapping study on the intergenerational dimension of sport](#). The study from Ecorys aimed at raising awareness on the benefits of intergenerational activities in sport and thus support and promote new initiatives and projects in the field. As the population is getting older in the EU especially, intergenerational sport activities can contribute to promotion of a healthy lifestyle whether for the youth or the elderly. Indeed, while the participation rates in sport and / or physical activities is higher among 15-24 years old (62%), this proportion tends to decrease with people aged 25-39 (46%), and remains very low for the 40-54 (39%) and 55+ age groups (30%). Hence, there is a clear need to promote sport activities for the elderly.

Moreover, intergenerational sport activities foster social cohesion and community wellbeing, the study highlights. Intergenerationality in sport has numerous benefits such as mental and physical wellbeing, individual development, and the reduction of stereotypes between generations, while enriching relationships among society. The study also presents good practices like successful Erasmus projects dealing with intergenerational sport, most of them happening at local level. The study then

draws key lessons based on the literature and on the aforementioned good practices, which are: the cross-sectoral nature of such projects, the importance of mutual benefits and equal relationships within the projects, as well as the need for dedicated professionals and overall, for more awareness on the topic.

The general conclusions are the following:

- Intergenerational sport can contribute to health benefits;
- Intergenerational programmes and projects can impact positively on youth development;
- Intergenerational sport activities can contribute to change attitudes and perceptions of both young and old people;
- Finally, intergenerational activities can strengthen family links.

The study aims to prompt engagement from decision-makers while inspiring future project leaders to engage themselves in intergenerational sport initiatives.

16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport continues with a session on the human rights

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The 16th Council of Europe Conference for ministers responsible for sport was initially planned to take place in Athens, Greece, on 5 November, but the physical meeting was replaced by several virtual sessions. The second one of these sessions, organised on 7 December, focused on the human rights in sport, since the Ministers will adopt a resolution on the topic in the final session, in February, next year. The three areas addressed were:

- Protection of children;
- Right for a fair trial;
- Social and economic rights.

Panellists of the session included Claudia Bokel, President of the German Fencing Federation and former Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission; Pierre Cornu, President, Foundation Council, International Centre for Sports Studies; Marko Bošnjak, Judge, European Court of Human Rights and Tiina, Kivisaari, Director of Sport, Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland.

When discussing the protection of children, harassment and abuse were raised as biggest concerns. The panellists underlined the importance of raising-awareness among all stakeholders, such as parents, children and coaches, as well as the necessity to establish proper reporting mechanisms and procedures, notably within sport organisations, to deal with the cases. In addition, the importance to

properly implement the international conventions, such as the Lanzarote and Istanbul conventions, was raised.

Regarding the discussion on right to a fair trial, Pierre Cornu questioned whether sport arbitration bodies were equipped to work on human rights topics. Judge Marko Bošnjak also underlined the importance to develop the sport juridical system and its proceedings.

Regarding the social and economic rights, the panellists highlighted everyone's right to participate in sport and expressed concerns regarding the impact of Covid-19 on sport and the ways to ensure the access for everyone to sport after this crisis.

The Conference for Ministers responsible for sport will continue on 15 January with the Sport Ministers' round table discussion where EOC Acting President Niels Nygaard is invited to contribute. The closing session of the Conference will take place on 11 February 2021. The Ministers intend to adopt then two resolutions, this one on human rights and another one on the European Sport Charter, which is currently under renewal. The EOC EU Office is actively following the discussions.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Programme of the 16th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport](#)

FUNDING PROGRAMMES AND STUDIES

Erasmus+ 2020 Sport Analysis

As every year, following the publication of the [Erasmus+ 2020 selection results](#), the EOC EU Office undertakes a detailed analysis in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the sport sectors' involvement in the Erasmus+ Sport programme.

This year saw a record setting 50% increase in applications, bringing the total number to 1142. Of these applications, 315 were selected for funding:

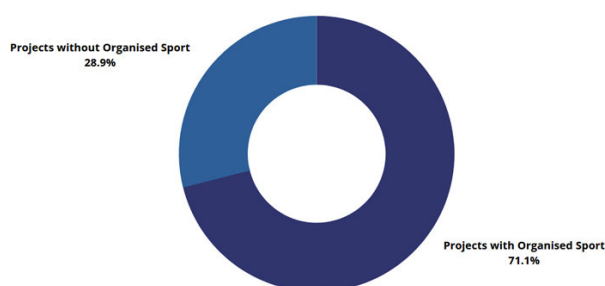
- 14 Non-Profit European Sport Events;
- 180 Small Collaborative Partnerships;
- 121 Collaborative Partnerships.

Some key figures related to the sport movement are worth to be mentioned:

Collaborative Partnerships

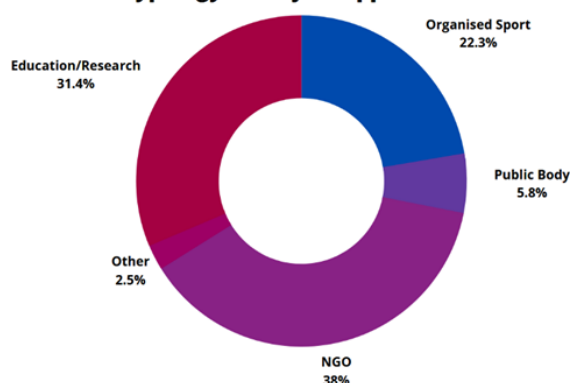
A positive information is that a vast majority of the **Collaborative Partnerships** (CPs) involved at least one organisation from the organised sport sector (71 / 121).

Percentage of collaborative partnerships including at least one sport organisation in 2020



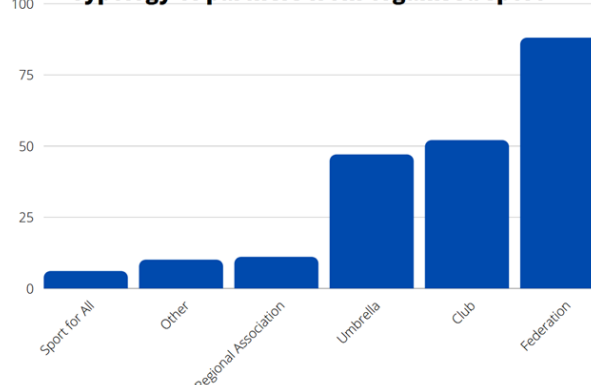
However, when having a look on the typology of lead applicants, participation from organised sport sector remains quite limited with only **27 projects** which will be conducted by the organised sport sector.

Collaborative Partnerships 2020: Typology of Project Applicants



In total, **708 different organisations** are part of the projects. When accounting for multiple involvements this number rises to 933, meaning that on average almost 8 organisations participate per project. From these 708 organisations, **214 come from the organised sport sector**. This represents a share of slightly more than 30%. See below the number of organisations per category:

Collaborative Partnerships 2020: Typology of partners from organised sport



A total of 41 countries are involved in the different projects which shows the possibilities to be active in Erasmus+ beyond EU27. When looking at the overall involvements in collaborative partnerships,

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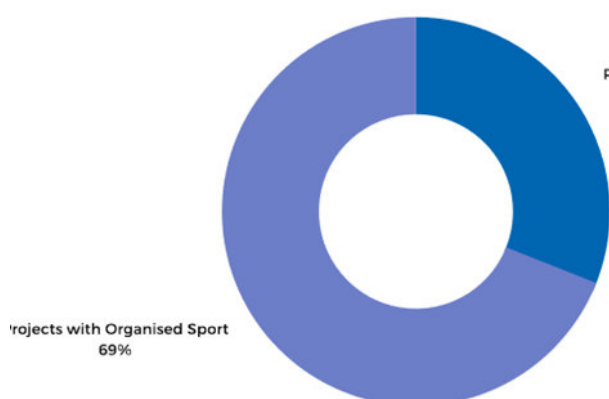
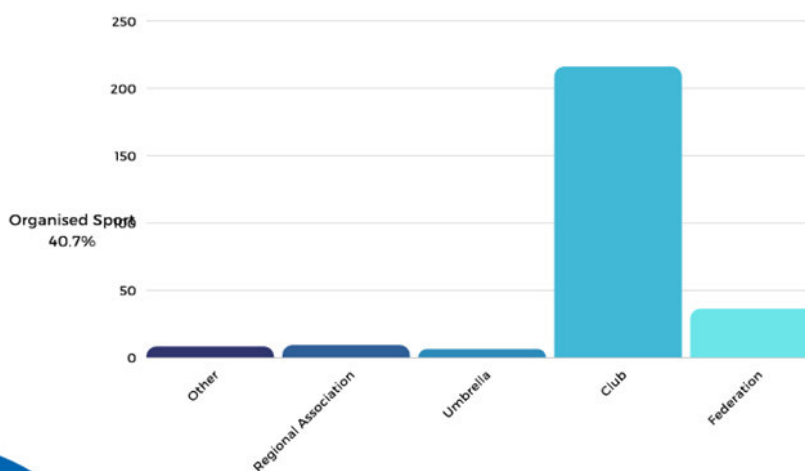
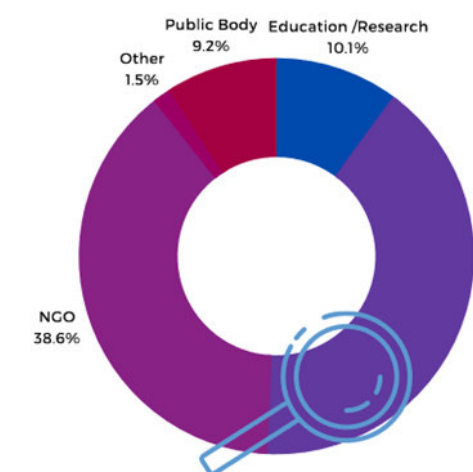
Italy emerges as the clear frontrunner with a total of 84 project involvements. This is followed by Greece (71) and the Netherlands (50).

Small Collaborative Partnerships

Out of 180 projects, **40%** of stakeholders from the organised sport sector participated in SCPs. These results show an interesting progress in terms of number of participants from the world of sports in the recent years. Nonetheless, similarly to collaborative partnerships, sport organisations need to apply to more as project leaders. Among the organised sport participants, most of them are clubs

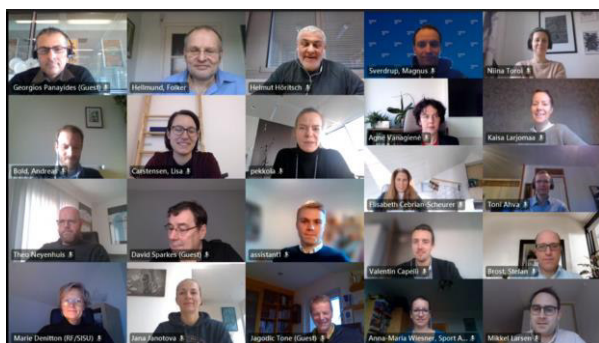
(around 80%). Topics related to education and inclusion seem to suit clubs the best as most of the participants from the organised sport participate in these areas.

The country which is globally the most involved in projects is Italy (more than 80, even more than in 2019), as well as other Southern European countries (Spain, Greece and Portugal). It is interesting to note that most of the countries involved in SCP's with sport also provide with the most participants from organised sport.



INTERNAL AND VISITS

The EOC EU Office organised its Special Competence Seminar online



On Tuesday 8 December, the EOC EU Office welcomed its partners online to its annual Special Competence Seminar (SCS) including the most recent partner that will join the Office from the beginning of next year, the Polish NOC.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, welcomed all attendees and gave a comprehensive overview of recent sport-related developments within the European Institutions. He also highlighted some of the Office's main achievements in advancing the priorities of the organised sport sector at EU level.

A range of updates on EU policy fields were on the agenda of the SCS including:

- The new [EU Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024](#) and its implementation
- [EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion](#)
- [EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#)
- [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2021-2024](#)

- [European Disability Rights Strategy post-2020](#)
- [Gender Equality](#)
- [European Green Deal](#)

Covid-19 consequences were also on the agenda with information on the *Motion for a Resolution on the Impact of Covid-19 on youth and on sport* from the CULT Committee as well as the [recently published study](#) by the European Commission on the economic impact of Covid-19 on the sport sector in the EU.

The SCS also included two interventions respectively from the German Olympic Sports Confederation's (DOSB) which presented the DOSB's new strategy on Covid-19 and one from the IOC, which highlighted some of their recent initiatives on several political topics.

The afternoon session provided valuable insights into the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, an analysis of Erasmus+ 2020 and some insights regarding the next period.

We look forward to continuing our committed work for our partners and to keeping such good relations with all of them. As Director Folker Hellmund has put it: “2020 was a year of negotiations and lobbying activities. 2021 will be the year of implementation.”

The House of European Sport

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 11 January 2021 | Executive Committee (EOC – Rome) |
| 21 January 2021 | Board meeting (EOC EU Office – Online meeting) |
| 09 February 2021 | Erasmus+ Sport Info Day (European Commission – Online meeting) |