

MONTHLY REPORT

February 2022



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022



IOC Executive Board recommends no participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials



olympics.com
IOC EB recommends no participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes ...
The Executive Board (EB) of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) discussed again today the dilemma the Olympic Movement is currently ...

3:04 PM · Feb 28, 2022



EOC Statement in Support of Ukraine bit.ly/3pglVFN



6:02 PM · Feb 25, 2022

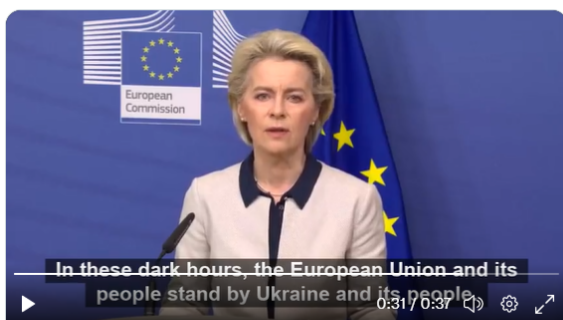
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We call on Russia to immediately stop the violence and to withdraw its troops from Ukraine's territory.

In these dark hours, the European Union stands together with Ukraine and its people.

Read full President [@vonderleyen](#)'s speech → europa.eu/!4rNF7F



europa.eu
Press statement on Russia's aggression against Ukraine

10:15 AM · Feb 24, 2022 · Twitter for Advertisers

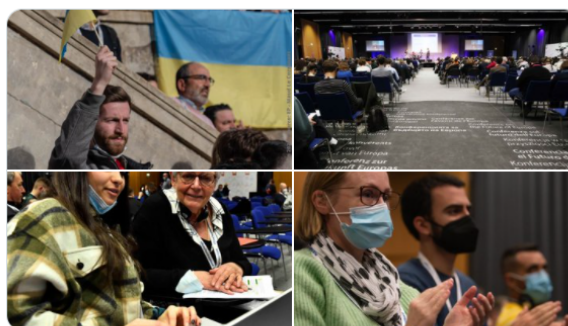


Europeans from all 27 EU countries met in Dublin to finalise their recommendations on:

- A stronger economy, social justice, jobs
- Youth, sport, culture, education
- Digital transformation

Participants also showed their support for the people of Ukraine.

[#TheFutureIsYours](#)



11:28 AM · Feb 28, 2022 · Twitter Web App

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Kari Fasting -Professor Emerita

"I believe it is important to have action plans also with respect to gender equality in leadership positions. The challenge is that everyone in the sport organisations needs to be behind it so that it not only exists on paper, that it is as concrete as possible, that there are budgets for implementation, and that one monitors or evaluates the implementation of the plans."

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army represents a turning point in European history and has the potential to challenge the previous world order. Just like the political leadership of Europe, sport has to face a new situation that has not been considered realistic even by almost all politicians, scientists and the media.

The ever-changing reality also makes it difficult for sports federations to make decisions based on a reliable analysis of the actual situation. Nevertheless, it can be stated with certainty that the attack on Ukraine breaks with all the values that sport stands for. Respect for human rights, peaceful exchange between all people and the avoidance of warlike conflicts, which find expression in the Olympic Truce, should build the basis and foundations for European and international sport.

The spontaneous reactions of individual federations, athlete commissions and National Olympic Committees are similar in their fundamental analysis and criticism, but go to different lengths in their demands regarding the sanctions against Russian and Belarusian sport.

There is a danger that the clear attitude of solidarity of international sport will be questioned by different sanctions of the sports federations. Against this background, it is essential that the international sports federations agree on a unified line. From today's perspective, this can only be to exclude the participation of Russian and Belarusian sports from all international and European competitions as the IOC and a number of NOCs and federations already requested. Only such a common positioning is appropriate to the situation and can ensure the unity of international sport. It also helps the federations, which have a great dependence on Russia due to their specific structure, to take such a decision.

Organised sport should not expect too much help from the European Union. Although the strict sanction measures in the financial sector, or the closure of airspace, also affect sport in Russia and Belarus, the autonomy of the sports federations leaves it up to them to decide and enforce sport-specific sanctions.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the future course of the war, it is difficult to make long-term forecasts about how long Russian and Belarusian sports would be subject to sanctions. But what matters now is to stop the war by all means and sport should bear responsibility by making the highest possible contribution to this.

Our thoughts are with all the people in Ukraine.

Kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Kari Fasting is a Norwegian scholar. She was a professor at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in the section “Culture and Society”. Her field of expertise is sports sociology and pedagogy. Within the past years, her research focused on gender equality and sexual harassment and abuse in sport. The important work has been recognised by numerous awards and invitations as a speaker, for instance at the pre-Olympic congress in Brisbane, Australia 2000 or the IOC International Conference on women and sport.

1. Congratulations, Professor Emerita Kari Fasting, on the IOC Women and Sport Award winner for Europe 2021! How do you see this award and what does it mean to you?

From a human rights perspective, I believe that all the Women and Sport Awards signal the importance of gender equality and of eliminating the discrimination and harassment of girls and women in sport. I therefore hope that the media attention that these awards bring will hasten that sport will become a more welcoming and undiminished place for girls and women.

For me personally, the award is an inspiration to continue with the research and policy work I am doing, in trying to contribute to the development of gender equality in sport.

2. You have been doing research on harassment and abuse in sport and been involved in developing safeguarding policies for several decades. This phenomenon is not new; however, in recent years the topic has been much more openly discussed and the taboos are finally breaking. What has led to this change and how do you see the development over the years?

Sport is normally looked upon as a positive activity, especially for children and youth. Accordingly, when the first research came out about three decades ago, which revealed that harassment and abuse also occurred in sport, the sport organisations reacted with denial. Though this is a topic that is much more openly discussed today, it is important to mention that in an international perspective there are still some sports that are in denial and too many that close their eyes for what is going on. The impact of such an attitude can lead to perpetrators getting the possibility to continue with their abusive behaviour -- sometimes for many years.

The Nasser Case in American Gymnastics is an example of this.

The big breakthrough came with the First IOC's Consensus Statement on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport. In 2006 the IOC Medical Commission, chaired by Professor Arne Ljungqvist, called for an expert meeting. As a result of the meeting the IOC's First Consensus Statement was produced and accepted by the IOC's executive committee in 2007.

The Consensus Statement was summarized in seven points, and the two first were:

- Develop policies and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse
- Monitor the implementation of these policies and procedures.

Educational material (e-learning) was developed in the following years and the second Consensus Statement was published about 10 years later (2016) and broadened to include all forms of harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport.

Since then IOC has developed Guidelines for the International Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) related to creating and implementing a policy to safeguard athletes from harassment and abuse. An extensive Toolkit for IFs and NOCs has also been developed.

Parallel with these developments the knowledge about harassment and abuse has been increased through different research projects, and in 2014 an international agency which seeks to end violence against athletes was founded: Safe Sport International (SSI).

3. Regarding safe sport and safeguarding measures, what would be your recommendations to sport organisations regarding prevention, awareness, education and case handling? Any other actions that you see necessary for sport organisations to have in place for proper safeguarding measures or policies?

All sport organisations should have a policy and an action plan. But this is not enough. It needs to be implemented into practice, which is not always done. Furthermore, I think that education is very important. The topic should be included in all coaching education. In many sports this is not done.

Additionally, it is also important to educate athletes about their rights and about acceptable and not acceptable behaviours from peers and adults. Further, case handling in this area must be clear -- easy to understand and to carry out in practice in a safe way.

4. Aligned with the IOC's mission to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement and the IOC Consensus Statement released in 2016, it should be a commitment of the European NOCs to ensure all athletes the right to engage in "safe sport"; however, attitudes and approaches to safeguarding varies across countries. Hence based on your experience, what actions should be done to further develop a shared framework on safeguarding in sport among European NOCs?

In addition to the factors previously mentioned, an action plan will need an adequate budget for carrying it out in practice. I found in a European study, among 16 countries, that many sports had an action plan, but only a few had money to implement it. Further I believe it is important that there is one person in charge of the topic in each sports organisation - a harassment officer.

It is also important to include athletes in the development of safeguarding -- preferably athletes who themselves have been victims of harassment and abuse. Governance and strong leadership are also necessary if changes are going to take place.

5. You have been also an active advocate for gender equality in leadership positions. There are several recommendations and policies in place, however, the numbers of women in leadership positions do not seem to change. What concrete actions would be needed for a sustainable change? What are the barriers that prevent more equal leadership?

The barriers that prevent more equal leadership are many, but they may be rooted in the way that sport organisations operate, in combination with traditional gender roles. Sport has been developed by and for men in a time where the gender roles were very delineated. Accordingly, male values and men's ways of living are the guideposts that control sports even today. Many women, and a few men, are not willing to volunteer the time necessary to take on a time-consuming leadership position. For some, the doping scandals, corruption and abuse cases may also have made it less attractive. In addition, much research shows that female leaders in sports may experience discrimination and harassment.

Some countries, like Norway, have been successful in implementing a quota system in the National Olympic Committees regulations. This happened in 1990 and the female representation on the executive boards in the different sports federations has, for the last 10 years, been around 40%, which is equivalent to the number of female memberships. The quota regulation does not, however account for the election of presidents, so there are many fewer women in the top-level elected positions in the sport federations.

6. EOC EU Office just got exciting news, that our new project on gender equality in leadership positions, called Guidance to Achieve More Equal leadership in Sport (GAMES) will get support from the Erasmus+ Sport programme. The idea of the project is to develop concrete action plans for the NOCs involved and you will be part of the project consortium. How far sport organisations are in setting up such actions plans and what are the main obstacles to overcome?

Congratulations on the new project. As for safety, I believe it is important to have action plans also with respect to gender equality in leadership positions. The challenge is that everyone in the sport organisations needs to be behind it so that it not only exists on paper, that it is as concrete as possible, that there are budgets for implementation, and that one monitors or evaluates the implementation of the plans. That is the only way to find out which actions have been successful, and which have not.

Whether we talk about making sport a safer space for girls and women or increasing the female leadership in sport, a change in the sport culture may be a necessity. There are also indicators that these two areas are related, since most perpetrators are men. To change traditions and a culture are complicated in all areas and is a long-term process.

I believe that it is necessary for sport organisations to have a stronger and broader focus for the long term, rather than on specific smaller projects on specific themes. This can be done by developing an action plan for gender equality in sport, covering not only safeguarding and leadership but also other indicators of inequality in sport -- such as participation and communication and the media. My recommendation is therefore that all international sport federations and National Olympic committees should have a gender equality plan, and that safeguarding and leadership should be important parts in this.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Kari Fasting for her interview and contribution to the monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

French Presidency organises sport and sustainable development goals in childhood conference at UNESCO

A Ministerial Conference on “Sports and Sustainable Development Goals in Childhood” was organised by the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 7-8 February.

With this conference the French Presidency wished to open new prospects at European level regarding the issues surrounding appropriate physical activity. In this regard, experts, athletes and representatives of the European sports movement and the European Union were gathered to discuss the role of physical activity in youth development and education.

French Sports Minister, Roxana Maracineanu, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Xing Qu, Head of the Sport Unit at the European Commission, Floor van Houdt, and Director of Environmental Excellence of the Paris 2024 OCOG, Georgina Grenon, were amongst the speakers in the French capital.

At the event, Minister Maracineanu emphasised the French Presidency's commitment to sport. “I hope this conference will open up more shared prospects at European level,” she said. “Not only for our public sports policies, but also for all stakeholders in education.”

Sarah Ourahmoune, Olympic silver medalist in Boxing, FIFA World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff, Justine Hénin, former world No. 1 tennis player, and Pierre Vaultier, two-time Olympic Gold Champion snowboarder, participated as key speakers.

As distinguished athletes, they each emphasised the importance of getting children involved in sport from an early age, not for the sole purpose of elite competition, but as a way to develop social skills, make friends, and help them integrate into their local communities.

Panels at the event addressed topics like the investment of the EU for young people, environmental challenges in sport, physical literacy and recommended actions that can be put into place at national and EU level.

Topics such as which sports should be prioritised for children, how physical activities should be practiced and how more awareness can be raised about security and environmental protection issues were all highlighted during discussions at UNESCO Headquarters.

On behalf of the European Commission, Floor van Houdt praised the Erasmus+ Programme as a successful method to conduct sport-related projects that engaged young people with key stakeholders and also highlighted the European Week of Sport. “The Commission's message is ‘get out there, be active’,” she told the conference.

The second Conference organised by the French Presidency will take place on 3-4 March in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, with the theme ‘Towards a Green and Sustainable Deal for Sport’. The EOC EU Office will follow the event and report on it in its next monthly report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Watch back the conference here](#)

[Full schedule available here](#)

EP CULT Committee adopts a report on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism

On 7 February, the Culture and Education Committee (CULT) of the European Parliament adopted a [report](#) on the role of culture, education, media and sport in the fight against racism.

The report offers the CULT Committee's perspective on how to combat stereotypes, develop inclusive education, raise awareness of the history and legacy of racism in Europe, and tackle the under representation of racial and ethnic minorities in the media, in cultural and creative sectors and in sport. This initiative from CULT members follows up on the European Commission's [anti-racism action plan 2020-2025](#).

The adopted report is an encompassing report, supporting the adoption of a horizontal approach to the fight against racism in all the domains of the Committee's competence, including sport. The MEPs recognise the power of sport to unite communities and be a vector for inclusion, however, they are urging the Commission to find solutions to combat racism in sport and foster inclusion and respect. Moreover, they exhort the Commission, Member States and sports organisations to adopt concrete measures to support victims of racism in sports.

In more details, the report:

- Acknowledges sport as a "driver for social inclusion, equality and the promotion of EU values" and welcomes the efforts made by grassroots sport organisations to bring people together and foster respect and inclusion;
- Calls on the Commission to assess grassroots sports initiatives supported by of the Erasmus+ programme focusing on inclusion and the fight against racism in view of monitoring the number of funded projects and the amount of funding allocated;

- Calls on the Commission to "promote the inclusion of migrants and people from racial and ethnic minority backgrounds in grassroots sports clubs";
- Advocates for better "representation of diverse groups in sport generally and in managerial positions of sporting organisations";
- Calls on Member States to "develop inclusive sports policies with the appropriate funding to ensure that sport is accessible to all, regardless of ethnicity, race, disability or socioeconomic background";
- Insists on a "zero-tolerance approach to racism, hate speech, violence and other racist behaviour in sport" and urges the Commission, the Member States and sports federations to apply appropriate penalties to offenders and measures to support victims;
- Urges the Commission to "develop recommendations or guidelines in sport in order to combat racism in sport at local, regional, national and European levels" and calls on the sporting sector to "actively contribute to such a code, subscribe to it and to incorporate it within their statutes".

The plenary session of the European Parliament will debate and vote on the text on 7 March.

The EOC EU Office has closely monitored the discussions on the report and will follow the final adoption of the report.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Final vote results of the adopted report](#)

Parliament's resolution on the fight against cancer stresses the role of sport

After 15 months of work, the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) of the European Parliament (EP) came to an end, culminating in the adoption of a [resolution](#) entitled “Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy”. The resolution was adopted on 16 February by a large majority (652 in favour, 15 against, 27 abstentions).

It calls on Member States to effectively tackle risk factors, improve cancer care and increase research cooperation and funding. BECA was established in the EP in June 2020 as a special committee, and was specifically tasked with evaluating opportunities for the EU to take concrete action, identifying legislation and other measures that can help prevent and fight cancer, and looking into the best ways to support research, among others.

Resolution highlights potential of sport in the fight against cancer

The resolution also touches upon the arena of sports and physical activity. They are characterized in the resolution as key activities in the combat of the incidence and the recurrence of cancer, as positive contributors to the reduction of mental health problems, as favourable factors to social inclusion and a vital instrument in the fight against obesity.

Furthermore, the final adopted resolution highlights the importance of making the practice of physical activity and sports accessible and inclusive from a young age (in particular for vulnerable groups), by financing public infrastructures, equipment and programmes. It calls on the Member States to facilitate access to physical activity for hospitalised patients if clinically recommended.

The resolution also welcomes the EU's ‘[HealthyLifestyle4All](#)’ campaign involving the promotion of sports, physical activity and healthy diets, whilst also recommending that schools include health education in their curricula to ensure that minors and adolescents learn how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Moreover, the resolution calls for health education to be an integral part of social assistance educational policies.

Resolution calls for ban on alcohol sponsorship at sporting events with minors

The focus on youth also brought under public discussion the importance of protecting minors from commercial communication on alcohol consumption, as well as product placement and sponsorship of alcohol brands. The [initial version of the resolution](#) called for a complete ban on alcohol sponsorship in sports, which was met with scepticism by several MEPs who criticized the negative impact a ban on alcohol sponsorship would have on the economic scale. The final report now “calls for the prohibition of alcohol advertising and sponsorship at sport events when those events are mainly attended by minors”.

The European Parliament's resolutions are not binding on the European Commission, but they reflect the political opinion of the European Parliament.

The EOC EU Office welcomes this report as it emphasizes the impact and importance of sport and physical activity as integral preventative and holistic tools in the fight against cancer.

The Expert Group on Green Sport follows up on COP26 and exchanges on sustainable sport events

On 17 February, the EOC EU Office took part in the fourth meeting of the European Commission's Expert Group on Green Sport, gathering together the representatives of EU Member States' Sport Ministries and sport organisations. This time the discussion focused on the outcome of COP26 in Glasgow and examples of sustainable sport practices across Europe.

Outcomes of COP26 and updates on the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework

Opening the conversation, Hans Bruyninckx (Head of the European Environmental Agency) presented some feedback on COP26. Bruyninckx described COP26 as a "step" made by 195 countries, even though this was not enough and all will need to speed up towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. He mentioned the European Union's initiatives for climate (European Climate Law, European Green Deal and Fit for 55 package) and highlighted the need for sport organisations to be part of the effort. According to Bruyninckx, athletes should use their audience to speak out on climate change and sport.

Lindita Xhaferi-Salihu (UNFCCC) presented updates on the [UN Sports for Climate Action Framework](#).

Xhaferi-Salihu quoted the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa, who declared in Glasgow: "we are not fighting for a medal, but for a chance to have a long future on this planet". To that, she added that "transition is already underway and sport needs to set the tone".

National initiatives for more sustainable sport events

Representatives from Spain and Germany were invited to present two initiatives aiming at improving the sustainability of their sport events.

Juan Martorell (Deputy Director, Spanish High Council for Sports) presented the Spanish Green Flag, a green label for eco-responsible sport organisers, in partnership with the Spanish NOC. Sport events' organisers that are awarded the Green Flag have to meet certain commitment and set up the eco-ambassadors programme (athletes raising awareness on environment protection) and the eco-volunteers programme (activities organised by volunteers during sports event). According to Martorell, the Green Flag is a great step forward but there is "still a long way to go" for the sustainability of sports events.

Bianca Quadorkus (German Olympic Sports Confederation - DOSB) then presented the [Green Champions website](#) for event organisers. This online portal provides organisers with information on all topics around sports events organisation (building & resources, traffic & noise, catering, nature & landscape, water, sustainability management, energy & climate, waste, economic & social aspects) and gives concrete ideas for action under each topic.

Next steps for the Expert Group

The work on the "Recommendations for a common framework for sustainable sport" is ongoing. Experts are currently collecting good practices from Member States and sport organisations and the writing should be completed by the end of 2023.

The next meeting of the Expert Group should take place in June, potentially physically.

Impact of the Covid-19 on coaches in the focus of the Expert Group meeting

The European Commission's Expert Group "Strengthening the recovery and the crisis resilience of the sport sector during and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic" met for the fourth time on 23 February. This time, the focus of the meeting was to discuss specifically the impact of the pandemic on coaches and coach education.

After the opening and welcome by Floor Van Houdt, Head of the European Commission Sport Unit, Geoff Carroll and Ben Gittus from EOSE, gave an overview on the labour market statistics for the sport sector 2020 and potential impact of Covid-19 on sport employment.

They were followed by International Council for Coaching Excellence's Ladislav Petrovic and Guillermo Calvo, who highlighted the importance of mental health issues and how the pandemic has increased the need to support the athletes' mental wellbeing by the coaches. Wiebke Fabinski from the German Olympic Sports Confederation stressed the importance to strengthen the coach education systems and said that the more there are qualified coaches also on grassroots level, the better sport is prepared to face unexpected challenges like the pandemic. The last contribution was from Toomas Tõnise, Head of the Estonian Foundation of Sport Education and Information and also Vice-President of the Estonian NOC. He gave interesting insights into the situation in Estonia and for example said that in Estonia, the number of registered coaches has surprisingly increased during the pandemic, as the coaches have realised the importance to be officially registered. However, this seems not to be the case widely, when it comes to other countries or other sports.

The second part of the meeting included a tour de table with a discussion both with the representatives of the Member States and sport movement. The EOC EU Office, represented by its Deputy Director Heidi Pekkola, highlighted in its contribution that even though the pandemic has been a huge burden, it has also brought new opportunities for coach education with all the digitalisation and implementation of online courses. Furthermore, she stressed that especially the situation with volunteer coaches at the grassroots level has been difficult and the challenge is to now get the coaches who have left their positions during the pandemic back in the clubs. Thus, it is important that coaching would be a qualified job which provides a secured income. Furthermore, she stressed that coaches can have a big impact on young athletes' lives and the profession in general should get the respect it deserves.

The Expert Group will have the next meeting most likely in May and will draft recommendations that cover different areas of sport and how the sport sector can recover from the pandemic. The EOC EU Office is an observing member of the Group.

Sport shooting: ECHA scientific committees to deliver opinion on lead restriction by end of 2022

The ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) will take extra time to conclude their assessment of the proposed restriction on lead in outdoor shooting and fishing in the EU. This decision was taken in order to ensure that the scientific assessment of the proposal and the information submitted during the stakeholder consultation is thorough.

The opinion of RAC and the draft opinion of SEAC are now expected in June. This will be followed by a 60-day public consultation on the draft SEAC opinion, during which all sports stakeholders will be able to provide feedback.

As ECHA expects a large response to consultation of SEAC's draft opinion, the final opinion of SEAC is planned for adoption in December 2022.

The first public consultation on the restriction proposal was open until 24 September last year and received 319 comments.

In principle, ECHA's restriction proposal foresees a ban on placing lead on the market in outdoor shooting. In this respect, the dossier submitter ECHA favours that a corresponding market ban also applies to the area of sport shooting (so-called preferred option). However, the restriction proposal includes an optional exemption for sport shooting (so-called supplementary option), in case policy makers do not want to implement a ban on lead used for sport shooting. An exemption for sport shooting should then be accompanied by mandatory risk management measures, according to the proposal.

The EOC EU Office already reported on the restriction proposal in its February and May 2021 monthly reports and will continue following the process carefully.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA News](#)

[ECHA main page of the restriction proposal \(incl. stakeholder comments\)](#)

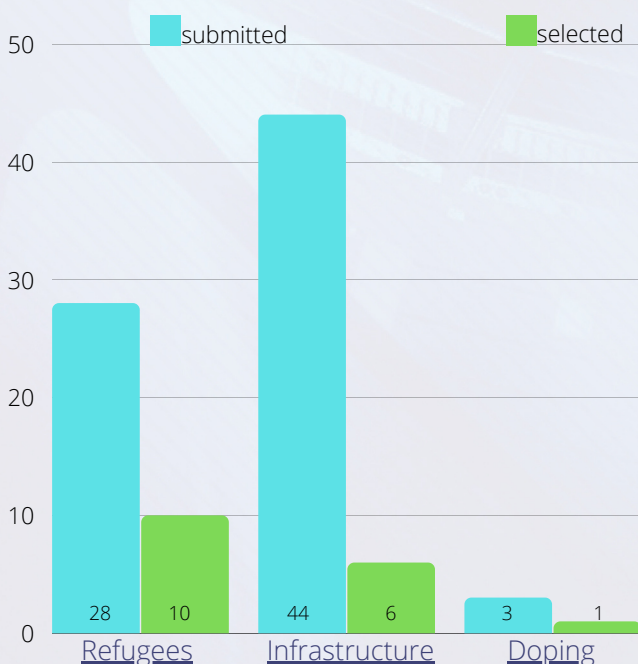
[ECHA Lead Overview Page](#)

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions 2021: Publication of the Results



On 10 February 2022, the Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission released the 2021's [results of the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions](#) in the field of sport.

In 2021, the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions included 3 Calls for Proposals: one in the field of doping in sport, another one in integration and social inclusion of refugees, and the third one in grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation.



Preparatory Action: [Sport as a tool for integration and social inclusion of refugees](#) (success rate = 35.7%)

- Out of 28 proposals submitted, 10 projects were selected among which the "European Solidarity Running Project – Refugees and Host Communities Running, Jogging and Walking as one (TESRP)" of the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

Preparatory Action: [Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation](#) (success rate = 13.6%)

- Out of 44 proposals submitted, 6 projects were selected among which 2 were awarded to European National Olympic Committees:

1. "SPORTOUT: Sportvereine draußen stark machen - Gesunde Sportangebote nachhaltig in der Natur gestalten" which beneficiary is the Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (DOSB)

2. "SPORTMATCH" project which beneficiary is the Nederlands Olympisch Comité* Nederlandse Sport Federatie.

Pilot Project: [Building investigative capacity to better fight doping in sport in Europe](#) (success rate = 33.3%)

- Out of 3 proposals submitted, 1 project "II CAP BUILDING Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Capacity and Capability Building in Europe" was awarded to the World Anti-Doping Agency.

🏆 Success Rate Call
"Refugees": 35.7%

🏆 Success Rate Call
"Infrastructure": 13.6%

🏆 Success Rate Call
"Doping": 33.3%

Hence, the EOC EU Office warmly congratulates the 3 successful National Olympic Committees, namely Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands, whilst wishing them all great success for the implementation of their projects.

The Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions are designed with the aim to test the feasibility of new policy initiatives and/or preparing the ground for the adoption of future measures. In other words, Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions are new proposals, which might become EU funding programmes, in future. Hence, the specific priorities of the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions change yearly whilst remaining aligned with topical priorities of the European Union.

The application for the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions are mono-beneficiary whilst activities at the national level are eligible; and yet, only organisations in Member States are eligible to apply and/or participate in Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions. Since 2021, Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the field sport are managed by EACEA via the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#).

The Annual Work Programme for the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions 2022 has not yet been approved by the Commission. Once approved, EACEA will launch the 2022's Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the field sport (foreseen by the end of March 2022). In 2022, the hereunder priorities are foreseen to be addressed in the Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in the field sport:

- Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation
 - People and planet (NEW)
-

Erasmus+ 2021: EOC EU Office's project on gender equality approved

On 24 February, the EOC EU Office received the good news from the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission regarding the selection results of the Erasmus+ Sport call 2021. The EOC EU Office is pleased to announce that its project, named "Guidance to Achieve More Equal leadership in Sport" (GAMES), has been selected for funding in the first edition of the Erasmus+ Programme within the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

GAMES is a 24-month project, which aspires to promote good governance in sport, particularly focusing on promoting structural and cultural changes in terms of gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions among partners NOCs. In this context, GAMES's aim is to improve gender equality in the key leadership and decision-making positions of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) by promoting structural changes in their governance, enhancing the understanding on the existing cultural barriers and encouraging the NOCs to work with their member federations to create a sustainable change.

Within GAMES, each partner NOC will develop a national strategic action plan with concrete actions to improve gender equality in the leadership of their NOC, as well as to launch the implementation of the action plans - and related activities - at national level. Significantly, GAMES will produce a "Pool of Actions" inclusive of best practices in terms of gender equality in sport with the ultimate aim to further promote concrete knowledge and procedures in the realm of gender equality among all European NOCs.

The EOC EU Office is going to implement the project GAMES together with 8 NOCs (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey) and renowned experts in the field of gender equality and good governance, including Professor Emerita Kari Fasting from Equal Rights and I TRUST Sport. Furthermore, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will also act as a key player in terms of promoting and disseminating the project deliverables across all NOCs worldwide.

The EOC EU Office will make a detailed analysis of the results of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021 available in the upcoming weeks, once they become available. In the meantime, the EOC EU Office congratulates all successful applicants and wishes them all the best for the implementation of their respective projects.

EACEA has already announced the deadline for the Erasmus+ Sport Programme call 2022 which is 23 March 2022 at 17.00h (CET):

- [Cooperation Partnerships](#)
- [Small-Scale Partnerships](#)
- [Not-for-profit Sport Events](#)

7 April 2022 at 17.00h (CET)

- [Capacity Building in Sport](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

RINGS project enters into final phase: Liechtenstein hosts the first National Training Workshop

Hosted by the NOC of Liechtenstein, the first national training workshop of the RINGS project took place in Vaduz on 25 February. The workshop brought together the Board members of the NOC to discuss the implementation of their strategic plan for the months to come, especially focusing on the public affairs strategy regarding the upcoming negotiations on the future of sport funding in Liechtenstein. The RINGS project, led by the EOC EU Office and co-funded by Erasmus+ Sport, is running from January 2020 until the end of December 2022. It focuses on the strategic management of the NOCs, including topics such as change management, work with stakeholders and public affairs to develop the governance of the NOCs, as well as to better equip them with concrete management tools. The last phase of the project is to organise national training workshops, hosted by all 11 RINGS partner NOCs. Each of them focuses on specific themes that are relevant in each of the individual countries.

Public affairs in the focus of discussion

President of the NOC Liechtenstein, Stefan Marxer, opened the workshop and welcomed the Board Members. He highlighted that these are important times, as the agreement with the government of Liechtenstein on sports funding needs to be renegotiated later this year. Thus, a systematic approach to public affairs is very much needed.

Following the opening remarks, RINGS Project Manager Heidi Pekkola gave an introduction to the project, as well as presenting the outline of the RINGS handbook on strategic management of NOCs and the principles of the RINGS stakeholder tool. More importantly, focusing on the day's topic, she went through the RINGS public affairs guidelines, by underlining some key elements of the guidelines.

Discussions on the importance of analysing the situation, identifying key persons, forming key messages, as well as focusing on the timing took place.

After the introduction, the RINGS public affairs guidelines were used as a source of information and inspiration for the workshop on the public affairs strategy. Secretary General of NOC Liechtenstein, Beat Wachter, led the workshop discussions with the Board Members on the concrete actions. After the workshop, he was satisfied with the fruitful discussions and concluded it by saying: "The essence of strategy is often to choose what not to do. At today's workshop we very clearly defined who has to do what and how in the coming weeks".

The next RINGS National Training Workshop will take place at the end of March in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Website of the RINGS project](https://www.ringsproject.eu/)

DOSB: sports clubs and the pandemic - results on the loss of members in Germany

The results of the Covid-19 supplementary survey of the Sports Development Report were published by the Federal Institute for Sports Science (BISp). The Sport Development Report is financed by the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), the 16 regional sports associations, and the Federal Institute of Sport Science (BISp).

The Covid-19 situation and the challenges for sports activities in Germany remain difficult. A renewed closure of sports facilities has been prevented. Yet the regular implementation of sports activities is far from being possible. Thus, even in the fourth Covid-19 wave, clubs are struggling with a variety of restrictions and obstacles in sports activities.

In a Covid-19 special survey of sports clubs collected in spring 2021, the Sports Development Report confirms the trend that it is primarily the membership base that is affected - with a parallel resilience to crisis in other areas of club sports. 3,895 sports clubs participated in the supplementary survey conducted between the beginning of April and the beginning of June 2021.

Overall, it can be seen that the effects vary greatly depending on the size of the club and that the data therefore must be viewed in a differentiated manner. Small, purely volunteer-based sports clubs face different challenges compared to large, more service-oriented organisations.

More than 50% of all clubs report a decline in membership.

For 2020, this is calculated to be a loss of 3.3% across all clubs. At the same time the loss for large sports clubs (>2,500 members) is even higher with 6%.

Overall, the issue in relation to membership has increased significantly from 2020 to 2021.

A clear response to the aforementioned decline in membership - as well as the restrictions - has been the increasing implementation of digital offers, as well as outdoor activities. In addition, clubs made particular use of the support, advice and information services provided by the associations during the crisis.

The data on personnel development should be viewed in a differentiated manner. Most of the clubs state that the number of people in board functions, volunteer coaches, referees and judges has remained stable. However, it remains to be seen whether this trend is sustainable or short-term due to the time frame of the survey.

At the time of the survey, a certain resistance to the current crisis was also evident in the financial area. On average, the clubs' financial problems and expectations of existential financial problems by the end of 2021 are rather low. One reason for this could be the financial support measures that were set up in the context of the pandemic. The data show that around one in five clubs applied for financial assistance measures, with the proportion much higher among large sports clubs at over two-thirds. Applications were mainly submitted for liquidity assistance.

The stable results in some areas of the study should not obscure the fact that a large majority of clubs nevertheless feel that there is a lack of support from politicians and administrators and that the bureaucratic burden still remains high.

The study is available in English via the link below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[DOSB News](#)

[Study in English - Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sports clubs in Germany](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

3 March 2022

French Presidency

Ministerial Conference: Toward a Green Deal for Sport

7 - 8 March 2022

European Climate Conference

20 March 2022

EOC Executive Committee Meeting - Vuokatti, Finland

20 - 25 March 2022

Winter EYOF Vuokatti, Finland



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