

MONTHLY REPORT

August-September 2022

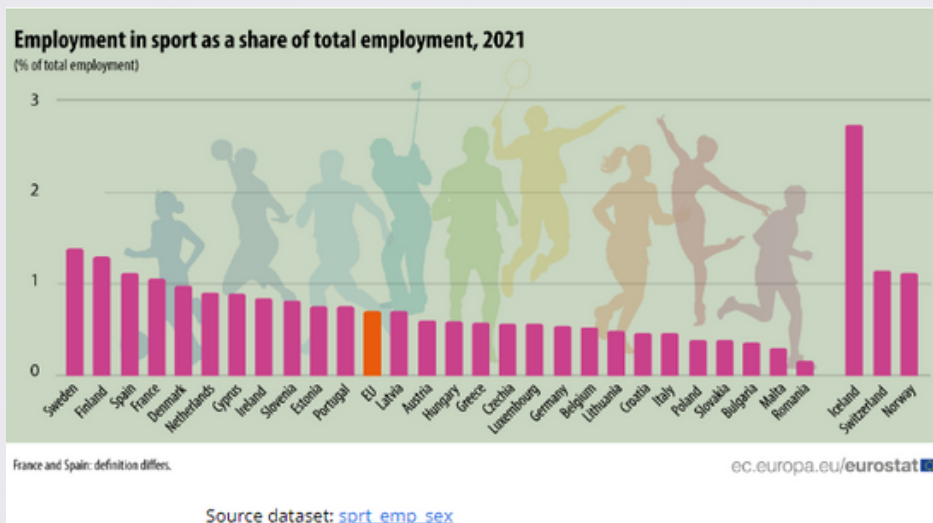


EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

FACTS AND FIGURES



New Eurobarometer on sport and physical activity:

55% of Europeans exercise

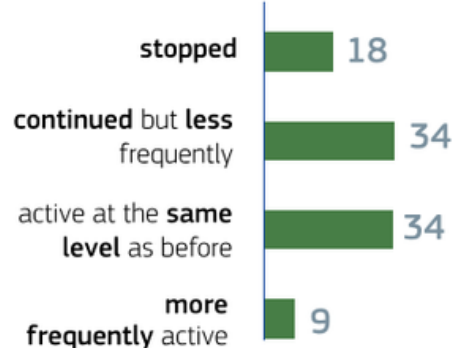


TWEET OF THE MONTH



Impact of Covid-19 on physical activity...

(In %)



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Magali Martowicz - Head of Human Rights, IOC



"The enduring power of the Olympic Games is their universality. The Olympic Games are the only event which brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. But we can only bring the entire world together if everyone can participate.."

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INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

In times of extremely increased prices in all areas of life and especially in the area of energy supply, sport is facing similar challenges as other actors of our society. Solutions are being worked on feverishly at both national and European levels to keep the additional costs within reasonable limits, especially for companies and end consumers. The stakes are high for organised sport in Europe. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on clubs and federations is still being felt. Rising inflation and extreme energy costs could mean that sports infrastructures such as swimming pools, ice rinks or sports halls cannot be used at all or only to a limited extent. It is not yet possible to foresee what effects such a development will have on the playing activities and membership figures of the clubs.

What is foreseeable, however, is that sport in Europe will have to become part of national and European rescue plans. This has already happened to some extent in some EU Member States, but not in the majority of states and also not at the European level. The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has underpinned the importance of sport and physical activity for the cohesion and health of our societies. The lesson to be learnt from this experience is that the closure of sports infrastructures, especially for grassroots sports, must be avoided.

The just concluded European Olympic Committees Seminar in Ancient Olympia has started the final spurt of preparations for the European Games in Krakow-Malopolska (Poland) in June 2023. The world's largest multi-sport event in 2023 will be held for the first time on the territory of the European Union and will feature a variety of Olympic Qualifiers and European Championships in 18 Olympic and 9 non-Olympic sports.

The EOC EU Office is very pleased that the application for the OCEAN project has received funding from the European Union. With 18 NOCs, ANOC and the IOC, the project will focus on measuring and reducing the carbon footprint, in addition to training climate action officers in the participating NOCs. The project is supposed to start in January 2023.

On 1 October, Noémie Letellier started working at the EOC EU Office to replace Heidi Pekkola during her maternity leave. We wish Noémie, who gained her first professional experience in the context of Paris 2024, a good start and especially Heidi all the best for her upcoming childbirth in the course of October!

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



As Head of Human Rights, Magali Martowicz leads the development and implementation of the IOC's strategic framework on human rights across the three spheres of influence of the IOC: IOC as an organization, IOC as owner of the Olympic Game and IOC as leader of the Olympic Movement. Magali has nearly 15 years of experience working on human rights - mostly for the private sector - where she led and oversaw a range of collaborations with companies, governments, investors and civil society. Magali held previous directors and board member roles in the business and human rights sector prior to joining the IOC. Magali received a MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Master in Management from SKEMA Business School.

1. The IOC has been working on the topic of human rights already for a while. How would you assess the meaning and the impact of the IOC's new Strategic Framework on Human Rights?

The IOC has indeed carried out important work on human rights, even if it was not always labelled or identified as such. The IOC strategic framework on human rights is the result of Olympic Agenda 2020+5, in which we committed to its adoption with a view to mainstream respect for human rights across our three spheres of responsibility, building on what exists.

It complements existing strategies and more specifically it enables the Human Rights Unit to engage with the rest of the organisation and the broader Movement on the recommendations related to human rights in Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

2. What are the most important elements of the Strategic Framework on Human Rights, especially those that go beyond previous IOC positions in this area?

There are multiple important elements in the Strategic Framework on Human Rights. The most significant one is our commitment to address harm to people within our remit. The Strategic Framework on Human Rights defines clearly our remit - these are the three spheres of responsibility of the IOC, 1) the IOC as an organisation, 2) IOC as owner of the Olympic Games and 3) IOC as leader of the Olympic Movement.

We will deliver our commitment to respect human rights in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs). The UNGPs are the standard of reference of the UN when it comes to management of human rights impacts. They are widely embraced by States, private sector organisations and many stakeholders within the sport movement.

As a result, we committed to amend the Olympic Charter to better articulate our responsibilities towards human rights. This is important because the Olympic Charter binds all constituents of the Olympic Movement: the International Federations (IFs), the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games.

In practice this means that the IOC will strengthen its processes to prevent, mitigate and account for any adverse human rights impacts across our activities. This includes heightening our efforts to engage meaningfully with the people who might be negatively impacted.

3. How will the IOC ensure that the provisions included in the Framework will be implemented both by the IOC as an organisation and by the Olympic Movement?

The Framework enables us to engage with the rest of the organisation and the broader Movement to meet our human rights responsibilities within our respective remits. We will use the UNGPs to guide us through that process.

We also believe that a public periodic reporting on progress is an important enabler. Consistent with its current public reporting practices on sustainability, the IOC committed to publishing an IOC Human Rights Report every two years starting in 2024.

The report will cover progress on all actions stated in the Framework. To enable stakeholders to have confidence in the integrity of the reporting, we also committed to follow the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework and to seek independent assurance of our human rights reporting and programme achievements.

4. Sport organisations have been criticised in the past when major sport events took place in countries with a poor human rights record? How will the new Framework address this challenge?

The enduring power of the Olympic Games is their universality. The Olympic Games are the only event which brings the entire world together in peaceful competition. But we can only bring the entire world together if everyone can participate. We can only achieve this mission by showing respect and solidarity for one another. As a global organisation, we have two important working principles namely universality and solidarity, on the one hand, and unity in diversity on the other.

This being said - within its remit, the IOC takes its human rights responsibility very seriously.

The remit of the IOC covers the Olympic Games and to ensure that they are staged, as per the Olympic Charter, in accordance with the IOC Code of Ethics as well as IOC expectations in terms of the management of possible human rights impacts. This is reflected in the new and streamlined approach to electing future hosts.

In the Strategic Framework, we committed to strengthen our assessment of the human rights situation in the country and engage much earlier on the potential future hosts on a dialogue to assess their capacity to manage possible impact on human rights in alignment with clear and concrete expectations and the UNGPs. This will allow the IOC to identify potential challenges as well as opportunities from the onset.

5. Do you intend to increase cooperation with other stakeholders in this field when it comes to the implementation of concrete activities?

The IOC is committed to further embed respect for international human rights standards across its activities and build its own capacity to be a positive influence for the wider Olympic Movement. As part of the implementation of the Framework our engagement will take different forms.

We will follow the guidance of the UNGPs in terms of management of impacts on human rights of our stakeholders and use of leverage with our constituents. Any engagement related to specific laws or practices of sovereign countries and governments has to strictly remain within our remit and mandate.

6. Would it make sense to align, in the future, the different approaches of sport organisations in the field of human rights?

Yes, absolutely. As the leader of the Olympic Movement, the IOC has set itself a general objective, namely to develop opportunities for exchange amongst IFs' and NOCs' human rights practitioners to share best practices. This is even more concrete for instance in the case of Safe Sport, where we committed to support consultations with IFs and NOCs on pathways to support the effective mitigation of harassment and abuse in sport, and remediation of cases of harassment and abuse in national contexts.

We also committed to support with the follow-up on this consultation to help address the shared challenges experienced by IFs and NOCs with tailored support measures. The IOC is committed to support the alignment of approaches across the Olympic Movement.

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



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

Erasmus+: Funded projects in 2022 and a comparative analysis to 2021

In September, the European Commission's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) published the [results of the 2022 Erasmus+ Sport Call for proposals](#).

EACEA, which manages the Erasmus+ Sport programme, received 1278 project and event applications out of which 303 have been selected for funding, including:

- 106 Collaborative partnerships
- 173 Small-scale partnerships
- 20 Not-for-profit European Sport events
- 4 Capacity building in the field of sport – new call launched for the first time in 2022

The EOC EU Office, 3 of its partners and 3 European NOCs have been successful, as coordinators, with their Erasmus+ applications – whilst many others have been successful as partners.

OCEAN project – Measuring NOCs' carbon footprint

The EOC EU Office got a grant to implement a project called OCEAN, which aims to create and provide a training for Climate Action Officers who are foreseen to drive forward the topic of climate neutrality in the NOCs operations. Hence, the program aims to support partner NOCs in creating a tailor-made carbon reduction strategy after the evaluation of their carbon footprint with the support of the Öko-Institut. Under the coordination of the EOC EU Office, OCEAN involves national governing bodies (18 NOCs) and researchers/experts in terms of climate change in sports (Öko -Institut), as well as both IOC and ANOC as associated partners in the project. The NOCs partners are: Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Kosovo, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Successful NOCs and partner federations

Furthermore, the NOCs of Slovenia, Slovakia and North Macedonia, in addition to EOC EU Office's partners ENGSO, International Biathlon Union (IBU) and the European Volleyball Confederation (CEV) obtained funding for projects.

- The NOC of North Macedonia will lead the Cooperation Partnership named "Athletes Speakers" which scope is "helping athletes to find their voice as they transition from sport to life".
- IBU will coordinate the Cooperation Partnership named "SIEPPUR" which tackles the topic of sustainable snow management in nordic snow sports.
- CEV will lead a Cooperation Partnership named "Play Volleyball, grow with it 2.0" which aims to inspire primary and secondary school children to get and be active, while simultaneously expanding diversity and inclusivity through sport.
- ENGSO will coordinate a Collaborative Partnership which tackles the topic of mental health among youth named "HOORAY - 'Youth for Youth's Mental Health through Physical Activity".

In addition,

- ENGSO was awarded one of the four projects financed under the new call Capacity building in the field of Sport. "Sports as Value" aims to build the capacity of sports managers and coaches in the Balkan region to promote values in and through sport. This project also involves four European NOCs: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro.
- The NOC of Slovenia was awarded the project under the Not for profit European Sport Events named Active, Healthy and Happy Volunteers at European Youth Olympic Festival - Maribor 2023 which addresses the priority of volunteering in sports.

- The NOC of Slovakia will lead a Small-scale Cooperation Partnership which tackles the horizontal priority of digital transformation named "the Virtual Exposition of Czech and Slovak Olympic Heritage". The NOC of the Czech Republic is also a partner in this project.

The EOC EU Office congratulates all successful applicants and wishes them the best of luck in the implementation of their projects.

The full list of beneficiaries – coordinators and partners – of the Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2021 was also made available: [Collaborative partnerships](#), [Small-scale Collaborative Partnerships](#) and [Non-for-Profit European Sport events](#).

Comparative analysis of the Erasmus+ results 2021-2022

Following the publication of the [Erasmus+ 2022 Sport selection results](#) by the EACEA, the EOC EU Office performed an in-depth analysis in order to provide an extensive review of the sport movement's engagement with the Erasmus+ sport programme.

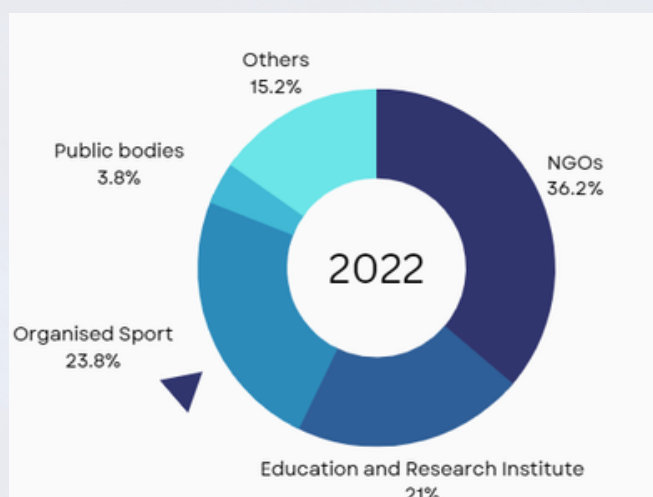
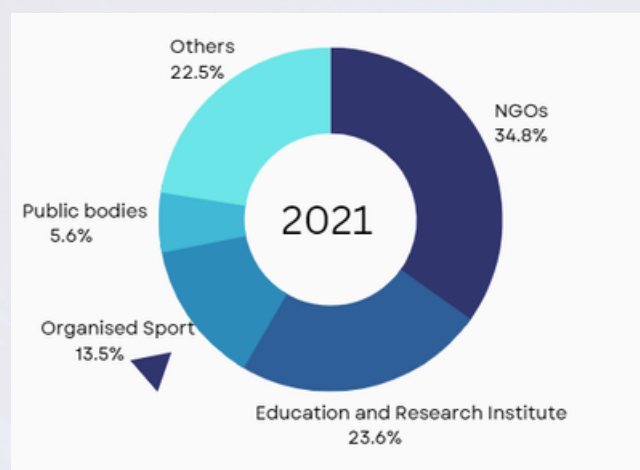
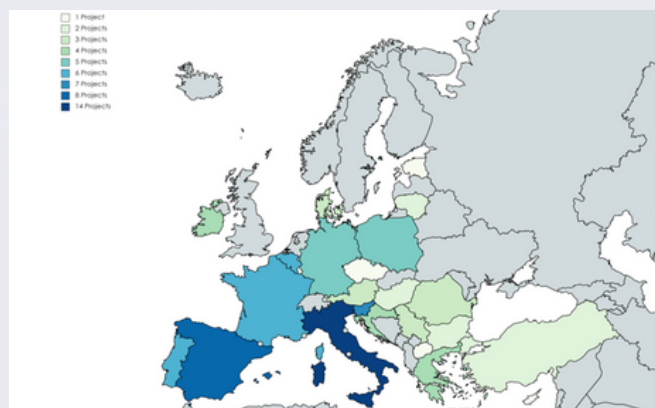
Although the number of applications dropped by 17 units (-1,3%) from 2021 to 2022, 78 more projects (+35%) were financed by the ERASMUS+ programme for sport. This figure indicates a 6.3 % increase in the success rate of applications.

303 projects have been recommended for funding with a total budget of roughly € 53,000,000.

Collaborative Partnerships

The analysis of the projects for the 2022 collaborative partnerships shows the positive note that 24% of the projects have a sports organisation as coordinator, up from 13,5% in 2021. These projects attract 25% of the funds allocated for collaborative partnerships. With regard to organised sport, 76% of the projects receive the highest funding (€400,000).

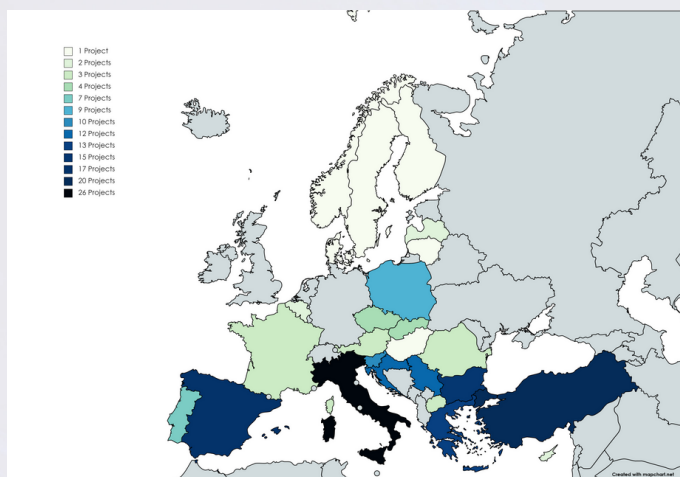
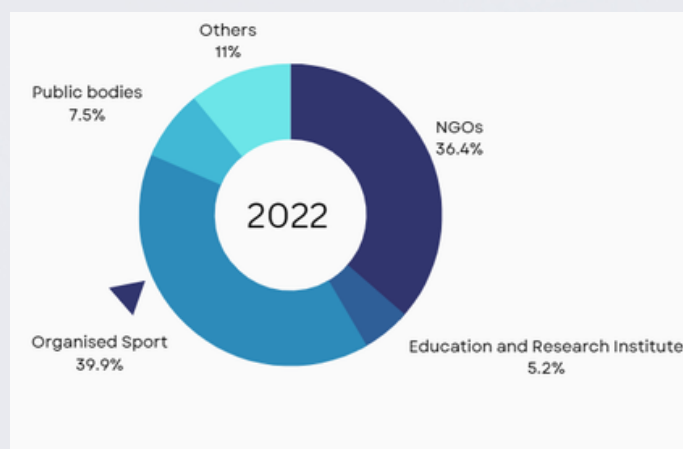
In terms of territorial distribution, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Slovenia and Portugal are the countries with the highest number of awarded projects - in particular, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Portugal show clear growth compared to 2021.



Small Collaborative Partnerships

With regard to Small Collaborative Partnerships, 40% were coordinated by stakeholders of the organised sport movement (sharp increase compared to 23% of 2021). This is an encouraging figure, indicating that a larger number of stakeholders of organised sports is getting involved in the Erasmus+ Sport programme. As a result, 40% of small collaborative partnerships funds were allocated to the organised sport. It is also worth noting that 91% of projects coordinated by organised sports stakeholders earned the highest available funding for that category (€60,000).

Similarly, to the previous years, the country engaging in the largest amount of projects is Italy, with 26 projects, followed by Turkey (20) and Spain (17). Most other countries involved include Bulgaria, Greece, Croatia and Serbia. It is worth noting that Turkey and Serbia have registered an acute rise in number of projects financed compared to 2021.



Not For Profit Events

With regard to this call, organised sport from 2020 to 2021 went from coordinating 17% to 20% of the funded projects, with 24% of the funds allocated. In this case, the territorial distribution is rather homogeneous.

Capacity Building

In 2022, EACEA added the call for capacity building. Four projects were financed, of which one was coordinated by a sports organisation and the others by NGOs including ENGSO, a partner of the EOC EU Office.

Eurobarometer on sport: European Commission reveals fresh data on physical activity levels in Europe

The European Commission published its fifth Eurobarometer on sport and physical activity. The report analyses the participation of EU citizens in physical and sports activities and the context in which they take place. The data is compared with the latest 2017 survey in order to analyse trends in participation levels, obstacles and preferences as a basis for future policies within the Commission's goal of promoting sport and a healthy lifestyle in the Union.

The importance of data to support EU level activities on the operational and the policy side of sport had been stressed by the Council's EU Work Plan for Sport (2021-2024). The Eurobarometer reveals data for Europe as a whole but also comes along with country fact sheets for every Member State.

45% of Europeans do not practice any physical activity

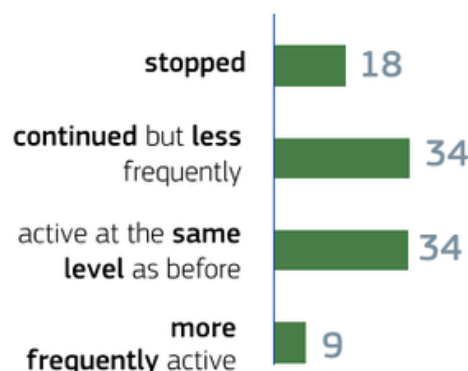
The survey reveals that 38% of Europeans play a sport or exercise once a week, while 17% play less than once a week and 45% do not engage in physical activity at all. The share of inactive people, while stable compared with 2017, has increased by 6 percentage points since 2009. Only 6% of the respondents exercise five times a week or more. The figures remain on similar level compared to 2017. Still the promotion of physical activity remains highly necessary: during the pandemic, half of Europeans halved if not completely zeroed their activity levels (Complementarily, the other half was equally or more active than before).

21% of over 55 years old persons engage in physical activity

As for a comparison between age groups, respondents between 15 and 24 years old engage in physical activity with some regularity 54% of the time, a figure that drops at 42% between 25 and 39, 32% between 40 and 54, and 21% among those over 55.

Impact of Covid-19 on physical activity...

(In %)



Overall, only a minority of Europeans practice recreational physical activity regularly.

Obstacles to practicing physical activity

The main obstacles are, in descending order, lack of time, lack of motivation or lack of interest in sports. This highlights the need to continue promoting an active lifestyle through low-threshold offers by sport organisations as well as through public campaigns like the European Commission's HealthyLifeStyle4All campaign.

Reasons for engaging in physical activity

The desire to improve one's health, fitness level, and find a way to relax prevail among incentives to practice sport. Half of the respondents expressed a desire to exercise outdoors (% growing), in line with the Commission's efforts for a greener and more sustainable sport.

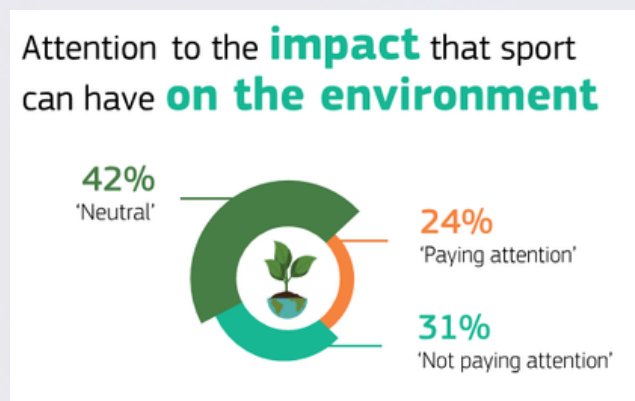
Rising practice of sport at home

Also the number of people who prefer to practice sports at home is on the rise, probably due to the pandemic.

In contrast, the number of members in clubs or fitness centres is decreasing ((28% compared to 33% in 2017; Sport club: 12%, unchanged).

Role of sport in environmental and societal changes

An important fact about the environmental sustainability of sport is that half of the respondents unfortunately pay little attention to the environmental impact of sport and are not aware of the sustainability activities of sports organisations in this regard.



The survey also confirms the importance of promoting gender equality in sports, as men are ones who train more regularly (40% of men say they “never” exercise or play sport, compared with 49% of women), while the majority of Europeans (57%) equally enjoy following men’s and women’s competitions. More than half of Europeans who are members of a club say their club is actively putting in place measures to support gender equality; and an even larger majority would know who to speak to internally if they encountered gender discrimination in their club. An overwhelming majority (78%) consider that women’s empowerment in leadership roles inspires young women to follow their example and 75% consider that gender-based violence in sports deserves more attention.

Other findings worryingly show that engagement in sport and physical activity is less prevalent among people with lower levels of education or with financial difficulties and that only one in 10 respondents say they volunteer in sports activities or plan to do so within 2 months (6% in 2017).

Geographical divisions

Regarding geographical differences, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden are the countries where people exercise the most, as opposed to Portugal, Greece and Poland at the bottom of the ranking. Although a large majority of Europeans agree that their residential area offers many sporting opportunities, the sample of respondents is divided on their assessment of the promotion of physical activity by public authorities. Respondents are most positive about opportunities for physical activities in the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, and least positive in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia.

In conclusion, the survey leaves much food for thoughts. Worryingly, large socio-demographic differences remain, as women, the elderly and people with a lower economic or educational level participate less in sport. Even on a geographical level, the disparity between northern Europe and the south and east with regard to physical activity and structural opportunities remains.

Commenting this Eurobarometer, Vice-President for Promoting the European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas, emphasized the function of sport in creating a sense of community and social cohesion and the consequent need to find new ways to motivate Europeans to be active. In the same vein, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, highlighted the importance of sports in promoting a healthy lifestyle and universal values such as gender equality and inclusiveness.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Full Eurobarometer on sport incl. country fact sheets](#)

[European Commission's Press release](#)

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions in Sport 2022 tackle relevant topics for the European sport movement



Background Information

A Pilot Project (PP) is aimed to test the feasibility and usefulness of a specific action which should be “innovative/experimental”. Preparatory Actions (PAs) tend to be the successor of a successful Pilot Project (PP) on the same matter; accordingly, it aspires to introduce new initiatives which might result in the implementation of permanent EU Funding Programmes.

Managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and are published on the [Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#), the PPPAs addressing “Sport for People and Planet – a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe” and “Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation” represent a valuable opportunity for the European Sport Movement to further strengthen its activities and capacities within these areas.

On 29 September, an info session was organised by EACEA to provide applicants with valuable insights on how to apply to the PPPAs. The info session provided an overview of the objectives, themes, activities and impact, as well as administrative and financial aspects expected in each of the PPPAs.

Practical Information

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 sport sector a model of sustainability, especially among youth Europeans.

The PA “Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation” seeks to provide sport organisations with the opportunity to advance and stimulate alternative arrangements for practicing physical-sport activities, boost communication regarding these alternative activities and related advantage, as well as the development of light sport facilities (small, recreational sport facilities). Thus, the aim is to promote physical activity through flexible, modern ways of practicing sport both in terms of infrastructure and offer (trainings, activities).

Both PP and PA foresee the project to be implemented in the EU Member States with a timeframe between 18-24 months. The funding procedure involves a budget-based real and unit costs grant with a maximum EU Grant of €400.000 per project at a co-financing rate of 80% of eligible costs for both PP and PA. The application is “by single applicant” and this must be submitted within the set deadline: Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 17:00 (CET).

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022

	Sport for People and Planet A new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe	Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation
Deadline	26 October 2022	
Project Timeframe	18 - 24 months	
Activities location	EU Member States	
Financial Procedure	Real Costs - Unit Costs	
Max. EU Grant	€ 400.00	
Co-financing Rate	80%	
Consortium	Application by Single Applicant	
Overall budget	€1.437.074	€1.945.500
Forecast financed projects	min. 4 projects to be financed	min. 5 projects to be financed

Insights for 2023

The European Parliament has submitted 39 proposals for the PPPAs out of which 2 appear relevant to sport, being the continuation of the PP “Sport for People and Planet – a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe”, as well as the new PP “Sport Supports – emergency sports actions for youth”. However, the PPPAs for 2023 need to be officially approved – also in terms of budgetary elements – in the upcoming weeks.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Call for Proposal for Pilot Project: Sport for People and Planet – a new approach on sustainability through sport in Europe](#)

[Call for Proposal for Preparatory Action: Grassroots sport programmes and infrastructure innovation](#)

[Online info session: Sport PPPA 2022](#)

[Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

Czech EU Presidency activities in the field of sport in full swing

Taking inspiration from Slovenia, which held the Council of EU Presidency in the second semester of 2021, the Czech Republic has decided to concentrate its biggest events in the field of sport to the end of September, back-to-back with the opening European Week of Sport, traditionally organised in the Presidency country (see dedicated article).

The two core events – meeting of Directors-General for Sport and Presidency Conference – were both dedicated to the main “sport” priority of the Czech Presidency: Sustainable and Accessible Sport Infrastructure.

Meeting of Directors Generals for Sport

At their meeting, Directors-General discussed some of the biggest challenges that the sport sector is currently facing when it comes to infrastructure such as the increasing energy prices or the infrastructure renovation backlog. They also heard a couple of inspirational presentations delivered by high-level Czech athletes, who contributed to the second main topic on the agenda: the role of sport and athletes in promoting European values.

Presidency Conference on Sustainable and Accessible Sports Infrastructure

The Conference, first such event dedicated to this important topic in the context of EU sport policy, brought together a great number of experts, practitioners and stakeholders to make a tangible contribution not only to the forthcoming Council Conclusion and Recommendations of the Commission Expert Group on Green Sport, but also to the general discussion and cooperation in this field.

The event was divided into four panels, each examining a particular area of the opportunities and challenges that ensuring sustainability and accessibility of sport infrastructure presents. How to ensure equal accessibility to sports infrastructure was the main question discussed by the first panel. When speaking about accessibility and diversity, we often consider cultural barriers and do not always think about infrastructure and environmental ones. Ileana Rodriguez, architect at I Design Access and advisor to a number of organising committees of mega sports events such as Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, argued, for example, that we need to design inclusive spaces from the outset while considering the needs of all the potential users of the given infrastructure.

Increasing the use of existing sport infrastructure such as school gyms, transforming building such as old warehouses into urban sport arenas or the advantages and opportunities that sport infrastructure databases present were topics discussed by the experts invited to the second panel. The third session was then dedicated to the wider concept of sustainability of sport infrastructure as well as to how ecological transition can be co-financed with the help of EU funds. The fourth panel, which ran at the same time as the HealthyLifestyle4All seminar organised by the European Commission, examined concrete examples of (environmental) sustainability activities implemented by sport organisations, public authorities, researchers or architects. Using crowdsourcing among fans to co-finance the deployment of energy efficiency solutions in a sport stadium was just one of the many innovative ideas presented and discussed.

The Czech National Sport Agency, which is responsible for the Presidency activities in the field of sport, will take the conference outputs on board in its work with on the Council Conclusions on Sustainable and Accessible Sport Infrastructures, which are to be adopted at the end of November 2022.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Conference on Sustainable and Accessible Sports Infrastructure](#)

[Czech National Sport Agency news \(in Czech\)](#)

European Week of Sport 2022 kicks-off in Prague

23 September 2022. 08:00. Vyšehrad Park in the Centre of Prague. 5 degrees and a dense fog. Organisers from the Czech Olympic Committee, Czech Paralympic Committee, National Sport Agency and European Commission are building up sport stands, setting up the stage, fine-tuning the sound...and most importantly keeping their fingers crossed for the fog to lift and temperature to raise.



It is a tradition that the opening ceremony of the EWoS is organised in the country that holds the rotating EU Presidency. This year, this honourable task was entrusted to the Czech Republic, which put together a very well received event true to the #BeActive mission of the European Commission's initiative.

The Czech Olympic Committee, national Coordinator of the EWoS, together with the Czech Paralympic Committee and other partners, organised a number of sport activities under the slogan "Sport is just one". Bringing together Olympic and Paralympic disciplines, participants could try two (or more) variants of the same sport be it running and hand-biking or archery and laser shooting.

The sport activities were complemented by a ceremonial programme on the central stage where high-level representatives of the Czech Government and the European Commission as well as Czech Olympic and Paralympic athletes and EWoS Ambassadors shared their thoughts on the importance to #BeActive and on the need for initiatives such as the European Week of Sport.

At 12:30 a big "start" button went down to mark the beginning of the 8th European Week of Sport, which is organised in over 40 European countries, attracts thousands of sport events and participants, and to which the European Olympic movement actively contributes.

In concrete terms, numerous National Olympic Committees are national coordinators, European Olympic Committees is a partner of the EWoS, and 100s of clubs and federations take part in the initiative with their events and other sport activities.



FURTHER INFORMATION

[Recording of the event](#)

[European Commission news](#)

[European Week of Sport website](#)

Artificial turf pitches: European Commission proposes sales ban of microplastic granules used as infill material

The European Commission has published its [proposal](#) on the restriction of intentionally added microplastics, which has been expected for several months. The restriction proposal refers to numerous products such as detergents, cosmetics, fertilizers or agricultural products.

For sports, the proposal is of great relevance as it also applies to plastic granules, which are often used as infill for synthetic turf pitches.

The Commission's restriction proposal provides for a ban on the placing on the market of synthetic granules for artificial turf pitches.

The ban is to take effect with a transitional period of 6 years from the entry into force of the regulation. If the proposal is adopted in the further proceedings, it is expected that from 2029 onwards, microplastic granules will no longer be sold throughout the EU as an infill for artificial turf pitches.

Important to mention: the restriction proposal does not provide for any restrictions on the use of artificial turf pitches that are already filled with synthetic granules.

The marketing ban after a transitional period is intended to ensure that, in the long term, no more microplastic used as a filler in sport pitches is released in the environment. Thus, it can be recommended to plan and implement the construction of new artificial turf pitches only with an alternative infill material or without infill at all. The marketing ban also implies that the responsibility to implement the regulations lies with the sellers of artificial turf pitch infill and not with the owners of those sports fields.

Next steps

- The EU Commission's proposal will be discussed and voted on in the coming months in the REACH Committee, in which experts from the 26 Member States are represented.

- If the REACH Committee accepts the Commission's proposal, it will be sent to the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, who can only express fundamental objections.
- Both the REACH Committee and the Parliament and the Council must deal with the restriction proposal in its full scope. The restriction of synthetic fillers on artificial turf pitches is only one aspect of the overall proposal to reduce microplastics in the environment.
- If the Commission proposal is adopted, the restriction will be implemented by amending the Annex to the REACH Regulation (on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). This would make the proposal mandatory law in all EU Member States.

It is assumed that there are more than 20,000 artificial turf pitches of large pitch size and more than 40,000 artificial turf pitches of small pitch size in the EU ([see ECHA Report](#)). According to studies, between 18 and 72 kilotons of infill material are released into the environment each year in the EU as a result. ECHA assumes that artificial turf pitches are the largest source of intentionally added microplastics released into the environment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA overview page](#)

EU institutions looking at restricting the use of pesticides on sport grounds

On June 22, the European Commission issued a [proposal](#) for a revision of the Directive on the sustainable use of plant protection products. The new rules underline the intention of the European Commission to further reduce the health and environmental hazards linked to the use of pesticides across the EU.

This proposal has been developed within the scope of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) to further promote a healthy and environmentally sound food system. Currently a Directive, the new text will be a Regulation, making the new rules directly applicable in the Member States.

Impact on the sport sector

As it currently stands, the European Commission's proposal would:

- Impose a legal reduction target of the use and risks of plant protection products by 50% at the EU level by 2030. All Member States will have to adopt national targets and national action plans to reach these.
- Ban the use of all plant protection products in all sensitive areas, which includes namely "recreation or sports grounds" that are open to the public, "human settlements (community in which people live and work under the CORINE system)" – ie., all sports facilities, and "ecologically sensitive areas" – on which some sport facilities are located.)

A derogation to this ban would be possible for "quarantine organisms and invasive alien species": A "competent authority" designated by each Member State would be able to "permit a professional user to use a chemical plant protection product in a sensitive area" for a "limited period (...) that does not exceed 60 days", provided that "a proven serious and exceptional risk of the spread of quarantine pests or invasive alien species exists" and "there is no technically feasible lower risk alternative control technique to contain the spread of quarantine pests or invasive alien species".

Therefore, while primarily targeting the agricultural sector, this issue appears to be of importance for some sport organisations (golf, football, rugby or tennis and other grass field-based sports), as it would have an impact on the use of pesticides in the maintenance of sport facilities and grounds, even though many federations have already taken action to reduce – or stop – the use of pesticides.

Next steps

The European Commission has conducted a public consultation with the deadline for participation on 19 September. The EOC EU Office has been in contact with its partner organisations in order to better estimate the real impact on different sports.

The proposal is still in its preliminary stage and discussions within EU institutions will go on for several months – or years. The proposal for a Regulation will follow the ordinary legislative proposal. The European Parliament and the Council will both discuss internally to agree on their position, before entering interinstitutional negotiations.

Moving forward, the EOC EU Office will closely follow the developments of the text, evaluate the impact on the sport movement and will inform and assist its partners accordingly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Commission – Questions and Answers](#)

Sports shooting: ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment supports the restriction of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) in clay targets

On June 22, the European Commission issued a [proposal](#) for a revision of the Directive on the sustainable use of plant protection products. The new rules underline the intention of the European Commission to further reduce the health and environmental hazards linked to the use of pesticides across the EU.

This proposal has been developed within the scope of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) to further promote a healthy and environmentally sound food system. Currently a Directive, the new text will be a Regulation, making the new rules directly applicable in the Member States.

On 20 September 2022, the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA) Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) has adopted a supportive opinion on ECHA's proposal to restrict the placing on the market and use of substances containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in clay targets for shooting.

The restriction aims to prevent further environmental emissions of these toxic and very persistent substances that build up in humans and animals. Many PAHs are also known to cause cancer.

"At least 270 tonnes of PAHs per year are estimated to be released to the environment from PAH-containing clay targets. And these are shattered by the gunshot into the open environment with little possibility of applying risk management measures. The proposed restriction will reduce the identified risks by 99 % in a reasonable timeframe," says Tim Bowmer, Chair of the RAC.

In addition to the environmental risks, RAC considers that a restriction is justified as it will reduce exposure and related cancer risks for workers and the public handling and shooting clay targets.

Next steps

The ECHA Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) also supports the restriction in its draft opinion.



SEAC considers that the proposal is the most appropriate EU-wide measure to address the identified risks, taking into account the proportionality of its benefits and costs to society. The 60-day consultation to comment SEACs draft opinion is open until 14 November 2022 for everyone.

After SEAC and RAC have finalised their scientific opinion, they will hand over their restriction proposal to the European Commission. The Commission will then present its own restriction proposal, taking into consideration ECHA's expertise.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ECHA News](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

GAMES Transnational Project Meeting: The EOC EU Office's project continues to promote exchanges on strengthening gender equality in leadership positions

The Transnational Project Meeting of the [GAMES project](#) (Guidance to Achieve More Equal Leadership in Sport) was hosted by the Olympic Federation of Ireland in Dublin on 27-28 September 2022.

The meeting gathered representatives from the National Olympic Committees (NOCs) of (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, North Macedonia and Turkey), experts on gender equality and sports governance such as Professor Kari Fasting (Equal Rights in Sports) and Rowland Jack (I Trust Sport), as well as the IOC - under the guidance of the EOC EU Office. By pairing scientific knowledge with practical experience, the GAMES project aims to support NOCs in creating concrete strategies to promote gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions.

Day 1

Heidi Pekkola (Deputy Director, EOC EU Office) and Peter Sherrard (CEO, Olympic Federation of Ireland) opened the meeting by highlighting the scope of the meeting being to discuss the finding that emerged from the baseline study, as well as the designing of the Global Pool of Actions. After which, a brief overview of the status of the project was provided.

Rowland Jack (I Trust Sport) presented the findings of the GAMES baseline study. The consortium engaged in an inspiring discussion and peer-to-peer exchange about the results of the study and the current and future strategies required to create the desired change to promote gender equality.

GAMES GUIDANCE TO ACHIEVE MORE EQUAL LEADERSHIP IN SPORT



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

A wide range of topics were tackled, among others gender equality strategies, male allyship, as well as communication, gender budgeting and mainstreaming. Hence, fruitful additions were made towards the advancement of the project scope.

Taking into account the findings of the GAMES baseline study, the Global Pool of Actions was discussed afterwards. Accordingly, the consortium discussed the significance of the work and the general structure of this "manual for concrete actions" to reach gender equality. Ultimately, the consortium came to several conclusions to enhance its comprehensiveness and accuracy.

Day 2

On the second day, guest speakers - representing both NOCs and International Federations - have been invited to share their experiences in promoting gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions.

Accordingly, Sarah Keane (President of the Olympic Federation of Ireland) has shared her personal experience on the lessons learnt and successful strategies to advance the topic of gender equality on the political agenda and to truly get political support for actions and changes.

Dagmara Gerasimuk (Development Director at the International Biathlon Union - IBU) thereafter has presented the organisational/structural changes that IBU has carried out to promote gender equality as part of wider governance reforms. Hence, the consortium benefitted from several transferable initiatives and actions described to structurally and political boost gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions.

After this, an open discussion has been held among the consortium regarding the content foreseen in each of the "topic" foreseen in the Global Pool of Actions. The consortium exchanged useful inputs on the content whilst highlighting the importance of the Global Pool of Actions of being transferable; and yet, taking into consideration country's and organisation's context to develop effective and sustainable strategies.



The meeting came to a conclusion with Heidi Pekkola (Deputy Director EOC EU Office) and Peter Sherrard (CEO Olympic Federation of Ireland) who mentioned that the upcoming months are foreseen to be crucial for the project activities.

Background

The GAMES project is a 24 months projects coordinated by the EOC EU Office and co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme 2021. It promotes integrity and good governance in sport by advocating for structural and cultural changes regarding gender equality in leadership and decision-making positions among NOCs and their member federations.

RINGS Project on Strategic Management of NOCs continues with National Training Workshops

In September, three National Training Workshops of the RINGS project on strategic management of NOCs took place, hosted by the National Olympic Committees of Belgium, Greece and Lithuania. Each of the workshops had a different focus, based on the needs of each country.

Workshop in Belgium



On 6 September, the RINGS Workshop in Belgium was targeted to the managers of the Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC) and organised in the new headquarters of the Belgian Football Federation in Tubize. The focus of this Workshop was on stakeholder management and public affairs. During the event, BOIC managers mapped their main stakeholders and discussed the management and engagement activities of different stakeholder groups.

Workshop in Greece

The Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC) organised its workshop on 15 September, bringing together representatives from the national sports federations – members of the HOC. The workshop was opened by the Emmanuel Kolympadis, Secretary General of the Hellenic Olympic Committee who, among other things, pointed out: “It may be that in sports everything is about what happens on the field of play, but the right foundations are laid with the right planning, analysis and programming. Furthermore, strategic planning defines what an organisation is, why it exists, what purposes it serves and how its continued survival is ensured. The HOC will always participate in similar programmes and will at the same time motivate the sports federations, to promote and develop sports on a scientific basis in order to improve its governance”.

Workshop in Lithuania



The workshop was run by the RINGS management team, ie. Heidi Pekkola and Eva Rebmann, from the EOC EU Office. BOIC President, Jean-Michel Saive, and CEO Cédric Van Branteghem, were very pleased with the Workshop and highlighted that it was an excellent kick-off for their two days of strategic discussions with the BOIC managers.



After the introduction to the project by the RINGS project management, Dr Norbert Schütte from the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz continued the Workshop with highlighting the advantages of strategic planning in sports and analysed the challenges and obstacles presented in its implementation. University of Mainz is Work Package leader of the RINGS Handbook on Strategic Management and Dr Schütte a co-author of the book.

The third workshop this month was organised by the NOC of Lithuania on 30 September. This time the focus was on public affairs and the workshop was part of the advanced sports management training that NOC Lithuania is organising for sport leaders and administrators from their member federations. The workshop gave an insight on strategic management and especially on the importance of sport advocacy work with the help of the RINGS public affairs guidelines. The participants heard about what is important when approaching the politicians and how to make sport relevant for the agenda setting of decision-makers.

About the RINGS project

The main purpose of the RINGS project is to develop and modernise strategic management of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Europe. In addition, the tools and outputs developed during the project equip and support the NOCs in their daily operational management and thus improve their governance.

Co-funded by the European Commission through the Erasmus+ Sport Programme, the RINGS project gathers an important consortium with 13 organisations including 11 NOCs

(Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Slovakia and Turkey), the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, and the EOC EU Office as project leader. Project is in its final phase and will finish by the end of this year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[RINGS Project website](#)

Parcours Ambition Internationale - EOC EU Office presents EU sport policy and EU funding for sport to representatives of French national federations



On 26-27 September, 16 representatives of French sports federations and athletes' commissions travelled to Brussels for a 2-days seminar.

The discovery of the EU-bubble started with a visit to the European Parliament with Katarzyna Biniaszczyk, parliamentary assistant to MEP Tomasz Frankowski, and Emmanuel Foulon, parliamentary assistant to MEP Marc Tarabella and spokesperson of the Sport Group.

Participants then conveyed to the premises of the EOC EU Office to hear about the representation of the Olympic movement in Brussels.

Following welcoming words by Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, participants heard from Eva Rebmann, Policy Officer, who laid out the basis of the EU sport policy and EU funding for sport and gave an overview of active sport organisations in Brussels. Eva Rebmann then presented the activities of the EOC EU Office and explained the importance of a representation in Brussels. A discussion on some current EU-files (such as the European sport model, e-sport or microplastics) and their relevance for sport organisations then followed.

Jean-Michel Saive and Cédric Van Branteghem, respectively President and CEO of the Belgian Olympic Committee (BOIC) presented Parcours Ambition Internationale's participants the International Relations of their organisation, which concluded the first day.

The second day at the EOC EU Office was filled with a roundtable on the role of EU institutions in sport, featuring Floor Van Houdt, Head of the Sport Unit of the European Commission, Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit of the Executive Agency for Education and Culture of the European Commission, and MEP Tiziana Beghin, Vice-President of the Sport Group of the European Parliament.

To conclude, Pierre-Louis Magnani, Head of European Affairs at CNOSF, gave a brief overview of the French NOC's support programme for organisations willing to write a funding proposal, and encouraged federations representatives to go for it, as the number of sport organisations to benefit from EU funding is still quite minimal.

About Programme Ambition Internationale
Every year, the French Olympic Committee (CNOSF) offers its members the opportunity to gain knowledge about the international sport ecosystem and the EOC EU Office is always happy to host the EU sport policy seminar in Brussels.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[More information about Programme Ambition Internationale](#)

Launch of Youth and Sport Integrity Expert Committee

The Sport Integrity Expert Committee belonging to the Youth Integrity Ambassadors Programme (YIAP), which is an Erasmus+ co-funded project led by ENGSO Youth & ENGSO, met for the first time at the EOC EU Office on 28-29 September. The project was kicked off in August 2022.

The YIAP programme was born to raise awareness and share best practices towards creating a culture of integrity within the sports community, for tackling dishonest, chicanery and crooked practices within the sport sector and systematically involve young people in the process by equipping them to the integrity ambassadors.

This event involved around 20 people from 9 partner and supporting organisations that were led by ENGSO and ENGSO Youth to build an educational curriculum that enables the training and empowerment of young people and make them active Ambassadors of Sport Integrity.

Partners from the European Lotteries, the Swedish Sport Confederation, EUSA Institute, RF-SISU Smaland, Lietuvos Sporto Federacija Sajunga (LSFS), Organizzazione per l'Educazione allo Sport (OPES), the Portuguese Sport Confederation, Special Olympics focused on identifying the key competences and knowledge required for young integrity ambassadors and create an education curriculum to empower young people, using non-formal education methods and building a network across Europe.

This curriculum will be made accessible on the ENGSO education platform and incorporate a sport integrity practical guide in which tools and methods will be described to identify, prevent and react against practices threatening integrity and a leadership guide with different steps to become an empowered youth integrity ambassador. Young people going through this program will then be able to take initiatives, to actively participate and contribute to positive change of their communities starting from their sport organisations.

This educational curriculum, will be tested in a pilot Training Course in which 36 young people will be actively trained to become the first ambassadors. These first ambassadors will be equipped to take a more active role in their society, specifically in the sport field across all levels, and to spread and disseminate a culture of integrity.



MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2022

The #BeActive for Sport Integrity Event gave a first glimpse on how a practiced culture of integrity could look like. Organised together by The European Lotteries and ENGSO & ENGSO Youth in the framework of the European Week of Sport 2022 on the second meeting day, speakers from Panathlon International, the Belgian Lotteries, Special Olympics and EUSA shared examples based on the three pillars of the YIAP project: Youth, Inclusion, Integrity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[ENGSO Press Release YIAP meeting](#)

[ENGSO and The European Lotteries #BeActive for Sport Integrity Seminar](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

10 - 13 October 2022

European Week of Regions and Cities (EU Commission / EU Committee of the Regions)

25 - 26 October 2022

EOC Commission "EU and international relations" (Brussels) TBC

25 - 27 October 2022

Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (Council of Europe - Antalya)



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