

MONTHLY REPORT

May 2022



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



EU
Office

FACTS AND FIGURES

The EU's healthy life expectancy and people's self-perceived health have increased over the past few years



Source: ec.europa.eu/eurostat

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Jozef Liba - Secretary General NOC Slovakia



"The last two years have shown us how important our physical and mental wellbeing is. We must safeguard the sports environment, we know how physical activities are an important part of our social life."

[See full interview on page 5](#)

TWEETS OF THE MONTH

EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice

Replying to @EOCEUOffice

We now had a discussion regarding the Olympic movement's response to Ukraine's aggression by Russia and support to Ukrainian sport community with @iocmedia Pamela Vipond & James McLeod.

@sergey_bubka made us the privilege to deliver a statement and thanked the Olympic movement.



1:50 PM - May 17, 2022

3 Reply Copy link

[Explore what's happening on Twitter](#)

EOC EU Office
@EOCEUOffice

Our #RINGSproject partners met yesterday and today to discuss NOC's stakeholder management and the final steps of the project in 2022. RINGS is a project on good governance and strategic management of National Olympic Committees and co-financed by the @EUErasmusPlus.



5:17 PM - May 19, 2022

7 Reply Copy link

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- Editorial 4



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

- Jozef Liba - Secretary General NOC Slovakia 5



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

- E-sports report: European Parliament publishes a research study, MEPs hold webinar 7
- Global Sports Week gives platform to sport leaders to discuss growth, responsibility and sports diplomacy 8
- EOC EU Office attends SHARE Webinar on the European Structural and Investment Funds 9
- Conference on the Future of Europe reaches its conclusion 10



PARTNERS' CORNER

- EOC EU Office organises Annual Partners' Meeting 12
- RINGS project partners meet to discuss the stakeholder management of NOCs 13
- EOC EU Office and IOC organise webinar on carbon footprint measurement 14
- Upcoming events 16



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Three months after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there is still no end in sight to the war. However, it can already be stated with certainty that a large part of Ukraine's infrastructure will have to be rebuilt. Whether the coordination platform for the reconstruction of Ukraine proposed by EU Commission President von der Leyen will be implemented and provided with sufficient European and international funds remains to be seen. Sports infrastructures were also destroyed or seriously damaged. Even if their reconstruction will not be at the top of the investment list, they should not be completely forgotten. In this context, we are pleased that Sergii Bubka, President of the Ukrainian NOC, will attend the European Evening of Sport in Brussels on 21 June and provide a picture of the situation of Ukrainian sport.

Due to the easing of the Covid-19 pandemic, more and more events are taking place in person at European level. In June, parallel to the European Evening of Sport, the 11th European Athletes' Forum will also take place, organised by the European Olympic Committees together with the IOC. It is also encouraging that the European Sport Forum organised by the EU Commission's will also take place in person in June. The Olympic Movement will be represented, among others, by EOC President Capralos as a panellist.

For many EU projects, too, the time is now beginning to end exclusive online communication. After the EOC EU Office was able to organise the kick-off event of its new gender equality project (GAMES) in person, partners of the RINGS project met in Bratislava on 18-19 May to further discuss the topic of "strategic management of NOCs". With a manual on strategic management prepared by the University of Mainz, a stakeholder tool and guidelines on public affairs, the project will achieve very concrete results that will also be useful for national sports federations. The deliverables will be presented at the final conference in Brussels at the end of this year.

The importance of athletes continuing to raise their voice in Brussels is shown by the results of the "Conference on the Future of Europe" jointly organised by the EU institutions. Unfortunately, the recommendations in the field of sport do not take up any of the concrete proposals that the European Athletes' Commission had presented to the EU Commission. This is all the more regrettable as these proposals were developed on the basis of an extensive consultation with a high number of national Athletes Commissions.

With kind regards,



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Jozef Liba, General Secretary of the NOC of Slovakia, also served as Secretary General of the Slovak Paralympic Committee. He was also the general secretary of the organizing committee of the World Winter Universiade 1999 in Poprad-Tatry and the director of the International University Sports Federation for the World Winter Universiades. Jozef Liba competed in swimming at the national and international level for thirteen years. He also practiced downhill skiing. After graduating from coaching at FTVŠ UK in Bratislava, he was a coach in modern pentathlon.

1. Dear Secretary General, the summer edition of the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) will take place at the end of July in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. How far are you with the preparations?

With only 2 months to go, preparations are in full swing. By the end of April we held a Seminar for the Chefs de Missions, where we introduced EYOF 2022 on sport for the participants from the European NOCs. We are now changing from the planning and preparation phase into the operational phase.

There is still a lot of work which must be done in all fields – sports venues, accommodation, catering, transportation etc., but I am happy that we have a very enthusiastic and capable young Organising Team dedicated to deliver the very best EYOF.

2. To what extent will the war in the Ukraine have an impact on the event?

This is the situation we did not imagine could happen in 2022. It is a real complication for us. As we (Slovakia) are a bordering country to Ukraine, we have lots of daily problems connected to the war and the work of government and local authorities is focused to solve them. Sports is not a priority.

In terms of participation at the EYOF, we have 2 NOCs less. Due to the geopolitical situation, the NOCs of Russia and Belarus were excluded, by the decision of the EOC, from participating at the event.

3. The European Union has made 2022 a “European Year of Youth”. In which way can the EYOF in Banská Bystrica contribute to this important initiative? In general, how important are such events for young people in the context of the increasing levels of physical inactivity and obesity exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic?

Increasing the level of physical activity of the general population is very important. Banská Bystrica as a city does its utmost to motivate its inhabitants to practice physical activity. It was the “European city of sport 2017” and there are many sports organizations which gather locals in practising sports.

The last two years have shown us how weak we are with physical condition; thus, it is imperative to promote sports activities to young people and the EYOF is a great opportunity to show the best young European athletes competing and motivate other youngsters to follow them.

4. Sport organisations are under increasing scrutiny by public institutions but also sports fans and athletes when it comes to the sustainability of their operations and activities. Your NOC has recently published its Sustainability Strategy 2030. Can you tell us more about your ambitions?

Our NOC has adopted its Sustainability Strategy 2030 in autumn 2021. This brought many challenges to our daily work and life at the NOC. For example - we moved to our new headquarter building in September 2021, we are trying to adopt many points from our Strategy at our working environment.

We want to become a good example for our stakeholders that we care not only about the environment but also for all spectrums of sustainability of our work and activities. We are trying to transfer knowledge and experience to other sports organizations. As a partner of the EYOF Banská Bystrica 2022, we are using our Strategy 2030 as a working tool there as well.

5. Your NOC is a partner of the EOC EU Office's RINGS project, co-financed by the Erasmus+ Sport Programme. RINGS is a project about strategic management and innovative governance of sport organisations. Which progress in this field has your NOC made since the beginning of the project?

In the process of the preparations of various projects steps, our NOC has evaluated its internal processes essential in the strategic management. We have been inspired by other project partners and conducted in depth shareholder analysis and as well, discussed implementation of public affairs guidelines.

We were also able to organise national training for our NFs introducing the RINGS project, showcase best practice examples from NOC Liechtenstein as well as Strategy of Slovak Sport 2030.

6. By looking at your organisation and even beyond, what would you assess as the biggest challenge for the future development of the organised sport, e.g. do you regard e-sport as a potential tool to attract more members or as a threat?

Organised sport was very much damaged over past two years. It was very difficult to run any kind of competition or just organise a training session. We lost many young athletes. Some professional leagues were running, but smaller sports were suffering. People have focused more on the individual physical activities not having chance to practise sport together. I hope such a situation will never repeat itself again, as it could have a devastating affect for the organised sport. E-sport (E-gaming) has gained many new members, due to the fact that people stayed at home during the last two years.

I see E-gaming activities as a potential partner, not a threat. There are some positive aspects which can be used in the field of education, values, mental preparation etc.

The last two years have shown us how important our physical and mental wellbeing is. We must safeguard the sports environment, we know how physical activities are an important part of our social life.

The EOC EU Office is thanking Jozef Liba for his interview and contribution to the monthly report.



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

E-sports report: European Parliament publishes a research study, MEPs hold webinar

Following the publication of the draft report on E-sports and videogames on 26 April, the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) has published a [background analysis](#) authored by the E-sports Research Network with the collaboration of the Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies from the European Parliament. Based on this Background Analysis, they also provided a [Policy Recommendation Briefing](#), to address the needs identified in the Background Analysis.

Amongst the key findings of the policy recommendations, the authors stress:

- "A suitable and functioning strategy requires a shared understanding/definition of what esports is. It is important to differentiate esports from traditional sports. This can have an impact on the system of traditional sports as well."
- "E-sports-specific laws are needed just as they are in traditional sports."
- "The issue of where the regulatory authority concerning esports lies (or should lie) should be resolved. In traditional sports, this tends to be local, but esports is much more international and heterogeneous."

Such kind of studies and background documents aim to inform parliamentarians and other stakeholders. It does not imply that the recommendations of the study automatically become part of the parliamentary report on esports and videogames.

MEPs host webinar on Esport

On 11 May the EP's [Sport Group](#) together with EP's Cultural Creators Friendship Group organised a webinar on the topic entitled "GameOn: Taking E-Sports to the next level".

The webinar was hosted by several MEPs including the rapporteur Laurence Farreng (Renew, France) and the shadow rapporteurs Tomasz Frankowski (EPP, Poland). The webinar was moderated by Samy Ouerfellio, Freaks 4U Gaming and included the following speakers:

- Laurence Farreng, MEP
- Vincent Pereira, IOC, Head of Virtual Sports & Gaming
- Katarzyna Gorgol-Maeder, IOC, Regulatory Counsel, Legal Affairs Department
- Sergi Mesonero, Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE), Head of IFSE Esports
- Marius Lauer, Owner of Rock it Science Entertainment,
- Kimmo Leinonen, City of Espoo, Esports Planner

The webinar touched on numerous topics such as the structures in esports, the focus on professional esports players and the role of grassroots esports, the role of publishers, the support for esports players and the life cycle of various games.

Invited to present the Olympic movement's views, Katarzyna Gorgol-Maeder explained that the IOC looks at esports from three angles. Firstly, partnerships in esports shall bring together different stakeholders such as federations, publishers and sponsors. Secondly, esports is an opportunity to engage with different audiences especially the younger generation. And thirdly, it is a means of innovation also for the Olympic movement. Also taking part on behalf of the IOC, Vincent Pereira added that the IOC wants to act as a facilitator, bringing together the best of traditional and esports. Thus, he explained about the Olympic Virtual Series that were first held in 2021.

Evolution of the report

The deadline for amendments for the report was set on 30 May, while the vote in the CULT Committee is only expected to take place on 29 September, followed by the adoption in the plenary session later in the year. The EOC EU Office is following closely the evolution of the report and will continue to keep its partners informed.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Draft Report](#)

[Procedure File](#)

[Webinar of EP's Sport Group](#)

Global Sports Week gives platform to sport leaders to discuss growth, responsibility and sports diplomacy

From 9 to 13 May, the annual Global Sports Week event took place in Paris' Accor Arena, bringing together around 2000 participants from 98 countries and 120 speakers, from leaders of the Olympics and Paralympics movement to Presidents of International sports Federations.

The overall motto of the event was "Better vs Bigger: How to reconcile Growth and Responsibility in the Sports Industry", focusing on the future of sport and the need to reconcile the search for new audiences, finding new streams of revenues and defining growth in a sustainable and socially responsible manner. Lucien Boyer, Global Sports Week President and co-founder, stressed the opportunity for sporting leaders to share ideas in times of pressure for society and sport in the midst of an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and the still lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the five days of the event, several renowned experts of the sports industry addressed the status and rights of athletes, women's sports, the role of sports as a social booster, the European Sports Model and the impact of mega events from a sustainability standpoint.

"A High-Performing European Sports Model" Panel

A special session organised by the French National Olympic Committee, as part of the French Presidency of the Council of European Union, placed focus on the European Sports Model. Amongst the speakers were representatives from sports organisations, including José Manuel Araújo, member of the European Olympic Committees' Executive Committee, and Jean-Pierre Siutat, President of the French Basketball Federation. In addition, speakers included Themis Christophidou - Director-General for education, youth, sport and culture - from the European Commission and MEP Laurence Farreng. The panellists discussed the ramifications of the European Sports Model from a number of different perspectives, looking at the issue for sports like triathlon, basketball and football, but also from a fans' and political perspective.

The speakers then argued for the merits of the European Sports Model, defending its use, and arguing in favour of a sustainable model for organising sport in Europe, which fairly distributes revenue from the grassroots all the way up to elite level sport. The emergence of the European Super League last year, the fight against discrimination in sport and the need for greater gender balance and equality across all levels of sport in Europe were also raised during the discussion.

In his contribution, the EOC Executive Committee member, José Manuel Araújo, outlined the basic pillars of the European Sports Model, stating that sports should be regarded as a social activity in the future social model. It is crucial that the sports federations have the necessary tools to be flexible and capable to organise their own sports, and the EU institutions play a crucial role on this matter. Furthermore, he highlighted that a solidarity based model is the only system that permits that revenues are equitably distributed through all sports actors and channelled into amateur and grassroots sport. In this sense, he expressed that the own-initiative resolution from the European Parliament upholds these basic principles.

In regards to the relationship with the EU institutions, Mr. Araújo referred to the important work developed by the EOC EU Office that engages actively with these institutions and provides a direct link for the European NOCs.

“Mega Events Vs Sustainable Impact” Panel

With the current mindset shift towards a sustainable approach when considering the organisation of “mega sporting events”, event organisers (from Youth Olympic Games 2026, AFCON 2023, Qatar 2022 and Paris 2024)

and other major sporting organisations, gave their insider perspective and discussed how to ensure the mega events to have added value for society in the current climate, with the planet facing existential threats and the widening of socio-economic gaps. The speakers came to a consensus on the need of creating new models: with less financial burden on the event organisers, making the events more open and accessible, highlighting the relevance of concrete legacy strategies that result in measurable social and economic returns on public investment.

Focus was also placed on the role of sports in the aftermath of the Russian aggression on Ukraine, and how sport can lever itself as an important tool for peace, albeit warning on the possible danger of sportswashing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Sports Week 2022 Event Website](#)

[Global Sports Week 2022 Full Programme](#)

EOC EU Office attends SHARE Webinar on the European Structural and Investment Funds

The EOC EU Office has attended a set of SHARE webinars organised by the European Commission’s Sport Unit and KEA European Affairs on 11 and 18 May 2022.



The SHARE webinars aimed to promote knowledge and capacity building among relevant stakeholders - including sports organisations - regarding the link between the integration and promotion of sport and physical activity into economic and social development strategies and the [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) (ESIFs). The webinars offered opportunities to gain valuable insights on the notion of “Active Development” and related steps whilst sharing ideas, challenges and solutions to boost capacity-building at the regional and local levels of relevant stakeholders (i.e National Olympic Committees, National Federations...) to access the ESIF.

During the SHARE webinars, the EOC EU Office reiterated the importance to reduce the challenges/barriers experienced by sports stakeholders in accessing the ESIFs, as well as boosting the knowledge of sports organisations regarding EU Funding Programmes.

In this regard, the EOC EU Office organised a webinar dedicated to the ESIFs on 28 April 2022. This webinar aspired to provide European NOCs and Federations with valuable insights on the ESIF, its structure and priorities, as well as its relevance for sport. Accordingly, it raised awareness of common challenges and required actions for sports organisations (i.e. NOCs/NFs) to successfully access the ESIF, in future.

And yet, since the beginning of the negotiations in 2018, the EOC EU Office has been long committed to ensuring that sports organisations can further benefit from ESIF. Indeed, it had been continuously advocating for a recognition of the potential of sport to achieve the various objectives of the new Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – including the ESIF, among others. As a result, for the first time sport was directly mentioned in the ESIF's regulations of both the [European Regional Development Fund \(recital 20\)](#) as well as the [European Social Fund+ \(recital 15\)](#).

Hence, the EOC EU Office warmly invites European NOCs and partners' organisations to further engage and benefit from the ESIF; accordingly, the EOC EU Office remains at disposal should be required further information and assistance regarding the ESIF.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Practical Guidance on Developing Sport and Physical Activity Projects under the European Structural and Investment Funds \(ESIF\)](#)

[The “Active Development” paper: “Active Development” An Integrated Contribution from Sport and Physical Activity to Economic and Social Development](#)

Conference on the Future of Europe reaches its conclusion

Having begun in May 2021, the Conference on the Future of Europe, a yearlong tripartite consultation process of the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (EU), presiding as its joint presidents, finally reached its conclusion on 9 May, in Strasbourg, which coincided with Europe Day.

The Conference, which was marked by unprecedented EU-wide consultations, discussions and collaborations between citizens and politicians was done a bottom-up exercise of inclusive reflection for Europe.

It also allowed for European citizens to constructively debate on the common challenges Europe faces and shape the future of the European project going forward.

The Conference was attended by the joint presidents who included Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission, Roberta Metsola of the European Parliament, and Emmanuel Macron, representing the EU's rotating Council Presidency. The exercise in participatory democracy culminated in bringing about 49 proposals along with their objectives together with more than 320 measures, which the joint presidents were presented with.

The EOC and IOC Athletes' Commission contributed to the Conference on the Future of Europe by presenting their recommendations on ways the European Union should deal with sport in the future to Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas last March.

In the end, the Conference report on the final outcome highlights that the deliberated topics fall under 9 categories, namely:

- Climate change;
- Environment;
- European democracy;
- EU in the world; Migration;
- Digital transformation;
- Health;
- A stronger economy, social justice and jobs;
- Values and rights, rule of law, security; and not least,
- Education, culture, youth and sport.

Whilst sport makes a welcome appearance in the Conference report where it is venerated for its added value when it comes to promotion of healthy lifestyles, its benefits in society, its representation of European diversity along with its contribution to the perpetuation of EU values, Regrettably, it appears as proposal number 49 on a list of 49 proposals, which gives signals of how it is perceived along the continuum of citizens expectations.

Furthermore, no reference to athletes was integrated, in spite of the fact that the European Athletes Commissions have contributed to the process with a comprehensive set of proposals.

Moving forward, the next steps should see the EU institutions examining the report on the final outcomes in accordance with the Treaties and within their own spheres of competence. Although feedback on the Conference findings should happen in the autumn of 2022, already, it is an ominous development that the Council has already expressed how the Conference report should advance those areas where the EU has the competence to act, which would rule out sport.

The EOC EU Office will follow the report closely and will keep its partners informed on the developments particularly as they will concern the sports sector.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Conference on the Future of Europe: Report on the final outcome: May 2022](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

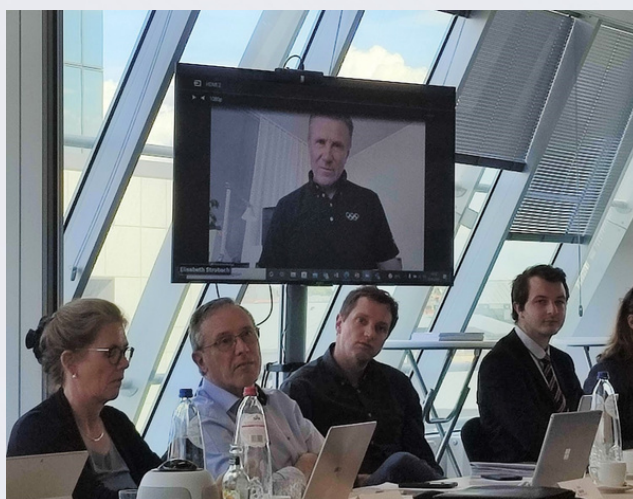
EOC EU Office organises Annual Partners' Meeting

On 17 May, the EOC EU Office held its Annual Partners' Meeting, marking the first in-person gathering of the office and its partners since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting was delivered in a hybrid format in Brussels and online, where partners from NOCs and federations were briefed on the latest developments in EU sports policy.

A roundtable discussion on how the ongoing war has impacted sport in Ukraine was held, preceded by a special appearance online from Ukrainian NOC President Sergii Bubka, who expressed his sincere gratitude to the Olympic Movement for its support in recent months.

Staff members from the EOC EU Office updated partners on the office's activities related to EU developments. They touched on topics like the European Sport Model, EU Presidencies, the recent European Super League case, gender equality in sport. Later, discussions turned to other talking points like climate and the environment, online piracy, E-Sport and the Conference on the Future of Europe. In the afternoon, partners heard from James Macleod, Director of Olympic Solidarity and NOC Relations at the International Olympic Committee, who spoke from the IOC's offices in Lausanne about the Olympic Movement's support to Ukrainian athletes.



An engaging roundtable discussion on Ukraine featuring contributions from various partner organisations then took place. Topics during the roundtable included sporting sanctions, the banning of athletes from sporting competitions, and how sport can continue to show solidarity for Ukrainian sportspeople.

The EOC EU Office was also delighted to welcome Luciano di Fonzo, Deputy Head of EACEA, to the Annual Partners' Meeting in Brussels. Staff provided him with an overview of the project proposals submitted by the EOC EU Office's partners under the Erasmus+ call 2022, after which an open-discussion with Mr. Di Fonzo took place, which provided attendees with valuable insights and opportunities for questions.

The 2022 Annual Partners' Meeting was concluded with an exchange on future activities led by EOC EU Office Director, Mr. Folker Hellmund. The EOC EU Office was very happy to see and welcome its partners again in Brussels and is looking forward to continuous cooperation!



RINGS project partners meet to discuss the stakeholder management of NOCs



RINGS

Partners of the RINGS project on strategic management of National Olympic Committees met for their partners' meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 18-19 May, hosted by the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee. This was the first physical meeting after the project's Kick-off in Brussels in February 2020, and very crucial one for the last steps of the project to be finalised by the end of 2022.

The main purpose of the RINGS project is to develop and modernize strategic management of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in Europe. In addition, the tools and outputs developed during the project will 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.

The partners' meeting in Slovakia focused on the RINGS Stakeholders Tool, one of the project's main outputs, and included several interactive discussions regarding the management of different key stakeholders of the National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

Essentially, the aim of this tool is to help NOCs in their general stakeholder management but also during specific projects. The partners' meeting contained very constructive and fruitful debates on the personal experiences on stakeholder management in order to feed the tool with those good practices.

One example of a successful stakeholder cooperation was shared by Deputy Director of Public Affairs, Per Nylykke, from the National Olympic Committee and Confederation of Denmark (DIF). DIF cooperates with Amnesty International Denmark, especially regarding major sports events and human rights.



Furthermore, an update on the RINGS handbook on strategic management was given by Professor Holger Preuss from Mainz University. The final stages of the project, including the remaining national workshops and the project final conference, were also discussed.

National Training Workshop of Slovakia

Following the partners' meeting, the RINGS National Training Workshop of Slovakia took place on 20 May with the active participation of Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee President, Anton Siekel, and Secretary General, Jozef Liba.

Attended by representatives from more than 20 member federations of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee, the RINGS project with its tools was presented to the audience by Project Manager Heidi Pekkola. In addition, Secretary General of the Liechtenstein Olympic Committee, Beat Wachter, shared as a good practice example their journey to develop the NOC's strategic plan.

As the project leader of RINGS, the EOC EU Office was very satisfied with both events. In addition, the EOC EU Office would like to thank the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee for the excellent hosting of the meetings.



EOC EU Office and IOC organise webinar on carbon footprint measurement

On 31 May, the EOC EU Office and the IOC hosted their third webinar of the “European Olympic movement and climate action” series. This time, organisers and participants focused on the topic of carbon footprint measurement. Participants from over 40 organisations, including National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International and European Federations, had the opportunity to hear about the latest developments related to EU energy/environment policies, before diving into the critical steps of carbon footprint measurement and hearing some real-life examples from two sport organisations.

Introducing the webinar, Folker Hellmund, Director of the EOC EU Office, reminded the participants that even though carbon footprint measurement might seem complicated and time consuming, it is a necessary – and beneficial – process for sport organisations.

The introduction was followed by common presentation of Jana Janotova and Eva Rebmann (both policy officers from EOC EU Office) that provided an overview on recent political and legislative developments on EU level in that policy field.



Measuring carbon footprint – theory and practice

Fabrizio D'Angelo, Sustainability Manager at the IOC, set the scene on why and how to measure carbon footprint. D'Angelo defined some of the key terms, e.g. greenhouse gases, CO2 equivalent, carbon footprint, net-zero and carbon neutrality. He then followed by detailing the 3 scopes of emissions to take into account when evaluating an organisation's footprint:

D'Angelo then went on with a presentation of the major steps for an organisation to start measuring its footprint, i.e. establishing the scope of emissions to measure, selecting the relevant tool, choosing a valid baseline year, collecting the relevant data, etc.

After setting the theoretical basis, Fabrizio D'Angelo gave the floor to Lasse Lyck, Sustainability Officer at NOC Denmark (DIF), and Riikka Rakic, Head of Sustainability at the International Biathlon Union (IBU), who shared the experience of their organisation that have already been through the whole measurement process.

Lasse Lyck presented the methods implemented by the NOC of Denmark, which just finished its first evaluation. The year 2019 was chosen as a baseline, a year in which two European Youth Olympic Festivals were held. In order to involve all staff members, a transversal working group was created within the organisation to involve all relevant departments in this important process and a friendly competition will start later this year to encourage staff members to get on board. Lyck stated that all staff members have shown willingness to be involved in the process quite quickly, notably thanks to a strong commitment of the organisation's leadership.

Riikka Rakic then introduced the carbon footprint measurement process at the IBU. She noted that climate action and with it the setting-up of a baseline (carbon footprint) was an integral part of the organisation's sustainability strategy that had been adopted already in 2019. After explaining how the measurement was conducted and presenting some of the results, Rakic shared further insights. Biathlon enjoys an impressive popularity and therefore wide audience to raise awareness. On the other hand, the big attendance to sports events and organisation of large events around the globe is definitely something to look at for reducing the organisation's footprint, Rakic stated.

EU Green Week

The webinar took place at the start of the EU's annual environmental sustainability awareness event – the EU Green Week.

Organised every spring by the European Commission, the event gathers European environment-interested parties for several days of discussions in Brussels but also, by the means of “partner events”, everywhere across the continent. This year, the European Commission invited participants to look at the implementation of some of the European Green Deal's pillars (namely circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity). While no session targeted sport directly, a number of them were of relevance to sport stakeholders through, for example, the relationship between the practice of sport and the protection of nature and biodiversity or through the crucial importance of clean air or clean water for most outdoor sports. The webinar was an opportunity for the EOC EU Office to update participants on latest developments regarding EU's energy/environment policies, including the Fit for 55 package, the Circular Economy Package and the draft corporate sustainability due diligence directive.

OCEAN project

The webinar was also an opportunity for representatives of those European NOCs, which partnered with the EOC EU Office on the “OCEAN” project proposal, for which the EOC EU Office hopes to receive funding, to get first tips and tricks on how to start collecting data or involve their colleagues in the carbon footprint measurement process. Meant to start in 2023, this project, hopefully financed by the Erasmus+ Sport programme, would accompany NOCs willing to measure – and reduce – the carbon footprint of their organisation by providing them with the right tools and by training their staff.

Next steps

The 4th webinar of the “European Olympic movement and climate action” series is likely to be organised at the end of this year, on the topic of sourcing and procurement and its importance in the climate reduction process.



UPCOMING EVENTS

09 June 2022

EOC ExCo Meeting - EOC - Skopje, North Macedonia

10 - 11 June 2022

EOC General Assembly - EOC - Skopje, North Macedonia

20 - June 2022

Athletes' forum - EOC EU Office/EOC/IOC - Brussels, Belgium

21 June 2022

European Evening of Sport - EOC EU Office - Brussels, Belgium



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