

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021



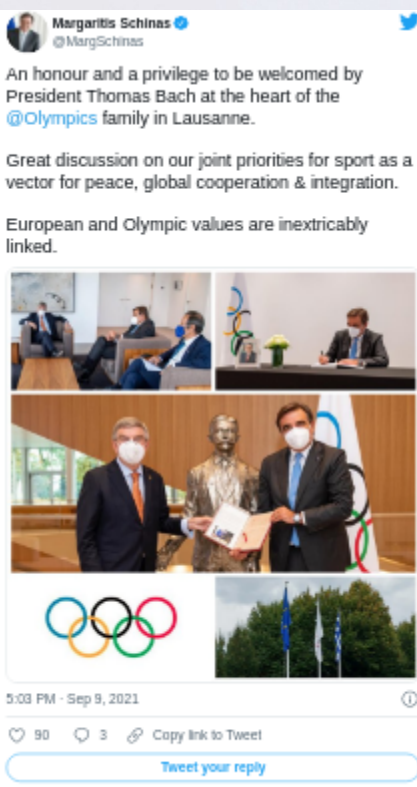
EUROPEAN
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EU
Office

MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

New IOC Athletes Commission Chair: Emma Terho



"One of the priorities of the IOC Athletes' Commission is to bring together and support the network of Athletes' Commissions so that all athletes around the world can be as best supported as possible."

See full interview on page 6

FACTS & FIGURES



EU at the Olympic Games



The European Union in Olympics comparison

| No | Nation | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|----|---|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 |  European Union | 49 | 38 | 47 | 134 |
| 2 |  Norway | 14 | 14 | 11 | 39 |
| 3 |  Canada | 11 | 8 | 10 | 29 |
| 4 |  United States | 9 | 8 | 6 | 23 |
| 5 |  South Korea | 5 | 8 | 4 | 17 |
| 6 |  Switzerland | 5 | 6 | 4 | 15 |
| 7 |  Japan | 4 | 5 | 4 | 13 |
| 8 |  Olympic Athlete from Russia | 2 | 6 | 9 | 17 |
| 9 |  China | 1 | 6 | 2 | 9 |
| 10 |  Belarus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |

Source EU Medal Tracker



The EOC EU Office is looking for new trainees for the period February 2022 - July 2022! If you are interested you can send your CV and cover letter to hardman@euoffice.eurolympic.org before the 15th of October. All information on our website:

<https://euoffice.eurolympic.org/internships>

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

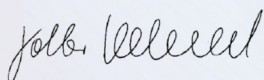
Even though Covid-19 continues to shape our way of life on a daily basis, the situation has changed considerably compared to the same period last year. The partly well-filled stadiums and sport halls give hope, not only to the fans, that normality is returning bit by bit. However, for this development to continue, increasing vaccination rates must remain the main goal of all joint efforts. It is therefore very welcome when celebrities from the world of sport actively take up this issue. Jürgen Klopp is certainly a good example that others should gladly follow.

The future of the European Model of Sport remains on the agenda of politics and sport, not least through the activities of the Slovenian EU Presidency. The recent Sport Directors' Conference in Bled showed that an overwhelming majority of member states support this model. In particular, issues such as openness of competitions, financial solidarity, connection between amateur and (professional) top-level sport, uniformity of rules and fair promotion and relegation rules are elements that characterise the European Model of Sport. The necessary competences for the sports federations are of course also associated with obligations that can be summarised under the heading of good governance.

In recent years, a large number of sports federations have brought their statutes up to a level that meets the highest standards of good federation governance. Those federations that still have some catching up to do are coming under increasing pressure within the sport. The IOC and ASOIF, with its third Governance Review, have made it clear that failures in federation governance will no longer be tolerated, not least to avoid negative effects on the sport as a whole.

The elections of the IOC and EOC Athletes' Commissions took place in Tokyo in August and in Dubrovnik last weekend. Congratulations to Emma Terho and Gerd Kanter, who will hold the presidency until February 2022 (Terho) and November 2023 (Kanter). It is in the interest of organised sport to have competent and workable athlete commissions in order to achieve a fair balance of interests. With regard to the Brussels level, it would certainly be beneficial if the presence of the freely elected athletes' representatives could take place even more regularly. European sports policy would also benefit from this.

Stay healthy and all the best!



Folker Hellmund
Director EOC EU Office

EOC EU Office mourns the loss of Jüri Tamm



The team of the EOC EU Office mourns the death of Jüri Tamm, Estonian hammer thrower and two times Olympic medallist, who passed away at the age of 65.

A great Olympic champion, Jüri Tamm was always looking for new ways of developing sport in Europe.

During several years, he brought his fresh ideas to the EOC EU Commission, serving there as Chair, after having been an Ex-Officio Member of the EOC Executive Committee and Chair of the EOC Athletes Commission.

The EOC EU Office appreciated the trustful cooperation we had with Jüri and will surely miss him as a friend. His dedication and passion for the European sport, his enthusiasm for innovative projects such as the Electric Marathon from Tallinn to Monte Carlo that he has organised and especially his open and friendly character will be missed.



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH



Emma Terho is a former Finnish ice hockey player and the current Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. She is a multiple-time olympic and women's world championship bronze medallist. She represented Finland in five Olympic Winter Games – every edition from the inclusion of women's ice hockey in Nagano 1998 until 2014 – and in eight IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championships.

1. First of all, congratulations on your election as new chair of the IOC Athletes Commission! A more formalistic question at the beginning. How many Athletes Commissions exists and how many athletes are you representing?

Thank you very much! Organisations from all over the Olympic Movement have Athletes' Commissions, including National Olympic Committees, International Sport Federations, the World Anti-doping Agency, the International Paralympic Committee and many more. In total there are hundreds of Athletes' Commissions, all representing the athletes in their specific country, sport or field.

One of the priorities of the IOC Athletes' Commission is to bring together and support the network of Athletes' Commissions so that all athletes around the world can be as best supported as possible.

2. Can you tell us about your background as an athlete and how can you bring in this experience in your new position?

I have been lucky enough to have a career as an elite athlete in ice hockey for almost 20 years, which included competing at five Olympic Games and seven World Championships. Being part of the Olympic Games and meeting all the different people along the way has been the most valuable part of my career. Of course winning the medals together with my team have been moments to never forget. The experience of being the youngest of the team at the age of 16 in Nagano 1998 and being the captain when winning a medal in Vancouver 2010 are different, yet both very special.

I am fortunate that my career has taken me from Finland to the USA, Russia and all corners of the globe and I have been able to have many different experiences, which certainly helps give me more perspective as an athlete representative. For me dual career has always been an important part - I studied at university alongside playing hockey – and will continue to advocate for possibilities for this also as Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission. Part of it is realizing what all being part of sports is and aiming to be your best teaches you.

3. What are the main topics on your agenda and what do you see as most urgent matters to address?

We find ourselves in an unprecedented situation where the next Olympic Games is only a matter of months away and at a time where the global pandemic still persists. Beijing 2022 is naturally the immediate priority, to ensure that together with our various stakeholders, the Games are delivered in way that is safe for all involved. Mental health is another topic that we as a Commission will continue to give a lot of attention to going forward, and recently some excellent work to launch a 24/7 mental health hotline has been done and made available to all athletes that competed in Tokyo.

Safeguarding, fight against doping, dual career and of course effective athlete representation across the Olympic Movement are also amongst our priorities. Also, there are many programmes the Commission has previously started to support athletes in and outside competition and that is something to further develop.

It will certainly be a busy period ahead and we are always engaging with other Athletes' Commissions to understand the topics and issues that are priorities to them and their athletes.

4. After one year of postponement, the Tokyo Olympic Games took place this summer. How would you estimate the meaning of these Games to the athletes and which feedback you received from athletes?

The impact of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 cannot be underestimated, for all involved, not only the athletes. It was a mammoth effort by the entire Olympic Movement to allow the Games to take place and our Japanese hosts did a tremendous job.

We have held a number of debrief calls since Tokyo and what is most clear is how thankful and appreciative the athletes have been. It is clear that the Games were different in many ways, but athletes understood the reasons behind why the different restrictions were in place and the efforts that went in to simply just allowing the Games to take place.

5. It is always said that athletes are at the heart of the Olympic movement. How do you see the development of athletes' representation in the Olympic movement?

Through Olympic Agenda 2020, we have significantly strengthened our effort to support athletes on and off the field of play. This effort has continued now through Olympic Agenda 2020+5.

The development of athlete representation in recent years has been really positive and long may it continue. The above strategic roadmaps have very much helped support the creation of Athletes' Commissions across the Olympic Movement and there are a number of programmes in place to support their activities too.

As the IOC Athletes' Commission, we will continue to advocate for all National Olympic Committees and International Federations to establish an effective Athletes' Commission, and work together with these Commissions to ensure they are supported as much as possible.

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6. There is no one common athletes voice as such, since the interests diverge between disciplines, level of professionalisation or origin. How will you manage to unify these positions in order be effective as possible?

The world is a diverse place and the Olympic Movement is a true reflection of this diversity. At the same time, our strength comes from our diversity, the important point is to be open to different viewpoints.

The IOC Athletes' Commission is made up of athletes from a diverse range of sports and countries, so already at our meetings many different viewpoints are captured by the Commission.

The most important thing that we as the IOC Athletes' Commission can do is listen to athletes from all corners of the world and from all different sports, and do our best to find a position that satisfies as many athletes as possible. It is important to demonstrate our processes and methods to how we arrive at certain positions on any topic, and we publicise this as much as possible through our athlete-facing platform, Athlete365.

7. The former chair of the EOC Athletes Commission Jean Michel Saive has just been elected as new President of Belgium Olympic Committee. Is that a kind of role model for other athletes as well in order to get your voice better heard?

It is great news that Jean-Michel Saive has been elected as the President of Belgium Olympic Committee. It is very important that athletes who have finished their sporting careers have opportunities to stay in sport administration, particularly at the decision-making level.

Hopefully Jean-Michel, as well as the many other former athletes that hold leadership positions in the Olympic Movement, can inspire the next generation of athletes to take the step in to sport administration after retiring.

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



EU SPORT POLICY AND FUNDING NEWS

7th European Week of Sport introduces a new HealthyLifestyle4All Pledge

The European Week of Sport (EWOs) – a traditional sport and physical activity fixture in the calendars of thousands of Europeans – in its 7th edition reached more than 40 countries. After a challenging – COVID-19 dominated – edition of last year, the theme of this year's Week highlighted the power of sport and physical activity to bring joy, build resilience and connect generations.

Since its launch in 2015, the EWOs has become a well-coordinated and wide-reaching initiative, which involves national coordinators, and many national and European-level partners who are firmly committed to promoting its goals across the entire European continent (over 40 countries including some also from the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe).

The European Olympic Committees remains one of the official partners of the EWOs since the very beginning; likewise, European Sport Federations and European National Olympic Committees (NOCs) have been active partners of the EWOs with a number of NOCs acting as National Coordinating Bodies for the EWOs.

Aligned with the tradition to organise the opening of the EWOs in the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU, this year's kick-off event took place on 23 September at the Lake Bled in Slovenia and was co-hosted by the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

The European Commissioner responsible for sport, Mariya Gabriel, welcomed the beginning of the constantly growing event. She highlighted the role of sport as a driver for healthy lifestyle and well-being and introduced the future European Commissions' activities on sport and health, innovation and education.

She was joined by the President of European Olympic Committees, Spyros Capralos, who underlined the importance of the EWOs to encourage European citizens to lead an active and healthy lifestyle so counteracting the ever-increasing level of sedentary and inactive lifestyle across the EU Member States.



Commission launches the #HealthyLifestyle4All initiative

A few hours before the opening of the EWOs, the European Commission used the occasion to launch its long- and impatiently-awaited initiative – [HealthyLifestyle4All](#). Following in the footsteps of the [Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle](#), the two years' long campaign, driven by the motto "Let's make difference together", aspires to join sport with health, food and other sectors to promote healthy lifestyle across Europe. It embeds three core objectives:

1. More awareness for healthy lifestyles across all generations;
2. Easier access to sport, physical activity and healthy diets, with special focus on inclusion and non-discrimination to reach disadvantaged European groups;
3. Teaming up for a holistic approach to food, health, well-being and sport.

It offers the possibility to sport organisations, public institutions and other stakeholders to submit a commitment for concrete actions in the form of a public pledge available at an [online pledge board](#).

Promotion of sport and healthy lifestyles is one of the priorities of the Olympic movement in Europe and thus its representatives were among the first to submit pledges on behalf of their organisations.

In its video message, President of the International Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach, clearly highlighted the need to promote active living and the role of sport and physical activity as catalyst to get more people to be active. Accordingly, the [IOC has pledged](#) to promote and highlight the physical and mental health benefits of sport for all via its digital platforms and activities in order to get people moving all across the EU and beyond. Furthermore, while building on its [Olympic Agenda 2020+5](#), the IOC has made the commitment to support the promotion of better health and well-being and access to sport opportunities through, among other things, the strengthening of the role of sport as an important enabler for the UN SDGs or through its support for the IOC Refugee Olympic Teams.

The European Olympic Committees President reiterated the role of the EOC in actively promoting healthy lifestyle for all and proudly [pledged](#) on behalf of its organisation to continue working for all groups of society to have equal and better access to sport, physical activity and healthy lifestyles so contributing to the health and wellbeing of all citizens. The European Olympic Committees is committed to passing down the scope and benefit of this initiative to the fifty Europe's National Olympic Committees.

The European Week of Sport (EWoS) is an annual initiative of the European Commission organised between the 23 and 30 of September with the scope to encourage European citizens to "#BeActive", not only during the EWoS, but to stay fit all year long regardless of age, social background or fitness level.



EU Directors General for Sport meet also in Bled

On the eve of the opening of the EWoS, EOC EU Office Director, Folker Hellmund, was invited to take part to a meeting of EU Directors General for Sport. A gathering of representatives of EU Member States and of the European Commission, this meeting also welcomed a few representatives of the sport movement to discuss the future of the European Sport Model. Folker Hellmund underlined the importance of safeguarding the constitutive elements of this model such as good governance, uniform rules, open competitions at all levels, a fair sport calendar or financial solidarity. The European Sport Model and its principles were backed by a majority of participants and these discussions will feed into the current debate within the Council of the EU about a resolution on the European Sport Model.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[European Week of Sport](#)

[HealthyLifestyle4All initiative](#)

European Parliament's sport report starts to take its shape

European Parliament's CULT Committee is currently discussing their sport report on "EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward". Happening once per parliamentary term, the publication of such a specific sport report is an important opportunity for the European Parliament to address its views, but also to for the sports movement, to have their interests being heard. Thus, the EOC EU Office has been closely following the discussions.

Following the stakeholder consultation that rapporteur Tomasz Frankowski (EPP, Poland) organised at the end of June, his [first draft of the report](#) was published in July. This draft was then discussed in the CULT Committee on 31 August, where the shadow rapporteurs and fellow members of the CULT Committee gave their views on the draft. The deadline for the CULT Committee members to table [amendments to the draft](#) was 9 September and negotiations on the compromised amendments are currently taking place between the rapporteurs.

So far the draft report "acknowledges the importance of a European sports model based on values" and mentions some of its key principles such as solidarity, open competition and sporting merits as well as recognises the role of federations in governing their sport.

Furthermore, the draft report and some proposed amendments underline the importance of mainstreaming sport into other policy fields and funding programmes. In addition, the report has a strong focus on social inclusion and equality and mentions the importance of sustainability – all being topics that EOC EU Office has highlighted already in the past.

The next step in the process to adopt the report is the voting on the compromised amendments, which is planned to take place in the CULT Committee on 26 October. At the moment, the final adoption by the Parliament plenary is scheduled on 22 November. The EOC EU Office will continue to closely monitor the discussions.

Previous reports of the Parliament on sport led by the rapporteurs Hannu Takkula (2016) and Santiago Fisas (2012) were considered important contributions towards shaping European sport policy and resulted for example to the creation of the European Week of Sport.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[EP draft report on EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward](#)

[Proposed amendments to the report](#)

Slovenian Presidency Conference on Lifelong Physical Activity

On 24 September, Slovenian and international experts in the field of physical activity, representatives of the European Commission and EU Member States as well as sport stakeholders and interested public came together in Bled, Slovenia, for the Slovenian Presidency Conference on Lifelong Physical Activity.

The topic of lifelong physical activity is one of the [priority topics](#) for sport, chosen by the Slovenian Council Presidency. Its importance has increased even more in light of the Covid-19 pandemic that brought organised sport participation to a halt for many months.

[Linked to the European Week of Sport](#) and the launch of the HealthyLifestyle4All campaign, the main objective of the Conference was to discuss how to ensure physical activity for each individual throughout their whole life-span and how to effectively monitor physical activity to increase motivation and inform policy making.

In her opening speech, Simona Kustec, Slovenian Minister for Education, highlighted the importance of physical activity “from cradle to grave” and the need for cooperation of Member States and scientists to identify feasible and effective practices for the benefit of European citizens. If possible, results of this cooperation feed into policy making as it is in the case of the European Parliament’s Report [“EU sports policy: assessment and possible ways forward”](#). Rapporteur Tomasz Frankowski, Member of the European Parliament for the EPP, expressed his gratitude for having lifelong physical activity in his report and appealed to all listeners to embrace the benefits stemming from regular physical activity which range from enhanced resilience to improved general health.

Within 4 panels during the Conference, the audience was guided through a holistic picture of lifelong physical activity.

Ideally, individuals internalise physical activity as a habit that stays with them throughout their whole life. By fostering and expanding sporting offers, promoting physical literacy from an early age as well as reinforcing the enjoyment of sport, individuals will remain physically active even when they experience barriers. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that those who were active before, continued with their habit and found other ways to stay active, whereas it became even more challenging for those who only occasionally engaged in sporting practices.

Nevertheless, the responsibility to take on and keep up a healthy lifestyle does not solely lie with the individual or sports organisations.

From the perspective of cross-cooperation, national and regional governments, individual ministries, private bodies and the sport sector are equally asked to engage in cooperative dialogue for mutual benefits. By joining forces for a common goal, benefits are likely to spread across sectors. For instance, a project on active commuting that is approached cross-sectoral and holistically from the beginning may equally affect physical activity levels as well as environmental sustainability.

In order to make these joint efforts as efficient as possible, an effective monitoring system is needed. Currently the available data on sport across Europe is neither viable nor comparable across all Member States. Therefore, it is crucial to find a common methodology to standardise and harmonise data across Europe and translate evidence into measures and interventions to form a more active Europe.

Lastly, the role and possibilities of the media were discussed. The inherent challenge is to portray the long-term dimension of physical activity rather than just the quick fixes and major events that sell well. Suggestions of the panellists circled around media campaigns of sport organisations and greater proportionality of grassroots sport on local and regional news to give consumers and sport participants a chance to connect their realities to what they see in the media and get personally attached.

Inputs and feedback of this conference are expected to be taken up in the Council Conclusions, which are expected for the end of November 2021.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Presidency Conference Lifelong Physical Activity](#)

Online piracy of sports broadcasts: EU Commission responds to Parliament resolution and announces actions for 2022

The European Commission has responded to the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in May 2021 on the "Challenges of sports event organisers in the digital environment".

Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič wrote a letter to the President of the EU Parliament David Sassoli setting out the Commission's position on online piracy of live sports broadcasts. In principle, the Commission agrees with the Parliament that the illegal broadcasting of live sports streams must be tackled more effectively.

In this context, the Commission refers to a mapping study it requested from the European Audiovisual Observatory on existing remedies against online piracy of sports content. The study is expected this autumn and will feed into the Commission's situation assessment.

The main element of the letter is the Commission's announcement to "set out, in the first half of 2022, the legislative or any other concrete actions that it intends to take to address online piracy of live content, including live sport events".

This at least ensures that the EU Commission will continue to deal with the problem, although the scope of possible measures is kept very broad.

Furthermore, the Commission refers to the current negotiations on the Digital Services Act (DSA), which as a horizontal regulation will establish certain rules that will also be relevant for the fight against illegal sports live streams, such as the concept of trusted flaggers or the know-your-business-costumer principle.

On the background: On 19 May, Members of the European Parliament adopted the resolution on "Challenges of sports event organisers in the digital environment" with 479 votes in favour, 171 against and 40 abstentions. Through the resolution, the Parliament called for illegal online broadcasting of live sporting events to be blocked in real time and for the rights of organisers to be strengthened.

The Parliament called "for the removal of, or the disabling of access to, infringing live sport broadcasts by online intermediaries to be immediate or as fast as possible, and in any event no later than within 30 minutes of the receipt of the notification from rightsholders or from a certified trusted flagger regarding the existence of such illegal broadcast".

In the resolution, the European Parliament also called on the European Commission to immediately present proposals for legal acts that follow the recommendations of the MEPs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Response of the EU Commission by Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič](#)

[Adopted EU Parliament resolution on the challenges of sports event organisers in the digital environment](#)

Conference on the Future of Europe

The [first Interim Report](#) of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), an unprecedented consultation process for all European citizens on the future of EU, was published in September. The Report summarises 6 115 ideas, 11 879 comments and 1 685 events that have been proposed on the [Multilingual Digital Platform](#). Sport is mentioned there as a means of fostering the development of European identity and citizenship, such as through the Erasmus+ Programme, inter-European sports events, or European sports teams.

On the basis of the Report, the 200 selected participants of the Citizens Panel on “economy, social justice, jobs and education, youth, culture, sport and digital transformation” met for the first time on 17 September. During this first session, participants worked on draft recommendations based on citizens’ contributions to the Platform and discussed the organisation of the Conference Plenary in October.

Citizens Panels will continue until January, while Conference Plenaries will take place in October, December, January and March, before the closing event is organised in April.

By then, all citizens and organisations are welcome to rally and share their ideas, which will then be listened to by European lawmakers when designing the future of Europe. The CoFoE represents a momentum for the organised sport movement to demonstrate how sport can contribute to the future development of our societies even in the whole Europe.

Sport organisations can participate in two main ways. Firstly, organisations and individuals are welcomed to use the online Platform of the Conference to share ideas on the future of sport and to endorse or debate other citizens’ proposals. Secondly, events can be organised under the label of the Conference on the Future of Europe to hear citizens’ ideas on sports-related topics (i.e. European identity, gender equality, diversity and inclusion, regional development, and others, in line with European Union values). All formats can be considered (citizens’ discussions, workshops with athletes and grassroots sports players, forums gathering federations, etc., online or in person), and the outcomes of the event will feed into the final results of the consultation process.

Until the end of the Conference of the Future of Europe in April, the EOC EU Office is available to accompany you in sharing your thoughts and ideas on the future of European sport, whether by getting involved on the Platform, or organising a labelled event.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Conference timeline](#)

[Guidance on how to get involved on the Platform](#)

[Guidance on how to organise events](#)

[More details about the CoFoE](#)

Sport mentioned in the EU Funding Instrument for Western Balkans for the first time

On 15 September, 3 months after the final approval of its external affairs funding counterpart – [Global Europe](#) – the third generation of the Instrument for [Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA III\)](#), was adopted.

Finishing its legislative journey at the [European Parliament's Plenary](#), and applying retroactively as of 1 January 2021, the Instrument will help the candidate (Albania, Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey) and potential candidate countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo) better prepare for EU membership. Worth 14.2 billion euro, IPA III will support these countries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required to comply with the Union values and to progressively align with the EU's rules, standards and policies.

For the first time, the Instrument includes an explicit possibility for its managing authorities to support sport, and that under general thematic priorities – (...) offering support to cultural and creative sectors and sport (Art 3, 3 (k)) – as well as under thematic priorities related to cross-border cooperation – investing in youth, sport, education and skills (Art 3, 4 (f)).

Since 2018, the EOC EU Office has been actively advocating for a better inclusion of sport in the new EU's external funding programmes and for its recognition as an important instrument and “enabler” of sustainable development, good neighbourly relations and public diplomacy. It is therefore delighted to see that after Global Europe, also IPA III provides possibilities for the support of sport – at least on paper.

To turn this potential into reality, the EOC EU Office invites the concerned National Olympic Committees and other sport organisations to collaborate with the EU Delegations and IPA's managing authorities in their respective countries and inquire about the possibilities for cooperation and funding provided by the new Instrument.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[IPA III – Factsheet](#)

Member States exchange ideas on sustainable sports facilities

On 16-17 September, a Peer Learning Activity (PLA) was held in Munich on the topic of sustainable sports facilities. PLAs give interested Member States the opportunity to exchange ideas on a specific topic and are defined in the [EU Work Plan for Sport](#). The PLA was organised by the German Federal Ministry of the Interior with the support of the Munich University of Applied Sciences and the German Federal Institute for Sport Science (BISp).

The PLA consisted of several presentations highlighting different aspects of sustainable sports facilities. Subsequent discussion rounds provided an opportunity for questions and answers.

In her keynote speech, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Natalie Essig from the Munich University of Applied Sciences pleaded for a rethinking of sports facility construction. Sustainable sports facilities should be planned and operated better (efficiently), differently (consistently) and with fewer resources (sufficiently).

Jutta Kattage from the BISp focused on outdoor sports facilities and presented approaches to implementing sustainable development in outdoor sports facilities.

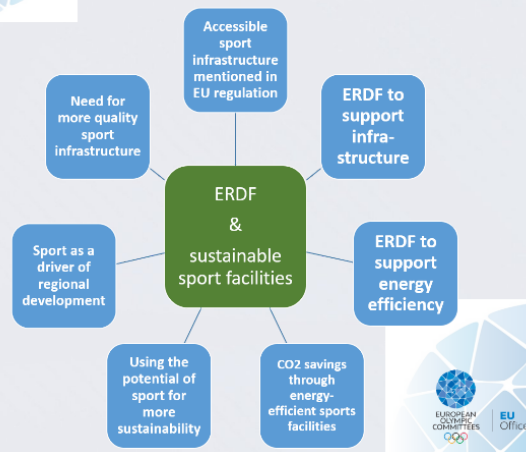


Jens Prüller from the Regional Sports Federation of the State of Hesse spoke about the challenges at the club level of building and operating the sports facilities in a sustainable and climate-neutral manner. He pleaded for all roofs available in a sports area, e.g. on club houses, sports halls and swimming pools, to be equipped with photovoltaic systems in order to produce regenerative energy directly at the sports field.

Policy Officer Andreas Bold from the EOC EU Office presented the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which offers good opportunities to co-finance sustainable sports facilities. The EOC EU Office had successfully advocated for sport to be mentioned in the [ERDF regulation](#) for the first time (Recital 20), which should improve the chances of eligibility of sports facilities in general. Combined with the fact that 30% of ERDF funds must be spent on climate objectives, it is evident that the construction of new sustainable sports facilities or the energetic renovation of existing sports infrastructures is fully in line with ERDF objectives. Bold therefore motivated the Member States to make better use of the ERDF's possibilities in the area of sustainable sports facilities in the funding period 2021-2027.



A good match: ERDF and sustainable sport facilities



Interesting insights were also provided by Lilian Tretout from Solideo, the state-owned company in charge of construction for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. Tretout presented how already existing sports facilities are being remodelled to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

The PLA ended with a joint tour through the Olympic Park in Munich, including the Olympic Stadium and the indoor swimming pool.

All in all, the PLA was a good opportunity to network and to shed light on different facets of sustainable sports facilities. Certainly, the sustainability of sports facilities will remain high on the agenda, especially in terms of their planning and operation. In the light of the Green Deal, also sports facility operators have to work towards a climate-neutral operation of their facilities as soon as possible.

The presentations and the recording of the PLA are to be published on the BISp website in the near future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[German Federal Institute of Sport science: Sustainable Outdoor Sports Facilities](#)

[German Federal Institute of Sport science:](#)

[Guidelines for Sustainable Sports Facility Construction](#)

Sport as an instrument of development cooperation - what role for the EU?

On 28 September, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ hosted a webinar on the potential of sport in development cooperation entitled "Building back better as a team: How can sport enhance social cohesion and resilience?"

The webinar aimed at informing in particular the EU bodies in charge of development cooperation, such as the Directorates General of the EU Commission INTPA, NEAR, EAC, as well as the EU delegations about the potentials of sport as a tool for development cooperation. In addition, numerous sports organisations followed the webinar.

After the welcome by GIZ, Uschi Schmitz, member of the European Olympic Committees Executive Committee, delivered the keynote speech of the event. In her speech, she referred to the achievement of the EOC EU Office of having successfully promoted the inclusion of sport in the EU Commission's [Global Europe Programme](#). This success on paper must now be filled with concrete projects. She invited the Member States and the EU institutions to make greater use of sport as a means of development cooperation and to work closely with national and European sports federations in this context. After all, she said, sport is a powerful tool for achieving societal goals such as gender equality, inclusion, integration, social cohesion and health and well-being. Schmitz pointed out that a number of NOCs in Europe are already active in the field of sport for development, such as the NOCs of Germany, Denmark, Norway, France, Turkey and the Netherlands. Global Europe would now provide a starting point to further strengthen the field of sport for development at EU level.

Innocent Asiimwe, National Coordinator of GIZ in Uganda, then presented the Athletics for Development (A4D) project. The project aims to strengthen social cohesion in host communities in Uganda through athletics. One of the focuses is on the inclusion of people with disabilities.

The project has been running since 2018 in cooperation with the German Olympic Sports Confederation, the Ugandan Olympic Committee and the World Athletics Federation, among others.



Laëticia Habchi from the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement - AFD) presented the coalition "Sustainable Development through Sport", which brings together both development banks and sports organisations such as the IOC and FIFA.

Afterwards, Friederike Kärcher, (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), Dr. Decius Chipande (African Union Sport Council), Philipp Müller-Wirth (UNESCO) and Magdalena Spasovska (Sport Organisation TAKT North Macedonia) discussed the possibilities of sport to promote development processes.

Ms Kärcher pointed out that sport is in the DNA of our society and has a special potential to reach children and young people. Mr Müller-Wirth emphasised that the Covid-19 pandemic had also led to an "inactivity pandemic", which is why sporting opportunities are all the more important now. In a contribution, Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, emphasised the need for better anchoring of sport in other policy areas such as health or education.

Although the topic of sport for development is receiving increasing international attention and implementation, for example through the United Nations, national development agencies and sports organisations, the European institutions have not yet been active in this field.

With the inclusion of sport in the areas of intervention of the relevant EU programmes [Global Europe](#) and the [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance](#), good conditions have been created for the EU institutions to use sport as an instrument of development cooperation.

The organised sport sector would welcome a stronger leveraging of the development potential of sport by the EU, especially in cooperation with sports federations and clubs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Europe Regulation](#)

[Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Regulation](#)

[GIZ – Toolkit Sport for Development](#)

#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards 2021

The #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards 2021 of the European Commission are now open for nominations.

Since 2017, the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards recognise the achievements of sport organisations working with refugees, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, youth and other groups with fewer opportunities while embracing a gender equality dimension. Hence, the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards aspire to reward exemplary initiatives from the sport field, as well as foster synergies between sport and other neighbouring sectors.



#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards feature three categories of awards:

- Breaking barriers

This aspires to reward projects showing resilience and how to overcome obstacles to participation.

- Celebrating diversity

This aims to reward projects showing tolerance and the benefits of understanding each other, as well as how different groups of people are working together.

- Inspiring change

This seeks to reward projects showing inspiration through positive examples of empowerment and role models from groups with fewer opportunities that step up to lead change.

Per each category three prizes will be awarded

- 1st Ranked (Winner): €10.000
- 2nd Ranked (Finalist): €2.500
- 3rd Ranked (Finalist): €2.500

Furthermore, the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards also aspire to bring attention on the most inspiring innovative ideas and best practices happening throughout Europe in the realm of sport.

Practical Information

The #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards address legal entity or public authority which have successfully developed a sport project in the EU Member States or third countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme targeting disadvantaged, marginalised or underprivileged groups such as individuals with difficult social,

economic or educational backgrounds, people with a disability and/or health challenges and people of diverse cultural background such as migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities or people living with geographical barriers. Projects do not have to be necessarily transnational projects nor EU-supported.

Applicants should be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The Application is by “Single Applicant” and should contain all the requested information (Part A - Part B) so to be submitted electronically via [Funding & Tenders opportunities Portal](#) Electronic Submission System within the set deadline: Thursday 21 October 2021 at 17.00h (CET).

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#)

European Commission releases a study on sport data in the EU

On 20 September 2021, the European Commission released a study “[Mapping sport statistics and data in the EU](#)”. This study represents the first in-depth mapping of sport statistics and data regarding the economic and social contribution of sport at both EU and national levels in the 27 EU Member States.

Background of the study

By consulting available data and statistics from 2012 to 2021, interviewing relevant stakeholders such as the EOC EU Office, and surveying relevant stakeholders, the study aims to capture the value of sport in both narrower and wider dimensions at EU and national levels. Through comparative analysis, it identifies the existent gaps and overlaps in the available data sets and provides policy recommendations to fill those gaps and further harmonise sport statistics in the EU Member States. Furthermore, the collection of reliable and comparable data is of importance to feed into policies that promote the various benefits and dimensions of sport.

Results

To capture the cross-sectorial nature of sport, the data collection and research findings are structured into main thematic areas:

For the economic dimension of sport, the study could find that the direct sport-related GDP at EU-27 reached €310.6 billion and the direct employment in the EU-27 sport sector reached 5,2 million persons. The economic impact of sport at the EU level is the most harmonised collection of accurate statistics.

The value of health-enhancing physical activity has been widely acknowledged, however, several overlapping data sources hamper a precise assessment.

With 6% of EU citizens engaging in voluntary work in the sport sector and 30% of the population aged 16 and older attending at least one sport event in 2015, sport is the biggest civil society movement in the EU.

A scientific mapping of the organisation of sport in the EU Member States was attempted to provide further knowledge for better policy making. However, because of geographical, cultural and administrative specificities, a harmonised picture has proven to be difficult to achieve.

The last dimension under investigation “Funding of Sport and Sport Policy” has gained importance not only at the EU level but also at national levels. Nevertheless, synergies with other policy fields are yet to be taken more into account.

Recommendations

From the statistical and methodological point of view, the main challenges of harmonised data for sport in the EU are the limited scope of existing data collections, the various understandings of sport, overlapping data sources, the frequency of data collection and the limited cooperation at international level.

Therefore, the study suggests establishing a Working Group on sport statistics to improve the methodology, build on synergies of existent data collections, and join forces with other international organisations.

A first step towards harmonised sport statistics has already been made with the [Call for Tenders “Support to the Development of Harmonised Sport Statistics in the EU”](#) that was open until 13 September 2021.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Study [“Mapping sport statistics and data in the EU”](#)

EPAS organises a Diversity Conference

On 21 September 2021, the Council of Europe hosted its EPAS (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport) Diversity Conference attended by high ranked officials such as France’s Minister for Sports and the Director General of Democracy from the Council of Europe. The event’s focus revolved around athletes as well as specialists in the domain of gender equality and inclusion in sports, particularly the inclusion of transsexual and intersex athletes in high level and amateur sporting competitions.

Several speakers at the event agreed on the need to modernize rules and guidelines for trans and intersex athletes to participate in high level and amateur competition. Speakers also agreed that the role of the sports movement is to preserve the health and well-being of our athletes, who are at the heart of the topic.

IOC Medical and Science Director, Richard Budgett, was one of the speakers at the conference. Dr. Budgett highlighted the many changes that have taken place in the past couple of years to ensure that sports are a safe and inclusive environment. The IOC has conducted consultations with a large variety of athletes to understand the real challenges and will publish guidelines, based on which federations will be able to develop new rules to ensure a safer system for their intersex and trans athletes.

Speakers also mentioned that sport’s governing bodies and public authorities have an important role as they are the decision-makers and hold the key to make sports competition more diverse in ending the binary model. The French Ministry for Sports has been referred to as an ‘ally’ for its efforts to normalize inclusion and diversity ahead of Paris 2024. Additionally, experts have favourably reacted to the IOC creating new guidelines on transgender and intersex athletes’ participation to make it as sport relevant and fair as possible. EPAS will soon publish a study on the rights of transgender athletes in order to make information available on the topic for athletes and/or relevant stakeholders to learn from. The study will contain more details and definitions of certain terms to ensure that the right vocabulary is being used. This tool will guide sports organisations to pursue their efforts towards inclusivity. The sport movement was also asked to collaborate with LGBTQIA+ organisations to ensure a holistic approach to inclusion and diversity.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[Factsheet and Programme Diversity Conference 2021](#)

[IOC Portrayal Guidelines: gender-equal, fair and inclusive representation in sport](#)
[World Rugby Summary of Transgender Biology and Performance Research](#)



PARTNERS' CORNER

ENGSO as part of an international working group on air quality and sport for the sport industry

On 27 September, a group of international sports organisations announced the establishment of a working group to focus on solving air quality problems that have an impact on sport. This announcement aligns with the UN Environment Programme's International Day for Clean Air for Blue Skies and its 2021 theme, "Healthy Air, Healthy Planet". The day was established to focus attention on the impacts of air pollution on health, particularly during the global Covid-19 pandemic, and to facilitate solutions and urge action to clean our shared air.

ENGSO was invited as a founding member of this working group on Air Quality. The other founding members of the group are World Athletics, Sport and Sustainability International, ENGSO Youth, Formula E and the International Cycling Union (UCI).

Air quality represents one of a number of growing environmental issues impacting sports today. Working together, the participating organisations are committed to raising awareness about air quality issues, collaborating on resources, sharing knowledge and expertise, investing in research and coordinating with industry partners in an effort to collectively address and resolve these issues.

ENGSO believes air quality and clean, healthy environments are critical issues that concern us all, and which consequently also have an effect on the quality of physical activity (and life), particularly at a grassroots level. Sport cannot be a healthy endeavour, if performed in a polluted environment.

Through its work in grassroots sport, ENGSO is developing policies and tools that promote health, climate action, equality, inclusion, sustainability and integrity among others. ENGSO's aim is to contribute to a better quality of life, using grassroots sport as a tool and ensuring that citizens all over the world have access to clean and safe sport environments.

FURTHER INFORMATION

[SandSI & World Athletics Join Forces to Lead International Air Quality & Sport Working Group for Sports Industry – SandSi \(sportsustainability.org\)](https://sportsustainability.org)

MONTHLY REPORT

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UPCOMING EVENTS

11- 14 October 2021

[19th European Week of Regions and Cities \(EU\)](#)

21 -23 October 2021

[European Sport Platform \(ENGSO - Vilnius, Lithuania\)](#)

24 -25 October 2021

[ANOC General Assembly \(Crete\)](#)



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