OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER (ESC) IN

ESTONIA

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
epas
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

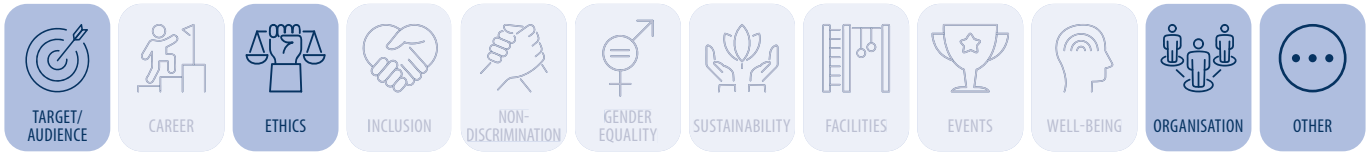
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 1.360.800**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **37.718**

MAIN SPORT PRIORITIES



FUNDING

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- ✓ State/public authorities
- ✓ Local authorities (municipalities)
- ✗ Taxes/tax exemptions
- ✓ Betting: private betting rights
- ✗ Lotteries
- ✗ International funding
- ✓ Other: households and individuals; private sector

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Top-level athletes
- NGOs
- State foundations

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✗ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – «Fundamentals of Estonian Sports Policy until 2030» and the Estonian Sports Programme, updated annually; the current programme covers 2026–2029

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- No single overall platform for sport: **co-ordination** through different platforms and working groups for different topics. Participants include the ministers responsible for Sport, Health, Education, Internal Affairs and Inclusion of persons with disabilities, directors-general for sport, health, education and inclusion of persons with disabilities, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, the sports movement, municipalities, NGOs and the Ministry of Defence (at different levels).
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities, share practices and co-ordinate policies.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through the formal public platforms and other formal and informal meetings, involving the ministers responsible for Sport, Health, Education and Inclusion of persons with disabilities, directors-general for sport, health, education and inclusion of persons with disabilities, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport; professional sport; sport for all; physical activity and health; Paralympic sports; sports integrity; ethics; sport body leadership, culture and governance.
- Regular **information sessions** organised by the Estonian Olympic Committee, where topics are discussed and parties can share information informally.
- **Volunteering support:** specific legislation and recognition of volunteers (general, not sport-specific) for regular and event volunteers; tax-free financial support for referees; compensation for event volunteers.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** case by case, without a dedicated platform.
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform, freedom of expression, access to sources, professional confidentiality, **independence** and participation in media guidance

ESTONIA

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Estonian Center for Integrity in Sports and Estonian Sport Ethics Rules

Estonia created the Estonian Center for Integrity in Sports on the basis of its national anti-doping organisation, and adopted the Estonian Sport Ethics Rules to help ensure integrity across the Estonian sports sector. The Center runs its own reporting system, which guarantees anonymity.

ESC Articles 7, 8 – Education in values and integrity

VALUES-BASED SPORT ESC ARTICLES 6, 7, 8, 9

Human Rights

- **Measures to protect human rights in sport:** sport-specific and general legislation, specific funding allocation criteria, a mechanism to report human rights violations, whistle-blower protection and the right to appeal to court.
- Implementation of the Council of Europe **«Start to Talk»** campaign; **NOC sport ethics rules**.
- The sport movement and the professional and corporate sport sectors are **required to commit** to international human rights and **human rights due diligence**.
- Measures to protect human rights at sports events: guidelines and regular dialogue with sports organisations and civil society.
- No specific measures to promote **gender equality** in and through sport.
- **Zero-tolerance policy against violence and discrimination** through sport-specific and general measures: implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach (CETS No. 218, signed and ratified), legislation, reporting mechanisms, dialogue with sports organisations, dissemination of best practices, the Estonian Center for Integrity in Sports and the Estonian Sport Ethics Rules.
- No participation in **multi-stakeholder platforms** on human rights in sport.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events:** sport-specific legislation, regulation or agreements, and dissemination of best practices.
- Best practices and recommendations from a study on the **ecological footprint of the cultural and sport sector** and from the EU expert group on Green Sport, in which Estonia took part, are being formed into an action plan.
- **Sporting goods industry** (present in the country): no measures to ensure it adopts socially and environmentally friendly practices.
- No mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, educational programmes and dissemination of best practices, and legal advice.
- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, national and international information exchange, regulation of the sports betting market and action against illegal betting, a legal framework with criminal, administrative and disciplinary sanctions, and international co-operation. CETS No. 215 signed and ratified.
- **Doping:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, information sharing on convicted athletes, national and international information exchange, action against the distribution and sale of doping substances, a WADA-accredited national anti-doping organisation, and international co-operation; protection of sports integrity at operational level, supported by the ministry through funding and at political level. Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) and its Additional Protocol (ETS No. 188) signed and ratified.
- **Organisational integrity** through general legislation, specific legislation on the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, guidelines and codes of conduct, awareness raising and education.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through whistle-blowing platforms, guaranteed anonymity and forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation; besides the general whistle-blowing mechanism, the Estonian Center for Integrity in Sports has its own system guaranteeing anonymity.

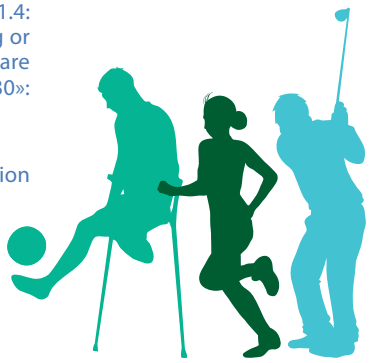
Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, schools, **campaigns promoting values**, national days and events, guidelines, awards and dissemination of best practices, and involvement of federations and the sports movement.
- Promotion of values is reinforced through **regular meetings**.

ESTONIA

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12

- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Constitution, § 19 (right to free self-realisation, which includes sport); Estonian Sport Charter, Article 1.4: every person, regardless of age, gender, nationality, beliefs, origin, minority status, financial standing or any other characteristic, has the right to participate in sport, and state and local government bodies are obliged to create the corresponding opportunities; «Fundamentals of Estonian Sports Policy until 2030»: sport and physical activity, including facilities, must be accessible to everyone
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ Cross-sectoral physical activity action plan of the Ministries of Culture, Social Affairs, and Education and Research, with partners, to improve co-ordination in promoting physical activity
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, school sports clubs; several sports facilities owned by schools
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Mandatory certified education to access sport careers; mandatory certified continuous training
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Informal agreements on facilities use and on provision of club staff





SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14

- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Legislation, scholarships, money prizes, awards, special school and work regimes; for student athletes: special absence regime, mechanism to follow all subjects, school schedules reconciling school and sport, special access to higher education. No mechanisms for transition to a post-sport career
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, specific legislation on the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, guidelines and codes of conduct, awareness raising, education
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Legislation

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Public infrastructure legislation (not sport-specific), recommendations and guidelines
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, dialogue with sports organisations
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, accreditation of courses, mandatory continuous training, pedagogical materials, professional qualifications system for coaches
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **PUBLIC FUNDING FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships, Estonian Foundation of Sports Education and Information
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, Estonian Foundation of Sports Education and Information (including the Estonian Sport Register)
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Tax benefits, public recognition and dissemination of best practices

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- **PLEDGES**
- **ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES**
- **RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS**
- **PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUPS AND STANDARD SETTING; BEST PRACTICES PRESENTED THERE AND BROUGHT BACK TO NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS.**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Union
UNESCO
UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
World Health Organization

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia – Sports Department