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

SPAIN



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 49.801.500**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **34.000**

MAIN SPORT PRIORITIES

TARGET/ AUDIENCE | CAREER | ETHICS | INCLUSION | NON-DISCRIMINATION | GENDER EQUALITY | SUSTAINABILITY | FACILITIES | EVENTS | WELL-BEING | ORGANISATION | OTHER

FUNDING

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- ✓ State/public authorities
- ✓ Local authorities (municipalities)
- ✓ Taxes/tax exemptions
- ✗ Betting
- ✓ Lotteries
- ✗ International funding
- ✓ Other: Autonomous Communities

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Schools/educational bodies
- Local authorities (mainly through the Autonomous Communities and their own budgets)
- Top-level athletes
- NGOs

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✓ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✗ National plan for sport – no single national sport strategy; policy is guided by the Sports Act (Law 39/2022), with the National Strategy for the Promotion of Sport against Sedentary Lifestyles and Physical Inactivity 2025–2030 (Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports and CSD) as the closest equivalent

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through the **Sports Sectoral Conference** (Conferencia Sectorial del Deporte), bringing together the High Council for Sports (CSD), the sports ministers or councillors of the 17 Autonomous Communities and representatives of the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities, and co-ordinate policies.
- Since 2025, a **Spanish Sports Executive Committee** of the CSD, the Spanish Olympic Committee (COE) and the Spanish Paralympic Committee (CPE) supports strategic planning, particularly for elite sport and the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal and informal meetings, involving the director-general for sport, sport event organisers, gym and health clubs, the professional sport league, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport; professional sport; Paralympic sports; dual careers; support mechanisms after the end of sporting career; equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; universally inclusive design of sport competition; gender equality in sport; gender mainstreaming; adult athlete rights.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations, specific legislation, money prizes, insurance, training and safeguarding; for regular volunteers, specific legislation, insurance, training and safeguarding; for event volunteers, specific legislation, compensation, insurance, training and safeguarding.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- **Specific engagement platform** with the corporate and professional sector, used to promote **responsible business conduct** through the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Guidelines and specific legislation.
- **Media dialogue** through a press award for best practices, legislation on transmission rights and other legislation or regulation.
- 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.

SPAIN

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Quality Standards to Create Safe and Protective Spaces for Children and Adolescents in Sport («Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside» campaign) – High Council for Sports (CSD)

Developed by the CSD with the support of Fundación Deporte Joven and UNICEF Spain, the standards provide guidance and practical tools to help sports organisations create safe sporting environments and prevent, detect and respond to child sexual abuse and other violence against children in sport. They cover organisational policies, safeguarding procedures and training of staff and coaches.

ESC Articles 1, 6, 10, 13, 14

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **sport-specific and general legislation**, **national campaigns**, specific funding criteria, a mechanism to report human rights violations, whistle-blower protection, the right to appeal to court, co-operation between public bodies responsible for sport and for human rights, and sport-specific actions in national strategies on human rights and on children's rights, in collaboration with civil society.
- Implementation of the Council of Europe **"Start to Talk"** campaign and **Child Safeguarding in Sport**.
- The sport movement and the professional and corporate sport sectors are **required to commit** to international human rights and **human rights due diligence**.
- No participation in **multi-stakeholder platforms** on human rights in sport.
- Measures to protect human rights at **sports events**: legislation, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations and with civil society.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"All In Plus"** EU–Council of Europe project, a specific plan for gender equality in sport, mandatory gender quotas for governing bodies, legislation, funding criteria, training courses, campaigns, guidelines, dissemination of best practices, dialogue with sports organisations, awards, media, codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms against gender-based violence, and training for sport agents.
- **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, guidelines, sport-specific actions in national strategies on equality and non-discrimination and against racism, awards and reporting mechanisms.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, schools, training and education, and involvement of federations and the sports movement.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play educational programmes, inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum, and legal advice.
- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, training and education, 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. Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) and its Additional Protocol (ETS No. 188) signed and ratified.
- **Organisational integrity** through general legislation, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice and awareness raising.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through guaranteed anonymity and forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: sport-specific and general legislation, publications and research, and dissemination of best practices.
- **Sporting goods industry:** sector-specific and general legislation, regulation or agreements.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: sport-specific and general legislation, campaigns, guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events, publications and research, and dissemination of best practices.

SPAIN

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Article 43.3 of the Spanish Constitution; Article 2 of the Sports Act (Law 39/2022) recognises physical activity and sport as an essential activity and the right of all persons to practise sport freely and voluntarily
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ Sports Act measures for women, persons with disabilities, children, older people, foreign residents and people in rural areas, supported by national and regional programmes on inclusive sport, gender equality, active ageing and school sport
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, optional PE, school sports clubs
- **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 and formal agreements on facilities use and on provision of club staff

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14



- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Legislation, insurance, free healthcare (including mental health), scholarships, money prizes, awards, special school and work regimes, end-of-career support, talent identification and follow-up programmes, coach training specific to top-level performance; for student athletes: specific legislation, special absence regime, mechanism to follow all subjects, school schedules reconciling school and sport, special access to higher education, formal communication between school, sport clubs and family; for transition to a post-sport career: legislation, reintegration grant, social insurance, support for companies hiring former athletes, special access to recruitment procedures, post-career access to higher education, system for combining studies and sport
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice, awareness raising
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Legislation, collective agreements

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Sports infrastructure legislation, adoption of mandatory international norms, recommendations and guidelines
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, campaigns, sanctions, dialogue with sports organisations, codes of conduct
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, legal framework on mandatory course subjects, accreditation of courses, mandatory continuous training, pedagogical materials
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, access to management tools and guidance, recognition and dissemination of good practices in club management

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- PLEDGES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships with academia, sports organisations and public authorities
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, partnerships with universities
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Tax benefits, campaigns, public recognition and dissemination of best practices

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE · European Union · UN FORUMS · UNESCO · Consejo Iberoamericano del Deporte · UNESCO CIGEPS

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports – High Council for Sports (CSD)