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

CYPRUS

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 995.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **30.900**

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 (public/national)
- ✓ International funding (Erasmus+ Programme)

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- Local authorities
- Top-level athletes
- Citizens (families, youth, elderly)

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✓ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO) Strategic Plan 2025–2027, approved by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- **Co-ordination** through the **CSO**, the highest sporting authority, under the statutory oversight of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, involving the ministers responsible for sport, health, tourism, education, internal affairs, inclusion of persons with disabilities, equality (LGBTQ+), economy and justice; the directors-general for the same areas ; the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, gym/health clubs, the sports movement, municipalities, NGOs and civil society representatives, and trade unions.
- **National Sport Council** (since September 2026): advisory platform for consultation, co-operation and strategic policy development.
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities, share practices and co-ordinate policies.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through the formal public platform and other formal and informal meetings, involving the minister and the director-general responsible for sport, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, gym/health clubs, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance and Paralympic sport, and sport for all; sports integrity and ethics; disability inclusion, grassroots sports, and safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; gender equality and gender mainstreaming; adult athlete rights; professional services and standards, public sector regulations and investment, and engagement and support; sport body leadership, culture and governance.
- **Volunteering support:** training courses for sports organisations and event volunteers; none for regular volunteers.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through a press award for best practices, regular meetings and press releases, media coverage of sport events, a memorandum of understanding with the public broadcaster (Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation), and media sponsorship of sport events and campaigns (e.g. European Week of Sport).
- 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.

CYPRUS

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Participation in the «All In Plus» project and the Council of Europe «Start to Talk» initiative – Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO)

The CSO took part in the «All In Plus» project and continues to take part in «Start to Talk», implementing targeted actions, raising awareness and working with stakeholders to create safe, equitable and supportive spaces for all athletes.

ESC Article 6 – Human rights (gender equality and safeguarding)

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: a **mechanism to report human rights violations, sport-specific and general legislation**, national campaigns, 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**.
- Participation in **multi-stakeholder platforms** to prevent and respond to human rights violations in sport.
- Measures to protect human rights at **sports events**: legislation, campaigns, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations, and regular dialogue with sports organisations together 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, training courses, legislation, campaigns, regular dialogue with sports organisations, awards, reporting mechanisms for 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), training courses, dissemination of best practices, legislation, campaigns, guidelines, sport-specific actions in national strategies on equality and non-discrimination, against racism and discrimination, and for the inclusion of people with disabilities, regular dialogue with sports organisations, school sports, media, reporting mechanisms and training for sport agents.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, **campaigns promoting values**, funding campaigns, national days and events, guidelines and recommendations, training and education, awards and dissemination of best practices, ambassadors such as former athletes, regular meetings, legislation, regulation and agreements, publications, research and ICT, involvement with federations and the sports movement, and schools.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, dissemination of best practices on fair play, fair-play educational programmes, inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum, 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 but not 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, specific legislation defining the rights and duties of sports organisations receiving public funding, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice, awareness raising and education.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through whistle-blowing platforms, guaranteed anonymity and forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: general legislation, campaigns, educational programmes in schools, in sports clubs and for sport managers and leaders, other educational programmes, guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events, and dissemination of best practices.
- **Sporting goods industry:** no sporting goods industry in the country.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: general legislation, and guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events.

CYPRUS

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Cyprus Sports Organisation Law (1969), which established the CSO as the supreme authority for the development and regulation of sport and empowers it to promote sport at all levels, including the «Sport for All» programme
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ National Sport for All Programme, implemented by the CSO since 1985, with activities for all ages and tailored activities for children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, through over 500 sports centres in urban and rural areas; pledge under the EU HealthyLifestyle4All initiative
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, optional PE
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Mandatory certified education to access sport careers; mandatory certified continuous training; optional continuous training
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Informal and formal agreements for the use of facilities



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 regime for school absences, mechanism to follow all subjects, special regime to access higher education; for transition to a post-sport career: post-career access to higher education, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth programmes to help athletes secure university places based on their sporting distinctions, and the CSO's Professional Rehabilitation Scheme for Athletes, offering employment to athletes who have distinguished themselves in international competitions
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, specific legislation defining the rights and duties of sports organisations receiving public funding, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice, awareness raising, education
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**



CYPRUS

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Legislation on sports infrastructures and on public infrastructures, 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, education and training, sanctions, dialogue with sports organisations
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation; coach education with financial support from the CSO's Sport Academy; a CSO memorandum of understanding with the Cyprus University of Technology supporting education, research, postgraduate scholarships and vocational preparation for athletes' dual careers; CSO-supported training in safeguarding and good governance (not leading to formal qualifications)
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, support, access to management tools and guidance; the National School of Sports Ethics of the Committee of Ethics and Sports Safeguarding; the CSO good governance Code and workshops; safeguarding training for child safeguarding officers through KOA's co-operation with the Council of Europe («Start to Talk»)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- PLEDGES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships (academia, sports organisations, public authorities), Erasmus+ Programme
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, partnerships with universities; a register and listings of federations and clubs, the Cyprus Sport Map for facilities, and budgets and activity reports collected from federations and clubs for subsidy assessment, with publication of the CSO's own financial and reporting information
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Sport infrastructure grants for facility projects of federations, clubs and other non-profit sport bodies (public funding rather than formal public–private partnership contracts); promotion of public–private–community partnerships for sport tourism at a CSO international conference (June 2026); the Deputy Ministry of Tourism's 2026–2029 incentive scheme for organisers of international sport events

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Union
UNESCO
UN FORUMS (MINEPS)
world anti-doping agency
TAFISA The Association For International Sport for All



Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth – Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO)