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

ICELAND

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 394.300**

PER CAPITA GDP (US$): **99.100**

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 (IOC, FIFA, UEFA and other international federations)

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Top-level athletes
- Citizens (families, youth, elderly) – municipal support for participation fees
- NGOs

- ✗ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✓ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – Sports Policy (Íþróttastefna) of the Ministry of Education and Children, to 2030

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- No formal **co-ordination platform** for overall sport policy. The ministry has an agreement with the National Olympic Committee of Iceland and the Youth Organisation of Iceland, and communicates directly with these main actors in sport and their member clubs.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal and informal meetings, involving the ministers responsible for sport and for education, the director-general in charge of sport, the anti-doping agency, the sports movement and municipalities.
- **Prioritised topics:** sports integrity.
- **Volunteering support:** safeguarding for sports organisations, regular volunteers and event volunteers; participants in sport and youth activities can seek assistance from the **Communication Counsellor** if faced with misdeeds.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through direct communication when needed.
- No protection of **media freedom** and investigative journalism by the sport authority; responsibility for media lies with another ministry.



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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Sports and Youth Activities Communication Counsellor – Ministry of Education and Children

Established under Act No. 45/2019, the Counsellor aims to contribute to a safe environment in sports and youth activities. Children, teenagers and adults, regardless of gender or position, can take part in sports and youth activities and seek help and their rights concerning incidents and misdeeds, without fearing the consequences.

ESC Articles 6, 8 – Human rights and integrity

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **general legislation**, the right to appeal to court and the **National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights**.
- 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.
- Human rights at **sports events**: the sport authority is not involved in organising sports events.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"Active and Equal"** EU–Council of Europe joint project to address female health and equality in sports, and reporting mechanisms for gender-based violence.
- **Zero-tolerance policy against violence and discrimination** through general measures that also apply to sport: implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach (CETS No. 218, signed and ratified), training courses, legislation, sport-specific actions in national strategies for the inclusion of people with disabilities, regular dialogue with sports organisations, reporting mechanisms, and a funding contract with the NOC of Iceland under which elite sport fund grants are evaluated on, among other things, gender balance.

Integrity

- **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, and international co-operation. CETS No. 215 signed and ratified.
- **Doping:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, 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.
- No protection of **organisational integrity** by the authorities responsible for sport.
- No **whistle-blower protection** in sport through reporting systems by the sport authority.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, regular meetings, legislation, regulation and agreements, involvement with federations and the sports movement, and schools.

Sustainability

- No sport-specific legislation or policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**.
- **Sporting goods industry** (present in the country): no measures by the sport authority.
- No mechanisms to ensure that public and private **owners of sports infrastructure** avoid potential damage.



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SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- ✓ **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Sports Act (Íþróttalög No. 64/1998): its aim is that all citizens can practise sport under the most favourable conditions
- ✗ **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
- ✓ **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE
- ✓ **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Mandatory certified education to access sport careers
- ✓ **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Municipalities are responsible for schools and sports facilities, and for co-operation mechanisms



SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14

- ✓ **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Coach training specific to top-level performance and an elite sport fund to which federations can apply; for athletes and student athletes: financial support to a few athletes at the highest level through the elite fund governed by the NOC of Iceland; no mechanisms for the transition to a post-sport career
- ✓ **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, regulation or agreements; specific legislation defining the rights and duties of sports organisations receiving public funding
- ✗ **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ No sport-specific mechanisms

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- ✗ **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Not specifically related to sport facilities
- ✓ **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Dialogue with sports organisations
- ✓ **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Support to the NOC of Iceland to, among other things, organise education for coaches
- ✗ **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- ▸ **ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES**

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- ✓ **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding
- ✓ **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, partnerships with universities
- ✗ **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ No direct incentives for public–private partnerships

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EEA

UNESCO

Nordic Co-operation
(ACTIVE PARTICIPANT)

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Education and Children