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

BULGARIA

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 6.423.200**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **18.060**

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

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Local authorities
- Schools/educational bodies
- Top-level athletes
- NGOs

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✓ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✗ National plan for sport – new sport strategy in official process, expected in April 2027

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- No formal **platform** for the promotion and co-ordination of overall sport policy; an online platform exists for sport registers, not for sport policies.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal and informal meetings, involving the ministers responsible for sport, health, tourism, education and internal affairs; the directors-general in charge of sport, health, tourism, education and inclusion of persons with disabilities; the anti-doping agency, sport event organisers, the professional sport league, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport; professional sport; overall population; sport for all; physical education and school sport; Paralympic sports; sports integrity; sustainability at sport events; sports facilities – sustainability, environment, inclusiveness and access; protecting people and communities at mega sporting events; public sector regulations and investment; sport body leadership, culture and governance.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations and for regular volunteers, money prizes and training; for event volunteers, remuneration, training and recognition of experience.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through ambassadors from the media and regular meetings.
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform, freedom of expression, access to sources and professional confidentiality.



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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Converged Code of Good Governance – ACTION project (Erasmus+), Ministry of Youth and Sports

Through the Erasmus+ project «ACTION» (Sport Governance Codification Convergence, 2021–2023), in which the Ministry took part as a partner, a Converged Code of Good Governance was created and widely distributed to sport organisations in Bulgaria. The Ministry is also part of the follow-up project, ACTION+ and Action Excellence.

ESC Article 8 – Integrity

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **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 Article 2 of the Bulgarian Constitution.
- 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**: regular dialogue with sports organisations, and regular dialogue with sports organisations together with civil society.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through dissemination of best practices and regular dialogue with sports organisations.
- **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, regular dialogue with sports organisations, school sports and media.

Sustainability

- Relevant agreements on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: educational programmes in schools, and dissemination of best practices.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: sport-specific and general legislation.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, dissemination of best practices, educational programmes and inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum.
- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, national and international information exchange, disciplinary sanctions, and international co-operation. Regulation of sports betting and sanction regimes exist, but are outside the competence of the Ministry of Youth and Sports. 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, 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 and awareness raising.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, funding campaigns, national days and events, training and education, awards and dissemination of best practices, ambassadors such as former athletes, regular meetings, and schools.



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SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Law on Physical Education and Sports
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ Law on Physical Education and Sports (Article 5), under which state policy creates conditions for sport for all, including children, adolescents, pupils and students; Ministry of Youth and Sports programmes: "Sport – a way of life" (2026–2027), supporting clubs and tourist associations in organising mass sporting and sports-tourism events for adults; the Programme for the development of sport for all and sport for pupils (2026), supporting federations' public-benefit activities; and the Programme for the development of sport for people with disabilities, focused on children and young people
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, optional PE, school sport clubs
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Mandatory certified education to access sport careers; optional education to access sport careers; optional continuous training
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14



- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Legislation, 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, and a specific programme for sport organisations; for student athletes: special regime for school absences, mechanism to follow all subjects, school schedules reconciling school and sport, special access to higher education, and a specific programme for sport organisations; no mechanisms for the transition to a post-sport career
- **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, awareness raising
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Legislation, education, campaigns, dissemination of best practices, and a specific programme for sport organisations

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Legislation on sports infrastructure and on public infrastructure
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, dialogue with sports organisations, dissemination of best practices
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Partnerships with academia, sports organisations and public authorities
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES**
- **ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES**
- **THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS TAKES PART IN MULTIPLE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES AS A PARTNER**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

European Union

UNESCO

UN FORUMS

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Youth and Sports