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

NETHERLANDS

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 18 million**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **53.000**

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 (public/national)
- ✗ International funding

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Local authorities
- Top-level athletes

- ✗ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✗ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – National Sports Agreement (Sportakkoord II)

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through a **formal platform** involving the minister responsible for sport, the sports movement and municipalities.
- **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 responsible for sport, the director-general in charge of sport, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, gym/health clubs, 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; physical activity and health; Paralympic sports; dual careers; support after the end of the sporting career; sports integrity; ethics; inclusion of people with a disability; social inclusion; equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; grassroots sports; non-discrimination and social justice; gender equality in sport; sustainability at sport events; sports facilities – sustainability, environment, inclusiveness and access; athlete advocacy and activism; athlete health, safety and wellbeing; adult and child athlete rights; professional services and standards; public sector regulations and investment; engagement and support; social justice, reconciliation and decolonisation; sponsorship and commercial investment; grievance and remedy mechanisms.
- **Volunteering support:** training courses and recognition of experience for sports organisations; a programme for volunteers at grassroots sports clubs; remuneration for event volunteers.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- A specific **engagement platform** with the corporate and professional sector, not used to promote responsible business conduct.
- No **media dialogue** or co-operation with the media.
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform and be informed, and freedom of expression and creation.



NETHERLANDS

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

National Sports Agreement – Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, NOC*NSF, VSG and POS

Signed by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, NOC*NSF, the Association of Sport and Municipalities (VSG) and the Platform of Enterprising Sports Providers (POS), the agreement brings the whole sports sector together around local co-operation; nearly all municipalities have concluded local sports agreements.

ESC Article 4 – The sports movement

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, **national campaigns**, whistle-blower protection and the right to appeal to court.
- 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.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through a specific plan for gender equality in sport and training courses.
- **Zero-tolerance policy against violence and discrimination** through sport-specific and general measures: campaigns, and sport-specific actions in the national strategies against racism and discrimination and for the inclusion of people with disabilities. CETS No. 218 signed and ratified.

Integrity

- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, training and education, information-sharing platforms, and a legal framework. CETS No. 215 signed but not ratified.
- **Doping:** training, education and awareness raising, and a WADA-accredited national anti-doping organisation. Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135) signed and ratified.
- Protection of **organisational integrity**.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through whistle-blowing platforms.

Education

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

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: general legislation, educational programmes in sports clubs, and guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events.
- **Sporting goods industry**: specific and general legislation, educational programmes in sports clubs, and grants for more sustainable grassroots clubs.
- No mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage.



NETHERLANDS

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- ✗ LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL
- ✓ PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT
  - ➜ National Sports Agreement between the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, NOC*NSF, VSG and POS, with local co-operation at its core; nearly all municipalities have established local sports agreements. One of its three main goals is to improve reach and ensure that everyone 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



SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14

- ✓ SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES
  - ➜ Scholarships, talent identification and follow-up programmes, a fund to which top-level athletes can apply, and a salary from the Ministry for national athletes; for student athletes: special regime for school absences and school schedules reconciling school and sport; for the transition to a post-sport career: a dual-career system combining studies and sport
- ✗ MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES
- ✓ MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS
  - ➜ Collective agreements

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- ✓ MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL
  - ➜ Policies
- ✓ 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
  - ➜ Encouraged, without specific policies
- ✗ ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Union
UNESCO

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- ✓ SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT
  - ➜ Public funding
- ✓ PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA
  - ➜ 20 core indicators on sport and physical activity, monitored by the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) using the Health Survey and Lifestyle Monitor, with Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and the Mulier Institute; large policy monitors (including the Sports Agreement and the Netherlands Movement Action Plan) shared periodically with the House of Representatives; annual research reports by the Mulier Institute, supported by the Ministry, published in a public knowledge base
- ✗ PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

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

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS)