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

AUSTRIA

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 9.216.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **56.298**

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
- ✗ 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
- Citizens (families, youth, elderly)
- NGOs

- ✗ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✗ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – National Action Plan on Physical Activity (Nationaler Aktionsplan Bewegung)

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through the **Landessportreferentenkonferenz**, regular meetings of the political heads of sport of the nine federal provinces with federal representatives, involving the minister responsible for sport and the sports movement.
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities and share practices.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal meetings, involving the ministers responsible for sport, health, tourism, education, internal affairs, economy and justice, the director-general in charge of sport, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, the sports movement and municipalities.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport; professional sport; physical education and school sport; physical activity and health; dual careers; support after the end of the sporting career; sports integrity; inclusion of people with a disability; universally inclusive design of sport competition; non-discrimination and social justice; gender equality and gender mainstreaming; sustainability at sport events; sustainable development and human rights / child rights friendly cities; sports facilities – sustainability and inclusiveness; responsible event hosting; athlete advocacy and activism; adult athlete rights; professional services and standards; public sector regulations and investment; engagement and support.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations, specific legislation, safeguarding and eligibility to receive donations; for regular volunteers, specific legislation, training courses, safeguarding and a volunteer award (Ehrenamtspreis); for event volunteers, compensation, insurance, training courses and safeguarding.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- A ministry public **engagement platform** with the corporate and professional sector, not used to promote responsible business conduct.
- **Media dialogue** through regular meetings, press conferences and briefings (e.g. on sport infrastructure).
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform, freedom of expression, access to sources, professional confidentiality and independence.

AUSTRIA

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

International Sporting Events & Human Rights – A Handbook for Implementation in Austria

Commissioned by the Federal Ministry responsible for sport and produced in 2022 by the fairplay Initiative at the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC), the handbook supports federations and organising committees in planning and implementing international sporting events with a human rights approach.

ESC Article 6 – Human rights

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, **general legislation**, **national campaigns**, whistle-blower protection under general legislation, 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 children's rights; a working group on sport and human rights, membership of the sport council of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, and guidelines "Together Against Antisemitism".
- Implementation of the Council of Europe **Child Safeguarding in Sport** project.
- 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**: campaigns, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations and civil society, and specific funding criteria.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"All In Plus"** EU–Council of Europe project, a specific plan for gender equality in sport, training courses, dissemination of best practices, campaigns, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations, the media, codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms for gender-based violence, training for sport agents, a working group on gender and sexual diversity in sport, and abuse-prevention measures.
- **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, campaigns, guidelines, sport-specific actions in national strategies on equality and non-discrimination, against racism, for the protection of migrants and for the inclusion of people with disabilities, regular dialogue with sports organisations, awards, reporting mechanisms and training for sport agents.

Education

- **Sport is used for education** through national days and events, guidelines and recommendations, training and education, awards and dissemination of best practices, ambassadors, regular meetings, solidarity, publications and research, involvement of federations and the sports movement, and schools.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, dissemination of best practices, educational programmes 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 good governance criteria in the allocation of public funding to sports associations.
- No sport-specific **whistle-blower protection** through reporting systems; whistle-blowers may be protected through other competent authorities and general legal frameworks.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: general legislation, campaigns, educational programmes in schools, sports clubs and for sport managers, guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events, publications and research, and dissemination of best practices.
- **Sporting goods industry:** contract clauses in subsidy agreements.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: campaigns and dissemination of best practices.

AUSTRIA

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12

- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Federal Disability Equality Act (Bundes-Behindertengleichstellungsgesetz, BGStG)
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ «Sport and Society» funding programme (until the end of 2026) and the annual «Innovation Call: Sport and Society» (since 2023, to be relaunched), supporting gender equality, inclusion and integration projects in sport; National Action Plan on Disability; National Action Plan on Physical Activity; national Day of Sport (Tag des Sports)
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, school sport clubs
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Competence of the Federal Ministry of Education
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Owing to the federal structure





SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14

- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Legislation, free healthcare (including mental health), 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, school schedules reconciling school and sport, special regime to access higher education, and formal communication between school, sports club and family; for the transition to a post-sport career: special access to recruitment procedures, post-career access to higher education, training courses, a dual-career system, the KADA programme and a limited number of positions for top athletes at the Federal Ministries of Defence, the Interior and Finance
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ Good governance criteria in the allocation of funding: sports associations are scored on their performance, which directly affects the level of support
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ General legislation; no specific law for athletes



AUSTRIA

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Accessibility requirements as a condition of funding for publicly funded infrastructure projects (facilities and digital)
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Campaigns, education and training, sanctions, dialogue with sports organisations, dissemination of best practices, codes of conduct
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, mandatory continuous training, pedagogical materials
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Certification of sports clubs' management systems and services; working group on sport and human rights

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- PLEDGES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES
- BILATERAL EXCHANGE
- EU PEER LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND WORKING GROUPS, INCLUDING HOSTING A PEER LEARNING GROUP ON SPORT, ECONOMY AND TOURISM IN 2026
- COUNCIL OF EUROPE SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships (academia, sports organisations, public authorities), participation in foundations and research facilities
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Not on a continuous basis; sport satellite accounts; data on sports club membership and sports activity in the 2023/2024 microcensus, physical activity monitoring (Bewegungsmonitoring 2022), evaluation reports on the daily exercise unit, and the Austrian Sports Report
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Union
UNESCO
UN FORUMS
(UNODC, UNOCT)



Ministry responsible for Sport: Federal Ministry for Housing, Arts, Culture, Media and Sport (BMWKMS)