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

ALBANIA

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 2.336.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (US$): **12.998**

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
- ✗ International funding

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Top-level athletes
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✗ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✗ No national plan for sport

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through the **Supreme Sports Council** (Këshilli i Lartë i Sportit), an advisory body under the minister responsible for sport established by Article 9 of Law No. 79/2017 on Sport, involving the minister responsible for sport, the director-general in charge of sport, the anti-doping agency, the sports movement, NGOs and a sport media representative.
- **Primary objectives:** co-ordinate policies and advise the minister on priorities for sports 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, sport event organisers, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport; support after the end of the sporting career; combating violence, racism, xenophobia and intolerance; sports integrity.
- **Volunteering support:** training courses and recognition of experience for sports organisations; training courses for regular volunteers; compensation, training courses and recognition of experience for event volunteers.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific **engagement platform** with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through regular meetings (a sport media representative sits on the Supreme Sports Council, which meets at least three times a year) and legislation on broadcasting rights.
- 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, under national legislation on the media and the right to information.



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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

«Ekipet Sportive në Shkolla» (Sports Teams in Schools) – Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

A nationwide school-sport programme that creates sports teams in schools; in 2026 it involved around 11,000 pupils in 293 schools.

ESC Articles 7, 10, 11, 12 – Education in values, right to sport, foundations of sport and participation

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **sport-specific** and **general legislation**, and specific funding criteria.
- The sport movement and the professional and corporate sport sectors are not required to commit to international human rights and **human rights due diligence**.
- No participation in **multi-stakeholder platforms** to prevent and respond to human rights violations in sport.
- Measures to protect human rights at **sports events**: legislation, guidelines and regular dialogue with sports organisations.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"All In Plus"** EU–Council of Europe project, mandatory gender quotas for governing bodies of sports organisations, training courses, dissemination of best practices, legislation, campaigns, regular dialogue with sports organisations, specific funding criteria, the media and codes of conduct against gender-based violence; the SheAds project (2024–2026), led by the Sports University of Tirana, on the visibility of women in sport media.
- **Zero-tolerance policy against violence and discrimination** through sport-specific measures: implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach (CETS No. 218, signed but not ratified), training courses, dissemination of best practices, legislation, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations, school sport, the media, reporting mechanisms and training for sport agents.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: sport-specific legislation, campaigns, educational programmes in schools and for sport managers, 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: specific legislation, campaigns, educational programmes for sport managers, and guidelines to reduce the ecological footprint of school sport activities and events.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through the inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum.
- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, 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 specific legislation defining the rights and duties of sports organisations receiving public funding, supervision mechanisms and awareness raising.
- No **whistle-blower protection** through reporting systems.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, guidelines and recommendations, training and education, ambassadors, legislation, involvement of federations and the sports movement, and schools.



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SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12



- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Law No. 79/2017 on Sport: Article 4 sets out the principles of equality (every citizen has the right to participate in sport), a lifelong approach, links between sport, health, education and culture, fair play and safety; Article 5 guarantees the right to practise sport and prohibits discrimination on grounds of political or religious beliefs, race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual orientation, and economic or social status
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ #BeActive Albania 2026–2028 (European Week of Sport – Western Balkans), coordinated by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport under Erasmus+, promoting physical activity, sport for all, healthy lifestyles, inclusion and social cohesion through components such as a BeActive school week, health-enhancing physical activity, inclusion, active women, BeActive by Night, BeActive Village and BeActive Winter (305,800 participants in European Week of Sport activities)
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ School sport clubs; specific programmes and projects; physical education three hours a week under the national curriculum
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Projects

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, coach training specific to top-level performance; for student athletes: specific legislation, special regime for school absences, mechanism to follow all subjects, school schedules reconciling school and sport, and a special regime to access higher education; for the transition to a post-sport career: legislation, social insurance, special access to recruitment procedures and post-career access to higher education
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ 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

MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Legislation on public infrastructures
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, sanctions, dialogue with sports organisations
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, access to management tools and guidance

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Partnerships (academia, sports organisations, public authorities); scientific evaluation «Promoting health-enhancing physical activity» by the Institute of Scientific Research in Sport
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, partnerships with universities; sport statistics within INSTAT's culture statistics
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Law on Sponsorship; tax benefits

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
UN FORUMS
UNESCO

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTKS)