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

AZERBAIJAN

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 10.262.400**

PER CAPITA GDP (AZN): **12.602**

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 (international sports federations)

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Sports schools
- Top-level athletes
- Coaches

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✗ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – Azerbaijan Sport Strategy 2033

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- **Co-ordination** through an informal platform involving the ministers responsible for sport, health, tourism, education, internal affairs, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the economy and justice.
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities, share practices and co-ordinate policies.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal and informal meetings, involving the minister responsible for sport, the anti-doping agency, the sport integrity agency, sport event organisers, gym and health clubs, the professional sport league, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Prioritised topics:** high-performance sport, sport for all, physical education and school sport, Paralympic sport, sports integrity, inclusion in sport, grassroots sports, gender equality in sport, sustainability in sport, sports events, athlete well-being and sport governance.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations, specific legislation, a special absence regime (work or school), money prizes, insurance, training, safeguarding and recognition of experience; for event volunteers, a special absence regime, remuneration, compensation, training, safeguarding and recognition of experience.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific **engagement platform** with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through a press award for best practices and regular meetings.
- 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.



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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

«Üzməyi öyrənək» (Let's Learn to Swim) – Ministry of Youth and Sport

A nationwide grassroots programme teaching basic and life-saving swimming skills to school-age children free of charge, in regional Olympic sports complexes and municipal pools, improving physical fitness and water safety.

ESC Articles 10, 11, 12, 15 – Right to sport, foundations of sport, participation and facilities

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

Human Rights

- **Measures to protect human rights in sport:** sport-specific and general legislation, whistle-blower protection, 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, with civil society.
- 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**: legislation, guidelines, and regular dialogue with sports organisations and with civil society.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through a specific plan for gender equality in sport, training courses, dissemination of best practices, legislation, campaigns, dialogue with sports organisations, awards, school sport, the media, codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms for gender-based violence.
- **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, dissemination of best practices, legislation, campaigns, guidelines, sport-specific actions in national strategies on equality and non-discrimination, against racism and discrimination, protecting migrants and including persons with disabilities, dialogue with sports organisations, the media and reporting mechanisms.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: sport-specific legislation, regulation or agreements.
- **Sporting goods industry:** no major sporting goods industry in the country; the draft new Law on Sport addresses the issue.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: general legislation and mandatory insurance for all public sports infrastructure.

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, 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 general legislation, specific legislation on the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice, awareness raising and education.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through a whistle-blowing platform and guaranteed anonymity.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, schools, **campaigns promoting values**, national days and events, guidelines, training and education, ambassadors, regular meetings, legislation, solidarity, publications and research, and involvement of federations and the sports movement.



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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 Sport: the right of everyone to engage in physical education and sport (preamble), equal opportunities for all citizens (Article 3.0.2), no discrimination or violence in sport (Article 3.0.7), and participation rights for citizens, foreign nationals and stateless persons (Articles 6.0.1 and 7)
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ Nationwide community initiatives of the Ministry of Youth and Sport: the «Healthy Life» project, the Week of Sport, regional festivals, «Üzməyi öyrənək» (Let's Learn to Swim) and sports competitions among public employees
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, school sports clubs
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Mandatory certified education to access sport careers; non-mandatory education to access sport careers; optional continuous training
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Formal agreements on facilities use



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, talent identification and follow-up programmes, coach training specific to top-level performance; for student athletes: specific legislation, a special regime for school absences, school schedules reconciling school and sport, a special regime to access higher education and formal communication between school, clubs and families; for the transition to a post-sport career: special access to recruitment procedures and post-career access to higher education
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, specific legislation on the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, legal advice, awareness raising, education
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Legislation, campaigns



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MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Sports infrastructure and public infrastructure legislation, adoption and dissemination of mandatory international norms, recommendations and guidelines
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, 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, a legal framework determining mandatory subjects, accreditation of courses, mandatory continuous training, pedagogical materials
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, support, access to management tools and guidance, recognition and dissemination of good practices in club management

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

UNESCO

OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships (academia, sports organisations, public authorities)
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, partnerships with universities
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Tax benefits

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- **MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**
- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES**
- **PLEDGES**



Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan