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

NORWAY

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 5.6 million**

PER CAPITA GDP (US$): **94.600**

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
- ✓ Other: membership and participation fees, fundraising, sponsorship and commercial revenues
  Estimated shares (NIF, 2024): municipalities 69%, national lottery 23%, tax/VAT refunds 7.5%, State budget 0.5%

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Local authorities
- Top-level athletes (through the sports organisation)
- NGOs

? Public/private financial partnerships:
no information for this overview

? Solidarity mechanisms:
no information for this overview

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – Government White Paper Meld. St. 26 (2011–2012), Den norske idrettsmodellen

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- No formal **co-ordination platform** for overall sport policy; the Ministry of Culture and Equality co-ordinates government policies on sport.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through close co-operation between the Ministry of Culture and Equality and the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF), including meetings on an ad-hoc basis. Participants include the ministers responsible for Sport and for Equality, the director-general for sport, the anti-doping agency and the sports movement.
- **Prioritised topics:** sport for all; Paralympic sports; combating violence, racism, xenophobia and intolerance; sports integrity; ethics; social inclusion; equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; grassroots sports; non-discrimination and social justice; safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; gender equality in sport; gender mainstreaming; inclusive and accessible sports facilities; child athlete rights.
- **Volunteering support:** for regular volunteers, training by the sports organisation, safeguarding (police certification required) and recognition of experience; for event volunteers, training and recognition of experience; for sports organisations, the sports organisation runs programmes to support and recruit volunteers, and part of the government's general grant may be used for this.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue:** questions from the media are answered on request.
- 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

Government funding for sport – Ministry of Culture and Equality

In 2025, NOK 4.254 billion from the surplus of Norsk Tipping was allocated to sport, mainly to sports facilities, NIF and local activity funds.

ESC Article 18 – Finance

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **general legislation**, a **mechanism to report human rights violations**, 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 human rights strategies, in collaboration with civil society.
- 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**: legislation, regular dialogue with sports organisations, regular dialogue with sports organisations and civil society, and specific funding criteria.
- **Gender equality** promoted through regular co-operation between the Ministry and the sports organisation (NIF) and as a criterion in the government's annual grant letter; NIF measures include 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, dialogue with sports organisations and funding criteria.
- **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), legislation, regular dialogue with sports organisations and specific funding criteria.

Education

- **Sports ethics** is frequently used to promote values throughout Norwegian society.

Integrity

- **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 sanctions, and international co-operation. CETS No. 215 signed and ratified.
- **Doping:** stakeholder co-operation, 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, supervision mechanisms, and guidelines and codes of conduct.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through whistle-blowing platforms, guaranteed anonymity and forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation; responsibility lies with NIF, with the support of the authorities.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: general legislation; responsibility lies with NIF, with the support of the authorities.
- **Sporting goods industry** (present in the country): general legislation; the industry must adhere to the laws and regulations of relevant industries.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: general legislation.

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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**
  ➜ Funding mechanisms and government strategies
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE PE TEACHERS HAVE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS**
  ➜ Curriculum through the Ministry of Education; mandatory certified education to access sport careers; mandatory certified continuous training
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE CO-OPERATION IN USE OF FACILITIES BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND SPORTS CLUBS**
  ➜ Informal and formal agreements on facilities use

SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14



- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Led by NIF, with support and funding from the authorities: insurance, free healthcare (including mental health), scholarships, awards, special school and work regimes (top-level sport schools, private and public), end-of-career support, part of the grant to NIF allocated to top-level sport; for student athletes: special absence regime, mechanism to follow all subjects, school schedules reconciling school and sport, schemes agreed case by case with education institutions; for transition to a post-sport career: support and guidance through Olympiatoppen, NIF's elite sport centre, training courses, system for combining studies and sport
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct
- **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**
  ➜ Recommendations and guidelines; a requirement for accessing public financing for building facilities
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Responsibility of NIF, with the support of the authorities
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Responsibility of NIF, with the support of the authorities: training and education, support, access to management tools and guidance, recognition and dissemination of good practices in club management, certification of club management systems and services

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES**
- **ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES**
- **PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL SUCH AS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND UNESCO, AND CO-OPERATION STRUCTURES WITH OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES**

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **PUBLIC FUNDING FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Public funding, partnerships with academia, sports organisations and public authorities
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, partnerships with universities, making data and reports publicly available
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  no information for this overview

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE · NATO · UN FORUMS · UNESCO · OECD · WTO OMC

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Culture and Equality