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

PORTUGAL

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 11.424.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **26.900**

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: Regional Governments of the Azores and Madeira

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- Sports clubs
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Schools (school sport)
- Financial support for citizens (families, young people, older people)
- Top-level athletes
- Other: sports confederation, Sports Foundation, special projects, public sport bodies

- Public/private financial partnerships
- Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

- National plan for sport – National Sport Development Plan (PNDD) 2025-2036 (Council of Ministers Resolution No. 54/2026), with six pillars, 44 measures and six-monthly monitoring

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through the **National Sports Council**, which advises on sport policy and oversees sport ethics, with the Government, other ministries, the Autonomous Regions, municipalities, the sports movement, athletes and experts.
- **Primary objectives:** share practices, co-ordinate policies and advise the Government.
- **Governmental working groups** (e.g. on gender equality in sport) support cross-sectoral co-ordination. The **Intersectoral Commission for the Promotion of Physical Activity (CIPAF)** (2017) has not met as a commission; work continues among its member government areas and the public bodies responsible for them.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through the National Sports Council and other formal and informal meetings with, depending on the topic, ministries, agencies, the professional league, the sports movement, municipalities, NGOs and trade unions.
- **Prioritised topics:** dual careers; support mechanisms after the end of sporting career; combating violence, racism, xenophobia and intolerance; inclusion of people with a disability; equality, diversity, inclusion and accessibility; grassroots sports; gender equality in sport; athlete health, safety and well-being; child athlete rights; public sector regulations and investment; engagement and support.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations, specific legislation, a special absence regime, training, legal advice and recognition of experience; for regular volunteers, specific legislation, a special absence regime, insurance and recognition of experience; for event volunteers, the same as for regular volunteers, plus training.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- **Specific platform** with the corporate and professional sector, promoting **responsible business conduct** via specific legislation.
- **Media dialogue:** press award, media ambassadors, regular meetings, legislation on transmission rights, co-operation with the Portuguese Association of Sport Journalists.
- Protection of **media freedom**: right to inform, freedom of expression and creation, access to sources, confidentiality and independence.

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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

National Sport for All Programme (Programa Nacional de Desporto para Todos) – Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ, I.P.)

Supports non-federated physical activity and sport through grants for local grassroots projects by clubs and associations (under a regulation referring explicitly to the European Sports Charter), federation projects widening participation of persons with disabilities, and action-research.

ESC Articles 10, 11, 12 – Right to sport, building the foundations and developing participation

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **sport-specific and general legislation**, **national campaigns**, specific funding criteria, 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 strategies on human rights, trafficking, children's rights, equality and against racism, 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, guidelines, regular dialogue with sports organisations and with civil society, and specific funding criteria.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"All In Plus"** EU–Council of Europe project, a specific plan, mandatory gender quotas for governing bodies, legislation, funding criteria, training, campaigns, guidelines, best practices, extended maternity leave for athletes, awards, school sports, media, codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms against gender-based violence, and youth leadership initiatives.
- **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, training, campaigns, guidelines, best practices, sport-specific actions in national strategies on equality, against racism, on migrants and on disability inclusion, funding criteria, awards, school sports, media and reporting mechanisms.

Education

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

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, dissemination of best practices and educational programmes, and inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum.
- **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 and ratified.
- **Doping:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, 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, legislation defining 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 whistle-blowing platforms, guaranteed anonymity and forwarding of complaints to the appropriate organisation.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: sport-specific and general legislation, campaigns, educational programmes for clubs, managers and other practitioners, guidelines on the ecological footprint of school sport, publications and research, and best practices.
- **Sporting goods industry** (present in the country): no measures by the public authorities responsible for sport.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: sport-specific and general legislation, campaigns, programmes for sport managers, guidelines on the ecological footprint of school sport, publications and research, and best practices.

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SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12

- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Article 79 of the Constitution (right of all persons to physical culture and sport); Article 2 of the Basic Law on Physical Activity and Sport (Law No. 5/2007)
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ Equality and universality principles of the Basic Law; the Sport in Society pillar of the PNDD; the National Sport for All Programme; the SUAVA active-living programme; national accessibility and gender equality awards
- **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; 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 and on provision of club staff





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, special absence regime, mechanism to follow all subjects, compatible school schedules, special access to higher education, school–club–family communication; for transition to a post-sport career: legislation, reintegration grant, social insurance, support for companies hiring former athletes, special recruitment access, post-career access to higher education, training courses, dual-career system
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, 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, education, collective agreements



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MEANS ESC ARTICLES 15, 16, 17, 18

- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT FACILITIES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**
  ➜ Sports and general 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, education and training, sanctions, dialogue with sports organisations, best practices, codes of conduct
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, mandatory course subjects, course accreditation, mandatory continuous training, pedagogical materials, club certification, postgraduate programmes
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, support, management tools, recognition of good practices, club certification; a child protection officer required in youth sport (Decree-Law No. 117/2023)

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- PLEDGES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES
- PROJECTS WITH OTHER STATES

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT 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 (incl. PNDD monitoring, SUAVA survey), partnerships with universities and Statistics Portugal
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Tax benefits (sports patronage regime, allocation of 1% of personal income tax, VAT deduction on sports expenses)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Council of Europe / Conseil de l'Europe; European Union; UNESCO; CPLP; ISCA International Sport and Culture Association; TAFISA The Association For International Sport for All; EAS; eose European Observatoire of Sport and Employment; enas European Network of Academic Sports Services; Consejo Iberoamericano del Deporte



Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport – Secretary of State for Sport; IPDJ, I.P., ADOP and APCVD