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

LITHUANIA

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 2.890.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (US$): **32.959**

MAIN SPORT PRIORITIES

- TARGET/ AUDIENCE
- CAREER
- ETHICS
- INCLUSION
- NON-DISCRIMINATION
- GENDER EQUALITY
- SUSTAINABILITY
- FACILITIES
- EVENTS
- WELL-BEING
- ORGANISATION
- OTHER

FUNDING

SOURCES OF FUNDING

- Central government funding (state budget), to which private lottery and betting operators also contribute
- Local government funding (municipal budgets)
- Private funding, including sponsorships and donations from businesses
- Lottery company dividends received by sports organisations holding shares in those companies
- Household contributions and organisations' own revenues, including membership fees, participation fees, ticket sales and commercial activities
- EU and other international funding, including Erasmus+ and support from international sport organisations
- Personal income tax allocations to eligible sports NGOs
- Indirect financial support
- Tax relief for qualifying donations and other applicable tax exemptions

ENTITIES FUNDED

- Sports federations
- National non-governmental sport organisations, including the National Paralympic Committee
- Schools and sport education institutions, depending on the funding scheme
- Municipalities and municipal sport institutions
- Elite athletes
- Participants benefiting from subsidised sport and physical activity programmes, including families, young people and older people
- Other NGOs active in sport and physical activity

- Public/private financial partnerships
- Solidarity mechanisms within certain umbrella sports organisations and individual sports

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

National plan for sport – sport policy is set through the State Progress Strategy "Lithuania 2050", the Law on Sport and the Programme of the Government, with implementation organised by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Municipalities exercise an independent statutory responsibility for sport development. Non-governmental sport organisations and non-profit sport entities deliver most programmes and projects financed from state and municipal budgets.

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- The **Ministry of Education, Science and Sport** formulates national sport policy and organises, co-ordinates and supervises its implementation.
- **Co-ordination and consultation** through the **National Sport Council** (Article 7 of the Law on Sport), a 16-member collegial body that advises the Seimas, the Government and the Ministry. It brings together the Ministry, universities, the Olympic, Paralympic and Deaf Sports committees, umbrella sport organisations, the Lithuanian Association of Municipalities and the National Athletes Association.
- The **Youth and Sport Affairs Commission of the Seimas**, and advisers on sport to the President and the Prime Minister, are also involved in sport policy.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through public consultation on draft legal acts on sport, which the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport co-ordinates with the institutions and stakeholders directly concerned.
- Non-governmental sports organisations co-ordinate their activities through **umbrella sport NGOs**.
- **Volunteering support:** for event volunteers, specific legislation (Law on Volunteering), compensation, training, safeguarding and recognition of experience; volunteering is also an assessment criterion for state-funded physical activity projects in 2026.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through a press award for best practices and legislation on transmission rights.
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform, freedom of expression, access to sources, professional confidentiality and independence.

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A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Lithuanian Games for the Little Ones – Association of Pre-school Physical Education Pedagogues and National Olympic Committee of Lithuania

Promotes physical activity and a positive attitude towards sport among pre-school and pre-primary children, introducing fair competition and the Olympic values of friendship, improvement and respect. It runs in three stages: online physical activity sessions, festivals in pre-school institutions and festivals in major cities. In the first stage of 2026, more than 60,000 children from all 60 municipalities and 475 pre-school institutions took part.

ESC Articles 1, 7, 10, 11, 12

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

Human Rights

- Measures to protect human rights in sport: **general legislation**, specific funding criteria, the right to appeal to court, and a **lawful-work-with-children QR code** required of people working with children 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**.
- The independent **Athletes' Representative**, established within the Ministry, investigates violations of athletes' rights, gives confidential advice to athletes, requires sport organisations to remedy breaches and takes preventive measures.
- Measures to protect human rights at **sports events**: legislation, and regular dialogue with sports organisations and with civil society.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through the **"All In Plus"** EU–Council of Europe project, training courses, dissemination of best practices, dialogue with sports organisations, funding criteria, special maternity leave for athletes, media, and promotion of gender quotas in governing bodies.
- **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 courses, dialogue with sports organisations, media, and the lawful-work-with-children QR code.

Sustainability

- Legislation and policies on sustainability when organising **sport activities and events**: general legislation, including the transposition of EU legal acts on sustainability and environmental protection.
- **Sporting goods industry:** general legislation and supply chain regulation.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: general legislation.

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns, dissemination of best practices and educational programmes, inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum, 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 and ratified (in force for Lithuania since 1 November 2024).
- **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 legislation defining the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, supervision mechanisms and education.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through general whistle-blower legislation and institutional reporting channels, including the Lithuanian Sport Centre's internal channel, with confidentiality guaranteed.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum** and national days and events, and through the **Olympic Education** project of the Lithuanian Non-Formal Education Agency and the National Olympic Committee, which includes teacher training and the year-long Lithuanian School Games.

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SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 10, 11, 12

- **LEGAL BASIS ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SPORT FOR ALL**
  ➜ Law on Sport: principles of equality, continuity of sporting activities, free choice and encouraging public participation in physical activity; the Law on Public Health provides for physical activity policy to prevent chronic diseases
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ State support for national physical activity programmes and projects (nearly €9.5 million for 173 national and regional projects in 2026); a call for a national children's physical activity programme (March 2026); physical activity promotion by municipal public health bureaus in schools, workplaces and for older people
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, school sports clubs, free extracurricular sport and physical activity in schools
- **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**





SPORT FOR ALL ESC ARTICLES 13, 14

- **SUPPORT FOR TOP-LEVEL ATHLETES**
  ➜ Legislation, insurance, healthcare (including mental health), scholarships, money prizes, awards, special school and work regimes, end-of-career support, talent identification and follow-up programmes; for student athletes: special absence regime, mechanism to follow all subjects, special access to higher education; for transition to a post-sport career: dual-career system, exemption from study loan repayment for eligible high-performing athletes
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ Legislation defining the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, supervision mechanisms, education
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Education; general legislation, regulations and agreements, including 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**
  ➜ Public infrastructure legislation, adoption of mandatory international norms, recommendations and guidelines, club licensing regulations of some federations (football, basketball)
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, dissemination of best practices
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, legal framework on mandatory course subjects, mandatory continuous training
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Regular seminars, workshops and conferences organised by the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee, the National Sport Agency, the Lithuanian Anti-Doping Agency and the Independent Athletes' Representative on integrity, values and good governance in sport, and the safe development of young athletes.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS
- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- PLEDGES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES

RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION

- **SUPPORT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN SPORT**
  ➜ Studies and surveys commissioned and published by the Ministry, including national physical activity surveys and feasibility studies on dual careers and sport services
- **PUBLIC AUTHORITIES COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE RELEVANT SPORTS DATA**
  ➜ Sport organisations' reports, national monitoring systems, national sport statistics of the Lithuanian Sport Centre, the Sport Register, pupil health data of the Institute of Hygiene
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Law on Investment and Government rules on public-private partnership projects

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
European Union
UNESCO
UN FORUMS
OECD
World Health Organization



Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Education, Science and Sport