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

LATVIA

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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



TOTAL POPULATION: **approx. 1.845.000**

PER CAPITA GDP (€): **23.400**

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
- National Olympic Committee (NOC)
- National Paralympic Committee (NPC)
- Schools
- Top-level athletes
- NGOs

- ✓ Public/private financial partnerships
- ✓ Solidarity mechanisms

STAKEHOLDERS DIALOGUE AND CO-ORDINATION OF SPORT POLICIES

✓ National plan for sport – Sport Policy Guidelines 2022–2027

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- Co-ordination through a **formal national platform** involving the ministers responsible for sport, health, education, economy and justice, the director-general for sport, the anti-doping agency, the sports movement, municipalities, and NGOs and civil society representatives.
- **Primary objectives:** define policies and priorities, and co-ordinate policies.

THE SPORTS MOVEMENT

- **Co-ordination** through other formal meetings, involving the directors-general for sport and for health, the anti-doping agency, sport event organisers, the professional sport league, the sports movement, municipalities and NGOs.
- **Topics:** sport for all is often discussed; most other topics are discussed, but not often.
- **Volunteering support:** for sports organisations, specific legislation, insurance, training, safeguarding and recognition of experience; for regular volunteers, specific legislation, insurance, training, legal advice and safeguarding; for event volunteers, specific legislation, compensation, insurance, training, legal advice and safeguarding.

CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- No specific engagement platform with the corporate and professional sector.
- **Media dialogue** through public communication by the Ministry and sport organisations.
- Protection of **media freedom** through guarantees of the right to inform, freedom of expression, access to sources, professional confidentiality and independence.



LATVIA

A NOTABLE PRACTICE

Sport Policy Guidelines 2022–2027: the right to sport for all

Latvia's Sport Policy Guidelines for 2022–2027 promote the principle of equality and regular participation in physical activity, with particular attention to children, young people, persons with disabilities and groups at risk of social exclusion. They treat sport as a means of promoting health, education and participation in community life. The Latvian School Sport Federation organises school sports competitions and professional development for pre-school physical education teachers; the Latvian Paralympic Committee provides state-funded support for adapted sport; and the Latvian Olympic Unit supports selected athletes and dual careers.

ESC Articles 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

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 and the right to appeal to court.
- The sport movement and the professional and corporate sport sectors are **required to commit** to international human rights and **human rights due diligence**.
- No participation in **multi-stakeholder platforms** on human rights in sport.
- Measures to protect human rights at **sports events**: legislation, campaigns, guidelines, and regular dialogue with sports organisations and with civil society.
- Promotion of **gender equality** through legislation, dissemination of best practices, dialogue with sports organisations, school sports, media, and reporting mechanisms for gender-based violence.
- **Zero-tolerance policy against violence and discrimination** through general measures that also apply to sport: legislation, guidelines, dialogue with sports organisations and reporting mechanisms. Legislative process initiated for the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach (CETS No. 218).

Integrity

- **Competitive integrity** through fair-play awareness campaigns and educational programmes, and inclusion of fair play in the school curriculum.
- **Manipulation of competitions:** stakeholder co-operation, training, education and awareness raising, a legal framework with criminal, administrative and disciplinary sanctions, action against illegal betting, and international co-operation. CETS No. 215 signed, but not 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, and education.
- **Whistle-blower protection** through 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, educational programmes in schools, and publications and research.
- **Sporting goods industry:** general legislation.
- Mechanisms for **owners of sports infrastructure** to avoid potential damage: general legislation and dissemination of best practices.

Education

- Sport is used for education through the **physical education curriculum**, schools, campaigns, guidelines, training and education, 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**
  ➜ The Sports Law and the Sport Policy Guidelines ensure access to sport for all residents
- **PROVISIONS TO ENSURE ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN TAKE PART IN SPORT**
  ➜ National and municipal sport-for-all programmes, and support for persons with disabilities, young people and older people
- **APPROPRIATE TIME SLOTS FOR STUDENTS TO ACCESS SPORT**
  ➜ Mandatory PE, optional 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

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; for student athletes: special absence regime, school schedules reconciling school and sport, formal communication between school, sport clubs and family; for transition to a post-sport career: training courses, system for combining studies and sport
- **MECHANISMS TO ENSURE SPORT IS MANAGED BY COMPETENT, WELL-GOVERNED BODIES**
  ➜ General legislation, legislation defining the rights and duties of publicly funded sports organisations, supervision mechanisms, guidelines and codes of conduct, education
- **MECHANISMS TO GUARANTEE RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF SPORTS PROFESSIONALS**
  ➜ Legislation, education

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
- **MECHANISMS TO EMPOWER EVENT ORGANISERS AND SPORTS FACILITIES OWNERS TO FULFIL THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY OBLIGATIONS**
  ➜ Legislation, education and training, dissemination of best practices
- **ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE TRAINING COURSES LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN SPORT**
  ➜ Legislation, accreditation of courses, mandatory continuous training
- **ENSURING SPORTS LEADERS ARE QUALIFIED IN VALUES, INTEGRITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
  ➜ Training and education, support, access to management tools and guidance

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, partnerships with universities
- **PUBLIC/PRIVATE FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS**
  ➜ Public recognition and dissemination of best practices

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING
- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES
- ERASMUS+ PROGRAMMES
- EU SPORT WORKING GROUPS
- BILATERAL CO-OPERATION

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

European Union

UNESCO

UN FORUMS

Ministry responsible for Sport: Ministry of Education and Science