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**Report of the evaluation visit in Norway
on the European Sports Charter
(20-21 March 2018)**

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A. Auto-evaluation reports by the authorities of Norway

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The European Sports Charter - National report from Norway

A.1 National Structure Ministry of Culture

The Ministry of Culture is the body responsible for implementing the government sport policy in Norway. Sport and physical activity for all has been consistently identified in government policy documents as the main objective of the sport policy. This means that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport or practice self-organised physical activities.

Rather than engaging in direct intervention and delivering services in the field of sport, the role of the Ministry is to facilitate the development of local sport activities and to ensure good framework conditions for organised sport as well as for self-organised physical activity.

Government funding for sport is the primary means of realising the sport policy. The Ministry of Culture has the overall responsibility for administering the gaming proceeds from Norsk Tipping (Norway's national lottery and gaming provider) distributed to sport.

Grant management is a primary responsibility of the Ministry. The gaming proceeds are public funds. The Ministry is responsible for ensuring that the funds are used in accordance with the overall objectives of the government sport policy. This involves considering and deciding on grant applications and reviewing reports on the use of the funding.

The realisation of the overall objectives of the government sport policy requires close co-operation and partnership between the Ministry of Culture, county municipalities, municipalities and the Norwegian sports movement. The co-operation is based on long-term, constructive dialogue and on mutual dependency when it comes to realising the objectives.

Ministry of Education and Research

Physical education in school

Physical education has a long tradition in the Norwegian educational system, and it is a compulsory subject in the national curriculum. The syllabus assigns a particular number of 60-minute periods to each subject. Every school has to allocate these periods according to local plans, circumstances and possibilities. For physical education, the sum for the whole compulsory period is 478 hours for the primary stage (1st – 7th grade) and 228 hours for the lower secondary stage (8th – 10th grade). Calculated on the basis of 38 weeks of school per year it will be approximately 2–3 hours per week.

County municipalities

When it comes to government funding for the construction and renovation of local sports facilities, the Ministry of Culture allocates funds to the county municipalities. The allocation model is based on application volume, population size and coverage of facilities. The county municipalities have been delegated the responsibility to distribute the funds to local sports facilities within their respective regions, based on local priorities in the municipalities.

Several county municipalities provide funding for the regional confederations of the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF). Some of them also provide funding for the regional competence centers for elite sport, organised under the Norwegian Olympic Sports Center.

Local municipalities

The municipalities are the main public contributors and facilitators for local sport. They play an important role when it comes to facilitating local activities and infrastructure.

Facilitating for sport activities is not a statutory responsibility for municipalities. Thus, municipal funding for sport depends on the economy of each municipality. However, municipal funding for sport has increased over the last years.

A large portion of municipal funding for sport relates to investments in local sports facilities. The municipalities construct and renovate sports facilities. They also operate and maintain facilities.

Municipalities provide core funding for local sports clubs and associations. They also provide funding for sports related projects run by local clubs and associations.

Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports

The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) is a joint organisation for sport in Norway. NIF was established as a merger of the Norwegian Confederation of Sports and Norway's Olympic Committee in 1996. In 2007 NIF assumed overall responsibility for disabled sport, including the role of National Paralympic Committee. Special Olympics Norway is a part of NIF and was accredited in 2015.

Hence, a unique quality of the Norwegian sport model is that sports are gathered together under one umbrella organisation. NIF is responsible for children sport as well as elite sport. They organise sport for able-bodied as well as for people with disabilities. They are a Confederation of Sport while at the same time assuming the role of National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee.

NIF is Norway's largest voluntary, membership-based organisation, with approximately 2 100 000 memberships. Thus, NIF has a unique position as a strong popular movement in society.

The General Assembly is held every four years and is the supreme governing body of NIF. The General Assembly is the legislative authority for sport in general and elects the Executive Board for the interim four-year period.

The Executive Board is NIF's highest authority between the General Assemblies. The Executive Board has the overall responsibility for general sports policy and other joint tasks at the national and international level.

The following organisational units belong under NIF: 54 national sports federations (and the regional bodies of national federations), 18 regional confederations, approximately 370 local sports councils and 8 165 local sports clubs (+ 3 173 company sports clubs).

The national sports federations are members of NIF. They are governing bodies for their respective sports and administer their sports at national level. The sports federations are responsible for facilitating, inter alia, children sport, youth sport, elite sport and sport for disabled people. Ensuring good framework conditions for their local member clubs is a primary priority. The federations are also responsible for building safe, fair and inclusive environments in their sports.

The regional confederations are joint bodies for sport within their regions (corresponding with the county municipalities). The regional confederations aim to strengthen the position of sport in society and to improve the framework conditions for local sports clubs. They perform statutory tasks and tasks of common interest to sport. They also provide services and support for sports councils and local sports clubs.

The regional confederations are responsible for establishing sports councils in municipalities which have with a minimum of three local sports clubs. All sports clubs which are members of NIF, are also members of the local sports councils. The sports councils aim to strengthen the framework conditions for sport at the local level. They undertake to prioritize on behalf of the local sports clubs, and they are a contact point between public authorities and local sport.

The local sports clubs are the primary arena of organised sport in Norway. The sports clubs are primarily based on volunteerism, and the majority of the clubs are relatively small. The sports clubs may be organised as multidisciplinary clubs or as single discipline clubs. Many of the big sports clubs are multidisciplinary clubs. At the same time, 77 % of the 8 165 local sports clubs in NIF are single discipline clubs.

It is important to note that the main source of income for the Norwegian sports movement is neither government funding nor municipal funding. The largest proportion of the income is self-generated. At the local level it derives primarily from membership fees, income generating activities and sponsorship revenues.

In addition, there is a high economic value of voluntary work in Norwegian sport. In 2015, the value of this voluntary work was estimated at NOK 17 billion (approx. EUR 1.8 billion), the equivalent of 34 300 full-time work years.

A.2 Legal framework

The Gaming Scheme Act 1992

Government funding for sport is regulated by law in Norway. According to the Gaming Scheme Act, gaming proceeds from Norsk Tipping (Norway's national lottery and gaming provider) are distributed as follows: First, 6.4 % is distributed to health and rehabilitation projects. Of the remainder, 64 % is allocated to sport, 18 % to culture and 18 % to social and humanitarian organisations.

The distribution of the funds is decided in the Norwegian Council of State presided over by the King, based on proposal from the Ministry of Culture. These funds are not included in Norway's National Budget.

According to regulations adopted by the government under the Gaming Scheme Act, the gaming proceeds distributed to sport are allocated to:

- a) funding for the construction and renovation of sports facilities
- b) funding for NIF
- c) funding for other sporting purposes deemed eligible by the Ministry of Culture Autonomy and self-governance of sport

Autonomy and self-governance of sports organisations is an overriding principle in the Norwegian national sports policy. The right for sports organisations to set and prioritise their own objectives and to adopt and enforce their own rules and regulations within the framework of public law is respected by public authorities.

Hence, with an exception concerning the Martial Art Act 2001, regulation of sport is not subject to national legislation.

Martial Arts (knockout) Act 2001

Martial arts allowing knockout need special approval to organise competitions or training matches in Norway. Approval may be given if the health and security of the athletes is sufficiently safeguarded.

According to the regulations adopted by the government under the Martial Arts Act, an approval committee is given the responsibility to consider and decide upon applications for approval of organised martial arts activities. Approval requires that the activities comply with a number of specified safety regulations.

NIF statutes

The rules and regulations of Norwegian sport are included in the NIF statutes. The statutes are adopted by the General Assembly of NIF. The General Assembly is held every four years and is the supreme governing body of all organised sport in Norway.

Organisational units affiliated to NIF are subject to comply with these rules and regulations, and they are obliged to see to that their own rules and regulations contain similar obligations for their members. In case an organisational unit has statutes that are in violation of the NIF statutes, the NIF statutes shall prevail.

The NIF statutes specify the overall purpose of NIF. They include provisions on election, voting rights, representation rights, conflict of interests, gender equality, financial accounting, audit of accounts and role of the control committee. They specify the roles and responsibilities of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and all organisational units affiliated to NIF. The statutes also include sanctions regulations and penal provisions, and they specify penalized actions and omissions. There are special provisions for doping and manipulation of sports competitions.

A.3 The Government Sports Policy – overall objectives and priorities

The government sports policy is an integral part of the voluntary sector policy. The voluntary sector is a fundamental building block in society, and the government regards the sector as a corner stone in a vital democracy. It is a priority to provide good framework conditions for voluntary organizations.

The Government sports policy is founded on the intrinsic values of sport and physical activity. The government recognizes that taking part in sport represents an important value to the individual. The innate value is the experience itself – the emotional experiences, the feeling you get from being active, from mastering and achieving.

At the same time, participation in sport and physical activities contributes to the overall physical and psychological health of individuals of all ages and social groups.

Memberships in local sports clubs give the individual important social skills. The clubs are important arenas for creating social networks at the local level and contribute to healthy and safe local communities. Voluntary organizations are also schools of democracy and arenas of inclusion and of building social capital.

Thus, the government recognizes sport as a great common denominator and social force in society. Participation in sport bring people together, help create a sense of community and can be the glue that holds communities together. Sport may also be a social leveler, fostering a sense of trust amongst participants and members, and contributing to greater social cohesion.

Sport and physical activity for all has been consistently identified in government policy documents as the main objective of Norwegian sport policy. This means that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport or practise self-organised physical activities.

Children (6-12 years) and youth (13-19 years) are the primary target groups. At the same time, the government aims to facilitate the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport and physical activities. The government sports policy also targets inactive people and aims to engage them in sport and physical activity.

The main priorities of the government sports policy are the following:

- The government aims to ensure that Norway has a sport infrastructure that facilitate activity across the country. Hence the Ministry of Culture provides funding for the construction and renovation of local sports facilities. Local facilities are crucial to maintaining and developing a broad specter of activities through organized sport. At the same time, a wide range of local facilities helps promote self-organised physical activities.
- The government aims to create good framework conditions for organised sport in Norway. Hence the Ministry of Culture provides funding for voluntary membership-based sports organisations. The objective is to facilitate an extensive range of activities in local sports clubs and to ensure that Norwegian sport remains an open and inclusive organisation.
- The government also aims to strengthen Norwegian elite sport, based on a recognition of its contribution to cultural identity formation and a positive high-performance culture in society. Hence the Ministry of Culture provides funding for Norwegian elite sport to ensure the foundations for an ethical and professionally qualified elite sport environment.

A.4 Government funding for sport

Gaming proceeds

In 2017, the gaming proceeds distributed to sport amounted to NOK 2 597 million (approx. EUR 273 million). This was an increase of NOK 175 million (appr. EUR 18,4 million) from 2016. The main priorities were:

- Funding for sports facilities: appr. NOK 1 400 million (approx. EUR 147 million)
- Funding for NIF: NOK 711 million (approx. EUR 75 million)
- Funding for local sports clubs: NOK 337 million (approx. EUR 35 million)

Grassroots funds (Grasrotandelen)

Grasrotandelen was introduced in 2009. It provides Norsk Tipping's customers with an opportunity to influence how Norsk Tipping's profits are distributed. Each customer may donate 5% of their stake to a local non-profit organization. In 2017, customers distributed NOK 447 million to clubs and associations via Grasrotandelen. Local sports clubs received NOK 266 million (approx. EUR 28 million).

VAT compensation for voluntary organisations

The purpose of the scheme is to enable non-profit organizations, in which voluntary work accounts for an important part of the organization's activities, to apply for compensation for Value Added Tax (VAT) on goods and services. Last year, 23 500 voluntary organisations received a total of NOK 1,32 billion (EUR 139 million) from this VAT compensation scheme. Norwegian sport received a total of NOK 487 million (approx. EUR 51 million).

VAT compensation for the construction and renovation of sports facilities

The purpose of the scheme is to enable local sports clubs and associations to apply for VAT compensation on investment in sports facilities. In 2017, local sports clubs and associations received a total of NOK 169 million (approx. EUR 17,8 million) from this VAT compensation scheme.

A.4.1 Government funding for sports facilities

The most important means of realizing "sport and physical activity for all", is to ensure a sport infrastructure that facilitates activity across the country. A broad spectrum of local sports facilities is a precondition for the comprehensive range of sport activities offered by the many thousands of local sports clubs. Local facilities are also crucial when it comes to facilitating self-organised physical activities.

Government funding for the construction and renovation of local sports facilities is one of the fundamental elements of the national sports policy. 55 % of the gaming proceeds distributed to sport are allocated to the construction and renovation of facilities. In 2017, the funding amounted to approximately NOK 1 400 million (approx. EUR 147 million). Since 2013, the funding has increased by 75 %.

The general rule is that government funding may cover up to 1/3 of the facility costs. For neighbourhood facilities (small local community facilities) and outdoor recreational facilities government funding may cover up to 50 % of the costs. These are facilities primarily used for self-organised physical activity.

However, there are maximum grant amounts for the different types of facilities. Thus, for expensive facilities, like sports halls and swimming halls, government funding will cover less than 1/3 of the costs.

Sports facilities in Norway are mainly built and maintained by municipalities or by sports clubs affiliated to NIF. They make up 90 % of the applications for government funding. Applications are evenly divided between the municipalities and the sports clubs. However, large and costly facilities are mostly built by the municipalities. Thus, municipal investments make up approximately 70 % of the total investments. Municipal investments in sports facilities have increased considerably over the last few years, while sports clubs' investments have remained stable.

A fundamental principle of the government sport policy is that local and regional priorities should guide the building of sports facilities in Norway. Only facilities that are included in municipal development plans may

receive government funding, thereby ensuring that the building of facilities is subject to local needs assessments.

At the same time, by using funding as a steering tool the government seeks to ensure that Norway has a sport infrastructure that facilitates activity across the country. Through distribution criteria, differentiated grant rates and special priorities, the government seeks to level out regional differences. This may include increased funding for facilities in regions with high population growth and low coverage of facilities. It may also include increased funding for inter-municipal co-operation, to realise large and costly facilities.

Facilities primarily used for self-organised physical activity make up an increasing proportion of the applications for government funding. Over 50 % of the new projects are facilities primarily used for self-organised activities. This is a result of political priorities locally and regionally.

Facilitating self-organized physical activity is also given priority by the government. In 2017 the Ministry of Culture introduced a new grant scheme, inviting municipalities to apply for funding for the construction of new types of facilities for self-organised physical activity. The purpose of the new grant scheme is to stimulate the municipalities to develop innovative ideas for new facilities. The aim is to increase the level of physical activity in the population.

A main priority in the government sport policy is to ensure an inclusive sport environment. Universal design is an important means in realizing this objective. Universal design means the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. Sports facilities in Norway shall apply universal design principles for all users, including athletes, coaches, referees, support personnel and spectators. Only sports facilities that meet universal design requirements are eligible to receive government funding.

A.4.2 Government funding for voluntary membership-based sports organisations

The government recognises the significant added value provided by voluntary membership-based sports organisations. The added value is especially related to the voluntary culture of the local sports clubs, their democratic structures and their contribution to social integration. The positive effects for the local communities and for society in general are considerable.

Hence, it is important for the government to preserve the volunteerism and the democratic structure of the Norwegian sports movement.

Government funding is the primary means of ensuring good framework conditions for the Norwegian sports movement. The government aims to strengthen the voluntary sports organizations, while respecting their autonomy. The right for sport organisations to set and prioritise their own objectives is respected by the Norwegian authorities.

A.4.3 Government funding for NIF

The Norwegian sports movement is gathered together under one umbrella organization. The Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) is Norway's largest voluntary, membership-based organisation. NIF is the government's principal partner in matters concerning organised sport. Thus, government funding for organised sport is primarily allocated to NIF.

The rationale behind government funding for NIF is first and foremost the wide range of activities in the local sports clubs across the country. The aim is to provide the best possible framework conditions for these local activities.

The government funding for NIF is based on an application and reporting system. NIF applies for government funding by 1 October of each year. The application includes concrete objectives and priorities for the following year. A grant letter from the Ministry of Culture is sent to NIF in December of each year. In the letter, the Ministry specifies the overall objectives and guidelines for the funding. A report from NIF on the use of the grant funds, including an evaluation of goal achievement, is submitted to the Ministry by 1 April the year after the funds have been spent.

In 2018, NIF has received NOK 710,9 million (approx. EUR 75 million).

Core funding for umbrella organization and regional confederations	NOK 125,0 million
Core funding for sports federations	NOK 261,0 million
Activity funds for children, youth and recreational sports	NOK 169,9 million
Funding for elite sport	NOK 155,0 million
Total funding	NOK 710,9 million

The purpose of the core funding for the umbrella organization and the regional confederations is to facilitate NIF's coordinating responsibilities and the rendering of services to their member organisations.

The purpose of the core funding for sports federations is to create good framework conditions for the federations to help them facilitate a broad spectrum of inclusive activities in their local member clubs.

The activity funds for children, youth and recreational sport facilitate local activity development, coach- and leadership development, club development and work with the core values of Norwegian sport. A primary aim of the funding is to strengthen activities and competency in the local sports clubs, ensuring inclusive environments, increased recruitment and reduced dropout from sport.

It is a key priority to strengthen Norwegian elite sport, and the purpose of the funding is to ensure an ethical and professionally qualified elite sport environment.

The overall objectives of the funding are:

- Help maintain and develop NIF as a voluntary, member-based organization.
- Help maintain and develop a wide range of activities in local sports clubs.
- Help maintain and secure NIF as an open and inclusive organization.

Within the framework of these overall objectives, NIF is free to set concrete objectives and priorities. At the same time, in the grant letter to NIF for 2018 the Ministry has specified a few overall government priorities for the funding.

Ethics, preventive anti-doping work and work against the manipulation of sports competitions should be prioritized. Good governance is a prerequisite for the funding. NIF has set clear objectives for good governance. These include, inter alia, guidelines for fighting corruption, guidelines for openness and transparency, management of funds and human resource development. The Ministry has asked for special reporting on good governance in 2018.

The Ministry requires NIF to set specific goals for gender balance, inclusion of persons with ethnical background and people with disabilities. The Ministry also requires NIF to give priority to efforts to reduce economic barriers that prevent children and youth from participating in sport.

A.4.4 Government funding for local sports clubs and associations

The local sports clubs are the primary arena of organised sport. Since 2000, the Ministry of Culture has provided funding for local sports clubs and associations. 13 % of the gaming proceeds distributed to sport is allocated to this subsidy scheme. In 2017 this amounted to NOK 337 million (approx. EUR 35 million). The amount has doubled since 2013.

The objective of this grant scheme is to promote activity and participation in membership- based clubs and associations that organise sport and physical activity for children and youth. The Ministry also aims to support voluntary work in the local clubs and to help keep the costs of participation in sports and physical activity down.

The funds are distributed according to the size of the population aged 6-19 in each municipality. The local sports councils are responsible for distributing the funds among the sports clubs in their respective municipalities. The Ministry aims to minimise the administrative burden for recipients of the funds, hence there are no reporting requirements for the clubs and associations.

A.5 Main objectives and priorities of the Norwegian sport movement

There is close correspondence between the goals of the government sport policy and the goals of the Norwegian sports movement. The key objectives and priorities are realised through a close collaboration between the government and NIF. The collaboration is based on a long- term, constructive dialogue and on mutual dependency when it comes to realising the goals.

Norwegian sport has a solid platform, based on core values, system for education of coaches, co-operation and integration across sports and a strong local organisation. The organisational values of NIF are voluntarism, democracy, loyalty and equality. The activity values are joy of sport, community, health and honesty. NIF intends to instill positive values for individuals and communities, thereby strengthening its position as a popular movement and motivation force in society.

The overall objectives and priorities of Norwegian sport are formulated in NIF's *Sport Policy document 2015-2019*. This is a strategic plan for the period 2015-2019. The policy document provides guidance for all organisational units affiliated to NIF.

The vision of Norwegian sport is *Joy of Sport for All*. This is a demanding ambition. NIF shall endeavour to provide all people with the opportunity to practise sport according to their own wishes and needs. No one should experience unjustifiable discrimination. Everyone should feel welcome.

This means offering children varied activities based on their physical development and maturity level. It means giving young people opportunities to develop sport skills while respecting their own ambitions. It also means being a thriving voluntary membership-based organisation with the ability to be flexible and to adapt to changes in society.

Joy of Sport for All requires an open and inclusive sports movement. A primary aim of NIF is to increase the participation of underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities and people with ethnic minority background. This means removing obstacles that inhibit participation. It also means enforcing the principle of zero tolerance of discrimination and harassment irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, religious faith, sexual orientation, and disability. In 2010, the Executive Board adopted *Guidelines to prevent sexual harassment and abuse in sports*.

Norwegian sport should be a safe place for children. All personnel, both employees and volunteers, that have direct responsibilities for children and mentally impaired need to have a police certificate of conduct.

One of the policy guidelines in NIF's *Sport Policy document 2015-2019* is to reduce economic barriers that prevent children and youth from participating in sport. To achieve this, each sport should systematically simplify and limit costly aspects of competitions and sports equipment for children and youth. Each sport should also avoid extensive travelling and costly training camps for youth. Local sports clubs should facilitate the reuse and lending of sport equipment.

A.5.1 Competence development

Education of coaches

Coaches are of fundamental importance to the holistic development of children and youth and the skills learned during sport. Good coaches create positive experiences for participants at all levels. Better coaches mean better activity, which means better athletes.

Thus, education of coaches is a primary means of ensuring the quality of the activities offered to children and youth. In 2011, NIF established a common framework (Trenerløypa) for education of coaches in Norwegian sport. The primary aim is that all levels of coaches, from grass roots to the elite level, should have the opportunity to continually improve and develop their competence. According to the competence goals of Trenerløypa, all coaches shall comply with the core values of Norwegian sport and follow the rules and guidelines set by NIF and the sports federations.

More than 50 sport federations have already implemented the basic level 1 of Trenerløypa. The common efforts and engagement of the sport federations have also contributed to increased co-operation across sports when it comes to developing coaches.

Other competence development

Local sports clubs are regularly followed up by the regional confederations and the sports federations when it comes to the responsibilities of the board, organisational work and strategic management. The clubs should ensure that their activities are led by qualified personnel with an understanding of the core values of Norwegian sport. NIF systematically schools the boards and administrative leaders of sports federations and regional confederations in organisational work and strategic management. Likewise, the regional confederations school the local sports councils in organisational and strategic work.

A.5.2 Facilitating Sport for all

Sport for children (6-12 years)

Over 90 % of Norwegian children have been members of organised sport during childhood. From 2010 to 2016 the number of memberships among children have increased by 11 %. Membership among girls have increased 17 %.

Sport for children (6-12 years) is based on the physical development and maturity level of children. Early specialization is avoided. The activity takes place within safe and stimulating environments, where the competitive aspects of sport are downplayed. By including everybody in children sport, and by developing skills, knowledge and positive experience, the foundation for lifelong joy of sport and physical activity is created.

Children's Rights in Sport and *Provisions on Children's Sport* are means to ensure a unified organisation of children's sport in Norway. The *Children's Rights in Sport* is a policy instrument which expresses the values which should guide sport for children. The *Provisions on Children's Sport* are absolute rules which must be complied with and enforced in sports.

Sport for youth (13-19 years)

After having remained stable for several years, the number of memberships among youth increased by 3 % in 2016. Membership among girls have increased 5,5 %.

Dropout from sport is however a major challenge. A primary objective of NIF is that youth more often than today find their place in organised sport. The aim is to offer young people attractive and varied activities, giving them possibilities of development in sport in accordance with their own ambitions, preferences and possibilities.

One of the policy guidelines in NIF's *Sport Policy document 2015-2019* is to reduce dropout from sport by strengthening the individual's freedom of choice and the possibility for youth to participate in multiple sports.

This requires the sports federations to facilitate the seasons and competition schedules in a way that makes it possible for youth to participate in multiple sports. It also requires the local sports clubs to be flexible and put the interests of youth first. Norwegian sport should offer attractive opportunities for all young people, both those who have set ambitious goals for themselves and those who wish to participate without focusing on competitions.

NIF also aims to give young people the opportunity of acquiring ownership to their own sports. Youth should find opportunities to develop as athletes on all levels, and to become future leaders, coaches, or resource personnel. Thus, NIF gives priority to young leadership, enabling youth to take responsibility for the development of their own sports environment. This includes education of coaches, referees and leaders.

Sport for disabled people

A primary objective of NIF is to be an organisation for all. In 2007, disability sport was integrated in NIF. Every national sport federation is responsible for facilitating activities for disabled persons in their local member clubs. This includes all physically impaired, visually impaired, hearing impaired and mentally impaired. The integration process involves recreational sport as well as elite sport.

The ultimate goal is equality, acceptance and understanding of all participants, improved participation and belonging in the local environment. Wherever possible and appropriate, competitions for disabled athletes should be included in competitions for able-bodied athletes.

A successful integration of people with disabilities is also a priority for the government. In 2015, NIF received NOK 20 million (approx. EUR 2,1 million) from the Ministry of Culture to strengthen the integration process. Sports federations with concrete plans and initiatives for this group receive additional funding. Regional experts provide guidance and competence to the local sports clubs to help them strengthen their activities for people with disabilities.

A.5.3 Elite sport

The primary objective of Norwegian elite sport is specified in NIF's *Sport Policy document 2015-2019*. Norway should be positioned at the forefront of international elite sport and should develop a high-performance culture in all sports.

NIF is the supreme governing body for organised sport, including elite sport. *Olympiatoppen* is NIF's elite sport body. It is a department within NIF, led by a top sport director. According to its mandate, *Olympiatoppen* has the authority and operational remit to develop Norwegian elite sport. Thus, it has the overall responsibility for Norway's results in international elite sport. *Olympiatoppen* is also responsible for organising Norway's participation in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The sports federations are responsible for running and developing their own sport, including elite sport. The role of *Olympiatoppen* is to challenge, support and ensure the quality of the work done by the sports federations.

The Norwegian elite sport model is characterised by co-operation and integration across sports. *Olympiatoppen* is renowned for its multi-sport center and for a climate that fosters the development of competence and the building of a collective ethos. Sharing of competence and making use of new knowledge and research in practical work has proven successful.

The Norwegian elite sport model is also characterised by a holistic approach to elite sport, focusing on the development of the whole athlete. Norwegian sport actively advocates fair play, a clean sport, and healthy values. Elite athletes are important role models and sources of inspiration within Norwegian sport.

In 2006, *Olympiatoppen* assumed responsibility for Paralympic sport. This was an integral part of the integration process in NIF. Today, Paralympic sport is fully integrated in Norwegian elite sport, and *Olympiatoppen* has been a role model for the Norwegian sports movement when it comes to integration of athletes with disabilities.

Olympiatoppen has concluded co-operation agreements with many of the sports federations in Norway. Through these agreements, the federations receive funding and professional support. In return, *Olympiatoppen* requires the federations to develop comprehensive elite sport strategies, to set concrete performance goals and to establish a high-performance culture.

Olympiatoppen has established a scholarship system for Norwegian elite athletes. This system includes A-stipend (NOK 120 000 per year), B-stipend (NOK 70 000 per year) and U-stipend (NOK 60 000 per year). U-stipends are for young athletes under the age of 24. The athletes receiving scholarships are also entitled to use all the facilities and services at *Olympiatoppen*'s multi-sport center.

During the last years, *Olympiatoppen* has established 8 regional centers across the country. The mission of these centers is to develop and disseminate knowledge and competence in their respective regions. The primary target groups of the centers are young prospective elite athletes and their coaches, leaders and environments.

The regional centers have established close cooperation with relevant sports federations and their regional bodies. The aim is to optimize the opportunities for young talented athletes to develop into elite athletes. There is also cooperation with educational institutions in the regions. The aim is to make it possible for young athletes to combine elite sport with education.

A.6 A knowledge-based sports policy

It is a primary priority for the government to ensure a knowledge-based sports policy. Research of high quality is a prerequisite for a knowledge-based development of the sport policy. Hence, the government provides funding for four research centres for sport.

The Norwegian Research Centre of Children and Youth Sports

The purpose of the center is to develop and disseminate research-based and practical knowledge of sports activities for children and youth. The center focuses on individual, social and organizational conditions for creating an inclusive children and youth sport that promotes learning and overall performance development.

Centre for Elite Sports Research

The center has expertise in movement technique and sport-specific physical requirements of elite sports performance. Effects of different types of training and coaching on these factors are also central in the center's research strategy.

Centre for Sports Facilities and Technology

Research on sports facilities cover the entire life cycle of sports facilities: from the conceptual phase through financing, design, engineering, construction, operation and management. Studies of energy use in various types of facilities, such as swimming facilities, ice halls and sports halls are focus areas. Research on sports technology includes topics that will enhance the athletes' performance by improving the clothing, equipment and analytical tools.

Oslo Sports Trauma Research Center

The aim of the Oslo Sports Trauma Research Center is to prevent injuries and other health problems in sports through research on risk factors, injury mechanisms, and prevention methods, with a particular focus on football, team handball, and alpine skiing/snowboarding.

A.7 Short summary

Sport and physical activity for all is the primary objective of the government sport policy. This means that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport or practise self-organised physical activities.

The Ministry of Culture is the body responsible for implementing the government sport policy in Norway. Rather than engaging in direct intervention and delivering services in the field of sport, the role of the Ministry is to facilitate the development of local sport activities and to ensure good framework conditions for organised sport as well as for self-organised physical activity.

Government funding for sport is the primary means of realising the sport policy. The main priorities are funding for sports facilities, funding for NIF and funding for local sports clubs.

A unique quality of the Norwegian sport model is that sports are gathered together under one umbrella organisation. NIF is responsible for children sport as well as elite sport. They organise sport for able-bodied as well as for people with disabilities. They are a Confederation of Sports while at the same time assuming the role of National Olympic Committee and National Paralympic Committee.

There is close correspondence between the goals of the government sport policy and the goals of the Norwegian sports movement. The key objectives and priorities are realised through a close collaboration between the government and NIF. The collaboration is based on long- term, constructive dialogue and on mutual dependency when it comes to realising the goals.

Table 1 Organisational Chart of Sport in Norway



B. Report of the evaluation team on the European Sports Charter

Introduction

At the request of the authorities of Norway, an evaluation visit of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) was organised to analyse the Norwegian sport system in light of the European Sports Charter.

The visit was carefully organised and hosted by officials of the Ministry of Culture/ Department of Civil Society and Sports. The evaluation team was provided with relevant information and documentation. Access to information and to stakeholders was provided upon request of the evaluation team.

The evaluation team was able to get an insight into all relevant aspects of Norwegian sport and had direct talks with key persons involved in sport at different levels (national, county and local). The team had the opportunity to meet high-ranking officials from public authorities of different sectors and the sports movement as well as other experts and stakeholders involved in sport. The discussions were conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency.

Summary of the findings

The government of Norway pursues a non-interventionist sport policy approach. There is only one national act – the Martial Arts (knockout) Act of 2001– focussing on sport. The sport system of Norway follows the principles of autonomy and self-regulation. One important role of the Ministry (responsible for sport) is to provide funding to facilitate the development of local sport activities and to ensure good framework conditions for organised sport as well as for self-organised physical activity.

The vast majority of the work in sport clubs is voluntarily conducted which can create challenges for the implementation of sport policies. Nonetheless, the sport stakeholders in Norway such as the public authorities responsible for sport and sport organisations seem to collaborate well together to further develop and promote sport and physical activity. The voluntary, organised sector in sport is historically well-established and strong. According to figures provided by NIF, there are some 2.2 million memberships registered in 12.000 recognised sport clubs in Norway. 93% of children in Norway have been members of a sport club at some point during their childhood.

The most important non-public stakeholder organisation in sport is the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF) which also represents Special Olympics.

The key features of the European Sports Charter in view of sport for all, inclusion, autonomy, school sport are being reflected in the overall policies and programmes implemented by the ministry and other sport stakeholders respectively.

Nevertheless, challenges remain to be tackled such as

- Avoiding dropouts in sport and better promote sport for pupils (boys and girls)
- Promoting sport for the elderly
- Improving coach education

To address the above-mentioned challenges, an enhanced cross-sectoral dialogue and co-operation is needed to develop sound policies and holistic approaches to successfully tackle them.

Article 1 Aim of the Charter

Governments, with a view to the promotion of sport as an important factor in human development, shall take the steps necessary to apply the provisions of this Charter in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Sports Ethics in order:

- i. to enable every individual to participate in sport and notably:
 - a. to ensure that all young people should have the opportunity to receive physical education instruction and the opportunity to acquire basic sports skills,*
 - b. to ensure that everyone should have the opportunity to take part in sport and physical recreation in a safe and healthy environment, and, in co-operation with the appropriate sports organisations,*
 - c. to ensure that everyone with the interest and ability should have the opportunity to improve their standard of performance in sport and reach levels of personal achievement and/or publicly recognised levels of excellence,**
- ii. to protect and develop the moral and ethical bases of sport and the human dignity and safety of those involved in sport, by safeguarding sport, sportsmen and women from exploitation for political, commercial and financial gain and from practices that are abusive or debasing including the abuse of drugs and the sexual harassment and abuse, particularly of children, young people and women.*

Although the aims of the European Sports Charter are mirrored in Norwegian sports policies, there are no references to it in any of the documents which were made available to the evaluation team. The current national sport strategy was developed in 2012 and debated in Parliament underlining the importance of grassroots sport/ sport for all.

Physical education has a long tradition in the Norwegian educational system. Currently, there are approximately 2-3 hours per week of physical education lessons foreseen in the school curricula.

Norway's sport policy aims at promoting both organised sport and self-organised physical activity. In view of e-sport, there is a debate on-going, whether this activity should be considered as a sport or rather as a game.

There are strong and effective child protection and safeguarding policies in force to prevent sexual abuse and harassment against children in sport. NIF runs several programmes on children protection in sport and to prevent sexual abuse and harassment.

Recommendations

- (1.1) Further promote school sport and try to increase the number of physical education lessons per week. This could be a response to mitigate dropout rates of pupils in sport.
- (1.2) Promote sport in kinder gardens by co-operating with sport clubs and/ or involving qualified personnel in delivering physical education lessons.
- (1.3) Update the national sport policy by involving all relevant stakeholders and including self-organised sport/ physical activity experts in this process.

Article 2 Definition and Scope of the Charter

1. For the purpose of this Charter:

a. "Sport" means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.

b. This Charter complements the ethical principles and policy guidelines set out in:

i. the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in Particular at Football Matches,

ii. the Anti-Doping Convention.

There is no law or act defining sports in Norway. The Norwegian authorities responsible for sport pursue a non-interventionist approach towards and provide lot of autonomy for sport. The basic role of public authorities responsible for sport in Norway is to provide funding via the gaming proceeds of Norsk Tipping (Norway's national lottery and gaming provider) to sport.

Sport and physical activity for all has been consistently identified in government policy documents as the main objective of Norwegian sport policy. This means that everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport or practise self-organised physical activities.

The main non-public sport stakeholders is NIF for organised sport. NIF pursues the vision "joy of sport – for all". At the same time government acknowledges that many people prefer to engage in sport and physical activity outside organised sport. To better facilitate self-organised sport and physical activity, the government established a resource centre in 2018. The purpose of the resource centre is to identify needs and challenges, promote knowledge and competence among municipalities and to provide advice and guidance to children and youth who engage in sport and physical activity outside organised sport.

In 2017, the government introduced a new grant-scheme, inviting municipalities to apply for funding for the construction of new types of facilities for self-organised physical activity. The purpose is to stimulate innovative initiatives to increase the level of physical activity in the population.

"Sport for All" in particular the promotion of youth sport plays an important part in the sport development in Norway. More than 90% of all people in Norway have been member of at least one sport club at some point during their childhood. The voluntary sport sector is well developed, and there is a clear division of labour between public authorities and voluntary sport organisations – namely NIF.

The Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events entered into force on 01/02/2018 in Norway. Norway was the first country which ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions on 09/12/2014.

Article 3 The Sports Movement

1. The role of the public authorities is primarily complementary to the action of the sports movement. Therefore, close co-operation with non-governmental sports organisations is essential

in order to ensure the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter, including where necessary the establishment of machinery for the development and co-ordination of sport.

2. The development of the voluntary ethos and movement in sport shall be encouraged, particularly through support for the work of voluntary sports organisations.

3. Voluntary sports organisations have the right to establish autonomous decision-making processes within the law. Both governments and sports organisations shall recognise the need for a mutual respect of their decisions.

4. The implementation of some of the provisions of this Charter may be entrusted to governmental or non-governmental sports authorities or sports organisations.

5. Sports organisations should be encouraged to establish mutually beneficial arrangements with each other and with potential partners, such as the commercial sector, the media, etc, while ensuring that exploitation of sport or sportspeople is avoided.

The evaluation team noted that there is one important non-public stakeholder for organised sport: the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports (NIF). NIF has approximately 2.047.000 memberships and consists of 54 national federations, 18 regional confederations, approximately 366 sports councils and some 12,000 clubs. Since 2015 Special Olympics Norway is a part of NIF. The density of sport club memberships and sport clubs in Norway is one of the highest in comparison to other European states.

The public authorities responsible for sport in Norway work closely together with organised sport (NIF) and pursue a non-interventionist sport model. The state only provides a very broad framework on policies for instance in the field of good governance, gender equality, corruption etc. Thus, NIF enjoys a high degree of autonomy in decision making and shaping its own policies, objectives and priorities. Public authorities check the work being done through the reports submitted by NIF.

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway (OAG) monitors the public sector on behalf of the Norwegian parliament. OAG has an independent status in relation to government administration and reports the results of its auditing and monitoring activities to the Parliament. OAG regularly checks that the public funds available to NIF are used legally, efficiently and for the intended purposes.

The voluntary sector in sport is well established. 90% of the work in sport clubs is voluntarily conducted.

Recommendations

→ (3.1) Continue to strike the right balance between the autonomy of sport organisations and the control of public funds by regularly auditing and evaluating public funding for sport against the set objectives and also in view of certain benchmarks in the field of good governance, gender equality etc.

→ (3.2.) Further promote self-organised sport/ physical activity by improving access to sport facilities ideally free of charge/ at a low/ affordable rate.

Article 4 Facilities and Activities

1. *No discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status, shall be permitted in the access to sports facilities or to sports activities.*
2. *Measures shall be taken to ensure that all citizens have opportunities to take part in sport and, where necessary, additional measures shall be taken aimed at enabling both young gifted people, as well as disadvantaged or disabled individuals or groups to be able to exercise such opportunities effectively.*
3. *Since the scale of participation in sport is dependent in part on the extent, the variety and the accessibility of facilities, their overall planning shall be accepted as a matter for public authorities. The range of facilities to be provided shall take account of public, private, commercial and other facilities which are available. Those responsible shall take account of national, regional and local requirements, and incorporate measures designed to ensure good management and their safe and full use.*
4. *Appropriate steps should be taken by the owners of sports facilities to enable disadvantaged persons including those with physical or mental disabilities to have access to such facilities.*

The evaluation team noted the consensus among stakeholders on the importance of the quality and quantity of sport facilities to “*realise sport and physical activity for all*”. Sport facilities receiving public funding must have a universal design and be accessible to all; otherwise no public funding is available.

Sports facilities in Norway are mainly built and maintained by municipalities and sport clubs affiliated to NIF (or companies owned by municipalities or sport clubs). The central government does not own any facilities; its role is to co-finance sport facilities provided certain criteria, such as the universal design are applied.

Local and regional priorities guide the building of sports facilities in Norway. Facilities primarily used for self-organised physical activity make up an increasing proportion of the applications for government funding. This is a result of political priorities locally and regionally.

To ensure the best planning and use of the sport facilities, these infrastructure projects must be included in local and regional development plans accompanied by a needs assessment which is also a prerequisite to be eligible for central government funding.

Municipalities are school owners and owners of school sport facilities. In principle, sport clubs can use these facilities. Municipalities can decide to provide free access.

Norway is mapping its sport facilities and has developed a database for sport facilities to provide better and easier access, as well as to review and evaluate the investments in sport facilities.

Recommendations

- (4.1) Ensure that the database on sport facilities does list also private sport facilities to get an exact overview of the sport facilities available in a certain region.
- (4.2) Explore the possibilities of public private partnerships in planning and building new sport facilities.
- (4.3) Use the information and communication technology in an innovative way e.g. mobile applications to inform about (location, opening hours, services etc.) and to book sport facilities.

Article 5 Building the Foundation

Appropriate steps shall be taken to develop physical fitness and the acquisition of basic sports skills and to encourage the practice of sport by young people, notably:

- i. by ensuring that programmes of and, facilities for sport, recreation and physical education are made available to all pupils and that appropriate time is set aside for this;*
- ii. by ensuring the training of qualified teachers in this area at all schools;*
- iii. by ensuring that appropriate opportunities exist for continuing the practice of sport after compulsory education;*
- iv. by encouraging the development of appropriate links between schools or other educational establishments, school sports clubs and local sports clubs;*
- v. by facilitating and developing the use of sports facilities by schools and by the local community;*
- vi. by encouraging a climate of opinion in which parents, teachers, coaches and leaders stimulate young people to take regular physical exercise;*
- vii. by providing education in sports ethics for pupils from primary school onwards.*

The evaluation team noted, there is excellent co-operation between schools and local sport clubs. Sport clubs may use the school sport facilities even free of charge, if the municipalities being the owner of the school sport facilities decide so.

On average, there are 3 hours of physical education lessons per week obligatory in the Norwegian school system fulfilling the minimum requirement as proposed by Recommendation Rec(2003)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on improving physical education and sport for children and young people in all European countries in section III. B.1:

It is agreed that the number of hours of physical education in the curriculum should move towards a compulsory legal minimum of 180 minutes weekly, in three periods, with schools endeavouring to go beyond this minimum where this is possible. Children and young people should, however, have one hour of physical activity every day, which would include physical education and sports lessons in or out of school time, and other out-of-school exercise (for example, walking or cycling to school).

A few municipalities run pilot projects and offer 5 hours of physical education lessons per week.

Some experts expressed the opinion that qualified personnel to teach physical education lessons are at least as important as proper sport facilities. There is a lack of qualified coaches and qualified physical education teachers at primary and secondary school.

Recommendations

→ (5.1) Advocate 5 physical education lessons per week and roll out the pilot projects offering 5 physical education lessons per week at a national scale. Enhance even further co-operation possibilities with local sport clubs to ensure the provision of 5 physical education lessons and extra-curricular sport activities with qualified personnel.

→ (5.2) Explore the possibilities of defining physical activity as an important cultural technic, as this definition might also facilitate the advocacy work for increasing physical education lessons/ extra-curricular sport activities.

Article 6 Developing Participation

- 1. The practice of sport, whether it be for the purpose of leisure and recreation, of health promotion, or of improving performance, shall be promoted for all parts of the population through the provision of appropriate facilities and programmes of all kinds and of qualified instructors, leaders or "animateurs".*
- 2. Encouraging the provision of opportunities to participate in sport at work places shall be regarded as an integral part of a balanced sports policy.*

The evaluation team noted, public authorities provide the physical and financial infrastructure for sport, whereas the NIF system provides/ implements activities/ programmes/ projects. In recent years, self-organised physical activities/ sport have become more important. The central government is aware of this change and reacted accordingly by raising awareness of this new trend among other stakeholders such as the municipalities. Facilities primarily used for self-organised activities make up an increasing proportion of the applications for government funding. In addition, the central government recently introduced a new grant scheme, inviting municipalities to apply for funding for the construction of new and innovative types of facilities for self-organised physical activity.

A lack of qualified coaches/ physical education teachers was identified at the lower school levels such as primary schools. The qualification of coaches/ physical education teachers increases at higher levels.

Recommendations

- (6.1) Plan a more co-ordinated approach to research and insights towards sport in general and self-organised sport in particular by creating an evidence base on the needs of people doing self-organised sport/ physical activity.
- (6.2) Considering the growing importance of self-organised physical activities/ sport, seek a thematic co-operation with sport stakeholders in Norway to develop policies/ strategies to further promote self-organised physical activities/ sport to enhance participation in sport. Also allocate human and financial resources within the ministry aiming at the promotion of self-organised physical activities/ sport.
- (6.3) Improve the qualification/ education of coaches/ physical education teachers including at voluntary level by developing adequate training courses in close co-operation with relevant educational institutions (sport universities) and with the support and recognition by the central government.
- (6.4) Define re-entry points (to sport) and plan targeted strategies to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity.
- (6.4) Improve co-operation opportunities among schools, clubs and educational institutions to further develop quality education in sport, especially in the kindergarten and primary school sector.

Article 7 Improving Performance

The practice of sport at higher levels shall be supported and encouraged in appropriate and specific ways, in co-operation with the relevant sports organisations. The support will cover such areas as talent identification and counselling; the provision of suitable facilities; developing care and support with sports medicine and sports science; encouraging scientific coaching and coach education and other leadership functions; helping clubs to provide appropriate structures and competitive outlets.

Prerequisites for successful athletes are the availability of/ access to adequate sport facilities and support services. According to the principle of autonomy, the national sport federations are responsible for running and developing their own sport, including elite sport.

Olympiatoppen is NIF's elite sport body with the mandate to develop Norwegian elite sport by supporting as well as facilitating the identification of future athletes in close co-operation with the national sport federations. Olympiatoppen's role is to monitor, support and ensure the quality of the work done by the national sport federations. There are eight regional centres being managed by Olympiatoppen. Six centres are located in the south, one in the middle and one in the North.

The evaluation team was informed, that Norway ranked first in the Per Capita Cup 2017 listed on the website "greatest sport nation". Norway does very well in winter sports, however it does less well in summer sports.

Recommendations

→ (7.1) To increase the success rate of Norway in summer sports, enhance the network/ co-operation opportunities of winter sport organisations and summer sport organisations to support the exchange/ sharing of relevant information, know-how and good practices.

→ (7.2) Define centres of athletic excellence for the implementation of scientific knowledge in sport and to encourage the use of research in sport by the sport stakeholders.

Article 8 Supporting Top level and Professional Sport

1. Methods of providing appropriate direct or indirect support for sportsmen and women who reveal exceptional sporting qualities shall be devised in co-operation with sports organisations, in order to give them opportunities to develop fully their sporting and human capacities, in the full respect of their individual personality and physical and moral integrity. Such support will include aspects related to the identification of talent, to balanced education while in training institutes, and to a smooth integration into society through development of career prospects during and after sporting excellence.

2. The organisation and management of professionally organised sport shall be promoted through appropriate competent bodies. Practitioners engaging professionally in sport should be provided with appropriate social status and protection and with ethical safeguards against all forms of exploitation.

Due importance is given to the fact, that the athletes as a whole are developed. E.g. Olympiatoppen concluded agreements with educational institutions to ensure student athletes can combine their sports career with an educational career.

Norway does neither have a compensation scheme for successful athletes (at international level), nor special job positions for athletes within the public administration such as “sport soldiers” to provide social security for athletes.

Recommendations

- (8.1) Provide a better social safety net for athletes who do not reach the top level such as stipends for further education.
- (8.2) Envisage the introduction of job positions for athletes within the public administration (police, defence etc.) to provide social security.
- (8.3) Further enhance dual career possibilities for athletes by providing relevant services during and after their sport career to ensure and facilitate a smooth transition into the labour market.
- (8.4) Set up an expert group how top athletes can be compensated/ receive recognition for their full-time job (as an athlete) to provide better social security.

Article 9 Human Resources

1. The development of training courses by appropriate bodies, leading to diplomas and qualifications to cover all aspects of sports promotion shall be encouraged. Such courses should be appropriate to the needs of participants in different kinds and levels of sport and recreation and designed for both those working voluntarily or professionally (leaders, coaches, managers, officials, doctors, architects, engineers, etc).

2. Those involved in the leadership or supervision of sports activities should have appropriate qualifications paying particular attention to the protection of the safety and health of the people in their charge.

There was agreement that personal development improves organisational performance. Consequently, training and further qualification for staff at all levels is an important tool to ensure high quality of the work being done and great performance. E.g. good coaches create positive experiences for participants and better athletes.

The education/ qualification of coaches is considered to be of great importance to ensure the quality of the activities. Indeed, the role of coaches is also of key importance for the safeguarding of children as well. A positive experience in sport will create sport enthusiasts, sport members and possibly good athletes. The coach education system was standardised and is based on four levels.

Recommendations

- (9.1) Increase the use of the European qualification framework to standardise the qualification of coaches in Norway. This will professionalise the qualification of coaches by facilitating comparisons of the different coaching systems.
- (9.2) Enhance co-operation with educational institutions at national and European level to further develop sport professions such as sport administrators etc.

Article 10 Sport and Sustainable Development

Ensuring and improving people's physical, social and mental well-being from one generation to the next requires that sporting activities including those in urban, open country and water areas be adjusted to the planet's limited resources and be carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and balanced management of the environment. These include:

- *taking account of nature and environmental values in the physical planning and building of sport facilities;*
- *supporting and stimulating sports organisations in their efforts to conserve nature and the environment;*
- *increasing people's knowledge and awareness of the relations between sport and sustainable development and their understanding of nature.*

Norway is considered by the evaluation team as one of the leading nations in the field of sport and sustainable development. The consultation team encourages Norway to continue these good efforts and share its know-how and exchange its experiences with its European partners.

Article 11 Information and Research

Suitable structures and means for the collection and dissemination of pertinent information on sport at local, national and international levels shall be developed. Scientific research into all aspects of sport shall be promoted. Arrangements shall be made for diffusing and exchanging such information and the results of such research at the most appropriate level, locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.

As information and research was not a priority topic of this consultation, no meetings were scheduled with representatives from the research sector and sport universities. Via the national report and the interviews conducted, the evaluation team was made aware of the various institutions providing information and research for a knowledge-based sport policy in Norway. Sport NGOs, specifically NIF and Olympiatoppen, closely co-operate with relevant educational, scientific institutions to use the latest technology/ science to provide high quality service/ output.

Article 12 Finance

Appropriate support and resources from public funds (i.e. at central, regional and local levels) shall be made available for the fulfilment of the aims and purposes of this Charter. Mixed public and private financial support for sport should be encouraged, including the generation by the sports sector itself of resources necessary for its further development.

The evaluation team was informed about the public financing of sport in Norway. The main role of the central government/ the Ministry of Culture in sport is to provide and control the funding stemming from the gaming proceeds from Norsk Tipping (Norway's national lottery and gaming provider). The distribution of the funds is decided by the Norwegian Council of State presided over by the King, based on the proposal of the Ministry of Culture. The funding is distributed to construction and renovation of sport facilities, NIF and other sport purposes deemed eligible by the Ministry of Culture.

Furthermore, there is the possibility for sport organisations – being a voluntary organisation – to apply for compensation for value added tax (VAT). Another VAT compensation scheme was set up to reimburse money for the construction and renovation of sport facilities.

Municipalities provide the greatest amount of public funding via the financing/ maintaining of sport facilities.

Recommendations

- (12.1) Design contingency plans in case funding via the gaming industry (Norks Tipping) stagnates, declines or stops and secure access to funding for sports via the state budget.
- (12.2) Further enhance the VAT compensation schemes.
- (12.3) Introduce sport on prescription nation-wide to promote a health-enhancing/ physically active lifestyle and a possible financing source for sport clubs.

Article 13 Domestic and International Co-operation

1. Appropriate structures for the proper co-ordination of the development and promotion of sport, both between the various public administrations and agencies concerned by sports questions, and between the public and voluntary sectors, shall be developed when they do not already exist at central, regional and local levels in order to achieve the aims of this Charter. Such co-ordination will take account of other areas of policy making and planning such as education, health, social service, town and country planning, environment, the arts and other leisure services, and ensure that sport is an integral part of socio-cultural development.

2. Co-operation at European and international level is also necessary for the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter.

There is excellent co-operation among public and private sport stakeholders at formal and informal level.

Norway and in particular NIF is very active in international sport development co-operation and funds as well as implements sport development projects outside of Norway.

Recommendations

- (12.1) Implement peer to peer learning activities and exchange of good practice at the level of governmental institutions and the sports movement.

C. Comments from the government

The Norwegian Ministry of Culture acknowledges the receipt of the evaluation report. The report will provide the Ministry with valuable input to our work on a new government White Paper on Sport.

D. Appendices

D.1 Programme and participants

Evaluation visit of experts organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Culture of Norway.

Experts:

Mrs Marija Crnkovic, Croatia

Mrs Krisztina Gönter, Hungary

Mr Michael Leyendecker, Germany, Chair ENGSO Youth, ENGSO Executive Committee member

Mr Michael Trinker (EPAS Deputy Executive Secretary)

EPAS Evaluation team's visit to Norway with the aim of providing expert opinion on

- (Promotion of) Sport for all
- How to avoid drop-outs in sport of boys and girls (pupils)
- How to promote sport targeting senior citizens
- How to promote sport targeting young children
- Improve coach education

20-21 March 2018
Norway, Oslo

Host organisation: Ministry of Culture
Contact Person: Sjursen Øyvind Mehus

Monday, 19 March 2018

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
Arrival of members of the Evaluation Team			
18:00 -20:00	Briefing, Evaluation Team		Hotel Thon

Tuesday, 20 March

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
9:00-12:00	Meeting with the Ministry of Culture – Department of Civil Society and Sports	Per Aasmundstad Sjursen Øyvind Mehus Asmund Berge	Ministry of Culture
12:00-13:00	Lunch		Ministry of Culture

13:15-14:00	Meeting with Bærum municipality	Dag Leween Stien, Rolf Birger Halvorsen	Ministry of Culture
14:15-15:00	Meeting with Akershus county municipality	Rune Winum Espen Andersen Torgeir Berg Mari Kristin Martinsen	Ministry of Culture
15:30-16:00	Meeting with the State Secretary for Sport	State Secretary Frida Blomgren Per Aasmundstad Sjursen Øyvind Mehus	Ministry of Culture
18:00-21:00	Dinner		

Wednesday, 21 March

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
9:00-11:30	Meeting with the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports	Karen Kvalevag, Secretary General Magnus Sverdrup Anja Veum Trond Pedersen Linda Torége Linda Jacobsen Håvard Øvregård Tore Øvrebø Mads Andreassen	NIF Headquarter
11:30-13:00	Meetings with officials from Olympiatoppen	Tore Ovrebø Trond Pedersen	NIF Headquarter

EPAS Evaluation team's visit to Norway

20-21 March 2018
Norway, Oslo

List of attendances

20 March			
Meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Sport			
Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Frida	Blomgren	State Secretary for Sport	Ministry of Culture
Per Kristian	Aasmundstad	Deputy Director General	Ministry of Culture
Oyvind	Sjursen Mehus	Senior Advisor	Ministry of Culture, Department of Civil Society and Sports
Asmund	Berge	Legal Director	Ministry of Culture, Department of Civil Society and Sports

20 March			
Meeting with representatives of Akershus County Municipality			
Name	Surname	Position	Organisation

Rune	Winum	Head of Section for sport, outdoor recreational activities, voluntary sector and public health	Akershus County Municipality
Espen	Andersen	Adviser, Department for culture, voluntary sector and public health	Akershus County Municipality
Mari Kristin	Martinsen	Adviser, Department for culture, voluntary sector and public health	Akershus County Municipality
Torgeir	Berg	Senior Adviser of Sport	Akershus County Municipality

20 March	Meeting with representatives of Bærum Municipality		
Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Dag	Stien	Head of Department of Sports	Bærum Municipality
Rolf Birger	Halvorsen	Advisor sports	Bærum Municipality

21 March	Meeting with representatives of the Olympic movement, Paralympic movement, Special Olympics and grassroots sport		
Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Karen	Kvalevåg	Secretary General	NIF
Magnus	Sverdrup	Director	NIF
Mads	Andreassen	Head of Sports Science	NIF
Linda	Jacobsen	Sport for all advisor	NIF
Håvard	Øvregård	Sport and values advisor	NIF
Linda	Torége	Parasport Advisor	NIF
Anja	Veum	Head of Sports Development	NIF

21 March	Meeting with representatives of the performance sport sector		
Name	Surname	Position	Organisation
Tore	Øvrebø	CEO	Olympiatoppen
Trond	Pedersen	Head of Top Sports Development	Olympiatoppen