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Report on the implementation of the European Sports Charter in Slovakia

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A. Information provided by the authorities of Slovakia

Overview of state structures and sports organisations

Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Slovak republic

Sport Support Fund
Slovak Antidoping Agency
Nation Sport Center

Military Sports Center Dukla
Police Sports Center
Slovak University Sport Association
Ministry of Interior – responsible for the Convention CETS 218
National Sports Federation (e.g., Slovak Football Association, Slovak Ice-Hockey Federation, Slovak Tennis Federation etc.)

Main objectives and priorities of the sport sector in Slovakia

The main objectives and priorities are set in the Sports Policy 2022-2026. This document is prepared on the basis of the Policy Statement of the Government of Slovakia for the years 2021 - 2024, the area of Sport and Youth and in accordance with the Act on Sport. The document is written by the Ministry of Education and Science, with input from experts, members of the Council of the Minister for Sport and working groups.

The policy focusses on the following priorities:

1. Education
2. Leisure-time physical activity
3. Competitive sport
4. Human resources development
5. Sport infrastructure
6. Innovations in sport
7. Promotion of active lifestyle

Financing model of sport

Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Slovak republic (75mil. EUR) – (75mil. EUR) financial support of national sports federations (responsible for the development of their sport and support of the sports clubs and athletes within their scope), NOC, NPC, elite individual athletes, other projects for the development of sport and physical activities

The National Sports Centre (1,3mil EUR) is an organisation which belongs to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Slovak Republic, providing support for sport. Its role is the preparation and education of athletes and professionals, providing healthcare, and conducting research to enhance performance.

Slovak Anti-Doping Agency (0,6mil EUR) the purpose is to advance the anti-doping effort through universal harmonisation of core anti-doping elements.

Sport Support Fund (20mil. EUR) – financial support of sports infrastructure and organisation of international sports events

Military Sports Centre Dukla – operates on an annual budget (10,2mil EUR) and Police Sports Centre operates on an annual budget (4,2 mil. EUR) – both of them supporting of elite individual athletes, ensuring their training and social status.

Municipalities (100mil. EUR) – financial support of local sports clubs, construction and operation of sports infrastructure for all. For municipalities, we cannot declare exactly how much they finance their activity in connection with sport. Each year, within their budgets, municipalities decide on the financing of sports development and sports infrastructure within their regions.

Executive Summary

The Ministry of Sport in Slovakia plays a pivotal role in co-ordinating with various sport bodies to promote and develop sport across the country. Through this visit it was possible to understand recent and ongoing efforts to provide for a structural and strategic sport development framework at all levels in Slovakia. It was positive and promising to witness the expertise, hard work and commitment of many people working in the sport and relevant sectors at all levels (from government to professional and grassroots) in Slovakia and across key stakeholder organisations. To ensure continued success and progress, several recommendations have been proposed to enhance sport development strategies and policies.

Firstly, it is recommended to consider revising the national Sports Law and sport strategy to streamline regulatory frameworks and ensure a bottom-up approach with input from diverse stakeholders. This includes prioritising sport for all and paying special attention to underrepresented groups such as children, women, people with disabilities, and seniors. Furthermore, enhancing the Sports Law and strategy by incorporating principles of integrity and values-based sport approaches, as recommended by the European Sports Charter (ESC), can reinforce the commitment to ethical practices and anti-corruption measures in sport.

Additionally, prioritising investment in grassroots sport development programmes and promoting diversity and inclusion across all aspects of sport development are crucial recommendations. This involves allocating additional resources to support youth sport clubs, school-based programs, and initiatives that target underrepresented groups, while also fostering a culture of inclusivity within the sport sector.

Moreover, it is essential for Slovakia to continue to actively participate in international co-operation efforts, ratifying relevant conventions and engaging with committees to benefit from greater collaboration and capacity-building activities. Strengthening engagement with sport federations and associations, advocating for increased transparency in funding allocation, and promoting ethical standards and good governance principles are also integral to advancing sport development in Slovakia.

To ensure the effective implementation of these recommendations, it is imperative to establish regular communication channels between relevant stakeholders, involve a wider range of partners in national sport initiatives, and monitor progress through consistent data collection and reporting mechanisms. By prioritising these recommendations, Slovakia can further enhance its sports development strategies and contribute to the well-being and inclusivity of its population through sport.

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

Introduction

On 5 and 6 October 2023, at the request of the Office Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia, the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) organised a visit to Bratislava to accompany the government and competent authorities in implementing the values of the European Sports Charter within their sports law, their organisation and the practice of sport in Slovakia.

The programme of the implementation exercise was arranged and coordinated with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia. The implementation team was provided with relevant information and documentation. Access to both information and stakeholders was provided upon request of the implementation team.

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

Article 1 - Aim of the Charter

The aim of this Charter is to guide governments in the design and implementation of legal and policy frameworks for sport which highlight its multiple individual and social benefits (in particular for health, inclusion and education) and abide by and promote the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as enshrined in the Council of Europe's applicable standards. To achieve this aim, governments should take the steps necessary to:

1. *enable every individual to participate in sport and notably ensure that:*
 - a. *all young people receive physical education instruction at educational institutions and have access to opportunities to develop physical literacy, physical fitness and acquire fundamental movement skills;*
 - b. *everyone has the opportunity to take part in sport in a safe, secure and healthy environment;*
 - c. *the development of sport is inclusive, evaluated and monitored on a regular basis; and*
 - d. *everyone has the opportunity to improve their standard of performance in sport beyond its practice for recreational purpose and reach levels of personal achievement and/or levels of excellence in an ethical, fair and responsible way;*
2. *protect and develop values-based sport, which is a precondition for maximising the individual and social benefits of sport, and notably ensure that:*
 - a. *the human rights of those involved in or exposed to sport-related activities are protected;*
 - b. *sporting activities contribute to strengthening ethical conduct and behaviour among those involved in sport;*
 - c. *the integrity of sports organisations, sports competitions and those involved in or exposed to sport-related activities is safeguarded;*
 - d. *sports activities are in line with the principles of sustainable development.*

In 2016, Slovakia implemented a sports law primarily geared towards regulating organised and competitive sports and their funding, with minimal attention given to recreational sports and activities for all citizens. Notably, there is no provision for funding leisure sports within the legislation.

The Sport Strategy of Slovakia predominantly targets younger demographics and aims to combat sedentary lifestyles from an early age. Recognising that parents often serve as inadequate role models and engage minimally in leisure sport themselves, the strategy places emphasis on promoting health among school-age children. This approach is seen as crucial in tackling the significant challenge posed by sedentary lifestyles.

However, Slovakia faces a broader societal dilemma regarding the purpose of sport. Should sport primarily prioritise achieving success at international competitions, or should it prioritise fostering healthier communities? This fundamental question underscores the need for a balanced approach to sports development.

Currently, the Ministry primarily relies on municipal financing for sports initiatives, with municipalities responsible for constructing and maintaining sport infrastructure. However, these municipalities operate autonomously and establish their own priorities, potentially resulting in fragmented investment strategies that may not adequately address the long-term health needs of Slovakia's youth.

As the level of participation in sport is significantly decreasing, this reinforces the importance of defining a clear strategy and vision based on values, supported by a functional regulatory and policy framework defining benchmarks and strategic long-term goals (together with data collection for evidence-based policy making).

Even though the sport policies seem to deliver on certain values and principles set forth in the ESC, a more holistic and strategic approach could be developed to promote a values-based sport development approach in Slovakia, and notably commit to promoting human rights, integrity, good governance, equality and sport for all.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Consider revising the national Sports Law, to keep it focused and simple for success. Develop a streamlined regulatory framework for sport by avoiding over-regulation and cutting red tape. Ensure an intergovernmental coordination to take into consideration related aspects in the areas of health/transport/mobility/IT technologies.
- 1.2 Consider revising the national sport strategy by taking a bottom-up approach and the inclusion of a broad range of relevant stakeholders. Give a more important role to sport for all, and continue to pay special attention to children, young people, but also women, people with disabilities and seniors.
- 1.3 Consider enhancing the national Sports Law and sport strategy by adding a principle and values-based sport approach as recommended by the ESC. Explicit reference to the ESC in the relevant text may reinforce the impact of the provisions as clearly connecting national texts to this inspirational instrument.
- 1.4 Pay particular attention to the integrity of the system and the organisations and promote anti-corruption practices in sport.
- 1.5 Prioritise investment in grassroot sport development programmes to nurture talent and promote sport participation at the community level. Allocate additional resources towards initiatives that support youth sports clubs, school-based sports programmes, and recreational sports activities to ensure broad-based access and participation.
- 1.6 Encourage the Ministry of Sport to prioritise diversity and inclusion in all aspects of sport development, including athlete development, event organisation, and public engagement initiatives. This could involve implementing targeted programmes to support underrepresented groups, promoting accessible sport facilities, and fostering a culture of inclusivity within the sport sector.

Article 2 – Definition of “sport” and scope of the Charter

1. *For the purpose of this Charter, “sport” means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, are aimed at maintaining or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.*

2. *This Charter highlights the common features of a framework for European sport and its organisation, understood by the sports movement as the European sport model, and provides general guidance to the Council of Europe’s member States to refine existing legislation or other policies and to develop a comprehensive framework for sport. It has been specified and complemented by legally binding standards addressing critical issues in the field of sport, such as:*
 - a. *the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (ETS No. 120);*

 - b. *the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135);*

 - c. *the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215); and*

 - d. *the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218).*

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

In the 440/2015 Coll. Act on Sport and amendments and additions of certain acts, sport is defined as all forms of physical activity which, through occasional or organised participation, lead to the demonstration or enhancement of physical fitness and mental well-being, form social bonds or enable performance in competition at all levels (section 3, t). Which is in line with the definition of the ESC pursuing a broad approach on sport covering both top sport and sport for all, as well as organised and casual participation.

Slovakia has ratified the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 135), Additional protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention (ETS No. 188) and the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218).

The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215) has only been signed. The ratification process was stopped on the recommendation of the European Commission.

The Act on Sport refers to anti-doping in section 106. Section 94 is on measures against manipulation of the competition.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 Slovakia is invited to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sport Competitions.
- 2.2 Slovakia's participation in the anti-doping work of the Council of Europe through the two specialised committees - CAHAMA and T-DO - is commendable. Slovakia is invited to participate equally actively in the other two sport-related Convention Committees of the Council of Europe (Macolin and Saint-Denis) with a view to benefitting from greater international co-operation and capacity-building activities implemented by the respective instances.

Article 3 – Public authorities

1. *The role of the public authorities is primarily complementary to the action of the sports movement and corporate sector. Public authorities are responsible for setting framework conditions and, where appropriate, legal requirements which are necessary for the development of sport. In the development and administration of sports policies, public authorities should pursue the aims of this Charter and demonstrate that they place a high priority on respecting the rule of law and the principles of good governance.*

2. *Horizontal coordination should be ensured between the policies and actions of all the public authorities concerned with sport, for example authorities in charge of sport, education, health, social services, urban and regional planning, culture, justice, monitoring of human rights and child protection, law enforcement, betting regulation, environment and development. Vertical coordination should be ensured between national authorities and the regional and local authorities, which play a key role in the provision of sports activities at grassroots level.*

The Ministry of Sport in Slovakia plays a central role in coordinating with various sports bodies to promote and develop sport across the country. The ministry is responsible for formulating national sports policies and strategies in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including sport federations, associations, and clubs. It engages in dialogue with these bodies to identify key priorities, set objectives, and establish guidelines for sport development. Additionally, the ministry establishes regulations, laws, and standards governing sports activities in Slovakia, collaborating with sport organisations to ensure compliance with legal requirements and promote good governance practices within the sport sector.

In addition, the ministry supports athlete development programmes and initiatives in coordination with sport federations and national sport associations, providing funding, training opportunities, and technical assistance to nurture talent, enhance performance, and facilitate athlete pathways from grassroots to top-level. Additionally, the ministry collaborates with sport bodies to organise and host national and international sport events in Slovakia, providing logistical support, regulatory guidance, and financial assistance to ensure the successful planning and execution of sport competitions and championships.

Finally, the ministry promotes sport education and training initiatives in partnership with sport organisations and educational institutions, supporting the development of coaching programmes, sports science research, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the quality of sport education and training in Slovakia.

Overall, the Ministry of Sport in Slovakia serves as a central coordinating body that collaborates with sports organisations to advance the development, governance, and promotion of sport nationwide. Through effective coordination and partnership-building, the ministry aims to maximise the impact of sport on individual well-being, community development, and national identity.

Recommendations:

- 3.1 Deepen the engagement with sport federations, associations, and clubs by establishing regular consultation mechanisms. This will ensure that key stakeholders have meaningful input into the formulation of national sport policies and strategies, fostering a sense of ownership and alignment with broader objectives.
- 3.2 Advocate for increased transparency in the allocation and utilisation of funding for sport programmes and initiatives. Enhance reporting mechanisms to provide clear and accessible information on how funds are allocated, evaluated, and distributed. This will enhance accountability and build trust among stakeholders.

Article 4 – The sports movement

1. *The sports movement, which comprises non-governmental, non-profit sports organisations, is the main partner of public authorities for the implementation of sports policies. Its organisations are bound by the requirements and limits imposed on them by legislation in accordance with international standards.*
2. *The development of the voluntary ethos and movement in sport should be further encouraged, particularly through support for the work of voluntary sports organisations. To this end, public authorities and the sports movement should maintain framework conditions that favour the active involvement of volunteers in sport.*
3. *Sports movement organisations fully enjoy the freedom of association enshrined in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. They enjoy autonomous decision-making processes and should choose their leaders democratically in accordance with good governance principles. Both governments and sports organisations should recognise the need for mutual respect for their decisions.*
4. *Sports movement organisations earning revenue from the sports entertainment market should be committed to financial solidarity between high-level sport and grassroots sport, among different sports and across all regions of the world.*

According to the Act on Sport, a sport organisation is a legal entity whose subject of activity or purpose is sports activity; a sports organisation is not a public administration body (section 8).

The national sports organisations are the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee, the Slovak Paralympic Committee and another sport organisation recognised by the Ministry of Education, which has been a member of an international sport organisation with a worldwide scope of activity for at least two years and has been exercising exclusive competence on the territory of Slovakia for Deaflympic sport, Special Olympics sport, university sport, school sport, sport for all or for another area of sport (section 24).

About 61% of the income of the Slavic Olympic and Sports Committee (NOC) derives from the state, whereas 29% is from sponsors and the remaining from the IOC. This is different for the Paralympic Committee, Deaflympic Committee and Special Olympics where more than 90% of their income stems from the state.

Based on the conversations that were held with the sport organisations, the organisations do not often work together, but are in very regular dialogue with their international federations / governing bodies (e.g. IOC, FIFA, UEFA). It would be beneficial for the Ministry to facilitate regular conversations amongst the national sport movement organisations.

The Act on Sport defines different types of sport organisations which must fulfil certain criteria to be eligible for funding and grants. Section 70, d allows the Ministry to provide grants to promote good governance. Neither the act nor the Sports policy document clarifies however how good governance is defined.

There are no specific incentives to encourage volunteers in sport. However, the NOC runs a wide range of volunteer organisations called Olympic Clubs that are spread out in various regions of Slovakia. Moreover, they have a European Sport Volunteer project funded by the European Commission that created a base for volunteers in sport – aimed at sport events. When organising international sports events, national sport associations use volunteers as well.

Recommendations:

- 4.1 Bring together the sport organisations to learn from each other.
- 4.2 Clarify good governance and provide training to the sport federations, where relevant in collaboration with European and/or international sports governing bodies.
- 4.3 Design strategies to make volunteering more attractive and to increase the number of volunteers by improving/regulating the legal framework for volunteering, creating incentives/benefits, which may include, tax relief, internship programmes for students in exchange for academic credit, pension top-ups, time off work etc.
- 4.4 Promote the volunteering culture by giving public recognition for voluntary work and for the skills and experiences gained through volunteering, e.g., by awarding a prize.
- 4.5 Ensure that the necessary protections are in place for all athletes, particularly children, by establishing vetting procedures and criminal checks for coach and support staff.

Article 5 – Corporate and professional sectors

1. *The corporate and professional sectors play an important role in the development of sport. Dialogue and co-operation should be undertaken with representatives of companies and occupational categories involved in sport in sectors such as the organisation of activities, events or competitions; the manufacturing of sports goods; sports nutrition; construction of facilities; service provision; and the media.*
2. *When engaging with representatives of these sectors, governments should:*
 - a. *acknowledge them as drivers of innovation that can serve the development of sport;*
 - b. *make sure that they abide by the relevant regulations, for example on economic and social rights, safety, qualifications, anti-discrimination, sports integrity, corporate governance and anti-corruption;*
 - c. *promote endorsement of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on human rights and business;*
 - d. *encourage them to co-operate with the sports movement and encourage their participation in solidarity schemes when they benefit from activities conducted and financed by the sports movement.*

The Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee has established partnerships with the corporate sector, primarily focusing on projects that support sports development and provide support for the Olympic Team.

It is essential to recall the role played by the corporate and professional sector in the development of sport, and the importance for the public authorities to establish a constructive dialogue and co-operation, notably to ensure that an integrated approach to safety, security and services at major sport events are implemented, including in respect of accessibility to sport infrastructures, or that sustainability and environmental requirements are duly taken into consideration.

The corporate and professional sector are also instrumental in contributing to the promotion of a values-based sport, raising awareness through campaigns, and contributing financially to solidarity schemes when they benefit from activities conducted and financed by the sport movement. International and European trends in the commercialisation of sport may require increased scrutiny in the future activities of private and commercial for profit sports events and organisers, to protect the solidarity model.

Recommendations:

- 5.1 Consult and exchange on a regular basis with the representatives of corporate and professional sector, also with a view to safeguarding the solidarity model of sport.
- 5.2 Provide guidelines for this sector with regards to sponsorships, for example on economic and social rights, safety, and integrity.

Article 6 – Human rights

1. *All stakeholders shall respect and protect internationally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms and they should observe the general framework established for their implementation in business and other activities.*
2. *The human rights due diligence approach in sport requires respect for the human rights of those involved in or exposed to sport-related activities and should therefore:*
 - a. *ensure that the human rights of athletes and everyone involved in sport are respected, protected and promoted;*
 - b. *fight arbitrariness and other abuses in sport so as to ensure full respect for the rule of law in sports activities, including access to remedies, justice and a fair trial in line with the applicable human rights standards;*
 - c. *work towards gender equality in and through sport, in particular by implementing the strategy of gender mainstreaming in sport;*
 - d. *apply a policy of zero tolerance for violence and all forms of discrimination, paying particular attention to individuals and groups in a situation of vulnerability, such as children, migrants and persons with disabilities;*
 - e. *work towards the inclusion of a clear commitment to human rights in the respective policy and/or regulatory frameworks;*
 - f. *uphold human rights in the context of the organisation of sports events and introduce human rights considerations and objectives into the whole life cycle of major sporting events, starting with the bidding process and including planning for a lasting positive legacy;*
 - g. *further invest in the effective implementation of human rights standards in and through sport, in particular by developing governmental/non-governmental partnerships and using multistakeholder platforms to identify and promote measures to prevent and respond to human rights violations in sport.*

The Act on Sport of Slovakia and the sports policy do not specifically promote a human rights approach in sport and a values-based sport model. Key aspects in promoting a values-based sport approach such as good governance, integrity of organisations and people, equality and fundamental freedoms are not referred to.

The Act on Sport only provides a general framework for the practice of sport by athletes and sport professionals. It sets out minimum requirements for contractual conditions when contract is concluded between athletes and clubs. The Act on the organisation of public sporting events sets out the conditions for the safe organisation of matches, as well as the rights and obligations of spectator associations

Upholding human rights is a legal obligation and is vital to maintain the attractiveness and legitimacy of what remains one of the most popular activities for people, and a powerful vehicle of values.

Recommendations:

- 6.1 Include in the new sports law a human rights/values-based approach to sport inspired by the ESC.
- 6.2 Base at least some parts of public funding on the fulfilment of certain criteria promoting human rights, integrity in sport, safe sporting environment and equality of sport boards.
- 6.3 Ensure equal allocation of funding between women's and men's sports and teams.
- 6.4 Ensure that facilities and time slots are fairly distributed between female and male sports and ensure that time slots are allocated exclusively to the under-represented.
- 6.5 Monitor the development of gender equality and non-discrimination in sport regularly and consider (launching) special policy and financial measures when appropriate

Article 7 – Education in values through sports ethics

1. *“Sports ethics” is a positive concept that guides human behaviour. It is defined as a way of thinking and not just a way of acting. It underpins sports integrity, equality, honesty, excellence, commitment, courage, team spirit, respect for rules and laws, respect for the environment, respect for self and others and a spirit of community, tolerance and solidarity. It also includes respect for human rights and sustainability.*

2. *Sports ethics shall be promoted in all activities in sport, via relevant policies and programmes. Appropriate steps shall be taken to raise awareness of sports ethics and to provide continued learning opportunities in this sphere.*

3. *Being educated about how to choose the ethical course of action inside and outside sport is an integral part of the competences that should be acquired through sport. Practising values-based sport can empower people and teach fairness, teamwork, equality, discipline, inclusion, respect and integrity.*

Education in sport ethics is one important element of a values-based sport approach as recommended in the ESC. Sports coaching and physical education teaching go beyond the acquisition of motor skills and convey values such as respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, respect, equity and equality, inclusion, diversity, excellence, and discipline.

Based on discussions with Slovak stakeholders and observations from the school visit, it's evident that there's a commendable emphasis on encouraging children to become active and utilise sport for pedagogical purposes. Coaches and teachers at schools are trained to instil ethical values.

However, in prioritising the promotion of physical activity and sports, the main focus appeared to be on children and athletes, inadvertently overlooking numerous generations that could benefit from the promotion of ethical values in sport.

Recommendations:

- 7.1 Raise awareness on sport ethics of persons involved in sport at an early stage, but don't lose sight of older generations.
- 7.2 Promote sport ethics in all spheres of activities in sport via relevant policies and programmes.
- 7.3 Draft and implement a code of sport ethics supporting persons involved in sport in following ethical standards.
- 7.4 Provide continued learning opportunities for athletes, parents, coaches and other persons involved in sport to develop values-based sport practices.

Article 8 – Integrity

1. *“Sport integrity” encompasses the components of personal, competitive and organisational integrity. Threats to sports integrity include criminal offences such as corruption, fraud and coercion, but also violations of statutory and disciplinary regulations and unethical behaviour. The pursuit of sport integrity should thus commit all stakeholders and:*

a. *protect all people, particularly the young, from violence, harassment and abuse, ensure the safety and security of individuals and foster respect for and protection of internationally recognised human rights, including social rights;*

b. *support fair play, which is much more than playing within the rules. Fair play incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and a sense of fellowship. It includes issues concerned with cheating, the use of unfair strategies while respecting the rules, manipulation of sports competitions and doping;*

c. *inspire a governance of sport that is compliant with the principles of transparency, integrity, democracy, development and solidarity, which should be secured by checks and balances and control mechanisms.*

2. *Sport integrity policies should rely on multistakeholder initiatives; encourage and co-operate with whistle-blowers and free media; pay attention to compliance with human rights; invest in education, prevention and awareness raising; be monitored, including through the use of remedies; and use gender and youth mainstreaming.*

The concept of integrity in sport is very broad. The Council of Europe’s Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport coordinated the development of guidelines on integrity in sport, within the framework of the Kazan Action Plan (2018) and formulated basic guidelines for public authorities:

- (1) Preserving the rights, safety and security of athletes, spectators, workers, and other groups involved;
- (2) Preventing and addressing harassment and abuse in sport;
- (3) Fostering good governance of sport organisations;
- (4) Strengthening measures against the manipulation of sports competition; and
- (5) Ensuring an adequate anti-doping policy framework, implementation, and effective compliance measures.

According to the Act on Sports, section 3, j integrity of sport is defined as the principles guaranteeing the inherent uncertainty and unpredictability of the course and outcome of the competition and a level playing field for the participants before and throughout the competition.

Based on discussions with stakeholders, as well as reviewing the Act on Sport and the Sport Policy document, it appears that the focus on integrity primarily revolves around issues like

match-fixing and doping, inadvertently overlooking other critical aspects such as preventing and addressing harassment. During conversations, it became evident that some stakeholders may lack a comprehensive understanding of the definitions necessary to delve into these topics further, let alone formulate strategies for addressing them.

Recommendations:

- 8.1 Set up good governance principles such as transparency, integrity, democracy, development, control, and solidarity, include them in the law and ensure their implementation.
- 8.2 Educate the sport movement on definitions with regards to integrity and the importance of it.
- 8.3 Set up a safeguarding policy providing guidance for sport organisations to promote safe and healthy sport environments and prevent abuse and harassment in sport.
- 8.4 Provide training sessions for staff/ volunteers on safe sport issues.
- 8.5 Implement the Start to Talk campaign to promote safe and empowering sport environments.
- 8.6 Develop reporting mechanisms within sport federations/clubs and ensure co-operation with law enforcement and other relevant authorities.

Article 9 – Sustainability

1. *The principle of sustainability in sport requires all activities to be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable, in particular:*

a. *when planning, implementing and evaluating their activities, organisers of sports activities and events should pay due consideration to sustainability, be it economic, social or environmental;*

b. *whereas the growing consumption of sporting goods can generate a positive impact on the global economy, the industry should take responsibility for developing and integrating practices that are satisfactory in social terms and are environmentally friendly;*

c. *indoor and outdoor activities should be carried out responsibly, in other words the precautionary principle (resource conservation and risk prevention) should be implemented. Owners of sports infrastructure have to act proactively to identify the effects and consequences of their facilities, avoid potential damage to nature and, where necessary, take counter- and protective measures against such risks;*

d. *the organisation of major sports events should ensure a sustainable legacy for the hosting communities with regard to their economic, social and environmental impact, in particular to balance the financial cost of the infrastructure with its post-event use and the effect on participation in sport.*

2. *All stakeholders should take responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint and pursue commitments and partnerships for climate action in recognition of the increasingly negative impact of climate change on society and on sport.*

When investing in infrastructure, it is important to take into account the long-term viability of buildings and how infrastructure and spatial planning can be a tool to increase physical activity not just for the young, but especially for the less active older generations.

Sustainable infrastructure can lead to cost savings through energy efficiency measures, reduced water usage, and lower maintenance expenses. Additionally, green building practices can stimulate economic growth by creating jobs in renewable energy, construction, and related industries.

All stakeholders unanimously acknowledged that, given historical circumstances, there is a genuine need for an expansion of quality sporting infrastructure. The Sports Policy (2022-2026) notes that Sports infrastructure in municipalities and schools is one of the prerequisites for the development of physical activities of the population of all ages. In all regions of Slovakia there is a lack of sports infrastructure, the existing infrastructure is in a large number in an inadequate condition, operationally difficult to sustain, poorly available, accessible, or safe.

Recommendations:

- 9.1 Ensure that all sport stakeholders take responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint.
- 9.2 As sports infrastructure is constructed and enhanced, it's important to prioritise sustainability as a key element.
- 9.3 When prioritising it's essential not only to concentrate on children and athletes but also to leverage infrastructure as a means to enhance the health and well-being of all generations. Set up policies demanding that all sport activities and events be economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable.
- 9.4 Set up working groups and establish partnerships to share good practices and know-how to properly address sustainability in sport.

Article 10 – The right to sport

1. *Access to sport for all is considered to be a fundamental right. All human beings have an inalienable right of access to sport in a safe environment, both inside and outside school settings, which is essential for their personal development and instrumental in the exercise of the rights to health, education, culture and participation in the life of the community.*

2. *No discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, language, religion, gender or sexual orientation, 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.

3. *To safeguard and promote this right, it is necessary to:*

a. *ensure that access to the development of physical, intellectual and ethical competences through physical education and sport is guaranteed, both within the educational system and in other aspects of social life;*

b. *make sure that everyone has ample opportunities to benefit from physical education and practise sport, develop physical literacy and physical fitness, acquire fundamental movement skills and attain a level of achievement in sport which corresponds to their abilities;*

c. *make sure that specific opportunities are available for young people, including children of pre-school age, for older people and for people with disabilities to enjoy education and sports programmes suited to their requirements;*

d. *ensure that all members of a local community have opportunities to take part in sport and that, where necessary, additional measures are taken aimed at enabling disadvantaged individuals or groups and people with disabilities to make effective use of such opportunities;*

e. *guarantee that local sports clubs have a suitable legal status and framework conditions to offer affordable access to sport for all.*

In addition to the ESC, the fourth fundamental principle of Olympism states that “The practice of sport is a human right” (Olympic Charter, 2020, p.11) and that every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind, and in line with the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity, and fair play. Although the school setting, which is specifically mentioned in article 10 (1) of the ESC is one of the main target venues for sport activities and physical activity programmes, the right to sport goes beyond the school setting and requires further sports facilities and sports activities, for example organised and delivered by local sport clubs. Public authorities have to ensure that facilities are also available for self-organised sport groups. Local sport clubs need to ensure affordability for activities for all through suitable framework conditions.

Considerable progress was made to promote the health-enhancing role of physical activity in Slovakia. The legislation of Slovakia ensures appropriate time breaks during classes for children in schools, while the implementation of the new curriculum and the concept of Active School has demonstrated good results. The breaks are focused on the activity of pupils in the form of exercise activities. The Active schools programme represents a comprehensive approach to physical activities at schools, which are implemented by the school before, during or after the end of classes.

The legislation of Slovakia also provides the education of future teachers of physical and sports education or school coaches at the faculties of pedagogy, respectively. As part of their professional growth, existing teaching staff can complete various other forms of education,

such as qualification education, functional education, specialised education, adaptation education, pre-test education, innovative education and updating education.

While there's commendable attention given to children in promoting sport for all, it was noted that for the older generations, these facilities are neither accessible nor promoted. Physical activity is crucial for maintaining health and well-being, especially for the elderly, staying active can help maintain mobility and prevent chronic illnesses. It can also offer social connections and opportunities for community engagement.

Recommendations:

- 10.1 Work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that all members of society have equal access to sport. Sport clubs and federations should provide a wide range of sport activities, varying in the level of performance, pricing, physical ability, age groups, time slots etc., to support the inclusion of disadvantaged groups in sport.
- 10.2 Link funding to gender equality and sport for all

Article 11 – Building the foundations for the practice of sport

1. *All appropriate steps should be taken to develop physical literacy and physical fitness among young people, enabling them to acquire fundamental movement skills and to encourage them to practise sport, notably by:*
 - a. *ensuring that all students have access to sports, recreation and physical education programmes and facilities and that appropriate time slots are set aside for these activities;*
 - b. *ensuring the training of qualified teachers in this area in all schools;*
 - c. *ensuring that appropriate opportunities exist for continuing the practice of sport after compulsory education;*
 - d. *encouraging the development of appropriate links between schools or other educational institutions, school sports clubs and local sports clubs;*
 - e. *facilitating and developing the use of sports facilities by schools, local sports clubs and the local community;*
 - f. *encouraging an environment in which parents, teachers, coaches and leaders motivate young people to take regular physical exercise;*
 - g. *providing education in sports ethics for pupils from primary school onwards.*

The development of physical, intellectual and ethical competences through sport is ensured by the state educational programme, which will also reflect on the new curriculum and the Active School concept. Part of the Active School concept includes active transport, active

school groups, active classes, physical and sport education, sport clubs, sport courses, testing, school sport competitions, proactive environment and catering. Actors of the Active School are all physical and legal persons who participate in the development and building of the Active School through their actions, such as students, parents, teaching staff, principals, school founders, national sports associations and sports organisations, media, state institutions, rule makers and politicians and commercial companies.

Recommendations:

- 11.1 Establish appropriate steps to develop physical literacy and fitness among young people, particularly in kindergarten, primary and secondary schools.
- 11.2 Provide guidelines for the joint use of sport facilities in communities/ municipalities.

Article 12 – Developing participation

1. *The practice of sport, whether for the purpose of leisure and recreation, health promotion or improving performance, shall be promoted across the whole population through the provision of appropriate facilities and programmes of all kinds and of access to qualified coaches, instructors and staff, whether volunteers or professionals.*

2. *Encouraging the provision of opportunities to participate in sport at workplaces shall be regarded as an integral part of a balanced sports*

As previously mentioned, Slovakia provides numerous opportunities for children and youth which is not surprising given that one fifth of the population are under the age of 18. However, it's worth noting that from the conversations with stakeholders there appears to be minimal encouragements to older generations.

As noted in the Sports Policy (2022-2026) Slovakia acknowledges the importance of targeted campaigns for the population that does not regularly engage in physical activity and awareness raising of the importance of physical activity for health and quality of life.

Recommendations:

- 12.1 Promote the practice of sport in diverse populations and communities.
- 12.2 Ensure sport facilities and programmes supply the demand for sport participation.
- 12.3 Develop strategies to promote sport (physical activity) in other areas of society and policies e.g., sport at work.
- 12.4 Get more data on which groups in the population are currently not as active.

Article 13 – Improving performance

1. *The practice of sport at higher levels shall be supported and encouraged in appropriate and specific ways. The support shall cover such areas as talent identification and counselling, the provision of suitable facilities, developing care and support for athletes using sports medicine and sports science in line with sports ethical standards, encouraging scientific coaching and providing training for coaches and others with leadership functions and helping clubs to provide appropriate structures and competitive outlets.*

The Sports Policy notes the focus on respecting the autonomy and interests of sport organisations and their importance in the development of competitive and top-level sport, financially support national sport federations, national sport organisations and departmental sport centres, taking into account the public interest in sport. It also states that in order to continue to create stable conditions for the development of sport, care for sport talented youth and sport representation of Slovakia must be considered.

National sport federations are actively enhancing appropriate facilities, the care and support for sport medicine, scientific coaching, and sport leadership development.

Recommendations:

13.1 Provide and encourage private stakeholders to provide - greater financial investments in the programmes related to talent identification and athlete development in both Olympic and Paralympic sport.

Article 14 – Supporting top-level and professional sport

1. *Methods of providing appropriate direct or indirect support for athletes who demonstrate exceptional sporting qualities shall be devised in order to give them opportunities to fully develop their sporting and human abilities, while ensuring full respect for their individual personality and physical and moral integrity. Such support should include aspects relating to the identification of talent, to the dual careers of athletes, to balanced education while in training institutes, and to a smooth integration into society through the development of career prospects during and after involvement in high-level sport.*

2. *The organisation and management of professionally organised sport, including by the sports entertainment industry, shall be conducted through competent and well-governed bodies, supportive of appropriate social dialogue with athletes' representatives and of the regulatory role of the relevant international governing bodies as regards ensuring harmonised rules of the game, safeguarding the integrity of sport and co-ordinating competition calendars. People engaging professionally in sport should have appropriate social status, ethical safeguards against all forms of exploitation and the enjoyment of economic and social rights.*

3. *The organisation of top-level and professional sports competitions should be in compliance with the principle of openness in sporting competitions, giving priority to sporting merit. Competition organisers should work to reconcile the needs and interests of individual/local team competitions and those of national teams.*

As part of supporting the dual career of athletes by ensuring educational activities with regard to the needs and nature of their sport, the legislation of Slovakia guarantees the possibility of an individual study plan at secondary sport schools and external studies at universities. The legislation of Slovakia also guarantees specific financial support for the best Slovak athletes at international level.

As highlighted by the government, there are currently only a few instances of best practices in assisting athletes during their transition out of sport careers. This area warrants significant improvement.

Recommendations:

- 14.1 Design and implement policies to support the holistic development of athletes such as a more extensive dual career approach.
- 14.2 Ensure that athletes' economic and social rights, such as minimum salary, social security, pensions and insurance, are exercised and respected.

Article 15 – Facilities and activities

1. *Since participation in sport is dependent in part on the extent, the variety and the accessibility of facilities, their overall planning should be a matter for the public authorities. The range of facilities to be provided should take account of the public and private facilities which are already available. Those responsible should take account of national, regional and local requirements, and take measures designed to ensure good management and the safe and full use of facilities.*

2. *Appropriate steps should be taken by the owners of sports facilities to enable persons from disadvantaged groups, including persons with physical or mental disabilities, to have access to such facilities.*

3. *A clear framework should be provided, and appropriate steps should be taken, to empower event organisers and owners of sporting facilities to fulfil their safety and security obligations effectively.*

All stakeholders unanimously acknowledged that, given historical circumstances, there is a genuine need for an expansion of quality sporting infrastructure. The Sports Policy (2022-2026) notes that Sports infrastructure in municipalities and schools is one of the prerequisites for the development of physical activities of the population of all ages. In all regions of Slovakia there is a lack of sports infrastructure, the existing infrastructure is in a large number in an inadequate condition, operationally difficult to sustain, poorly available, accessible or safe.

The Sport Support Fund was created to address this underfunded area. Its main objective is to fund reconstruction and new building as well as the promotion of large sporting events. Its budget of 20 million euros now has several projects up and running in collaboration with municipalities.

Recommendations:

- 15.1 Ensure a coordinated approach in planning and managing sport facilities in the country at national and international level by developing a national strategy for sport infrastructure.
- 15.2 Ensure equitable access and opportunity to sport at public and private sport facilities by adapting sport facilities to become more accessible for all groups of population.

Article 16 – Human resources

1. *The development, by appropriate bodies, of training courses leading to diplomas and qualifications covering all aspects of sport, including its compliance with human rights, ethics, integrity and sustainability, shall be encouraged. Such courses should be appropriate to the needs of participants of all backgrounds involved in different kinds and levels of sport and designed for those working both voluntarily and professionally (instructors, coaches, managers, officials, doctors, safety officers, architects, engineers, child safeguarding officers, etc.).*

2. *Those involved in the leadership or supervision of sports activities should have appropriate qualifications, with particular emphasis on the protection of ethical values, integrity and human rights, including the protection of the human dignity, safety and health of the people in their charge.*

3. *Special attention should be paid to volunteering. Voluntary personnel, if given appropriate training and supervision, can make an invaluable contribution to the development of sport as a whole and encourage the participation of everyone in the practice and organisation of sports activities. The recruitment, training and retention of volunteers should be encouraged through the recognition of voluntary work, support for the holistic training of volunteer coaches and other measures.*

The legislation of Slovakia states that education in sport leading to certificates and qualifications can be provided not only by state institutions, but also by private institutions that prove to the relevant state authority that they have sufficient professional competence to educate in sport. Those interested in sport training have a wide choice of sport training providers. As a rule, the suitability and quality of the educational programme of the provider is determined by the demand of the public to complete the given educational programme.

Ensuring that leaders and others involved in sport activities have appropriate qualifications is partially regulated by the Act on Sport, but it falls mostly under the autonomy of the sports movement. E.g., the Act on Sport only ensures that every sport organisation that has received funds from the state budget exceeding €50,000 per year for two immediately consecutive accounting periods is obliged to establish and fill the position of controller. The controller must acquire his professional competence to perform professional activity in sport - the controller must successfully complete vocational training provided by a state institution, as a guarantor of vocational training that includes areas dedicated to sports values, integrity and human rights.

Recommendations:

- 16.1 Support initiatives, programmes and trainings to further professionalise staff and volunteers active in sport.
- 16.2 Improve the qualification, education of coaches and physical education of 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 of the central government.
- 16.3 Update the curricula of sport faculties to incorporate a values-based approach to sport and cover ethical topics such as safeguarding, sport for all, human rights, integrity etc.

Article 17 – Information and research

1. *Suitable structures and means for the collection and dissemination of pertinent information on sport at local, national and international levels should be maintained to the most up-to-date standards and developed further in line with relevant technological advances. This should notably include taking due account of digitisation and other important technological developments and of their use and application in the sporting context.*
2. *Scientific research into all aspects of sport, including its positive and negative effects on health, issues of ethics and governance, new trends and other central underlying principles, shall be further promoted and supported. Arrangements shall be made for disseminating and exchanging such information and the results of such research at the most appropriate level – locally, regionally, nationally or internationally – including as a basis for the further development of informed sports policies.*

Empirical research and sport science can drive the further development of the sport sector.

A scientific-based, coherent approach may positively impact the educational value of sport, the promotion of social inclusion through sport, the development of the voluntary ethos, the fight against corruption and performance sport.

Recommendations:

- 17.1 Set up appropriate technical structures for the collection and dissemination of relevant information related to sport on all levels.
- 17.2 Support scientific research in sport.
- 17.3 Pursue evidence-based decision-making in the field of sport.
- 17.4 Promote and support research on women and girls in sport and in women's sport, including systematic gender analysis, and provide data to decision makers and other relevant authorities at national, regional and local levels.

Article 18 – Finance

1. *Appropriate support and resources from public funds at national, regional and local levels, including, where appropriate, lottery contributions, adequate public budget provisions, tax exemptions, the lending of premises, etc. shall be made available for the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter.*
2. *Mixed public and private financial support for sport should be encouraged, including the capacity of the sports sector itself to generate and allocate appropriate resources for its further development, both in terms of its social and its high-level aspects.*
3. *Public measures of support for the organisation of sporting events should be granted in the light of the relevant environmental standards and sustainable economic and social benefits that such events can achieve, to realise the positive potential of sporting events and increase public acceptance.*

The financial management of sport in Slovakia reflects a diverse array of funding sources and mechanisms aimed at supporting sports development, infrastructure, and events across the country. At the central level, the government allocates approximately 100 million EUR from the state budget to bolster sports initiatives. This funding serves as a foundational pillar for promoting sports at the national level and underscores the government's commitment to fostering a thriving sport culture.

Municipalities also play a significant role in financing sports activities, with approximately 100 million EUR collectively contributed to support local sport clubs and the construction and maintenance of sport infrastructure. This decentralised approach ensures that communities have the resources needed to promote grassroots sport participation and cultivate talent at the local level, contributing to a vibrant and inclusive sport ecosystem nationwide.

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport channels 72 million EUR towards various sports-related endeavours, including financial support for national sports federations, clubs, and athletes. This funding not only nurtures the growth and development of sport organisations but also provides essential backing for elite athletes and projects aimed at advancing sport and physical activity initiatives across Slovakia.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Sport Support Fund, with an annual allocation of 20 million EUR, underscores the government's commitment to enhancing sport infrastructure and facilitating the organisation of international sport events. This dedicated funding stream aims to bolster the country's sporting facilities and capabilities while showcasing Slovakia's ability to host high-profile sport competitions.

Encouraging public-private financial partnerships in sport, through sponsorship contracts and tax incentives, further amplifies the impact of public funding by leveraging additional resources from the private sector. Moreover, initiatives to promote environmentally friendly and economically sustainable sports events are gaining traction, albeit primarily driven by regulations from international sport federations.

Recommendations:

- 18.1 Ensure that the funding rules and criteria contribute to the aims of the ESC and are not exclusively conditional and related to top-level athletic success; this notably includes the observation of sustainability, ethical and human rights and other values-based sport criteria in funding attribution
- 18.2 Foster greater coordination and co-operation between the Ministry of Sport and other relevant stakeholders, including municipalities, sport federations, and private sector partners. Establishing formal mechanisms for dialogue and joint planning can optimise resource allocation, minimise duplication of efforts, and maximise the impact of collective actions.
- 18.3 Integrate sustainability criteria into funding criteria and project evaluation processes to ensure that sport investments contribute to long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits. This includes prioritising eco-friendly infrastructure projects, promoting responsible event management practices, and supporting initiatives that enhance community well-being and resilience.
- 18.4 Explore opportunities to diversify funding sources beyond traditional government allocations by leveraging private sector partnerships, philanthropic support, and innovative financing mechanisms.

Article 19 – Domestic and international co-operation

1. *Appropriate structures for the proper coordination of the development and promotion of sport between the various stakeholders should be put in place where they do not already exist at national, regional and local levels to achieve the aims of this Charter, thus ensuring that sport is a structural element of the well-being of our society.*

2. *International co-operation at both global and continental levels is also necessary for the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter. This can be achieved through the exchange of good practice, education programmes, capacity development, advocacy, pledges, as well as indicators and other monitoring and implementation tools.*

In Slovakia, national co-operation in sport involves the Council of the Minister of Education, Science, Research, and Sports of Slovakia for Sport. Appointed by the Minister from various sectors, this council advises on sports-related policies and convenes biannually to discuss matters like increasing sports participation and promoting health.

Coordination with the sports movement occurs through regular informal meetings organised by the Ministry of Sport with sport federations. These sessions offer a platform for dialogue on current topics and policy matters, while conferences on specific sport-related themes facilitate collaboration between government officials and sport stakeholders.

Similarly, international co-operation in sport is fostered through official channels such as working groups and engagements with European institutions like the Council of the EU and the European Commission. Regular intergovernmental meetings ensure alignment of strategies and actions with other EU member states, promoting a cohesive approach to sports policy across Europe.

Overall, by leveraging structured platforms, engagements with European institutions, and bilateral exchanges, Slovakia contributes to and benefits from international co-operation in sport, promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences for the mutual benefit of the sports community.

From the information and exchanges, it appears that the national sport associations appear to play an active role in their respective European and international federations and governing bodies, also relying on these organisations for development through best practices, training and funding tied to relevant values and needs based objectives.

Recommendations:

- 19.1 Establish regular communication channels between the Council of the Minister of Education, Science, Research, and Sports of Slovakia for Sport and sports federations at national level. This could include more frequent meetings or the establishment of online platforms for ongoing dialogue and information exchange.
- 19.2 Encourage broader participation in national sport initiatives by involving a wider range of stakeholders, including sport clubs, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions. This can foster a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to sports development, leveraging diverse expertise and resources.
- 19.3 Strengthen engagement with European institutions and other countries by continuing to actively participate in working groups, forums and conferences related to sport policy and development. This could involve increasing attendance at international events and seeking opportunities to share best practices and lessons learned with other nations.

Article 20 – Support and follow-up to the implementation of the Charter

1. *The Council of Europe and other international organisations should be encouraged to use sport as a vehicle to promote values and to mainstream sport in strategies and action plans.*
2. *To facilitate the promotion and the implementation of this Charter, relevant stakeholders should be invited to pledge for the implementation of the Charter in their policies, strategies and programmes.*
3. *At European level, it is important to review progress and support the implementation of the Charter, in particular to guarantee the positive impact of sport on health, inclusion and education, to maximise its potential to promote a dynamic civil society as well as a culture of human rights, the rule of law, democratic governance and sustainability, and to fight threats to sports integrity. The Council of Europe’s Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport should be used to assess and promote progress in the implementation of the Charter, including by:*
 - a. *facilitating the exchange of information and good practices;*
 - b. *holding thematic exchanges on issues pertaining to the Charter;*
 - c. *collecting and publishing information to monitor the implementation of the Charter;*
 - d. *supporting the promotion and implementation of the Charter through regular multilateral and country-specific activities.*

The ESC identifies important values in sport such as integrity, human rights, equality, good governance, accountability which clearly have a European and international dimension. Sport stakeholders do have obligations and responsibilities to promote and protect these values and principles. This includes coaches, managers, administrators and sports science and medicine personnel. Monitoring, assessment and implementation play an important role to enhance on the areas identified to make sport safer, more inclusive and more ethical in Europe.

Recommendations:

- 20.1 Organise training sessions on the ESC and the international sport framework and attach a Slovakian translation of the Charter as an appendix to the sport strategy and policy to emphasise the values and benefits of sport.
- 20.2 Monitor and consistently collect data on the implementation of the ESC.
- 20.3 Provide updates on the implementation of the recommendation of this report.

C. Appendices

Appendix I - Act on Sports



Act on Sport.pdf

Appendix II - Sports Policy 2022 - 2026



Sports Policy_2022
2026.pdf

Appendix III - Implementation Team

The Implementation exercise on the ESC was co-organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia.

Composition of the team:

1. Mr Alexandre Husting, Luxemburg
2. Ms Benthe Tanghe, Netherlands
3. Mr James Ogilvie, UEFA

For the Council of Europe/EPAS:

4. Ms Cassandra Mactavish, Senior Project Officer

Appendix IV - Programme

Thursday 5 October 2023 – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport,
Press Centre

8:40 Departure from the Hotel Loft to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

9:00-9.15 Opening of the meeting,

Mr Peter Dedík, Director General for Sport

9:15-10.00 Sport in Slovakia (presentations followed by Q&A)

Mr Peter Dedík, Director General for Sport

Mr Branislav Strečanský, Director of the Office of the State Secretary for Sport

- *Presentation of the functioning system of sport in Slovakia*
- *Financing sport*
- *State strategy of sport*
- *Act on Sport*
- *Sports information system*
- *Good governance*

10:10-10:45 Ministry of Interior & Ministry of Health

Mr Damián Imre, Vice-president of the Police Force, Ministry of Interior

Mr Tomáš Kúdela, Director of the Department of Public Health, Screening and Prevention,
Ministry of Health

- *Cross-sectional cooperation (security at sports events) and Council of Europe Convention on Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at football matches and other sports events*
- *Cross-sectional cooperation (health)*

10:45-11:15 Department of Secondary Schools and Lifelong learning and Department of pre-primary and primary education

Ms Marianna Onderková, Department of Secondary Schools and Lifelong learning

Ms Adriana Jankovičová, Department of pre-primary and primary education

- *Education – secondary sports schools*
- *Curriculum reform - Connection to pilot project Active School*

11.15-11.30 Transfer to Primary school Za kasárňou 2, Bratislava

11.30-12.30 Visit to primary school/Active school in Bratislava

12.30-12.45 Transfer to lunch

12.45-13.45 Lunch in Bratislava

Mr Gábor Asványi, Executive Director Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee

13.45-14.00 Transfer to the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

14.00-14.05 Welcome speech - Minister Daniel Bútora + family photo

14.05-15.00 Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee & National Sports Federations

Mr Gábor Asványi, Executive Director Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee

National sports federations:

- Mr Martin Ivanko, Head of the Legislative and Legal Department - Slovak Football Association,
- Mr Milan Ladiver, manager - Slovak Ice Hockey Federation
- Ms Anna Kirnová, member of Executive Committee - Slovak Athletic Federation
- Mr Radovan Cagala, General Secretary – Ski Association of Slovakia
- Mr Ivan Sabovík – President, Slovak Handball Federation
- *Protection of athletes, education, integrity, organising of major sport events*

15.00-15.30 Slovak Paralympic Committee, Deaflympic Committee and Special Olympics of Slovakia

- Mr Maroš Čambal, Acting Chief Executive Officer (TBC) – Slovak Paralympic Committee
- Ms Milena Fabšičová – General Secretary, Deaflympics Slovakia
- Ms Eva Gažová – Special Olympics Slovakia
- *Support and accessibility*

15.30–15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.45 Local authorities

- Mr Juraj Štekláč, Vice president, Bratislava Self Governing Region
- Ms Jana ZápaloVá, Director of the Department of Education, Youth and Sport
- Ms Jana Dúbravková, Chief of the Youth Sport Division

- Ms Eva Nemčoková, 2nd Vice-Mayor, Radovan Erent, Chief Coordinator of the project Trvana in Move
- *Sport for all*

16.45-17.30 Transfer to X-Bionic Sphere (Olympic Training Centre)

17.30-19.00 Meeting and visit of sports facilities with

Mr Juraj Bača, X-Bionic Sphere

- *Private sector - support for sport*
- *Development of infrastructure*
- *ENGLISH (no interpreters)*

19.00 Dinner in X-Bionic Sphere

21.00 Departure to the hotel

Friday 6 October 2023 – House of Sport, Bratislava

9.00-9.30 Visit of the Diagnostic Centre of the National Sports Centre

9.30-10.00 Meeting with National Sports Centre and athletes

Mr Vladimír Baluška, Director

Mr Juraj Sýkora, Deputy Director

Ms Lenka Gymerová – athletics

Mr Adi Gyurik – karate

Ms Zuzana Štefečeková, shooting, Olympic medalist

10.00-10.30 Slovak anti-doping agency (ADA SR)

Ms Žaneta Csáderová, Director

Mr Tomáš Pagáč, Testing and Prevention Manager

- *Museum of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee*

10.30-11.00 Coffee break with journalists at the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee

Mr Peter Pašuth,

Mr Ľubomír Souček

Ms Svetlana Baráthová

11.00-11.30 Visit of museum with Ms Diana Kosová, Director of the Museum of the Slovak Olympic Sports Committee

11.30-12.00 Meeting with Mr Ladislav Križan, Chairman of the Board of the Sport Support Fund

- *Support for sport infrastructure*
- *Accessibility*
- *Sustainability*
- *Non-organised sport*

12.00-13.00 Visit of the sports facilities

13.00-14.00 Lunch at the Slovak Tennis Centre and debrief

14.00-14.30 Transfer to Comenius University, Faculty of Sports

14.30-15.30 Meeting with

Mr Viktor Bielik, Dean of the Faculty of Sports, Comenius University

Ms Jana Labudová – Vice-Dean,

Mr Ľubor Tománek – Vice-Dean,

Mr Branislav Antala, Docent, Faculty of Sport, Comenius University

Ms Danko Masaryková Vice-Dean Trnava University

Mr Pavel Ružbarský, Dean, University of Prešov

+ students of the faculty

- *Education of future teachers, coaches and sports experts*
- *Science, research and sport*
- *Dual careers*
- *Support for students*

15.30-15.45 Meeting with Mr Dušan Hamar, Vice-President of the Slovak University Sports Federation and Ms Andrea Spevarová

15.45-16.30 Visit to the Centre for Active Aging

- *Sport for seniors*