

Co-funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

Sport For All: Promoting Inclusion and Combating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities

Webinar

“Media representation of persons with disabilities in sport”

Tuesday 24 March 2026, Online (Zoom Platform)

Speakers' biographies

***Disclaimer:** Each speaker has provided their own picture and short biography which are published hereunder.*

Stanislas Frossard

Head of the Sport Division and Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), Council of Europe



Stanislas has served as Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) following its creation in 2007. Since 2025 he is also responsible for the Sport Conventions. During his tenure he has led key initiatives, co-ordinated the negotiation of numerous standards and overseen the drafting of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (the “Macolin Convention”) as well as the organisation of Ministerial Conferences. From 2021 to 2025 he chaired the Council of Europe's Staff Committee. He joined the Council in 2003, working on the Anti-Doping and Spectator Violence Conventions, and liaising with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), UNESCO and international sports federations, among others. Prior to this, he worked as an NGO leader, trainer and consultant in the youth, refugee and environmental sectors.

Sarah Lynch

Deputy Head of Sport Unit, Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission



Sarah Lynch, an Irish national, has been with the European Commission since 2004. She has worked in a variety of roles in policy, programme management and communications across the Commission. She was appointed Deputy Head of Unit in the Sport Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport in January 2026.

Toni Bruce

Professor of Sociology of Sport, University of Auckland



Professor Toni Bruce has researched media coverage of sport for over 25 years, with an emphasis on how dis/ability, gender, racial, and national differences are produced. Most recently, she completed the fifth iteration of a longitudinal analysis of the summer Paralympic Games (2008 to 2024), which included print and online media stories, as well as live commentary. Her findings reveal that media language and imagery have changed significantly over time. In contrast to early presentations of Paralympians as 'exotic disabled others' competing in a disability event, online news and live coverage now actively highlight Paralympians as elite athletes competing in a global sports event, while simultaneously recognising the unique challenges they face.

She teaches sport sociology and sports media at the University of Auckland and writes regular sports columns. Toni is an Associate Editor for Communication and Sport, and Co-Editor of the Communication, Sport, and Society book series.

Martina Caironi

Paralympic champion in Para athletics



Martina Caironi is a former Italian Paralympic track and field athlete and one of the most decorated athletes in Italian Paralympic history. A specialist in sprinting and long jump, she competed in four Paralympic Games — London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 — winning three gold and four silver medals, as well as 21 medals at World and European Championships.

She set multiple world records in her classification and was the Italian flag bearer at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. From 2012 to 2026, she was a member of the Fiamme Gialle Sports Group.

Alongside her sporting career, she has held institutional and international roles, including serving on the Athletes' Council of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and World Para Athletics, and working as a Legacy Specialist and Ambassador for Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026.

Since 2015, she has also been an Ambassador for Ottobock.

Andy Stevenson

Sports Presenter, Reporter, Commentator



Andy Stevenson is a sports reporter & commentator from the UK.

He recently commentated on Winter Olympic ski jumping for BBC TV and was a reporter for American broadcaster NBC Sports at the Winter Paralympics in Cortina, Italy. This was the 7th Paralympic Games that Andy has worked on in some kind of broadcasting role.

As Andy says on his social media profiles, he was born "without a full complement of limbs", but that hasn't stopped him from becoming a reporter on football, golf and tennis for BBC TV & Radio.

In 2023 & 2018, Andy was named by a charity called the Shaw Trust as one of the 100 most influential disabled people in the UK. And in 2020, he spoke on behalf of Paralympic broadcaster Channel 4 at the United Nations

Human Rights Council in Geneva about disability representation in the media industry.

He was also the host of the International Paralympic Committee's award-winning official podcasts called 'A Winning Mindset: Lessons from the Paralympics' and the 'WeThe15' podcast series.

Craig Spence

Chief Brand and Communications Officer, International Paralympic Committee



Craig is an international award-winning communicator who joined the IPC in September 2010 and to date has worked on eight editions of the Paralympic Games.

He is responsible for all communications functions at the IPC, including brand, content and corporate communications. He acts as the organisation's official spokesperson and speechwriter for the IPC President.

His work in helping to position Paralympic sport as high-performance sport which has a transformational impact has enabled the Paralympic Games to grow into the world's third biggest sport event.

Through using the Games as a platform to transform attitudes towards disability, the Paralympics are now regarded as the world's number one sport event for driving social inclusion.

In 2021, he helped spearhead the launch WeThe15, a campaign which aspires to be the world's biggest human rights movement for the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities. The launch was recognised with more than 25 international awards.

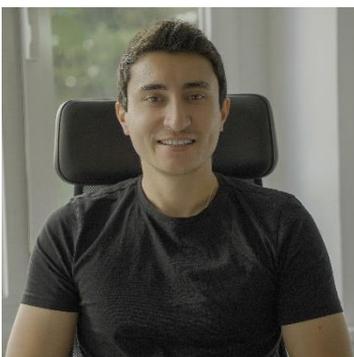
He is a member of the IOC Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Commission.

In 2016 he was awarded European PR Professional of the Year, while the IPC Media and Communications team he leads was awarded in-house team of the year at the European PR Excellence Awards. He was named in the 2015 Leaders in Sport list as one of 40 Global Leaders under 40.

He was an Independent Director of the Yorkshire 2019 UCI Road Cycling World Championships.

Felipe Quintela

CEO & Co-Founder, VLP (Vale La Pierna)



Felipe Quintela is a marketing strategist and creative entrepreneur with experience at British Airways, where he worked on international brand and commercial campaigns.

He is the CEO and co-founder of VLP (Vale La Pierna), a creative, production and talent representation company built alongside Paralympic athlete Dani Caverzaschi. VLP focuses on developing content, campaigns and initiatives aimed at normalising disability through sport and storytelling.

In under three years, Felipe has led the growth of VLP into a multidisciplinary platform spanning creative strategy, audiovisual production, events and athlete representation. The company has collaborated with brands and institutions including El Corte Inglés, JetBlue and Iberdrola, delivering projects that combine audience reach with meaningful narratives.

Through his work, Felipe explores how sport and media can contribute to more accurate and inclusive representations of persons with disabilities, moving beyond traditional narratives and fostering greater understanding across society.

Céline Guth

Senior Project Officer, Sport Division, Council of Europe



Céline Guth works as a Senior Project Officer at the Council of Europe's Sport Division, where she manages the joint European Union and Council of Europe project "Sport for All" project focused on promoting inclusion and combating discrimination against persons with disabilities.

She brings over 15 years of experience within the Council of Europe, covering programme management, intergovernmental coordination, communication, and cooperation with civil society. Throughout her career, she has worked on a wide range of issues including youth participation, cultural heritage, and the rule of law.

Beyond her role, she is also a certified coach, passionate about supporting people and organisations in finding clarity and balance in times of change.

Francine Hetherington Raveney

Deputy Executive Secretary of EPAS, Council of Europe



Francine Hetherington Raveney is an expert in the fields of: sport policy, gender equality, diversity, project management, script analysis, audiovisual co-productions, and communication, amongst others. She obtained a Masters Degree in English and French Literature at The Queen's College, Oxford University (1992-1996), a Masters Degree in Women's Studies at The Queen's College, Oxford University (1996-1997) and then carried out doctoral studies in France in politics and literature at Strasbourg University (1997-1998).

Since 2000, she has worked in a number of international organisations, including the Council of Europe, where she was a project manager for the Eurimages film fund for 11 years (2009-2020), and WHO Europe (2004-2005) where she was a Managing Editor. She is the founder, former Executive Director and currently an Honorary Member of the European Women's Audiovisual (EWA) Network. She is also a member of the New Dawn Film Fund jury and regularly teaches pitching and gives presentations at festivals and universities throughout Europe.

Since April 2021 she has worked as the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), where she oversees resources, works with the Governing Board and partner organisations to ensure that topical thematic activities (such as gender equality, diversity, integrity and good governance in sport) and conferences (e.g. on combating gender-based violence in sport) are dealt with smoothly and effectively.