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

Closing event

Tuesday 23 June 14:00 – 17:30 CEST (Strasbourg & online)

Wednesday 24 June 09:00 – 11:45 CEST (Strasbourg & online)

Wednesday 24 June 13:00 – 15:00 CEST (Strasbourg)

Speakers' biographies

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

Matthias Kloth

Head of the Digital Governance and Sport Department, Council of Europe



Matthias Kloth (born in 1974) is the Head of the Council of Europe's Digital Governance and Sport Department, which is inter alia responsible for Cybercrime, Data Protection and Artificial Intelligence. He has previously worked in the Council of Europe as Adviser in the Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, as Executive Secretary of the Committee on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) and as lawyer in the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights. Prior to joining the Council of Europe, he worked as legal officer in the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Technology. He holds a doctorate degree in public international law.

Dora Schaffrin

Deputy to the Head of the European Union Delegation to the Council of Europe



Dora Schaffrin has been a member of the Legal Service of the European Commission since 2019 and legal advisor at the EU Delegation to the Council of Europe since 2023.

Martina Caironi

Paralympic medallist in 100m sprint and long jump & Member of the Athletes' Council, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and World Para Athletics (WPA)



Martina Caironi is a former Italian Paralympic track and field athlete. At the age of 18, she was involved in a road accident that resulted in the amputation of her left leg through knee disarticulation; she subsequently pursued a Paralympic athletic career, achieving international recognition.

A specialist in sprinting and long jump, she represented Italy at four editions of the Paralympic Games — London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 — winning a total of three gold medals and four silver medals. Throughout her career, she also secured 21 medals at World and European Championships, establishing herself as one of the most decorated athletes in Italian Paralympic athletics. She set world records and numerous national and international best performances in her classification.

From 2012 to 2026, she was a member of the Fiamme Gialle Sports Group. In 2016, she was the flag bearer for the Italian delegation at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Alongside her competitive career, she held institutional roles as a member of the National Council and the Athletes' Commission of the Italian Paralympic Committee.

Since 2015, she has been an Ambassador for Ottobock, an international company specializing in prosthetics and assistive devices, contributing to the development and testing of new technologies.

Following her retirement from competitive sport, she worked as a Legacy Specialist at Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026, where she also served as an Ambassador. She currently holds international athlete representation roles as a member of the Athletes' Council of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and World Para Athletics.

Päivi Tolppanen

Vice-President, Finnish Paralympic Committee & Para judo coach



Päivi Tolppanen (FIN) is a former Para sport athlete in judo and goalball. In judo, she has achieved bronze twice in European Championships and fifth place in the Paralympics 2012. In goalball, she is both European and World Champion and took 4th place in the Paralympics 2000 and 2004. As a coach, she has led the way for the Finnish national goalball team since 2019. Currently, she is also a Vice-President of the Finnish Paralympic Committee, Chair of the International Blind Sports Association (IBSA) Classification Committee, and member of the International Paralympic Committee VI (Visual Impairment) Classification Co-ordination group.

Patrick Stolpmann

Executive Director, International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICCSPE)



Patrick Stolpmann is the Executive Director of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), bringing extensive international experience from his work within the Paralympic Movement and across the sports sector. As a dedicated advocate for Diversity & Inclusion with a ten-year track record of service at the IPC, he leads ICSSPE's strategic initiatives and organisational development, advancing its global mission in sport, science, education, and policy.

With a robust background in strategic planning, project execution, and performance management, Patrick has successfully overseen complex global initiatives. He is an accomplished leader and communicator, recognized for establishing strong stakeholder relationships and high-performing teams. His career is characterized by a results-oriented approach to addressing critical issues and implementing sustainable change.

Gianluca Esposito

Director General, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe



Gianluca Esposito has been Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe since 1 August 2024.

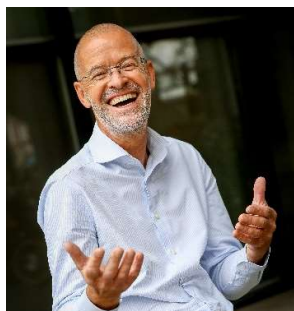
He was previously the Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Prior to this, he served as Executive Secretary of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), Head of the Crime Problems Department, and Head of the Equality and Human Dignity Department.

Gianluca started his career at the Council of Europe in 1995 where he was involved in the negotiation of several conventions and other legal instruments, in the areas of nationality, anti-corruption, cybercrime, the efficiency of justice, combating trafficking in human beings, money laundering, terrorism and its financing. From 2005 to 2009, he was an adviser in the Private Office of the Council of Europe's Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General. Gianluca served as the Council of Europe's first Ethics Officer.

From 2009 to 2015, Gianluca was as a Senior Counsel in the Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.

Raymon Blondel

President, European Paralympic Committee



In the realm of sports, Raymon Blondel has been a prominent figure in promoting inclusivity and excellence. Since 2021, he has been the President of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), where he has been instrumental in advancing the Paralympic Movement across Europe. Under his leadership, the EPC has organized significant events, including the inaugural European Para Championships in Rotterdam in 2023, and is preparing for the European Para Youth Games in Istanbul in 2025 .

He served as President of the Netherlands Paralympic Committee from 2016 to 2024 and was Vice-President of the Netherlands Olympic Committee and Netherlands Sports Confederation (NOC*NSF) during the same period.

Raymon Blondel's leadership style is characterized by a human-centric approach, emphasizing connection, dialogue, and inclusivity. His background as a former elite alpine skier, representing the Netherlands in international competitions until 1995, provides him with a unique perspective on athlete development and sports administration. Fluent in multiple languages, he effectively bridges cultural and organizational divides, fostering collaboration across diverse stakeholders.

Being educated as urban designer and city-planning engineer, his 30 years professional journey includes leadership roles at multinational consultancy firms like ARCADIS, where he contributed to major strategic national and regional planning initiatives.

Marika Mkheidze

Senior Policy and Governance Consultant, ACT LLC



Marika Mkheidze is a Georgian policy consultant and human rights specialist with experience working across Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Pacific with international organisations including UNICEF, UNFPA, Save the Children and ACT Global. Drawing on her background in rights systems assessment, stakeholder consultation and policy analysis, she designed and led the assessment process across multiple country contexts, producing analytical findings and recommendations to support evidence-based decision-making. Within the EU-Council of Europe joint project "Sport For All: Promoting Inclusion and Combating Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities," she contributed to the needs assessment component as a project manager representing ACT Global, producing country-specific reports mapping the legal frameworks and policies on disability inclusion and discrimination

prevention in sport across the eight target countries. Marika holds a Master's in Public Policy and Governance from the German University of Administrative Sciences and Tbilisi State University, and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Kateryna Lavryk

Junior Project Officer, Council of Europe



Kateryna Lavryk is a Junior Project Officer at the Sport Division of the Council of Europe, currently supporting the implementation of the joint European Union – Council of Europe project "Sport For All", which focuses on promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport.

Her previous experience includes roles in the "All In Plus" project on gender equality in sport and the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS), related to integrity and child safeguarding in sport.

She is a recipient of the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship for the MA in Sports Ethics and Integrity (MAiSI) and has a background in sports integrity, anti-doping and social research. As an ENSGO Youth 2025-2027 Young Delegate, she advocates for the promotion of human rights and social inclusion in and through sport.

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.

Gearóidín McTavish

Director of Disability, Sport Ireland



Disability in Sport Lead at Sport Ireland a role she assumed in early 2025 to advance inclusive sport policies and participation opportunities for people with disabilities across the country. Her appointment aligns with Sport Ireland's Statement of Commitment and Action to Disability Inclusion in Sport, National Human Rights strategy for Disabled people and Autism innovation strategy which underlines leadership, accessibility, and capacity-building within the sector.

Former Outdoor Recreation Manager at Sport Ireland, following a five-year tenure as National Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager at the GAA in Croke Park. In that role, she led initiatives promoting inclusive participation in Gaelic Games family, including programs for individuals with disabilities, intercultural engagement, and LGBTQI+ inclusion. She was instrumental in expanding the GAA's "GAA for All" initiatives, such as Wheelchair Hurling and

Camogie, and the "All Stars" inclusive club program globally.

McTavish's earlier career includes research and development roles with Special Olympics Ireland, Dublin Gaelic Football, the Irish Amateur Boxing Association and development programs in Human Rights and youth restorative practice. Her leadership and research in inclusive sport has been recognised with her inclusion in the Sport for Business "50 Women of Influence in Irish Sport" lists in both 2021, 2022 and 2025. Her career spans Sport scientist by training, policy practitioner by craft.

In her current role, McTavish is tasked with implementing Sport Ireland's disability inclusion strategy, collaborating with national governing bodies, local sports partnerships, and community stakeholders to foster a more accessible and equitable sporting environment for all. Gearóidín is a guest lecturer on Digital Transformations in Sports Ecosystems. Digital transformation in sport is not only systems and platforms, but also governance, culture, and inclusion. Gearóidín teaches from that lens of universal design, how strategy gets implemented across federations, clubs, and national bodies when the work touches real participation, real people, and real organisational politics.

Daniel Videira

Executive Committee Member, NPC Portugal & Pharmacist



Hospital pharmacist and former Paralympic swimmer, representing Portugal at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. Former Chair of the Athletes' Council of the Portuguese Paralympic Committee and currently a member of its Executive Committee, he also serves as TUE Manager within the Anti-Doping Commission of World ParaVolley. His academic background includes a Master's Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, a Specialization in Applied Pharmacology, and a Postgraduate Degree in Sports Law. He has completed the IOC Certificate in Drugs in Sport and is currently enrolled in the IOC Diploma in Sports Pharmacy.

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.

Vladyslava Kravchenko

Chair of the Athletes' Council, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) & Paralympic swimmer



Vladyslava Kravchenko is the Chairperson of the Athletes' Council and a Governing Board Member at the International Paralympic Committee. She is also the treasurer of the Malta Paralympic Committee, which she helped establish in 2018. The organization advocates for social change through sport, striving to increase sport participation among people with disabilities. In this role, Vladyslava worked to integrate Para sport into the national curriculum at primary and secondary levels through the I'mPOSSIBLE educational program, providing specialized training to educators and coaches. A two-time Paralympian and award-winning Para sport advocate, Vladyslava made history in 2016 as Malta's first female swimmer to compete at the Paralympic Games, repeating the achievement in Tokyo in 2021. She

also serves on the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission as a liaison and is currently reading for a PhD in Diplomacy and International Governance at Loughborough University London.

Andy Stevenson

Sports Presenter, Reporter, Commentator



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

This year, Andy worked on his 7th Paralympic Games, reporting for American TV network NBC at the Winter Paralympics in Cortina, Italy, and was BBC TV's ski jumping commentator on the Winter Olympics, the 4th Olympic Games he has worked on for the BBC.

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.

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' series.

Andy has twice been named one of the 100 most influential disabled people in the UK by a charity called the Shaw Trust.

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.

Ludivine Munos

Executive Vice-President, French Handisport Federation & Paralympic champion



Born with a disability, Ludivine Munos very early found in sport a way to turn her difference into a strength. At 12, she became French swimming champion, then world champion at just 14. At 15, she won her first Paralympic medals at the Atlanta Games and received the Légion d'honneur. She ended her sporting career at 24, with 40 international titles, including 12 Paralympic medals.

She then joined the EDF Group, where she built a career in the corporate world. Holding an MBA, she became a tax specialist, then manager and Director of Human Resources. For over fifteen years, she supported teams, led transformations and developed talent. In 2020, she joined the Paris 2024 Organising Committee as Head of Paralympic Integration and Universal Accessibility.

She contributed to making these Games the most inclusive and accessible in history.

In December 2024, she became Deputy President of the French Handisport Federation, continuing her commitment to the development of sport for all.

Mogens Jensen

Chair of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media



Born on 31 October 1963 in Nykøbing Mors, Mogens Jensen is a Danish politician and member of the Social Democratic Party. Jensen has served as a member of the Danish Parliament (Folketing) since 2007, representing Western Jutland and previously Ringkøbing County constituencies. Over his parliamentary career, he has held several leadership roles, including Chair of the Cultural and Ecclesiastical Affairs Committee of the Folketing, Chair of the Danish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and Chair of the PACE Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media. Mr Jensen has a background in trade union work has chaired and served on numerous boards and cultural organisations. He is also a recipient of the Commander of the Order of Dannebrog (2024).

Gaël Rivière

President, French Handisport Federation & Paris 2024 Blind Football Champion



Gaël Rivière has long been involved in Para sports, both as an athlete and as an administrator. Blind from birth, he discovered blind football as a teenager after moving to mainland France. Selected for the French national team at age 16, he won a silver medal at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London and a gold medal in Paris in 2024, marking a remarkable athletic career.

A graduate in business law and banking and financial law (Panthéon-Assas University) where he was valedictorian, he has been a member of the Paris Bar since 2017, working at the law firm Bredin Prat, which specialises in financial regulation, corporate governance, and securities law.

Active within the French Handisport Federation since 2017, he became its Vice-President in 2018 before being elected President in December 2024, succeeding Guislaine Westelynck. A member of the board of directors of the French Paralympic and Sports Committee since 2021 and of the board of directors of the 2030 Games Organizing Committee, he is committed to positioning the Federation as France's leading inclusive federation by enhancing its visibility, promoting athletes, and developing innovative practices.

A Knight of the National Order of Merit (2012) and of the Legion of Honor (2024), Gaël Rivière champions a vision of sport in which inclusion, performance, and social commitment go hand in hand.