

SPORT IN THE EU

Whether it's a jog in the park, playing in a rugby team or taking a class at a fitness centre, sport is good for everybody. It brings people together, strengthens communities, and helps to keep us healthy. Since 2009, the European Commission has been working with EU Member States and Erasmus+ partner countries as well as sport organisations to promote physical activity and exchange success stories on sport-related policies.



What is the EU doing for sport?

Improving the game

Sport organisations should respect the highest professional standards – fans all around Europe deserve it. The EU is working with Member States and sporting bodies to improve how sport is governed across Europe. This means tackling big threats such as match-fixing, doping, violence, corruption and racism. The Commission also encourages sport organisations – from local teams to international federations – to embrace the principles of democracy, transparency, inclusiveness, accountability and gender equality.

Getting Europeans to move

Exercising helps to keep us healthy and well. In 2017, the Commission launched the Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle. It is a roadmap for 2018-2019 to strengthen coordination across different EU policy areas to tackle the societal, health and economic challenges of unhealthy

lifestyles, in particular physical inactivity. But sport can also help to build team spirit and strengthen our ties with the communities that surround us. The EU supports sport activities that bring people together and create new opportunities to integrate those from marginalised groups in society.

Creating growth and jobs

Sport is a large and fast-growing sector of our economy that already accounts for more than 2% of Europe's total GDP and almost 3% of employment in the EU. The EU promotes the economic development of the sport sector, especially through tourism, fitness, media and education, the four most important aspects of the sports economy.

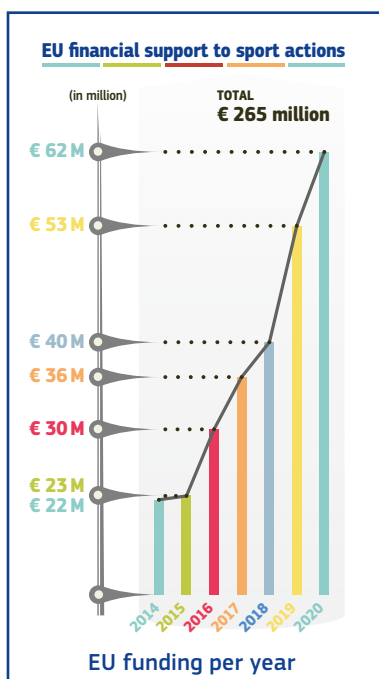


Erasmus+ funded sport projects



Since 2014, the Erasmus+ programme has been supporting education, training, and youth as well as sport activities in Europe and has been funding sport projects of all kinds. With a budget of €265 million over seven years, the sport strand of the Erasmus+ programme supports sport authorities including grassroots organisations that want to cooperate with partner organisations in other EU countries or set up not-for-profit sport events at European, national, regional and local levels. For the next long-term EU-budget, the Commission has proposed to double the funding available to support actions in the field of sport through Erasmus+.

Erasmus+ supports sport actions



Promoting positive social change through sport projects

Getting children active

Erasmus+ supports the **European School Sports Day**, an initiative launched by the Hungarian School Sports Federation. It aims to reach school children and **encourage them to take up sport and physical activity**. Activities include festivals of sport, school sport days, sport competitions, and whole school participation including staff and parents. The EU supported this project with €238,600. Initially run in cooperation with organisations from Bulgaria, Denmark, Poland, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, the European School Sports Day is now closely linked to the European Week of Sport and takes place on 28 September.

Social inclusion through sport

The project Insport+ seeks to create a network of associations across Europe using sport to help people with mental health problems to integrate in their communities. The partners running the project set up groups of local stakeholders (representatives and volunteers from associations and NGOs, health and sport professionals, local, regional and national authorities) working with different groups of people with mental disabilities. The project was organised by the Municipality of Prato in Italy with the support of L'Associazione Sportiva Aurora Milano and partners from nine countries. The project received €418,880 in EU funding between 2016 and 2017.

Promoting volunteering in sport

The aim of the project Volunteering at the European Youth Olympic Festival Győr 2017 was to promote voluntary activities in sport to foster social inclusion and equal opportunities. Over 1,500 volunteers supported the young athletes' competitions in Győr, by helping with the organisation, logistics, translation, protocol and other activities. They also met with athletes and got the opportunity to experience the Olympic spirit. At the same time this was an occasion to promote volunteering in the city. The project received €500 000 in funding in 2016 and 2017.

Did you know that...

... in 2018, the Commission will award the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards for the second time?

... 16 million people in 32 countries participated in the 37,000 events of the 2017 European Week of Sport?

... according to the latest Eurobarometer survey on sport, the main motivations for people to participate in sport or physical activity are improved health (54%) and fitness (47%), and that they say that a lack of time (40%) is the principal barrier?



This year marks the fourth edition of the European Week of Sport, a Europe-wide campaign to inspire people to practise sport and, more broadly, to be active in their everyday lives.

Starting with the official opening in Vienna on 22 September, people will be invited to join sport events and activities organised all over Europe. For the first time, countries from the Western Balkans will also be part of the European Week. Activities will range from small local sport gatherings to national tournaments and pan-European events. Different days will be dedicated to practising sport in a specific setting, such as at school or at the workplace, outdoors and in sport clubs or fitness centres. A network of partners supported by a team of well-known national and European sport ambassadors will promote the events around Europe.

TAKE PART!

Learn more about the activities taking place across Europe #BeActive!

ec.europa.eu/sport/week