

# 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 on sport issues of common EU interest and exchanging best practices in sport-related policies.



## What is the EU doing for sport?

### Improving the game: making sport more transparent and tolerant

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

### Getting Europeans to move: promoting health, education and inclusion

Doing physical exercise helps to keep us healthy and well. But sport can also help to build team spirit and strengthen our ties with the communities that

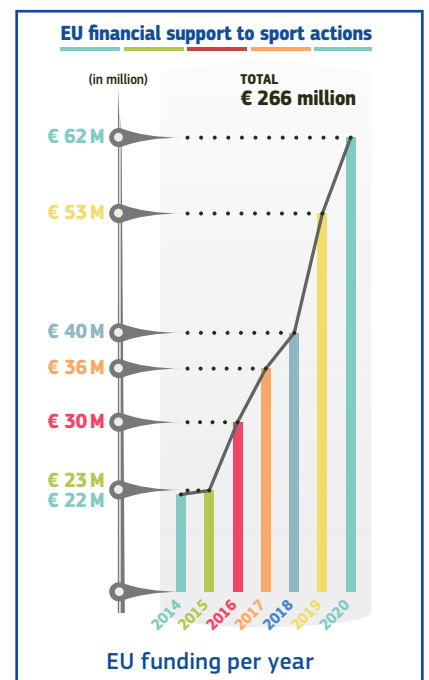
surround us. The EU supports sport activities that bring people together and create new opportunities to integrate those from under-privileged or marginalised groups in society.

### Creating growth and jobs: establishing sustainable sport business activities

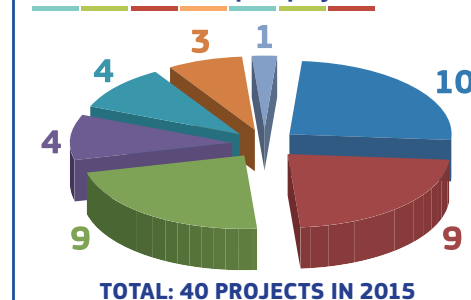
Sport is a large and fast-growing sector of our economy that already accounts for around 3% of Europe's total GDP and about 3.5% of employment in the EU. The EU promotes the economic development of the sport sector, especially through tourism, fitness, media and education, the four most important aspects of the sport economy.

## Erasmus+ supports sport actions

Since 2014, the Erasmus+ programme has been supporting education, training, 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.



### Erasmus+ funded sport projects



- ▶ EU physical activity guidelines
- ▶ Enhance social inclusion, equal opportunities, volunteering and participation in sports
- ▶ EU guidelines on dual careers of athletes
- ▶ Approaches to contain violence and tackle racism and intolerance in sport
- ▶ EU principles on good governance in sport
- ▶ Fight against match-fixing
- ▶ Promote voluntary activity in sport

## Promoting positive change through sport projects

### Getting children active

Thanks to the project Action Learning for Children in School around 8,000 children in the UK, Ireland, Lithuania, Italy and The Netherlands benefited from a four-week education programme focusing on the importance of a **healthy lifestyle**, coupled with **fun, energetic group classes** organised by local not-for-profit sport and fitness centres. The project received €184,200 in EU funding over a period of twelve months from May 2015 and was organised in the context of the first European Week of Sport.

### Fostering social inclusion

The European Sport Inclusion Network (ESPIN) that brings together independent experts promotes **equal opportunities of migrants and minorities through volunteering in sport** and is led by the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation. The project, which benefits from a €331,025 EU grant, aims to involve those who are at risk of social exclusion in sport related activities by promoting equal access to organised sport. In particular, ESPIN focuses on involving migrants and those belonging to minorities in mainstream sport organisations as volunteers.

### Fighting match-fixing and promoting integrity

This PROtect Integrity project, led by the European Elite Athletes Association, covers twelve countries and aims at **combating cross-border match-fixing by educating athletes**, for example through their respective associations and accredited training courses organised by INTERPOL. By tackling match-fixing in this way, the education project will help ensure that elite sport continues to inspire Europeans to participate in grassroots sport. It will receive €488,305 in EU funding in 2016 and 2017.



### Did you know that...

... in the 4 years before the start of Erasmus+, 88 sport projects received a total of €33 million in EU-funding?

... in 2016 alone, €5 million are dedicated to the fight against match-fixing and doping?



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

During the Week, people will be invited to join sport events and activities organised all over Europe. These 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](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/week)