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COMMITTEES



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Office



FUNDING FOR SPORTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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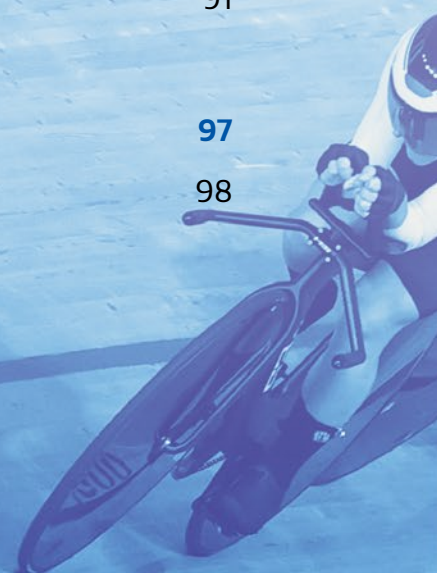
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PREFACE

Dear friends from the world of sport,

The new financial framework 2021-2027 of the European Union was adopted with a slightly increased budget of €1.211 trillion and greater funding programmes which recognise the role of sport as a powerful actor to further strengthen the objectives of the European Union and its Member States.



The European Union is an incredibly important stakeholder and ally for the sport movement in Europe. The new financial framework represents a solid basis for promoting pan-European coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders and strengthens the socio-economic value of the sport sector in Europe's policies and sustainable development.

The new financial framework also provides a unique opportunity for the Olympic Sport Movement to both shape and benefit from the increased budget and portfolio of funding programmes. Our common goal should be to engage with the various funding available for sport, to facilitate continuous dialogue and to promote strong and unanimous representation across Europe of all 50 ENOCs.

As President of the European Olympic Committees, I warmly invite you all to work together with the European Union and the EOC EU Office to take advantage of these programmes and secure greater funding for the Olympic Sport Movement to achieve pan-European goals, all the while sharing resources and disseminating the values and benefits of sport across Europe and all 50 ENOCs collectively.

I express my special thanks to the EOC EU Office in Brussels for their extensive work on this funding guide which I am confident will meet the expectations of all stakeholders in the Olympic Sport Movement.

Enjoy the read!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Spyros Capralos'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Spyros Capralos, President of the European Olympic Committees



Dear readers and friends,

As Director of the European Olympic Committees EU Office, I would like to congratulate the European Union for the changes implemented in the new financial framework 2021-2027 in which an increasing number of funding programmes address the key role of the sport sector and its stakeholders.

The Erasmus+ remains the flagship programme for sport with an increased budget and more priorities relevant to sport, as well as a reduction in the administrative and financial demands and launch of small-scale partnerships for less experienced applicants.

Thanks to the intensive lobbying and advocacy carried out by the EOC EU Office in last few years, sport is, for the first time, mentioned in the Cohesion Policy Funds. This is a historic moment and opportunity to strengthen the role of sport at both regional and national level, as well as bring added value to local and regional stakeholders in sport.

Alongside this development, there is a general trend which shows that the quality and quantity of applications submitted per funding programme is steadily increasing with some highly competitive programmes.

This is why, having published a second funding brochure in 2014, the third edition aspires to provide valuable information on the new financial framework including the most relevant EU funding programmes for sport and how sport organisations can benefit from these funding possibilities.

This brochure provides key information, identifies relevant sources of funding opportunities and contains practical tips on how to approach the different stages of a project cycle: from project idea to the real management and implementation of an EU-project. Finally, it provides a range of examples of projects that were successfully financed by the European Union in previous years.

The EOC EU Office is eager to continue offering its support to the sport stakeholders actively engaging with EU funding programmes and looks forward to assist others who may wish to take part in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Folker Hellmund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Folker Hellmund, Director of the European Olympic Committees EU Office

ABBREVIATIONS

AMIF	Asylum Migration Integration Fund
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CBC	Cross-Border Cooperation
CERV	Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
DG	Directorate-General
EACEA	European Education and Culture Executive Agency
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EaSI	Employment and Social Innovation
EEA	European Economic Area
eForm	Electronic Application Form
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
ESC	European Solidarity Corps
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
EU	European Union
EWoS	European Week of Sport
F&T Portal	Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
HaDEA	European Health and Digital Executive Agency
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
LAG	Local Action Group
LEADER	Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale - Links between actions for the development of the rural economy
LEAR	Legal Entity Appointed Representative
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
NCBs	National Coordinating Bodies
NDICI	Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument
NGEU	NextGenerationEU
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OID	Organisation ID
OP	Operational Programme
PPPs	Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions
PIC	Participant Identification Code
Q1-4	Quarter of the year
RDPs	Rural Development Programmes
R&I	Research and Innovation
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Facility
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

GLOSSARY

Actual costs	The real costs incurred for material and labour required to deliver the project.
Affiliated entity	<p>The following can be considered affiliated entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Legal entities having a legal or capital link with beneficiaries; this link is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of the implementation.› Several entities which satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity which may be treated as the sole beneficiary, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action. <p>The affiliated entity must comply with the eligibility and non-exclusion criteria, and where applicable also with the selection criteria applying to the Applicant.</p>
Applicant	Any participating organisation which submits a grant application. An applicant may apply either individually or on behalf of other organisations involved in the project. In the latter case, the applicant is also defined as coordinator.
Associated partners	These are partners from the public or private sector that contribute to the implementation of specific project tasks/activities or support the promotion and sustainability of the project, but from a contractual management aspect are not considered beneficiaries and do not receive any funding from the programme.
Balanced project budget	Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient resources to implement the project successfully (i.e., own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties).
Beneficiary	Once a project is approved, the applicant organisation becomes a beneficiary by signing a contract with the National or Executive Agency that has selected the project. If the application is made on behalf of other participating organisations, the partners may become co-beneficiaries of the grant.
Centralised programmes	These are managed at EU-level by the European Commission and/or one of its Executive Agencies.
Coordinator	A participating organisation applying for a grant on behalf of a consortium of partner organisations. The coordinator has special obligations foreseen in the Grant Agreement.
Decentralised programmes	Delegated by the European Commission to EU Member States. They are under the administration of a national/regional managing authority or Agency.
Deliverables	One way the EU ensures that its funds are spent responsibly is by requiring organisations to produce deliverables. These include outputs that must be submitted to the EU (e.g., publication, leaflet, progress report, brochure, list). Generally, it is expected that the main project deliverables will be published online to allow everyone to benefit from a project's learnings.

Impacts	Positive or negative, intended or un-intended long-term effects on society produced by the project. Impacts generally occur sometime after the end of the project.
Lump sum	A sum, such as the total project costs which covers all items of a deliverable without specifying the single items.
Milestones	This refers to control points throughout the project's lifetime that assist in marking its progress.
Mono-beneficiary	Application by a single applicant - no consortium needed with the applicant being the single beneficiary.
Objectives	This is what is planned to be achieved by the end of the project. Objectives should be specific, time-bound and attainable.
Organisation ID	The Organisation ID (OID) uniquely identifies an organisation among the other organisations participating in programme managed by National Agencies.
Outcomes	The expected effects, over the medium term, which are fostered by the dissemination and exploitation of measures. Outcomes generally occur during, or shortly after, the end of the project.
Partner organisation	This refers to an organisation formally involved in the project (co-beneficiary) but not taking the role of the applicant/coordinator.
Project	This refers to a coherent set of activities designed and organised to achieve the defined objectives and results.
Participant identification code	The Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a unique 9-digit identifier that allows the European Commission to confirm an organisation's details. PIC is mandatory to participate in programmes's centrally managed.
Transnationality	If transnationality is a requirement, projects must be implemented in cooperation with partners from other European countries.
Work package	Work package refers to a major sub-division of the project activities. It is a portion of the work breakdown structure which allows project management to define the steps necessary for completion of each work package and project overall.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The present guide is the third edition of the brochure “Funding for Sport in the European Union”, created by the EOC EU Office. It focuses on the EU funding programmes for the period 2021-2027 which corresponds to the duration of the EU’s long-term budget, the so-called Multiannual Financial Framework.

As the EU’s funding programmes undergo significant budgetary, and more importantly, structural and content-related changes every seven years, the EOC EU Office aims to provide an updated overview of the newest funding programmes in place as of 1 January 2021.

While the EOC EU Office have made every attempt to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate, exhaustive and obtained from reliable sources, not all relevant information for the new funding cycle has been published upon the completion of the funding brochure in September 2021. Nevertheless, this brochure aims to be a timely and concrete guide to assist readers in understanding the available opportunities under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

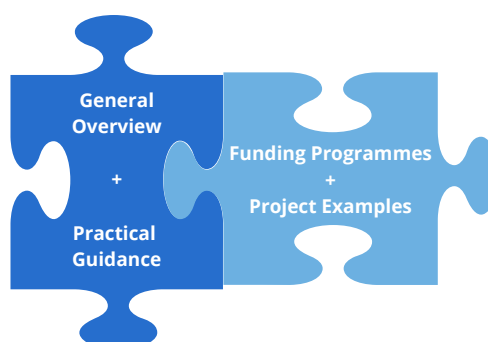
The brochure targets sport stakeholders in organised sports working at both professional and grassroots level. The key objectives of this guide can be set out as follows:



This brochure is divided into two parts:

Part I provides a general overview and background information regarding funding for sport in the EU and offers practical guidance for setting up and implementing projects co-financed by the EU. It also features testimonials from previous project beneficiaries from the sport sector.

Part II outlines the individual EU funding programmes and evaluates their relevance for sport. Examples of previously financed sport-related projects for each of these programmes are presented in the Annex.



COMMON PRINCIPLES

Even though all EU programmes have their own (eligibility) criteria and priorities, there are some basic, underlying principles that apply to most EU-funded projects. These principles should be taken into account when applying:



Co-financing – The principle under which part of the costs of a project supported by the EU must be borne by the beneficiary, or covered through external contributions other than the EU grant, as the EU rarely covers all costs of a project. The EU financing rates differ between the funding programmes. Applicants are expected to cover the remaining costs as own-contribution to the project (e.g. through a grant from local or regional authorities, foundations, sponsors, own resources, contributions from partners).



Consortium – Most programmes will require a range of partners to be involved in a project, and these will form the project consortium. The sport sector can collaborate with a number of different actors (e.g. universities, research institutes, think tanks, NGOs, local or regional bodies, companies, social partners). A well-balanced consortium with different areas of expertise can considerably increase the chances of success for a project. However, please note that for certain programmes, such as the Erasmus+ Sport programme, a consortium containing exclusively sport organisations could be successful as well.



Consortium Agreement – It is recommended to set up an internal agreement that allows you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money in accordance with your own consortium, its internal principles and parameters.



Cumulative funding – Combining EU funds is possible; however, it is permitted under the condition that the same costs are not covered twice (**double funding**) and that the total eligible costs for a project are not exceeded. More often than not, combining EU funds has led to greater (administrative) work and arguably outweighs the benefits. It should be carefully considered.



European added value and dimension – Most programmes require a European dimension. This means they should address issues of general interest to the EU such as intercultural dialogue, social integration and active citizenship, or tackle a specific topic from a European perspective. This does not mean that all projects need to be transnational. Depending on the programme, projects can have an added value for the EU and its Member States even though they take place on a municipal or regional level but contribute to already existing national policies/activities.



Sustainability – Projects should aim to create enduring structures and impacts that extend beyond the duration of the project, leading to lasting legacies. A clear strategy regarding sustainability and long-term impacts of the project is advised.

MAIN DIFFERENCES

Whilst sharing some similarities, EU funding programmes can vary considerably in terms of their application procedures and funding conditions. Some important differences to bear in mind are:



Administration of Programmes – Numerous entities on the European, national and regional levels – e.g. European Commission, Executive Agencies, national ministries, regional governments, or National Agencies – are involved in the implementation and management of the EU funding programmes. Information on which entity is responsible for which programme can be found in the respective chapters of this brochure.



Call for Proposals vs. Call for Tenders

Call for proposals › The invitation published to present, within a specified deadline, a proposal for action that corresponds with the objectives pursued and meets the required conditions. Call for Proposals are published in the Official Journal of the EU and/or on relevant websites of the Commission, National or Executive Agency.

Call for tenders › Issued for a specific activity to generate competing offers for works, supply or service contracts.

Usually, projects can only be submitted following the publication of a “Call for Proposals” within a specific funding programme or action.



Deadlines – Proposals cannot be submitted at any given time. Deadlines are usually announced as part of a call for proposals / tenders. Deadline models might include both single-stage or two-stage submission processes. For most programmes, a full proposal must be submitted by the call deadline (single-stage). Other programmes may have a two-stage submission procedure which requires the applicant to submit a short outline proposal for stage one, and a full proposal if they reach stage two. Finally, some programmes include “multiple cut-off” deadlines in which all proposals received by a given cut-off date will be evaluated after that deadline, but proposals can be submitted at any time throughout the year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this Funding Brochure help me?

If you work for a sport organisation and you are either looking for inspiration for a project idea, have an idea for a project or are already planning a project that has the potential to contribute to the objectives of an EU Programme then this Brochure can tell you which Programme is the right for you and which criteria your project should fulfil in order to be eligible for the respective funding programme.



Can I find good practice examples for different funding programmes that I can learn from?

Yes. Displayed after each chapter is a list of projects that have already successfully used the respective funding programme to (co-)finance their activities. You will find detailed information on each project to give you a concrete idea about what activities may or may not be funded under that specific programme and how a sport-related project can be used to contribute to the objectives of the specific programme.



Who can I contact in case of questions or if I need further information?

Since the Brochure is only meant to give you an introduction to the relevant funding programmes, it is not unlikely that you may have some unanswered, more specific questions after reading a chapter. If your organisation is a partner of the EOC EU Office do not hesitate to contact our Office where our EU Funding Officer will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have. Another option is to contact the responsible EU Executive Agency or National Authority for the respective funding programme directly. The relevant contact details are included in each chapter.

1



Will the Brochure help me to draft my funding application?

Partially, yes. While the Brochure does not offer in-depth explanations of how a project application should be written, it will provide you with examples of previously successful projects, some tips on the application (process) and crucial information for each EU funding programme which, when taken into account, can increase your chances of success. However, due to the fact that each project is unique, and every EU Programme has a different set of objectives and priorities, application criteria and processes, it would be impossible to provide a blueprint or a one-size-fits-all approach to drafting funding applications.

2

3



Will the Funding Brochure help me to come up with new project ideas?

Hopefully, yes. Using the information from the chapters as well as the good practice examples, it is our hope that you may be inspired to start your own project with the possible aim of applying for the best-matching EU funding programme.

4

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