

ENGSO POSITION PAPER ON

# EU Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027

2024





# Summary of the ENGSO position towards the EU Work Plan for Sport 2024–2027

## Introduction

In a time of multiple crises, Europe faces challenges in various fronts, from well-being and the environment to the economy and security. While these crises persist, the untapped potential of sports in addressing them is evident at the European level. Ongoing efforts to integrate sports into policy areas lack a breakthrough moment to recognize the importance of physical activity and the harmful effects of inactivity on our future. To fully grasp this challenge, engaging grassroots sports representatives in dialogue is vital to guarantee impactful policy outcomes.

## Priorities and proposed actions

### 1) The Role of the Grassroots Sport

- A study on grassroots sports' societal role and economic impact: understanding social significance of sport helps to create informed policies and attract investment.
- Youth Sounding Board: establishing an advisory board to DG EAC to empower youth and ensure their meaningful participation in sport.
- Study and policy recommendations on mental health, sport and physical activity: empirical evidence further promotes sport as cost-effective tool in improving mental health.
- Policy debate on accessibility, impact, effectiveness and mainstreaming of EU funding for grassroots sport: enhancing EU funding accessibility boosts grassroots sport's capacity to implement EU policies.
- Conference on the recognition of skills and competences acquired in and through sport: by aligning with EQF and coordinating with stakeholders, recognizing competences gained through sport stimulates the labour market.
- Study on the impact and possibilities of digitalisation & esports on sport and physical activity: exploring synergies between sport and digitalization (including esports) to address NEETs, mental health, equality and media literacy.

## **2) European Sport Model**

- EU Sport Dialogue: call for structured dialogue from EU to grassroots level to identify the needs of the grassroots sport.
- Expert Group on mainstreaming sport: instituting an expert group that assists the Commission to pave the way for an EU Strategy on Sport and Physical.

## **3) Equality, diversity, inclusion, accessibility and safety**

- Recommendations for removing barriers to participating in grassroots sports: a set of recommendations based on existing evidence to create a more inclusive grassroots sport.
- European check system to safeguard children: strengthen child protection with a cross EU-system to bar convicted individuals from working with youth across Member States.