

European Parliament study 'EU education, youth and sport policy'

The [European Parliament's CULT Committee](#) commissioned a study, "[EU Education, Youth, and Sport Policy – Overview and Future Perspectives](#)," aiming to inform newly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) about the current state of play in these policy areas. At the outset, the study highlights the importance of the [EU Work Plan for Sport](#), which remains the key framework for facilitating cooperation between Member States, European institutions, and the sports movement. In addition, the Work Plan serves as a tool to promote integrity and values in sport. Further key highlights of the study include recognition of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education's crucial role in commissioning studies and adopting resolutions. Erasmus+ will remain the primary source of EU funding for sport-related projects in the coming years, but [Cohesion Policy Funds](#), [EU4Health](#), [Horizon Europe](#), and [InvestEU](#) also contribute to sport funding.

The study identifies several focus topics that, according to sports policy experts, will continue to shape the EU sports policy field:

- Grassroots sport and self-organised sport sectors face challenges such as **lack of funding, limited access to sport infrastructure, and a declining number of volunteers**. Recommendations include recognizing the cross-sectoral importance of sport, encouraging the use of the European Solidarity Corps, conducting studies on volunteering, and exploring mechanisms to enhance the redistribution of funds from elite to grassroots levels.
- Key challenges for gender equality and inclusion in sport include **discrimination, sexism, racial discrimination, and the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions**. Recommendations to improve the situation include training and encouraging the European Commission to use sport as a tool for social change.
- Governance and funding remain areas of concern, with challenges like **fragmented governance, limited funding, and a lack of cross-sectoral integration of sport** (e.g., no reference to sport in the EU4Health programme). The study recommends continuing to strengthen the European Sport Model, advocating for increased funding for grassroots sport and good governance projects, and integrating sport into the EU's structural and investment funds.
- The **resilience of the sport sector is critical**, as demonstrated by recent crises and challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital and green transition, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Proposed recommendations include

encouraging the Commission to update guidelines on digital technologies and physical activity, strengthening Parliament's sport diplomacy capacity, and developing guidelines for adaptation to digital advances and climate change.

The study is expected to serve **multiple purposes**: informing MEPs about the sports policy field, holding MEPs accountable for the recommendations proposed, and improving sport's position at the negotiation table during the amendment of the Erasmus+ 2021-2024 regulation and the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034.