

## SHARE 2.0 annual conference

The [SHARE 2.0 annual conference](#) was held in Brussels on 11 September 2024. The conference brought together participants and organisers of the initiative to develop their respective areas of focus: **green and sustainable sport, innovation, and health**. ENGSO was represented by **Secretary General Sara Massini** and **ENGSO researcher Nikki Koutrou**. On behalf of ENGSO, Sara Massini participated in the breakout session on health, whereas Nikki Koutrou attended the green and sustainable sport session.

In the **green and sustainable sport session**, participants first discussed whether a toolkit is the best method to enable European sport organisations to embark on a sustainability journey. During the discussions, various **barriers were identified** that potentially prevent sport organisations from adopting sustainable practices, including defining a toolkit (encompassing a pledge, policy, and practical platform), difficulties in reaching grassroots sport, and the use of inclusive language in instructions. Secondly, the breakout session attendees engaged in a lively debate as to whether joining the [UN Sport for Climate Action](#) initiative may be the most efficient way to ensure the sport sector's compliance with the [European Green Deal](#). To this end, there was consensus that the initiative's main limitation is that it focuses primarily on emissions, while other aspects such as biodiversity are ignored. Moreover, most sport organisations, especially those that work within the grassroots sport system, face **resource, funding, and capacity issues** that hinder engagement with such initiatives. Lastly, the following **recommendations** were agreed upon to help sport organisations engage in meaningful sustainability efforts:

- Increase partnerships between local, regional, and national governments, universities, NGOs, and sport organisations
- Enrol consultants to work closely with sport organisations to help them collect data, measure, monitor, and report their sustainability outcomes
- Develop tailored policies for each specific sport
- Include sustainability criteria in EU funding
- Adopt a holistic approach to sustainability

The participants in the **innovation session** identified several impediments obstructing sport organisations' innovative efforts, such as **limited resources**, lack of basic information, unfamiliarity with costs, unwillingness to take risks, and **major capability differences between sports**. It was proposed that a potential remedy could be

**increased education** on the added value of innovation and the simplification of funding requirements to break down financial constraints.

Regarding **mental health**, the participants noted that sport coaches often lack essential knowledge to deal with the early signs of mental health issues. As a solution, participants recommended **widespread education and collaboration between sport clubs and schools**. In addition, sport organisations are encouraged to institute a designated point of contact to serve as the primary place where issues may be raised