

SPORT IN THE EU

Whether it's a daily jog in the park, playing in a football 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 sport organisations on sport issues of common EU interest and exchanging best practices in sport-related policies.



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What is the EU doing in 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, anti-doping, corruption and racism as well as encouraging sport organisations - from local teams to multinational 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

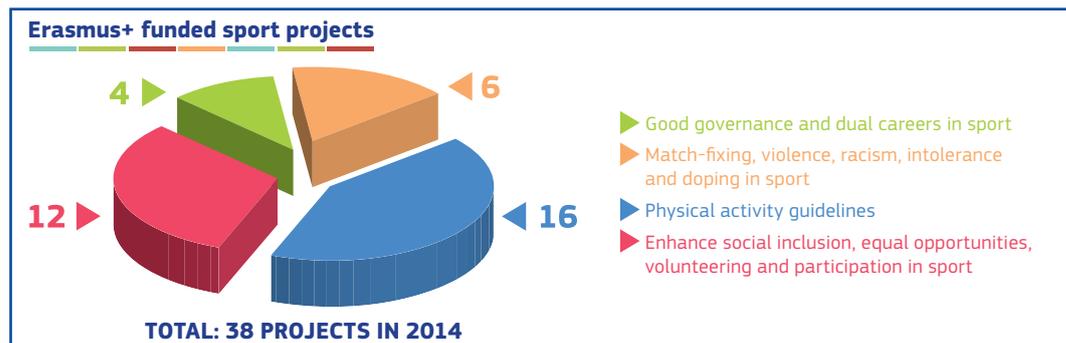
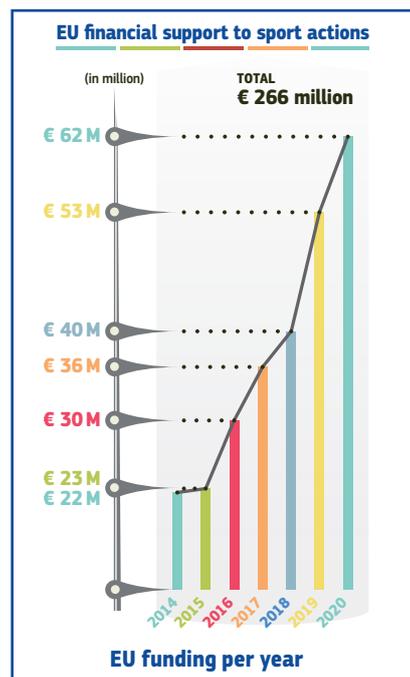
surround us. The EU supports sport activities that bring people together and create new opportunities to integrate those from under-privileged or marginalised groups in society.

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 sports economy.

Erasmus+ supports sport actions

Since 2014, the Erasmus+ programme has been funding sport activities of all kinds across Europe. 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.



Examples of Erasmus+ projects in sport

Teaching tolerance through sport

Bringing together almost 3,000 young sport enthusiasts, the Italian region of Lombardy organised several workshops to spread positive values in sport and prevent intolerance and violence on the sports pitch. **Through sport lessons, games and workshops with experts, these young fans learned how sport can be a great way to make new friends, become more understanding of each other and develop important personal strengths.** Thanks to an EU grant of €218,372 between 2012 and 2013, similar labs were also organised in nine other EU countries.

Building national networks against match-fixing

A project led by the Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques brought together sport authorities, law enforcement bodies and betting companies across 21 Member States to support the fight against match-fixing. **The projects, which ran from 2013 to 2014, helped to create a network for cooperation to improve governance at European sport organisations.** This collaboration led to the nomination of integrity officers at national sport federations and helped to start the ratification process of the Council of Europe convention on match-fixing. The project benefited from €275,015 of EU funding.

Countering discrimination in sport clubs

Sport clubs are not always accessible to those most disadvantaged in our societies. This is especially the case for migrant and refugee people, who often experience ethnic or racial discrimination. Between 2011 and 2012, the Sports Inclusion Project set out to raise awareness of ethnic discrimination and racism in sport and counter social exclusion in sport clubs. **Partner organisations worked with hundreds of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from centres in six EU countries, encouraging them to establish football teams and join local sport leagues.** The project, which received a European grant of €218,372, also set up football tournaments and other events across Europe on the occasion of UNHCR World Refugee Day.



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Did you know that...?

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

... the sport which is the second most vulnerable to match-fixing is cricket?

#BEACTIVE

European Week of Sport

7-13 September 2015

The European Week of Sport is a new European-wide campaign to inspire Europeans to do sport and be active all year long.

During the Week, the first of its kind, 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. Each day of the Week will be dedicated to doing sport in a different setting, such as at school or the workplace, outdoors and in sport clubs or fitness centres. A network of partners supported by a team of well-known 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