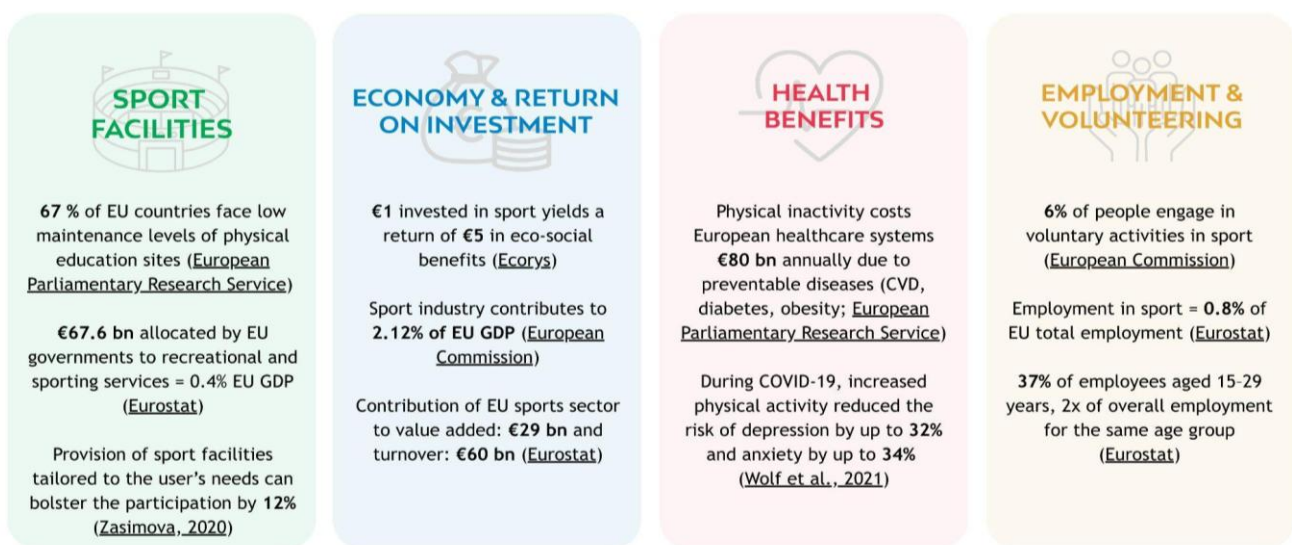


## OLYMPIC MOVEMENT AND MAJOR SPORT FEDERATIONS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 2028-2034

In light of the ongoing discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028 - 2034 (MFF), the European Olympic Committees, the International Olympic Committee, 48 National Olympic Committees, and major International, European and National Federations are concerned to ensure that the needs and priorities of organised sport are appropriately represented in the next MFF.



Sport has demonstrated its capacity to enhance Europe's preparedness and resilience, as a driver of sport diplomacy, economic growth, the improvement of societal well-being and people's physical and mental health. More importantly, sport is an incomparable platform for the promotion of European values among citizens, and fosters social cohesion by uniting communities, promoting inclusion, which is key considering the ongoing geopolitical tensions.

EU funding is a key source of opportunities for sport organisations in Europe to finance impactful societal projects and contribute to Europe's preparedness and resilience. Yet, current trends suggest a potential diversion of funds away from sport into other areas, despite the value of sport to the EU's core priorities.

This document provides a series of recommendations from the European Olympic movement to better embed sport into the different programmes of the next MFF, as the signatories firmly believe that adequate funding must be allocated to the sport sector.

## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN MESSAGES

Mainstreaming sport across these programmes is essential to reflect its growing societal role and ensure its contribution to the EU's strategic objectives.

As an enabler for health, inclusion, youth engagement, regional development, sustainability and European values, sport must be systematically mainstreamed into EU policies and funding programmes to unlock its full potential for European society. Sport should be explicitly included in key EU funding mechanisms such as EU4Health, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Sport should also be explicitly prioritised in Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPAs).

PPPAs also require reform to better support grassroots and smaller sport organisations. Adopting a Lump Sum funding model would simplify administrative procedures and make funding more accessible. PPPAs, particularly in areas such as infrastructure development and crisis response.

In the area of regional and rural development, sport must be recognised as a legitimate catalyst for social and economic progress.

EU Regional Development and Cohesion Funds should provide clear guidance to managing authorities on how to support sport initiatives, while programmes like LEADER should be strengthened to fund sport infrastructure and promote its role in rural development, cohesion, and sustainability.

Enhanced opportunities via Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ Programme must also reflect the increasing demand and potential of sport. A minimum of 5% of the Erasmus+ 2028-2034 budget should be allocated to sport in order to enhance its contribution to EU priorities. Furthermore, building upon the Youth and Education strands of the programme will encourage deeper engagement of sport organisations in implementing EU policy at all levels.

To ensure fairer access to EU sport funding, a cap on the number of applications per organisation should be introduced, alongside mechanisms that guarantee sport-specific representation within consortia. The introduction of suspension mechanisms for recurrent offenders would enhance transparency and accountability in the use of EU funds. Simplifying access by consolidating EU funding portals into a single platform would ease the administrative burden, especially for smaller and less experienced organisations.

Additionally, the evaluation process for EU sport funding must shift focus from narrative strength to the quality and feasibility of implementation. It is also critical to ensure that assessors understand the unique needs of the sport sector. Regular training sessions and harmonised guidelines for National Agencies will be essential in providing consistent and knowledgeable support to sport stakeholders across all Member States.

Finally, regular and dedicated EU funding for Large-Scale Sport Events (LSSEs) is crucial to fully leverage their social, economic, and diplomatic benefits. These events provide a powerful platform to promote EU values, foster unity, and showcase sustainability.

**In conclusion, the next MFF presents a critical opportunity to recognise sport as a cross-sectoral contributor to the European Union's priorities. Through targeted investment, policy mainstreaming, and streamlined administrative processes, the EU can empower the sport sector to deliver tangible, inclusive, and lasting benefits for citizens and communities across Europe.**