

HOW THE MFF 2028-2034 CAN SUPPORT SPORT ORGANISATIONS' ESSENTIAL ROLE

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

Sport contributes directly to many of the ERDF's objectives - including health, social inclusion, urban regeneration, sustainable tourism and regional competitiveness. Therefore, it should be more explicitly recognised in the future ERDF Regulation, thereby providing greater legal certainty and encouraging more consistent investment in sport across Member States.

Recognise sport as a driver of regional development

Sport facilities are essential social infrastructure. Modern, accessible, inclusive and sustainable sport facilities improve health and well-being, promote social inclusion, strengthen community resilience and enhance the attractiveness of cities and regions, thereby reinforcing the "right to stay". At the same time, many grassroots infrastructure require renovation to improve accessibility and energy efficiency, reducing operating costs while contributing to the EU's climate and energy objectives. Sport also supports regional economies through sporting events, active tourism and local employment, reinforcing the ERDF's objectives for sustainable growth and territorial cohesion.

THE EOC EU OFFICE THEREFORE CALLS FOR

- explicitly recognising sport and community sport infrastructure as eligible areas of investment within the future ERDF Regulation;
- supporting the modernisation, accessibility, decarbonisation and energy-efficient renovation of sport infrastructure as part of investments in social and sustainable infrastructure;
- integrating sport into sustainable urban and regional development strategies, recognising its contribution to health, social inclusion, territorial attractiveness and community resilience; and
- recognising sport as a driver of sustainable tourism, regional competitiveness and local economic development, while ensuring continued investment in sport and community facilities.