

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

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (ESF)

As the principal financial instrument implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, investing in people, supporting employment, social inclusion, education, skills and equal opportunities, the future European Social Fund (ESF) should explicitly recognise organised sport as a strategic partner in delivering these objectives and maximise its contribution through the National and Regional Partnership Plans.

Recognise sport as a driver of social inclusion and skills development

Sport provides structured and inclusive environments that promote participation, strengthen communities and equip people with transferable skills and competencies that support personal development, employability and active participation in society. Through grassroots activities, volunteering and local partnerships, sport helps tackle social exclusion, supports the integration of disadvantaged groups, develops transferable competences and enhances employability. Explicitly recognising sport within the future ESF would enable Member States to better harness its contribution to implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights while strengthening social cohesion and economic resilience.

THE EOC EU OFFICE THEREFORE CALLS FOR

- explicitly recognising organised sport as a key mechanism for actions promoting social inclusion, equal opportunities, active participation and the integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- supporting sport-based initiatives that develop employability, lifelong learning, volunteering, leadership and transferable skills, particularly among young people, persons with disabilities, migrants and those furthest from the labour market;
- recognising sport organisations as strategic partners in the design and implementation of ESF programmes at national and regional level; and
- encouraging greater use of sport to support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, active citizenship and resilient communities and workforces.