

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

AgoraEU

AgoraEU is the European Commission's proposed programme under the 2028–2034 MFF bringing together EU support for culture, media, civil society, citizens' participation, equality, rights and European values. By incorporating key priorities currently supported through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme – including civic engagement, equality, fundamental rights, gender equality and the prevention of violence – AgoraEU provides an opportunity to better harness the potential of organised sport as an important yet underused vehicle for advancing these objectives.

Recognise sport as a pillar of European civil society

With more than 700,000 grassroots sport clubs [2] and millions of volunteers, athletes, officials and coaches, organised sport constitutes one of Europe's largest civic network. Sport promotes active citizenship, democratic participation, equality, inclusion, intercultural dialogue, youth engagement and intergenerational solidarity, while fostering a shared sense of European identity and belonging.

Nevertheless, sport organisations continue to face barriers in accessing EU funding opportunities targeting civil society networks, as they are not consistently recognised as an eligible or primary target group. Improving their recognition within the Programme by a clear mention of sport, and reduced administrative burden, would enable organised sport to contribute to priorities inherited from the CERV Programme, including the promotion of Union values, citizens' participation, equality, rights and the prevention of discrimination and gender-based violence, whilst also reaching a broader range of civil society actors.

THE EOC EU OFFICE THEREFORE CALLS FOR

- explicitly recognising organised sport as a civil society actor under AgoraEU, contributing across the Programme's priorities, including democratic participation, active citizenship, European values, equality and gender equality, social inclusion, fundamental rights, and the prevention of discrimination and gender-based violence;
- strengthening access for grassroots sport organisations through enhanced guidance, capacity-building and reinforced Programme Desks; and
- promoting cross-sectoral cooperation between sport, culture and civil society organisations to maximise the Programme's contribution to resilient, inclusive and democratic communities.