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"Doubts about the Olympic Idea and the Olympic Movement's claim to be able to contribute to a better and more peaceful world are growing in large sections of the population in Europe. The National Olympic Academies are challenged as never before. Together, we must resolutely oppose this threatening development."

- From the Opening Speech of Manfred Laemmer at the EOA Congress Vilnius.



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/// INTRODUCTION





PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

to the EOA Annual Report 2023

Dear members of the EOA, colleagues and friends in the Olympic Movement,

Welcome to the Annual Report of the European Olympic Academies for the year 2023 with an overview of our activities in an eventful year.

We can look back on a summer celebrating the Olympic spirit in Europe with several great sporting events, among them the European Games in Krakow, the European Youth Olympic Festival in Maribor, and the Games of the Small States of Europe in Malta.

We are delighted to report the successful implementation of numerous projects in collaboration with our partners and the NOAs from Europe over the recent months. The success of our endeavours is also mirrored in the growing membership, as we proudly welcomed four new NOAs to our EOA community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our distinguished partners, including IOC, EOC, IOA, ICSSPE, EFPM, and all partners within our EU projects for their trust and excellent cooperation. Special thanks are due to the European Olympic Committees and the German Federal State of Hesse for their financial support, without whom our work would not be possible.

Unfortunately, the global political situation has not calmed down this year; on the contrary, ongoing wars and new conflicts have exacerbated instability. The increasing fragmentation and the emergence of divisive actors have impacted the world of sport and



MANFRED LAEMMER, EOA PRESIDENT.

the organisation of major sporting events. The power of the Olympic Movement, crucial now more than ever, lies in its ability to unite the world in peaceful sports competitions, even in times of war.

I therefore look forward to the Olympic year 2024 with optimism and anticipation and hope that the Games in Paris will send a powerful signal of solidarity and friendship across the globe!

Best wishes and stay healthy!

Prof. Dr. Manfred Laemmer
EOA President



1.2 PARTNERS' MESSAGES

from the EOC and the IOA

EUROPEAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEES (EOC)

Message from EOC President Spyros Capralos

On behalf of the European Olympic Committees (EOC), I would like to congratulate the European Olympic Academies (EOA) for the commitment and support to the 34 National Olympic Academies across our continent.

The EOA is now in its fifth year and going from strength to strength. The contribution and impact of their work are evident in the 2023 Annual Report with activities increasing every year. This work demonstrates the dedicated effort being made to support the ideals of the Olympic Movement and the promotion of the Olympic Values.

2023 was a very great year for the EOC. We held four multi-sport games, with our flagship event, the European Games being key among them. The EOA played an important role in these events, in particular during our Summer EYOF, together with the EOC's Culture and Education Commission, collaborating on activities to aid in the promotion of Olympic Values and history, to share best practices and experiences, and to enhance relationships across the European Olympic Movement.

We are very proud to partner with the EOA and support the growing contribution you and the Olympic Academies in Europe are



SPYROS CAPRALOS, EOC PRESIDENT.

making to promote and share the messages of Olympism.

I hope in 2024 our relationship will strengthen further, and we can support the European Olympic Movement to be faster, higher, stronger – together.

With EurOlympic Greetings,

Spyros Capralos
President, European Olympic Committees



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY (IOA)

Message from IOA President Isidoros Kouvelos

The European Olympic Academies form an integral part of the IOA's mission, specifically focusing on nurturing Olympic education within the European continent. Through the various initiatives, the EOA aims to empower the European Olympic Academies and contribute significantly to fostering a fertile ground for the dissemination of the Olympic Values, strengthening ties among European nations, and instilling in their societies a deeper understanding of the Olympic Idea.

The last three years, the global community has been facing tremendous human issues with the burst of the pandemic, the recent developments in Ukraine, with the Russian invasion and loss of thousands of civilians and now the new serious crisis in the Middle East.

However, I do believe in the power of the Olympic philosophy which can transform the mentality of people! It is difficult to predict the social, political and economic consequences of all these crises in the long term. But what we can focus on is providing societies with the right tools, to inspire young people to create a better world, a fairer world, with respect for nature and human rights, with strong and healthy people supporting each other and believing in humanity's potential!

The eyes of the Olympic and sports Movement are now upon Paris 2024 Games. People feel great anticipation to come together again, in this event, whose slogan "Games Wide Open", depicts the concept of inclusion in a very straightforward manner. The organization of these Games itself expresses in a meaningful way the significant impact the Values should have in our lives. Paris 2024 has stressed the importance to create a framework in which



ISIDOROS KOUVELOU, IOA PRESIDENT.

equality, inclusiveness and sustainability will domain. This is why the 2024 Paris Olympic Games are an excellent demonstration of the Olympic Values. And this why they give us the opportunity to work on educational activities, bringing the youth closer to the Olympic Idea and inspire them to adopt Olympism as a way of life.

With our collaboration, we cultivate the NOAs network which play pivotal roles in shaping the future generations who will embody the Olympic spirit and contribute positively to their communities and the world in general. In essence, our shared vision underscores our commitment to promote Olympism as a philosophy that transcends borders.

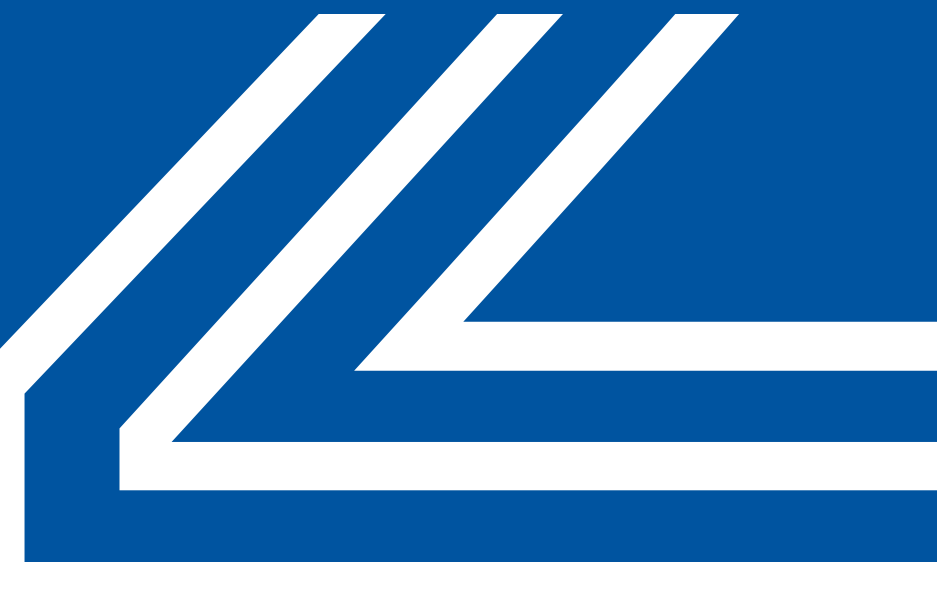
I look forward to meeting all of you at the next EOA Congress in Olympia in 2024!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Isidoros Kouvelos.

Isidoros Kouvelos
President, International Olympic Academy



/// 2023 IN REVIEW





2.1 **BUSINESS REPORT**

An overview of EOA activities in 2023

JANUARY

On January 2, the EOA Annual Report, a 60-page brochure on the past year's activities, was published and shared with all NOAs and NOCs in Europe and with EOA's partners.

The Executive Board, newly elected in November 2022, met for the first time on January



THE EOA EXECUTIVE BOARD IN COLOGNE, GERMANY.

30-31 in Cologne, Germany. The Board members evaluated the EOA Congress Frankfurt and appointed a working group to create a guiding framework for the EOA Commissions. It further launched the planning process for the EOA Flame Awards and addressed the continuing suspension of the NOAs of Russia and Belarus, as well as upcoming activities and events in 2023.

FEBRUARY

Two weeks later, the SOPROS team met for the first time at the same location. The topic of this Erasmus+ funded project is the social protection of Olympic athletes as part of the broader area of athletes' employment relations, which already formed the basis of the preceding EMPLOYS project (running from 2021-2022). In the meeting at the coordinat-

ing partner, the German Sport University Cologne, the course was set for the next three years and tasks were distributed.

MARCH

Following the successful launch of the regional seminars last year, this series of events entered its second round on March 1-3. Nine National Olympic Academies from Central and South-Eastern Europe met in Eger to discuss the perspectives of Olympic education in their countries. Deanna Binder, who had published the first OVEP toolkit in 2007, returned from retirement and inspired the participants one more time with an unrivalled workshop.

The Hungarian Olympic Academy created a wonderful and memorable ambience in the historic town of Eger, and the seminar provided important impulses for the NOAs.



PROF. DEANNA BINDER AT THE EOA SEMINAR EGER.

The Erasmus+ project BESST, which the EOA coordinates, kicked off on March 15-17. In the first physical meeting in Papendal, Netherlands, the partners laid the groundwork for research and the creation of a definition of safe sport and guidelines and measures for its legal framework.

APRIL

As the third ongoing Erasmus+ project of EOA, FB-LS will run until the end of 2023. The Olympic Committee of Serbia invited the project team to Belgrade on April 3-4 to discuss the preparations for FB-LS workshops and the project dissemination strategy.

On April 12, the EOA Executive Board convened online to discuss statutes amendments. Further, the Board decided to nominate Ales Solar for the first EOA Medal of Merit, who was to receive this honour at the EOA Congress Vilnius.

On the occasion of the 80th birthday of President Manfred Laemmer, the EOA hosted a symposium in Frankfurt, which was attended by over 50 guests from seven countries. The topic was "Building Bridges through Sport", and EOA partnered with the German Olympic Academy, Maccabi Germany, the German Sport University Cologne and the German Sports & Olympic Museum to execute this event. The selection of topics provided strong references to the life and work of the honouree, which were accompanied by many small anecdotes by the lecturers and the international audience.



THE SYMPOSIUM "BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH SPORT".

MAY

On May 1, Katrin Wallmann officially joined the EOA office as "Manager, Olympic Education and EU Projects". She had previously assisted the EOA on a contract basis. Now, she has

assumed all content-related duties and completes the two-person staff unit.

The NOAs of Germany and Israel hosted a seminar in Frankfurt at the beginning of May as an exchange between the two countries on gender equality, talent recognition and coaches' education in sport. The EOA had given the auspices and participated as a guest.

As part of the Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) in Malta, the EOA and the Maltese Olympic Academy organised an exchange forum for NOC delegates from the



EXCHANGE FORUM AT THE GSSE MALTA.

Small States. The forum revealed that the small states of Europe have an extraordinary commonality: The NOCs have the potential to reach literally every individual in the country. This way, the common culture can be shaped more strongly, and the Olympic values can spread effectively throughout the population. Following this exchange, two academies decided to join the EOA later in the year.

JUNE

At its next meeting on June 8, the Executive Board decided that the next EOA Congress should take place in Vilnius under the organisation of the Lithuanian Olympic Academy.

The European Games kicked off on June 21 in Krakow, Poland, with the opening ceremony attended by EOA's Vice Presidents Mariia Bulatova, Ivans Klementjevs and Board Member Asta Sarkauskiene.

On Olympic Day, June 23, the EOA, together with the Slovenian Olympic Academy and the EYOF Maribor Organising Committee, officially unveiled the EYOF country posters at the Market Square in Maribor. The posters feature information on tourism, culture, Olympic events, and the achievements of the 48 participating nations. The data was compiled in collaboration with the EOC and all participating NOCs.



THE EYOF POSTERS IN DOWNTOWN MARIBOR.

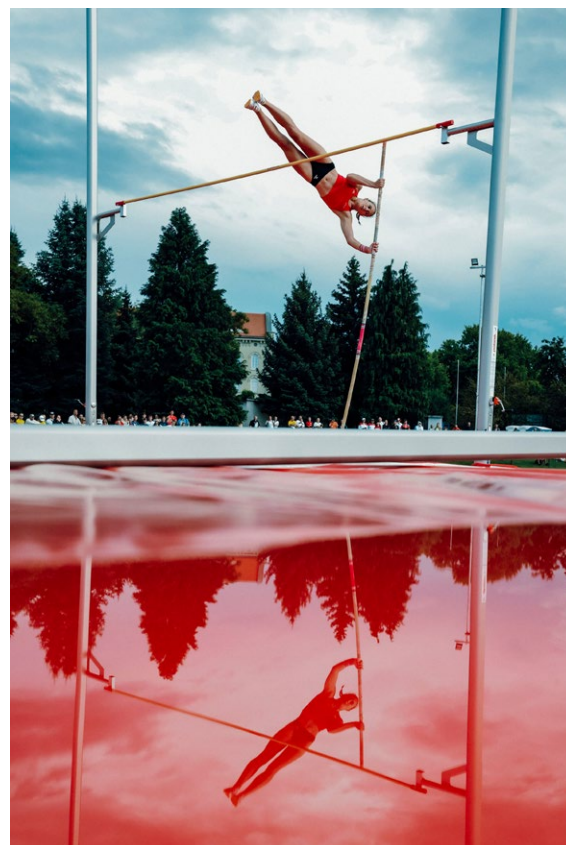
JULY

Throughout the summer, the EOA Office held several meetings with the EOA commissions to discuss a restructuring process in view of the end of the Commission's term of office. The sessions yielded valuable insights that led to the creation of new guidelines to be adopted at the next EOA General Assembly.

Many EOA members attended the IOA Session for NOA and NOC Delegates and saw, among others, a lecture by Board member Clea Papaellina on the European Young Olympic Ambassadors Programme (EYOA) and by Arnaud Richard (French National Olympic Academy) on the activities surrounding the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics.

Several Board members attended the European Youth Olympic Festival in Maribor (EYOF). The President visited the EYOA Programme, which had been organised by Clea Papaellina and Natasa Jankovic from the EOC Culture & Education Commission, chaired by Jean

Michel Brun. Moreover, FB-LS workshops were held for the young athletes, and the EYOF posters were displayed on the main street of Maribor so that athletes, spectators, and volunteers could glimpse the rich diversity of European countries.



WINNER OF THE EYOF PHOTO CONTEST: AUSTRIA.

After the event, the EOA organised a photo competition with AIPS Europe for all NOCs to submit their best pictures of the EYOF Maribor. The Austrian Olympic Committee and its photographer, Patrick Steiner, won the competition with a picture-perfect shot of pole vaulter Magdalena Rauter's jump for Austria.

On July 29-31, leading experts of the EOA took an active part in the FISU World Conference in Chengdu, China. The conference was a strong beacon, attended by over 3,500 online and on-site participants. Vice President Mariia Bulatova hosted the Plenary and Parallel Sessions "Culture in a More Inclusive World"

and "Culture and Sport Behavior". At the same time, more members of the EOA family were involved in the event.

AUGUST

At the beginning of August, President Manfred Laemmer met with Asta Sarkauskiene, President of the Lithuanian Olympic Academy (LOA) and EOA Board Member, for preparatory talks on the EOA Congress. This was followed by a meeting of the EOA Executive Board on September 1, which addressed the preparation for the General Assembly in Vilnius.

In August 2023, project BESST introduced its logo and a dedicated project website (<https://besst-safesport.eu/>), where information on the project's progress, general safe sport, and the forthcoming legal framework can be accessed. In addition, the project team initiated a large-scale study in which European NOCs, National Federations and other sports organisations were surveyed about their safeguarding practices.



THE BESST LOGO DEPICTS A COLOURFUL AND OPEN HAND. —

SEPTEMBER

On September 11-17, the German Olympic Academy held its "Olympia Seminar" on the premises of the IOA in Ancient Olympia. Ninety participants consisting of students from 10 universities and experts and multipliers from sports organisations, sports politics, media and academia spent an intensive week together. EOA was invited and represented by Katrin Wallmann and President Manfred Laemmer,

who contributed a lecture on the myth and reality of the Ancient Olympic Games.

In September, on the eve of the Paris Olympics, the city hosted the "Journées européennes du patrimoine à la découverte de la Sorbonne Olympique". Vice President Mariia Bulatova visited the events and took part in the celebrations.

OCTOBER

The European Olympic Committees held their 52nd General Assembly in Istanbul from October 6-7. President Manfred Laemmer attended the event on behalf of the EOA.

At the next project meeting of BESST, the team agreed on terminology and definitions for safeguarding and discussed the survey results, which serve as a basis for the subsequent frameworks for sports organisations. The meeting was held at the EOA office in Frankfurt on October 10-11.

In mid-October, President Laemmer and Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel met online with AIPS Europe President Charles Camenzuli and Treasurer Erodotos Miltiadous to discuss the potential of cooperation. The dialogue aims to root the Olympic idea more firmly among sports journalists in Europe, and it was agreed to endeavour a seminar for sports journalists as part of the Games of the Small States 2025 in Andorra.

On October 23-24, the third project meeting of the EU project SOPROS took place in Cascais, Portugal, where the project's current status and further steps on athletes' social protection in Olympic sports were discussed.

NOVEMBER

Before the beginning of the EOA Congress, the Executive Board held a physical meeting to evaluate past activities and discuss new ones for the coming year.



THE EOA CONGRESS VILNIUS TOOK PLACE ON 8-11 NOVEMBER.

"The Olympic Movement in a Changing World", the topic of the EOA Congress held in Vilnius from 8-11 November, was reflected in lectures and extensive debates on topics from human rights and autonomy of sport to safeguarding. In addition to the discussions and a unique cultural programme, the EOA members approved the admission of the NOAs of Andorra, Ireland, Luxembourg and Moldova to its circle and confirmed commission procedures.

Furthermore, Ales Solar, former EOA treasurer, was honoured with the first EOA Medal of Merit. The delegates of the Olympic Academy of Ukraine and the Czech Olympic Academy were presented with the EOA Flame Awards trophies. The distinction was given for the first time in 2023. After successfully hosting the first regional seminar in 2022, the Lithuanian Olympic Academy proved once again its capacity to organise first-class events.

President Manfred Laemmer participated in the Congress of EOA's partner, European Fair Play Movement, in Baku on November 21-24.

DECEMBER

Towards the end of the year, the EOA was invited by the Council of Europe to give a statement on the topic of sports neutrality in times of war. Bernard Hilgers represented the EOA at the Hearing of the CoE Culture Committee.

Ahead of the festive season, the EOA published its annual report and successfully concluded its activities for 2023.

All activities were only possible thanks to the support and cooperation of the EOA's key partners, the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the International Olympic Academy (IOA), the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM) and the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE). Fundamental was also the impressive contribution made at the operational level by Katrin Wallmann as Manager, Olympic Education and EU Projects, Inga Galstian as Media Coordinator and Emma Rantamaa as an intern in the summer of 2023, led by EOA Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel.



/// EVENTS





3.1

EOA CONGRESS VILNIUS

The Olympic Movement in a Changing World

"The Olympic Movement in a Changing World", the topic of this year's EOA Congress held in Vilnius from 8-11 November 2023, was reflected in extensive debates and lectures on topics from human rights, and autonomy of sport to safeguarding. In addition to the discussions and a unique cultural programme, the members of the European Olympic Academies (EOA) approved the admission of four new NOAs to its circle and confirmed new procedures for the commissions.

November 11 saw the successful closing of the EOA Congress Vilnius, which once again brought together the National Olympic Acad-

emies of Europe to debate pressing issues in Olympic Values Education and share common practices among each other. The Lithuanian Olympic Academy (LOA) was able to create an attractive programme with cultural elements and exceptional hospitality that promoted its country among the delegates and beyond.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE FIRST DAY?

The congress was opened by the hosting LOA President Prof. Dr. Asta Sarkauskiene and EOA President Prof. Dr. Manfred Laemmer. Isidoros Kouvelos, IOA President, Saulius Galadauskas, Vice President of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee and Rolandas



IN 2023, THE LITHUANIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY ORGANISED THE EOA CONGRESS IN VILNIUS.

Zuoza, Leader of the Sport Unit in the Lithuanian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport delivered welcoming addresses. Edvinas Eimontas from the Lithuanian Sports University moderated and chaired the opening and following sessions.



PROF. ASTA SARKAUSKIENE OPENED THE CONGRESS.

The first session "Peace, War and Human Rights: The Responsibility of the Olympic Movement" was opened by Tomasz Frankowski, Coordinator of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education, who in his video message clearly positioned himself on the moral obligation to protect the values of the European sports model. Sylvia Schenk, IOC Human Rights Advisory Commission, presented the relevance of human rights in the Olympic Movement and its responsibility in the context of the Olympic peace mission in times of war.

"The Olympic Movement has to rethink political neutrality."

- Sylvia Schenk, Independent Member, IOC Human Rights Advisory Commission

Further presentations by Prof. Dr. Mariia Bulatova, President of the Olympic Academy of Ukraine, dealt with the impact of the war with Russia on Ukrainian sport from 2014 to the present day and how organised sport has dealt with these challenges. Dr. Olga Kuvaldina from Klaipeda University identified the most important needs of Ukrainian Olympic sports in terms of the continuity of athletes' training, security and infrastructure, while Prof. Dr. MD

Olena Turos from the Marzeiev Institute Kyiv focused on the environmental consequences of the war and the impact on youth and sport in her online transmission.

MEDAL OF MERIT AND EOA FLAME AWARDS PRESENTED

In the evening, the first awards ceremony in the history of the EOA took place in the festive setting of a gala dinner at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. Ales Solar, the first treasurer of the EOA, was honoured with the Medal of Merit for his efforts in establishing the EOA. The Ukrainian Olympic Academy received the award for the best Olympic Education project of the year and the Czech Olympic Academy was honoured for the best Olympic Heritage project.



THE AWARDEES WITH THE EOA EXECUTIVE BOARD.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE SECOND DAY?

The second day of the conference started with a session on "Olympic Movement between autonomy and intervention", presented by Marc Theisen, Chair of the EOC Legal Commission on "Validity of Arbitration Agreements contained in the rules of Sports Governing Bodies" and Jean-Michel Brun, Chair of the EOC's Culture and Education Commission presenting the specificities of sport in Europe.

In the subsequent session "Partners of the National Olympic Academies: Collaboration

for Sustainable Development", the focus shifted to NOAs and their opportunities for collabor-

"Autonomy is not independence, it is collaboration."

- Jean Michel Brun, Chair, EOC Culture and Education Commission



JEAN MICHEL BRUN AT HIS LECTURE IN VILNIUS.

oration. Maria Bogner, Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies (OSC), spoke about the quest to make Olympic knowledge accessible to all and highlighted the vast number of resources provided by the OSC. The following presentations explored how external and internal factors influence the work of NOAs. Paraskevi Salepi from the University of Peloponnese presented the institutional environment of NOAs and EOA's Soenke Schadwinkel introduced a framework to compare the

FIVE TAKEAWAYS FROM THE EOA CONGRESS VILNIUS

1

DISTINCTIONS IN THE DISCOURSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SPORT

In times of war, it is a challenge to keep the Olympic movement together and unite the world in peaceful competition. When it comes to human rights in sport, it is crucial to differentiate between the individual and national level.

2

AUTONOMY IS COLLABORATION

Preserving the specificities of sport in Europe is of immense importance to protect the values of sport. However, the autonomy of sport does not mean independence but collaboration based on mutual respect.

3

POTENTIAL FOR EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

There is considerable development potential for NOAs by making use of available resources and efficient project management.

4

CULTURAL CHANGE FOR SAFEGUARDING SPORT

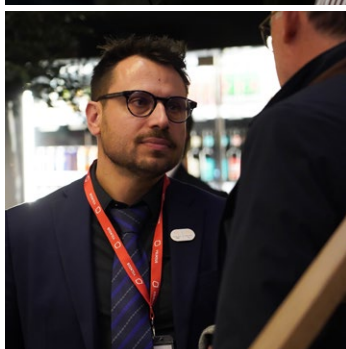
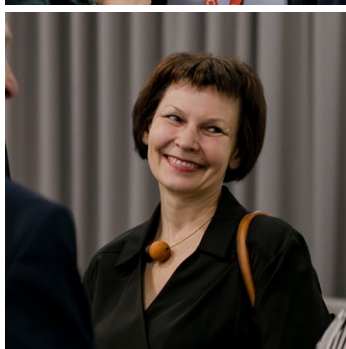
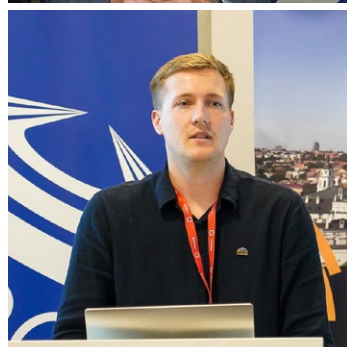
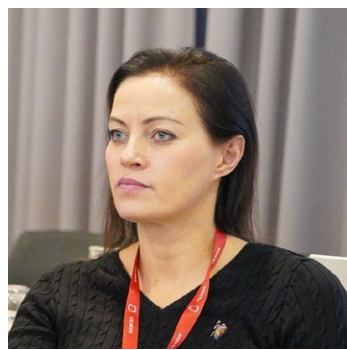
Tackling integrity issues such as Safe Sport calls for a cultural change at all decision-making levels in sport. Safeguarding must be a core principle embedded at all levels of the sports community.

5

STRONGER TOGETHER

The Olympic Movement is strong when National Olympic Committees and Academies stand together and collaborate with their Continental Associations, the IOA and the IOC. Through solidarity and unity, people around the world will be inspired by the Olympic spirit.





National Olympic Academies in order to derive inspiration for future strategic development. Ales Solar closed the session with his thoughts on a sustainable and autonomous NOA financial budget strategy.

The afternoon was dedicated to a practice-oriented exchange. In workshops prepared by four EOA members, the delegates were given insights into exemplary projects and thus had the opportunity to discuss and develop their own ideas. Eda Caushi from the Albanian Olympic Academy led a workshop on



DELEGATES DISCUSSED IN THE NOA-LED WORKSHOPS.

the "Olympic Values Relay" and how to teach Olympic education in cooperation with national sports federations. Ales Solar discussed in his workshop the benefits and specificities of an Erasmus+ project application. The Romanian Olympic Academy represented by Simona Amanar Tabara and Anita Sterea dedicated their workshop to their impressive network of volunteers and to how far this is applicable to other countries. Prof. Dr. Arnaud Richard from the French National Olympic Academy went into a discussion on Olympic and Paralympic Education with a view to the 2024 Paris Olympics.

ROUNDTABLE DEBATE ON THE PROJECT BESST

Another highlight of this year's congress awaited the participants on the third day, which began with a roundtable debate on the topic of an EOA-led Erasmus+ project "Building

European Safe Sport Together" (BESST). The expert panel with Miriam Reijnen (NOC*NSF Centre for Safe Sport), Andreja McQuarrie (McQuarrie Consulting), Alenka Hiti (Rudi Hiti Academy), Ugne Chmeliauskaite (ENGSO Youth) and Agne Vanagiene (Lithuanian National Olympic Committee) panel impressed the audience with its passionate dedication in the fight against transgressive behaviour in sport in order to achieve a cultural change.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SIXTH EOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Four organisations were confirmed as new members this year. The Andorran Olympic Committee, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, the Luxembourg Olympic and Sporting Committee and the National Olympic and Sports Committee of the Republic of Moldova are now united with other European NOAs under the umbrella of the EOA.



THE NOA OF ANDORRA JOINED THE EOA IN 2023.

The Executive Board and Head Office presented its yearly activity report. The Board was discharged, the budget for the coming year was presented and a new auditor was elected. The EOA adopted administrative amendments to the Statutes as well as a change in the functioning of the EOA Commissions, which was consolidated in the Statutes and new Rules and Procedures.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES TO EXPLORE LITHUANIA

In addition to the substantive programme, the

well-organised congress was complemented by a cultural programme. With a guided tour around Vilnius University and the old town of Vilnius and a visit to the Trakai Castle, the participants were introduced to the rich history and tradition of Lithuania.

After successfully hosting the first regional seminar in 2022, the Lithuanian Olympic Academy proved once again its capacity to organise first-class events. President Manfred Laemmer said, "Our thanks go to the Lithuanian Olympic Academy, especially to its President, Prof. Asta Sarkauskiene, and its Director, Enriketa Prunskiene, and her team for making this memorable Congress happen."

It was announced that the next EOA Congress shall be organised in autumn 2024 in Olympia, Greece.



THE DELEGATES VISITED TRAKAI CASTLE ON SATURDAY.



THE CONGRESS BROUGHT TOGETHER MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE SPIRIT OF OLYMPISM.



3.2 EOA SEMINAR EGER

What did Eger teach us about Olympic Education?

In 2022, the EOA launched a new event format called "EOA Seminars". In this series of regional workshops, experts and NOA delegates explore current issues in the Olympic Movement and means to apply them to the practice of the National Olympic Academies. At the same time, this setting provides a forum for academies from neighbouring countries to meet and share their knowledge and expertise. The first edition was hosted by the Lithuanian Olympic Academy at Klaipeda University in August 2022, the second regional seminar took place in Eger under the organisation of the Hungarian Olympic Academy in March 2023.

Between Hungarian vineyards, baroque buildings and the old fortress of Eger, nine NOAs and several experts met at the beginning of



IOC MEMBER DANIEL GYURTA HELD A SPEECH.

March 2023 within the framework of the second Regional Seminar of the EOA to contemplate and discuss the perspectives of Olympic education in Central and South-Eastern countries. The aim was to highlight valuable food for thought and approaches to help National Olympic Academies implement Olympic Education projects through a comparative lens.



EOA VICE-PRESIDENT MARIIA BULATOVA ADDRESSED ALL SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS ON THE FIRST DAY.

HUNGARIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY ORGANISED SECOND EOA SEMINAR

Wednesday, 1 March 2023, saw the delegates of nine NOAs (Albania, Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania and Ukraine) gathering at the Kemeny Ferenc Sports School in Eger. EOA President Prof. Dr. Manfred Laemmer opened the seminar with a virtual welcoming speech, after which Vice-President Prof. Dr. Mariia Bulatova expressed her gratitude and appreciation to the organisers. Hungarian Olympic champion and IOC member Daniel Gyurta welcomed the seminar participants and put his signature on a gallery wall in the sports school featuring all Hungarian Olympic medallists.



A GROUP PHOTO OF THE EOA SEMINAR EGER.

The seminar was entitled "Perspectives on Olympic Education in Central and South-Eastern European Countries". In the spirit of Olympism, the participants got to know each other in a small activity and honoured the school's namesake and IOC Founding Member Ferenc Kemeny, whose bust adorns the entrance area. Afterwards, the President of the Hungarian Olympic Academy Dr. Zsuzsanna Bukta lectured on sports structures and sports in the education system of South-Eastern European countries after the Second World War until today. The post-socialist countries faced similar challenges after the fall of the Iron Curtain and found different solutions from which they can learn from each other nowadays.

OLYMPIC EDUCATION IN PRACTICE

Senior Education Manager at the International

Olympic Committee, Xenia Kourgouzova, introduced OVEP – Olympic Values Education Programme – to the participants and illustrated



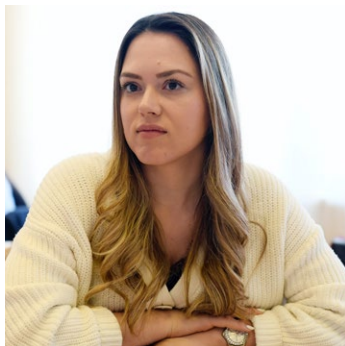
XENIA KOURGOUZOVA EXPLAINS IOC'S OVEP PROGRAMME.

ed the latest amendments that aim to make the programme more applicable at the local level. She illustrated current OVEP partnerships, for example, in India and Senegal and called on NOAs to contact the IOC with remarks or concrete plans. While most of the participating NOAs have already implemented OVEP in their country, this exchange provided a helpful immersion into the topic and discussion of the perceived challenges directly with the IOC representative.

At the end of the day, Gyorgy Pazonyis, a Hungarian P.E. teacher with an extraordinary passion for Olympism, presented his teaching methods to bring the Olympic Movement closer to students, which added a practice example from the local level to the seminar input.



DELEGATES CONDUCT A WORKSHOP - WITH A LOT OF FUN.





SPECIAL GUEST DEANNA BINDER INSPIRED DELEGATES

On the second day of the seminar, Prof. Dr. Deanna Binder, a world-leading retired expert who has written many leading curricula in Olympic education (including "Teaching Values: An Olympic Education Toolkit" (OVEP), "Be a Champion in Life", "Fair Play for Kids" and "Come Together: The Olympics and You"), delivered a lively insight into her methods of pedagogy. She hosted an evocative and touching workshop. In small groups, NOA del-

egates represented different countries in a simulated opening ceremony.

More than a few participants recalled their own Olympic past, and the room filled with nostalgia, emotion and an intense sense of community. Between the lecture and the workshop, Olympic medallist in water polo Zoltan Szecsi enriched the attendees with an inspirational speech about mindset and self-confidence.

"Finding a shared ethical base in a pluralistic, multicultural, global society is not optional; it is crucial to our survival physically and morally. The challenge is to find consensus in diversity and difference, and to retain the breadth, depth and richness of human knowing."

- Margaret Somerville, as cited by Deanna Binder at the EOA Seminar Eger



DEANNA BINDER WITH DELEGATES FROM HUNGARY AND SERBIA.

FIVE KEY FINDINGS FROM THE EOA SEMINAR EGER

1

SIMILAR CHALLENGES, DIFFERENT APPROACHES

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, many countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe faced similar challenges in their sport and education systems. The affected NOAs applied different strategies to overcome those challenges.

2

STRONG EMPHASIS ON OLYMPIC EDUCATION

Impactful Olympic education programmes are still only scattered around the world. However, the Central and South Eastern European countries have clearly recognised the importance of Olympic education.

3

NO STANDARDISATION

Olympic education programmes should be locally oriented, target group-specific and tailored individually. Universal or standardised methods tend to be of less utility.

4

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

There is a need for improvement in the systematic and routine collection and assessment of information in order to evaluate the impact of the Olympic Education projects.

5

EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

The opportunities for personal exchange and information sharing provided by the EOA help National Olympic Academies to carry out and improve existing Olympic education projects by learning from each other's state of knowledge.

DEBATING CURRENT CHALLENGES

Friday, 3 March, saw the last agenda point of the seminar, an intensive debate of the current NOA projects and challenges as well as perspectives for cooperation at the European level.

The seminar was concluded with heartfelt thanks from Vice-President Mariia Bulatova and the Ukrainian Olympic Academy. She expressed her special gratitude to the invited experts Deanna Binder, Xenia Kourgouzova,

as well as Prof. Dr. Kostas Georgiadis from the International Olympic Academy.

WELL-ROUNDED SEMINAR CAME TO END

The exchange among the NOAs, PE teachers and experts was underlined by a relaxed atmosphere and cultural visits. These included a wine tasting, a historical and educational city tour through sunny spring-like Eger and to the local sports museum, allowing for a consolidation of the links between the neighbouring countries of Hungary.



SMALL STATES EXCHANGE

Promoting Olympic values in the Small States of Europe

As part of the Games of the Small State of Europe (GSSE) 2023 in Malta, the EOA and the Maltese Olympic Academy organised an exchange forum for NOC delegates from the Small States. These countries share two substantive elements: close ties to the relevant stakeholders for value education and a strong potential for a culture of values across national sports organisations and the nation as a whole.

From 29 May to 3 June 2023, the Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) were held on the Mediterranean island of Malta. Nine countries, ten sports and over 1000 athletes came together for the 19th edition of this EOC event. From Iceland to Cyprus, Andorra and Montenegro – countries with less than one million inhabitants are defined as small states (Cyprus being an exception, as they had a population of less than one million at the founding of the GSSE) and form a committee that awards the hosting rights every two years.

Not only top performances are in the focus



THE EOA DELEGATION MET WITH MALTESE PE TEACHERS.



THE GSSE TAKE PLACE EVERY TWO YEARS.

at the GSSE, the week is also underpinned by education about values through sport. Numerous school classes visited the Games and learned about Olympism and the GSSE. On this occasion, the Maltese Olympic Academy had distributed a GSSE-specific Olympic Education Booklet in five versions for different age levels to schools via the Ministry of Education.

"THE STATES MAY BE SMALL, BUT THE OLYMPIC IDEA IS GREAT"

On 31 May, the EOA invited delegates from the NOCs of Malta, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Andorra, Montenegro, Monaco, San Marino and Iceland to the table to exchange views on common challenges and strategies. This setting was the first of its kind.

In the beginning, President Manfred Laemmer welcomed the NOC guests and pointed out the common mission of NOCs of spreading the values, as stipulated by Rule 27 of the Olympic Charter. Afterwards, Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel gave a detailed insight into the structures and activities of the EOA.



THE EXCHANGE FORUM WITH DELEGATES FROM THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE REVEALED DISTINCT COMMONALITIES.

How relevant the exchange between the National Olympic Academies is for Small States was highlighted by EOA Board Member Clea Papellina, Dean of the Cyprus Olympic Academy. She gave a report on the prestigious organisation of the EOA General Assembly & Conference in Cyprus in 2019. Papellina further lectured on the need to anchor Olympic education in the school curricula and to ensure that PE teachers and coaches received systematic training in Olympic education. A common framework for Small States of Europe is needed, she stated.

SMALL STATES WORLDWIDE SHARE SIMILARITIES

As coincidence would have it, Kevin Azzopardi, General Secretary of the Maltese Olympic Academy, had previously distributed an extensive questionnaire to all small states worldwide as part of a research project. With the data gathered Azzopardi found that in small states around the world, there are neither many National Olympic Academies put in

place nor many activities carried out. Besides, there is a major gender imbalance and, above all, a serious lack of financial resources.

These unpublished findings were underlined by the subsequent discussion between the NOC delegates that none of the NOCs officially considered themselves an NOA, although they do conduct educational activities of some kind.

"BEING SMALL AS A COUNTRY IS ACTUALLY A HUGE ADVANTAGE"

The exchange forum showed that the small states of Europe have an extraordinary commonality: The NOCs have the potential to reach literally every individual in the country. In this way, the common culture can be shaped more strongly and the Olympic values spread effectively throughout the population.

For example, Christof Baer from Liechtenstein reported that the NOC holds activities on Olympic Day, that are then attended by every

single school child in the country – unimaginable in France or Germany.

The distances to the relevant actors, such as ministries, universities, schools and athletes, are also much shorter, which facilitates the work considerably. This was shown by the Maltese delegates' explanations regarding the organisation of the GSSE this year. "You have direct access to all high-performance athletes, you know each other personally, so you can build role models very easily," said David Guehring.

"Accession can be a first step in planting a seed within the organisation to learn from the other members and to follow its mission of spreading the Olympic values."

- Soenke Schadwinkel, EOA Executive Director

WHEN THERE IS NO NOA SET UP IN A COUNTRY

Furthermore, the group clarified an apparently common misunderstanding: that the existence of a National Olympic Academy is required in order to participate in the EOA network. Actually, in many European countries, no independent NOAs have been formed, but rather the NOC acts in the sense of an Academy and is naturally invited to the meetings as a full member of the EOA.

One example would be the Cyprus Olympic Academy, which is an entity within its National Olympic Committee. Georgios Korellis explained his reasoning that this unique opportunity for exchange with other NOCs ultimately convinced the NOC of Cyprus to join the EOA as a founding member back in 2018. "More importantly, accession can be a first step in planting a seed within the organisation

to learn from the other members and to follow its mission of spreading the Olympic values," said Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel.

EXPERIENCING AND DISCUSSING THE OLYMPIC VALUES PROMOTION IN MALTA

The previous morning, the EOA was able to attend an educational programme for Maltese school children and engage in a periodic debate among PE teachers and academics about the situation of Olympic education in Malta.

The EOA was represented by President Manfred Laemmer, Board member Clea Papaellina

and Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel. The Maltese Olympic Academy has been the newest Member of the EOA since its accession last year. They showed a remarkable commitment to use the synergies of the Games of the Small States for the promotion of Olympic values and to raise awareness of this matter among the participating National Olympic Committees.



PRESIDENT MANFRED LAEMMER GAVE AN INTRODUCTION. —





3.4 EOA SYMPOSIUM

Building Bridges through Sport

The ability of sport to build bridges is one of its most astonishing elements, which EOA President Manfred Laemmer, at the age of 80, has embodied like few others. In his honour, the EOA, together with four national sports institutions, the German Olympic Academy, the German Sports & Olympic Museum, Maccabi Germany and the Forum Sportpolitik of the German Sport University Cologne, organised a symposium entitled "Building Bridges Through Sport".

The co-organisers brought together more than 50 sports officials and academics from the worlds of sports history, politics and the President's acquaintances in Frankfurt. In six lectures, the German-English event saw an intensive and constructive-critical debate on the claim of sport as a bridge builder. The topics included reflections on the new Olympic motto (Sven Gueldenpfennig) and the development of global policies through learning from history (Uri Schaefer).



THE SPEAKERS AND ORGANISERS.

On the other hand, lectures on coming to terms with the Nazi history of Bayern Munich (Markwart Herzog), the history of boy-

cotts against Israeli sport (Alex Feuerherdt), the current debate on dealing with Russian and Belarusian athletes in terms of a breach of human rights (Sylvia Schenk) and holding the Olympic Games in times of war (Andreas Hofer) showed that sport was given a very high and not always achievable mandate.

The selection of topics provided strong ref-



OVER 50 PARTICIPANTS FROM SEVEN COUNTRIES ATTENDED.

erences to the life and work of the honouree, which were accompanied by many small anecdotes by the lecturers and the international audience.

Manfred Laemmer, who already celebrated his 80th birthday in February 2023, was congratulated by warm video messages from the European Olympic Committees through Spyros Capralos, the International Olympic Academy team by Isidoros Kouvelos and Dionyssi Gangas and the European Fair Play Movement in words from their President Philippe Housiaux.

Manfred Laemmer received a special honour from the German Olympic Society, from whom he received a certificate for his 60 years of membership, presented by their Vice President, Norbert Lamp.

Juergen Mittag, moderator and co-organis-
er of the symposium, said, "The symposium
vividly demonstrated the influence and role
of sport as a bridge builder and the chang-
es that sport has undergone in recent dec-
ades. However, the challenges that arise from
the high expectations that society places on
sport also became clear."

Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Chair of the German
Olympic Academy and the German Sports
& Olympic Museum, said, "Professor Laem-
mer made an invaluable contribution to de-
velopments of the Olympic Movement in in-
stitutions and organisations in Germany and



PROF. JUERGEN MITTAG CHAIRED THE SYMPOSIUM.

beyond and over many decades has been
building bridges through sport, between peo-
ple of different cultures and religions."

"The symposium vividly demonstrated the influence and
role of sport as a bridge builder and the changes that
sport has undergone in recent decades. However, the
challenges that arise from the high expectations that soci-
ety places on sport also became clear."

- Prof. Dr. Juergen Mittag, German Sport University Cologne



THE SELECTION OF TOPICS PROVIDED STRONG REFERENCES TO THE LIFE AND WORK OF PRESIDENT MANFRED LAEMMER.



/// PROJECTS



4.1 **PROJECT BESST**

Building European Safe Sport Together

Building European Safe Sport Together (BESST) is an Erasmus+ funded project that aims to deliver the foundation for a harassment and abuse-free European Sports environment.

With strong partners delivering the academic support, continent-wide network of organizations for dissemination, legal and project management, events delivery and sports organisations, the project has a full circle range of professionals with four key deliveries that will effectively raise the maturity of the European sports on its safeguarding readiness:

ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

1

To develop a single definition of abuse and harassment and unifying speech and debate on the subject throughout Europe.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SPORTS ORGANISATIONS

2

To develop a safeguarding legal framework for European sports organisations, namely NOCs, NFs, and Clubs.

AWARENESS TOOLKIT

3

To create a toolkit for sports safeguarding awareness and education based on digital means to be used by all European sports organisations of various levels and resources.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR SPORTS EVENTS

4

To develop a safeguarding legal framework for European sports event organisers.



THE BESST LOGO DEPICTS A COLOURFUL AND OPEN HAND. —

The two-year project, with a very consistent dissemination process, will be able to provide effective change in terms of safeguarding for the continent based on the horizontal value of digitalisation – together with inclusion through the dissemination across a wide range of European countries with different languages, cultures, economic performances and sporting realities. The EOA operates in the project as a lead organisation and is supported by the six beneficiary partners in creating the legal framework and the toolkit for safe sports.

PROJECT START IN PAPENDAL

For the first time the project team physically gathered in mid-March to plan and align its tasks. The two-day project meeting took place on March 15-17. After the first day of introduction of the partners and their expertise, the project was presented with sharing different approaches, methods and experiences regarding safeguarding and abuse. Two of the first work packages, definition and legal framework, were introduced and responsibility areas were distributed.

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union





THE BESST PARTNERS CAME TOGETHER IN PAPENDAL.

PAN-EUROPEAN SURVEY AND WEBSITE LAUNCH

In August 2023, BESST introduced its logo and a dedicated project website (<https://besst-safesport.eu/>) where information on the project's progress, safe sport in general and the forthcoming legal framework can be accessed. Furthermore, the team initiated a large-scale study in which European NOCs and National Federations were surveyed about their safeguarding practices. Within its second goal to develop a turn-key solution safe sport legal framework for European sports organisations, the survey intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of safeguarding processes and procedures. "The subject is treated very differently in the various countries and the results will reveal the necessary information for the subsequent legal framework," said Daniela Negreda from IGNITX about the survey. "The great feedback that we received so far shows that we have hit a nerve with the aim of contributing to an improved situation in terms of safe

sport in Europe," said Project Coordinator and EOA Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel about the survey and project.

BESST AT THE SAFE SPORTS INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL SPORTS CONFERENCE

In September, the project partners IGNITX and the Windesheim University of Applied Science were present at the Safe Sports International Global Sports Conference in London, UK. This year's theme contained 'Hope and Healing: Supporting Athletes & Transforming Sports Cultures'. The main objective of the attendance was to collect the most updated information in the market in preparation for the launch of this joint safeguarding program.



PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT BESST.

On 18 September, the researcher symposium took place in which researchers in the field of safe sports were able to gather and share their work. Here, Nicolette Schipper-van Veldhoven and Marleen Haandrikman (Windesheim University of Applied Sciences) presented the concept version of the theoret-





A TEAM PHOTO OF THE BESST PROJECT TEAM AT ITS MEETING IN FRANKFURT IN OCTOBER 2023.

ical framework of the first work package of BESST. It was intended to show the field the different approaches to ensuring safe sports by identifying the occurrence of the distribu-

partners addressed the underlying mechanisms of abuse and harassment in sport, and ways in which sport organisations in Europe can take preventive action in its discussion of

"It is very important to [...] start utilising instead of misusing the relationships of power. We need a cultural change!"

- Prof. Nicolette Schipper-van Veldhoven, Researcher and BESST project partner

tion of power in the sports community. On 19-20 September, Nicolette and Marleen were together with Gustavo Harada and Guilherme Campos de Moraes (IGNITX) representatives of the BESST project at the conference. During the event, general keynotes of speakers and workshops of interest were followed about topics such as international perspectives on leading change and the future of safeguarding research in sports.

PROJECT MEETING IN FRANKFURT

At a meeting on 10-11 October, the project

results for the WP1 Definition of Abuse and Harassment. BESST suggests that the root of harmful behaviour lies in the misuse of prevailing relationships of power. Therefore, in addition to the safeguarding measures at the micro level, there is a need for a cultural change in the sport systems. Researchers Nicolette Schipper-van Veldhoven and Marleen Haandrikman emphasised, "safeguarding measures for athletes are the essential first step, but to really change something, all actors in the sports community must become aware of their relationships of power. To achieve this, it

is very important to broaden the perspective towards harassment and abuse and start utilising instead of misusing the relationships of power. We need a cultural change!"

Andreja McQuarrie concluded, "We are very grateful for the recognition and support we have received from the European sports organisations for our project so far. We have gained valuable insights into safeguarding policies and procedures in National Olympic Committees and National Sports Federations through our Europe-wide survey and follow-up interviews. We would like to sincerely thank all organisations for their participation."

RAISING AWARENESS ON SAFE SPORT AT EOA CONGRESS VILNIUS

On 10 November 2023, the Roundtable Debate "Building European Safe Sport Together" took place during the EOA Congress Vilnius. Under the motto "The Olympic Movement in a Changing World" the Congress addressed challenges that the organised sport and the Olympic Movement are currently facing, with the topic of safeguarding in sport being one of these pressing issues.

The panel discussion, which was held in front of the 50 delegates of National Olympic Academies and National Olympic Committees from Europe, was another important step in the dissemination of the project results of BESST. The expert panel, consisting of project partners Miriam Reijnen, Andreja McQuarrie and Alenka Hiti, was complemented by Lithuanian experts Ugne Chmeliauskaite (ENGSO Youth) and Agne Vanagiene (Lithuanian National Olympic Committee). Katrin Wallmann from the EOA chaired the session.

During the debate, aspects such as the prevalence of transgressive behaviour in European sport, what measures can be taken, especially



KATRIN WALLMANN CHAIRED THE DEBATE IN VILNIUS.

from an educational perspective, and how a cultural change can be achieved as a basis for a harassment and abuse-free European sport environment were deliberated. The panellists shared their experiences in the field of case management and explained why preventive measures must be a core principle embedded at all levels of the sports community. The expert panel agreed that a fundamental change in thinking must take place at all decision-making levels in sport in order to create a safe sporting environment for all participants in the future. In this respect, the National Olympic Academies also play an important role by instilling values of safety, respect, and inclusivity in sports for future athletes and fans.

OUTLOOK TO 2024

In the upcoming year, BESST will prepare awareness and education toolkits in subsequent steps that can assist European sport organisations at all levels to achieve an attitude change in relation to safe sport. The project will run until the end of 2024.

The project BESST involves the European Olympic Academies, IGNITX, Rudi Hiti Academy, University of Windesheim, UEFA Foundation for Children, NOC*NSF and the NOC of Slovenia.



Visit the website



BUILDING EUROPEAN SAFE SPORT TOGETHER WAS THE TITLE OF THE PANEL SESSION ON FRIDAY MORNING AT THE EOA CONGRESS VILNIUS. THE PANEL WAS FILLED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM ENGSO YOUTH, LITHUANIAN NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND BESST PARTNERS.



4.2 **EYOF MARIBOR** *European Youth Olympic Festival*

The European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) took place in Maribor between 23 and 29 July 2023. With its more than 30-year tradition, the EYOF is the largest multi-disciplinary sports event for young athletes from 14 to 18 years. It represents their first contact with the Olympic Movement and gives them the opportunity to gain invaluable experience for future competitions on their path to the Olympic Games. Inspired by the Olympic spirit, the festival encourages athletes and other participants to follow the principles of fair play, tolerance and friendship.

Maribor, a city with sport at its heart, hosted the EYOF 2023 – the event welcomed 3,600 participants from 48 countries with athletes competing in as many as eleven disciplines.



For many of the athletes, this is their first major international event and their first Olympic counterpoint. It gives them their first taste of how an Olympic event is run and inspires them to dream of competing in the Olympic Games one day. But the event is about more than just the pursuit of victory and the sporting competition. It brings together sport, culture and nations to celebrate the cultural diversity and unity of European countries through the com-

ing together of young people. In the spirit of the Olympic Idea, the festival offers the opportunity to share values and ideals and to promote friendship, fairness and tolerance.

The Organizing Committee of the EYOF Maribor 2023 together with the Slovenian Olympic Academy organised a diverse programme as part of the EYOF Maribor events. The EOA, together with the European Olympic Committees, supported the Organizing Committee in the areas of culture, education, and legacy activities and contribute to the promotion and visibility of EYOF 2023.

EYOF COUNTRY POSTERS

On Olympic Day, 23 June, the European Olympic Academies, together with the Slovenian Olympic Academy and the EYOF Maribor Organising Committee, officially unveiled the EYOF country posters, featuring information on tourism, culture and Olympic events and achievements of the 48 participating nations. The data was compiled in collaboration with the European Olympic Committees and the 48 National Olympic Committees.

Maribor's city centre had already been fully decorated with pennants and banners. Since 23 June, the street "Ulica škofa Maksimilijana Držičnika" had been home to the country posters that have already attracted a lot of attention from pedestrians passing by.

"The posters are a chance to combine culture with sport and to introduce each other's countries to the young athletes coming to Maribor for the EYOF," said EOA Executive Director Soenke Schadwinkel. Together with



DR. MAJA ZALAZNIK AND ALES SOLAR INTRODUCE THE GUESTS TO THE POSTER PROJECT.

Katrin Wallmann, Olympic Education Manager, they represented the EOA at the official unveiling ceremony.

The Mayor of the City of Maribor, Aleksander Sasa Arsenovic, welcomed the audience, followed by the General Secretary of the NOC of Slovenia, Blaz Perko. The Olympic Anthem was played to celebrate the Anniversary of

portance of connecting culture and the transmission of values through a sporting event like the EYOF. Afterwards, young Slovenian choreographers performed the official dance of the EYOF Maribor. The event was followed by a tour through the Fashion and Sports Temporary Exhibition organised by the Maribor Regional Museum under the direction of Dr. Mirjana Koren.



48 COUNTRIES ON DISPLAY AT THE MARIBOR CITY CENTRE.

The posters were up for display until the end of the festival so that athletes, as well as spectators and volunteers, had the opportunity to find out more about the countries and get a glimpse into the rich diversity of European countries. Numerous NOCs participated and contributed to the creation by providing photos and data. The posters can also be viewed digitally on the EOA website.

the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Dr. Maja Zalaznik, Ales Solar and Soenke Schadwinkel spoke a few words about the im-



Check out the posters

EYOF PHOTO CONTEST

At that moment on 26 July 2023, everything was just falling into place – for the pole vaulter Magdalena Rauter (Austria) as well as for photographer Patrick Steiner, who both secured first place, in the pole vault final and in the EYOF Maribor Photo Contest respectively.

On the third day of the European Youth Olympic Festival, Magdalena Rauter (Innsbruck, Austria) sensationally collected the first Austrian gold medal in Maribor in the pole vault, her 4-metre jump also brought her over the U20 European Championship limit. "This gold medal is definitely my biggest success so far," Rauter said later about her first international final.

The athlete is framed by a light gap in the clouds and the pole vault construction. With her pin-straight body and the only slightly curved pole, many geometric lines run through the entire composition. Furthermore, a unique reflection in the red mat is emblematic of the many downpours that have marked the EYOF Maribor. A true masterpiece also found the AIPS Europe Executive Committee, which served as a jury in this Photo Contest. With 19 points, this photo finished ahead of second-placed Ireland (16 points) and Hungary (9 points) in third place.

Charles Camenzuli, President of AIPS Europe, said "As AIPS Europe, we are very pleased with this first partnership with the EOA, and we are looking forward to even more common initiatives in the future. The submissions our EC members had to choose from, were of high quality, amazing moments from the recent EYOF and we are pleased to help promote this excellent event and the messages Olympism offers."

"We would like to thank all the NOCs who participated in the Photo Contest and contributed an artistic value to the legacy of EYOF

Maribor, as well as AIPS Europe for the technical expertise in this cooperation and the European Olympic Committees for facilitating the contact to the NOCs," said EOA's Katrin Wallmann about the turnout of the contest.

BRINGING THE OLYMPIC VALUES TO LIFE

The European sports organisations have worked together to provide the athletes with an unforgettable experience and disseminate the Olympic values in Maribor.

The European Young Olympic Ambassadors (EYOA) programme, under the auspices of the EOC Commission for Culture and Education, brought the Olympic values in the athletes' village to life. Through a variety of activities prepared by the young ambassadors, they conveyed the values of friendship, excellence and respect to the athletes. As part of the EYOA programme, an Integrity Day was held where, among others, the International Testing Agency, the European Fair Play Movement and the Erasmus+ project Committee "Financial and Business Literacy in Sport for Athletes and Coaches", led by the Slovenian Olympic Academy, took part in a joint scavenger hunt to raise awareness of the various integrity issues in sport.

President Manfred Laemmer visited the EYOA Programme as well as the EOA staff to make themselves familiar with the structure, running and impact. The European Youth Olympic Festival has shown how much potential there is for cooperation between organisations to spread the Olympic values. The EYOF should be seen by all National Olympic Academies as a great opportunity to spread the Olympic Idea to their young athletes so that they continue to live the Olympic values on and off the field throughout their careers.





THE FIRST PLACE AT THE EYOF MARIBOR PHOTO CONTEST: MAGDALENA RAUTER (AUSTRIA) IN THE POLE VAULT FINAL, PHOTOGRAPHED BY PATRICK STEINER.



4.3 **FB-LS PROJECT**

Financial and business literacy for athletes and coaches

The Erasmus+ funded project FB-LS (Financial and Business Literacy in Sports for Athletes and Coaches) aims to improve the financial and business education of athletes and coaches to prevent integrity

FB-LS

Financial and Business Literacy
in Sport for Athletes and Coaches

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



problems in sports. This includes the development of training materials, the delivery of workshops and the provision of an online learning tool. The long-term results will be available in 6 languages and can be used in both EU countries and partner countries.

WHAT IS FB-LS?

FB-LS addresses the problem of low financial and business literacy in athletes and coaches, which may contribute to sport integrity issues, manipulation, match-fixing etc. Research has shown that financial problems could result in issues of sport integrity including abuses of position, irregularities in sporting results, match-fixing etc. Athletes and coaches with financial problems are an easier target of organised crime and criminal elements. The issues can include problems with financial and decision making during and after an athlete's career, athletes' loss of reputation and wealth,

and club scandals. The three-year project was implemented between 2021 and 2023.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN FB-LS?

The project is led by NOC of Slovenia under the leadership of Ales Solar. Partners are the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee, Austrian Olympic Committee, Olympic Committee of Serbia, Volleyball Federation of North Macedonia, University of Ljubljana and the European Olympic Academies. The team is completed by the external experts Aaron Hermann and Miha Urek.

PROJECT MEETING IN BELGRADE

The FB-LS project team met in Belgrade in March and prepared the implementation of the workshops for athletes and coaches. The external experts presented the first draft of the online tool and agreed on the content. The EOA was represented by staff members Soenke Schadwinkel and Emma Rantamaa.

WORKSHOPS FOR ATHLETES AND COACHES

Throughout summer, several workshops were held in the countries of the project partners. Particularly noteworthy were the workshops held during the European Youth Olympic Fes-



THE INFORMATION TENT AT THE EYOF MARIBOR.



THE PROJECT PARTNERS OF THE FB-LS PROJECT MET IN BELGRADE IN APRIL.

tivals in Maribor. The first workshop in Serbia took place on 25 August as part of the IOC Technical Courses for Coaches in Kosolac, Serbia, organised by the Serbian Gymnastics Federation.

DISSEMINATION AND FINALISATION

Towards the end of the year, the project part-

ners worked on the dissemination and finalisation of the deliverables. The results will soon be available on a dedicated project website. The EOA will report on further developments of this three-year programme. If you have any questions or want to get in contact with the FB-LS project management, please contact info@eoalympic.org.



Univerza v Ljubljani
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4.4 SOPROS PROJECT

Athletes' Social Protection in Olympic Sports

SOPROS is the title of the ERASMUS+ project "Assessing, Evaluating, and Implementing Athletes' Social Protection in Olympic Sports". It is a 3-year project which officially began in January 2023.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The main objectives are to assess the statutory social protection coverage of elite athletes in Olympic sports in Europe, to evaluate the current landscape of athletes' social protection, to develop actor-specific steps for the implementation of athletes' social protection and to provide and pilot a framework and a platform for a process of negotiations.

In recent years, several cases of issues related to the social protection of elite athletes have made headlines in newspapers and raised critical awareness in the public sphere. Unfortunately, in many cases, these headlines refer to incidents of tragic accidents of elite athletes, but topics like pension payments, health care or maternity protection have also entered the sphere of Olympic elite sport governance. However, recent data of the EMPLOY project indicate that limitations in social protection is

the reality for many athletes in Olympic sports across the continent. Most athlete-centred social protection systems are based on ad-hoc cooperation and coordination between sport governing bodies and public authorities. The actual roles and responsibilities taken by public and private actors in the practical implementation of athletes' social protection have not yet been precisely defined.

Recent policy initiatives at the transnational and European level have acknowledged the need to increase social protection standards for athletes, for example the Council of Europe in 2021 and the ILO in 2020. Additionally, athletes have increasingly been positioning themselves as key actors of the Olympic movement and demanding greater involvement in decision-making processes that affect their lives both as athletes and human beings. This demonstrates the importance of involv-



PROJECT COORDINATOR MAXI SELTMANN.

ing all stakeholders in the elite sport sector that are responsible for the regulation and implementation of athletes' social protection.

Against this backdrop, the aim of the SOPROS project is to promote integrity and values in sport by assessing, evaluating and imple-

menting athletes' social protection in Olympic sports.

It can be understood as a deepening of the Erasmus+ EMPLOYS project in the area of athletes' social protection, which is one of six core dimensions of the employment relations of athletes in Olympic sports. It will build on the solid foundation and findings of the EMPLOYS project and take the next steps toward setting a framework for the implementation of concrete actions for athletes in the specific policy field of social protection. The project consortium involves four academic partners involved in the research and study of sport governance, sport politics and sport law, as well as five policy partners with significant expertise in athletes' employment and social relations.

The outcomes of the SOPROS project:

1

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS

develop Self-Assessment Tools for athletes, sport governing bodies, and public authorities to collect unique data about athletes' social protection

2

EVALUATION REPORT

analyse and present this data in an Evaluation Report

3

SOCIAL PROTECTION MANUAL

develop a Manual for the Implementation of Athletes' Social Protection

4

NEGOTIATION PROCESS

pilot a process of negotiations in Olympic elite sports and provide analytical and practical insights into its benefits and challenges

5

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

host several National Workshops, one EU-Level Multi-Stakeholder Workshop and three public Conferences.

REPORTS FROM THE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Since June, the academic partners of the five participating countries conducted national workshops with stakeholders from different levels to discuss current practices, experiences, opinions and demands in the field of athletes' social protection. The goal of the National Workshops was twofold: first, to facilitate an exchange of ideas and opinions of the participants regarding the social protection situations of German elite athletes in Olympic sports; and second, to introduce the participants to the Self-Assessment Tools developed as part of the project, and get feedback and comments about the Tools. The workshops held in Germany, Poland, Portugal and the UK have provided insightful information and show that there is a particularly high level of interest in the topic. The first assessments show that there is a need for statutory and private athlete-centred measures that can only be solved through multi-stakeholder responsibility.

On June 21, eleven stakeholders from the German sports landscape met at the German Sport University Cologne for the first of the SOPROS project's National Workshops. The workshop group included representatives from the German Federal Military (Bundeswehr), the German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB), TSV Bayer 04 Leverkusen, Athletes Germany (Athleten Deutschland), the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Staatskanzlei NRW), Olympic Training Center Cologne (OSP Köln), Freiburger Kreis, and the North Rhine Athletics Association (Leichtathletik-Verband Nordrhein).

On October 4, 2023, a workshop on social protection of athletes of Olympic disciplines in Poland was held at the office of the Institute for Sport Governance foundation in Warsaw, led by Dr Paweł Zembura. The participants were important stakeholders in the sports



DR. VANJA SMOKVINA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA ORGANISED ONE OF THE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS IN ZAGREB.

sports system in Poland: representatives of the Institute of Sport - the National Research Institute, the Polish Olympic Committee, the Central Military Sports Team, the Polish Sailing Association, the Academic Sports Association and the Capital City of Warsaw. Some other invited stakeholders withdrew right before the event or were preoccupied with other activities.

On October 20, Sport Evolution Alliance organised a workshop at the Jamor Swimming Pool Complex auditorium in Cruz Quebrada, Lisbon, Portugal. The meeting was led by Luiz Haas, Dr. Tiago Ribeiro, and André Calapez. Representatives of stakeholders in the sports system in Portugal participated in the workshop. The event was attended by organisations such as the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, Sport Foundation Portugal, Olympic Athletes Commission of the Portuguese Olympic Committee, a national sports federation, and an expert in sports law.

Tuesday, November 21, saw a workshop at the headquarters of the Croatian Volleyball Federation in Zagreb. The workshop was organised by the University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law and its Centre for Sports Law, Sports Policies and Sports Diplomacy - the head of the centre and regional coordinator of the project, Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina.

PROJECT MEETING IN CASCAIS

On October 23-24, the third project meeting of the EU project SOPROS took place in Cascais, Portugal, where the current status and further steps of the project on athletes' social



THE SOPROS TEAM MET IN CASCAIS.

protection in Olympic sports were discussed. The coordinating research team emphasised at the meeting, "Through the EMPLOYS project we gained a lot of new insights and identified big gaps in the social protection coverage levels among elite athletes within the EU. This is a precarious situation – We need a policy change in the next years".

Due to their comparatively short career and the high health risk, athletes are in a special

athletes is complex became clear again at the project meeting in Cascais. Since many country-specific differences at the level of the sports system and in national laws prevail, a better understanding of this issue among all involved stakeholders at both the national and transnational levels is required. Kirsten-Maria Schapira from the International Labour Organization (ILO) stressed in Cascais, "Social protection is a human right that every person must be entitled to by national law.

"Social protection is a human right that every person must be entitled to by national law. This should also or especially apply to athletes during their active career."

- Kirsten-Maria Schapira, International Labour Organization

situation that requires adequate social security, such as maternity benefits, health protection or a minimum income. However, recent data indicate that limitations in social protection are the reality for many athletes in Olympic sports due to factors such as low employment rates, atypical employment relationships and low incomes in the sector (Mittag et al., 2022).

The fact that the issue of social security for

This should also or especially apply to athletes during their active career."

NEXT STEPS

The next milestone of the SOPROS project will be the creation of two self-assessment tools for athletes and stakeholders. In April 2024, a conference will be held in Cologne to present and discuss the self-assessment tools among public/governmental, private, and sport-specific stakeholders (i.e. sport governing bodies).



Deutsche
Sporthochschule Köln
German Sport University Cologne

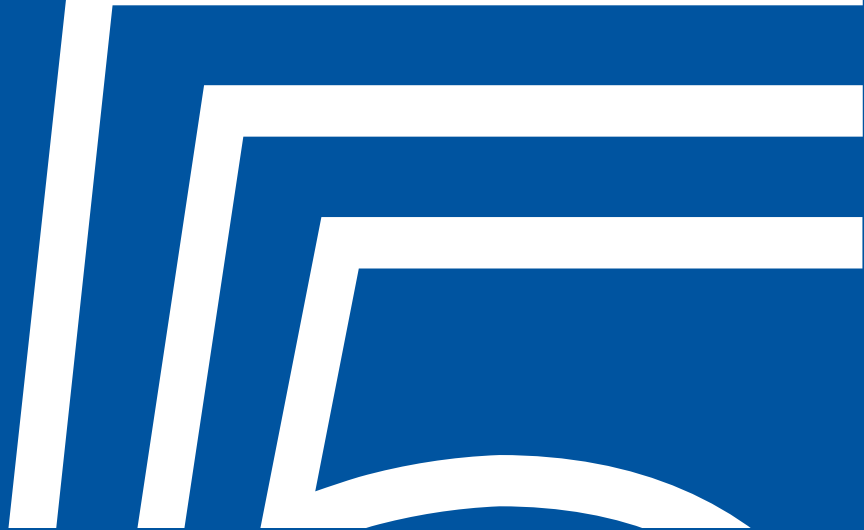


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International
Labour
Organization





/// MEMBERS' SECTION





5.1

EOA MEMBERS

National Olympic Academies in Europe

EOA members make up the General Assembly, the supreme governing body of the EOA. Each country may be represented by one organisation: either the National Olympic Academy, recognised by their respective NOC, or alternatively, the NOC's Commission entrusted with the implementation of Olympic Education. Joining the EOA is a simple process and offers great new opportunities to network with other Olympic organisations and to access events and conferences.

As of 2024, the EOA counts 34 members in countries located in every corner of the European continent. After founding the association with 24 members in 2018, the EOA was able to extend, with the latest additions of the NOAs of Andorra, Ireland, Luxembourg and Moldova.

The EOA is always excited to welcome new members and to facilitate collaboration between them. The process for joining the EOA is outlined below.

1

MEET ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

According to the EOA Statutes, the following institutions can become members: National Olympic Academies, recognised by their respective NOC or in the absence of an NOA, NOCs' commissions entrusted with the implementation of Olympic Education. Each European country may be represented by one organisation only.

2

SEND FORMAL APPLICATION

Membership applications should be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. The application letter should contain key information about the institution, including contact details and board members.

3

RECEIVE APPROVAL FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD

As of 2024, the Executive Board decides on the admission of new members to allow a faster joining process.

4

PAY THE MEMBERSHIP FEE

Each member is required to pay an annual contribution of €300.



5.2 MEET OUR MEMBERS

An interview series by the EOA

The EOA has been conducting virtual visits to its members which have resulted in detailed and informative reports that provide a comprehensive overview of each member NOA. The interviews focused on each NOA's historical development, organisational structure, staff, funding, relationship to the NOC and other partners, and academic and pedagogical activities. Factors such as cultural diversity, sporting policies and developments in political and Olympic structures mean that

European NOAs are all distinct, which makes for interesting reading and offers a good variety of organisations to discover.

This Annual Report features the published interviews with EOA's four newest members, depicting the diversity of the academies' structures and approaches.



Meet all members





EUROPEAN MAP WITH ALL CURRENT EOA MEMBER COUNTRIES

Albanian Olympic Academy
 Andorran Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Armenia
 Austrian Olympic Academy
 Azerbaijan National Olympic Academy
 Belarusian Olympic Academy
 Belgian Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Bulgaria
 Croatian Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Cyprus
 Czech Olympic Academy
 Estonian Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of France
 German Olympic Academy
 Hellenic Olympic Academy
 Hungarian Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Ireland

Olympic Academy of Israel
 National Olympic Academy of Italy
 Kosovo Olympic Academy
 Latvian Olympic Academy
 Lithuanian Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Luxembourg
 Maltese Olympic Academy
 Moldovan Olympic Academy
 National Olympic Academy of Netherlands
 Portuguese Olympic Academy
 Romanian Olympic Academy
 Central Olympic Academy of Russia
 Olympic Academy of Serbia
 Slovak Olympic Academy
 Slovenian Olympic Academy
 Royal Spanish Olympic Academy
 Olympic Academy of Ukraine



ANDORRAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY

Interview with Mr. Josep Antoni Guerra Alvarez, General Secretary of the Andorran Olympic Committee

EOA: We would like to know more about your organisation. Can you outline the structure and functioning of your NOA and give us a brief history?

The Andorran Olympic Committee has been recognised by the International Olympic Committee since 1975, but it was founded in 1971. The Andorran NOC works independently, which means that it is not controlled by the Andorran government and receives funding from the Olympic Solidarity programme and the European Olympic Committees. Our NOA is united within the Andorran Olympic Committee. We used to have Mr. François Garcia as director, but unfortunately, he passed away due to COVID19. We are currently counting on Mr Jordi Cerqueda as Director of the Andorran NOA, who is also Vice President of the Andorran Olympic Committee. One of the most urgent and important tasks facing our NOA is to create a regulation, which would be the next step in the development of our organisation.

EOA: We are delighted that you are part of the EOA family now. Can you, as our main contact person of the organisation, briefly introduce yourself so that everyone gets to know you?

It is truly an honour. I am currently the Secre-

tary General of NOC Andorra and the President of the Andorran Canoe Kayak Federation. Since we do not have a proper President in our NOA, I accepted the responsibility to help and assess Mr. Jordi Cerqueda as he has some language barriers. I will continue to hold these positions until the end of 2024 and at the same time help the organisation of the NOA.

EOA: Has there been any projects related to promoting the Olympic idea/values/heritage that have been carried out in your country?

There are a few projects that have been happening for a while now. One of our projects is the "The Games for the Elders" where, every two years, for two days, there is a friendly competition for the Andorran elders. Each municipality in Andorra puts sends a team to compete against each other in sports such as Table Tennis or Pétanque. We are very proud of this sporting event because it creates healthy habits and is a good example for all the grandchildren who see their grandparents competing.



JOSEP ANTONI GUERRA ALVAREZ AT THE EOA CONGRESS.

EOA: Does your organisation have any new educational projects planned for the coming years, also with regard to the 2024 Paris Games?

Unfortunately, we haven't planned an educational project yet... There are always ideas but realising them is difficult. What makes the

development of educational projects even more difficult is that there are three different education systems in Andorra: The Andorran, French and Spanish system, and it is not easy to coordinate all these options and varieties.

EOA: What do you hope to derive from joining the EOA? Do you have expectations and wishes?

Of course. After our last EOA Congress in Vilnius, it is safe to say that the European Olympic Academies is a very productive and dynamic organisation, just like their President, and we look forward to learn as much as we can from you.

EOA: Thank you so much.



OLYMPIC ACADEMY OF IRELAND

Interview with Mr. Peter Sherrard, Chief Executive Officer of the Olympic Federation of Ireland

EOA: We would like to know more about your organisation. Can you outline the structure and functioning of your NOA and give us a brief history?

The Olympic Federation of Ireland is the National Olympic Committee of Ireland and works to improve the Olympic performance of Irish athletes in each cycle and inspire the nation through the success of our Olympic Athletes. We do this under the five strategic

pillars of the 2018-2024 strategic plan:

1. Putting Athletes First;
2. Enabling Performance;
3. Inspiring Ireland;
4. Financing for Growth and Purpose; and
5. Operating to the highest standards

The Irish Olympic Council as it was known at the outset, came to existence in 1922. Ireland competed at its first Olympic Games in Paris 1924.



PETER SHERRARD, OLYMPIC FEDERATION OF IRELAND.

EOA: We are delighted that you are part of the EOA family now. Can you, as our main contact person of the organisation, briefly introduce yourself so that everyone gets to know you?

I have been Chief Executive of the Olympic Federation of Ireland since 2018. Previously I have worked at Director level in a number of sectors including international commerce, tourism, aviation and sport, in Ireland, Italy and France in roles covering commercial/ marketing, sales, communications, operations and sponsorship with the Irish Food Export Board, Tourism Ireland, Ryanair and the Football Association of Ireland. I speak French and Italian and am a member of the Sport Ireland High Performance Committee.

EOA: Has there been any projects related to promoting the Olympic idea/values/heritage that have been carried out in your country?

There have been a lot of projects. One of the main ones that we launched in 2019 relates to teaching Olympic Values in schools. The project is called "Dare to Believe" and involves 50 Olympic ambassadors who do school visits and speak about their experiences. This is supported by a detailed 5 ring curriculum on Olympic values that we have developed with teachers. It is generally completed in the two weeks in advance of each Olympian visit and there are two versions, one for primary school children and one for secondary school children.

EOA: Does your organisation have any new educational projects planned for the coming years, also with regard to the 2024 Paris Games?

Yes, also under the Dare to Believe programme, we have Olympic movement breaks being run in conjunction with the Department of Education and online resources from a wide variety of Irish athletes. 120,000 children have signed up for this programme since its launch in November this year.

Next April we will launch our Road to Paris online initiative through the Dare to Believe programme and we expect to engage with more than 200,000 schoolchildren nationally.

In 2024, we will be celebrating our first participation in the Olympic Games exactly one hundred years ago. This will be done through a centenary parade float at the St Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, a 'Best of Us' historical social media campaign, an outdoor historical exhibition at the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris, and an Olympians re-united event in November to bring together and celebrate Irish Olympians from all eras.

EOA: What do you hope to derive from joining the EOA? Do you have expectations and wishes?

We are delighted to become members of the

EOA and look forward to playing an active part.

EOA: Thank you so much.



NATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY OF LUXEMBOURG

Interview with Mr. Ralf Lentz, Secretary General of the Comité Olympique et Sportif Luxembourgeois

EOA: We would like to know more about your organisation. Can you outline the structure and functioning of your NOA and give us a brief history?

The Luxembourg Olympic and Sports Committee (COSL) is the umbrella organisation for private organised sport in Luxembourg. It is recognised as the central body of Luxembourg sport and the National Olympic Committee and represents all Olympic and non-Olympic sports federations. The Luxembourg Olympic Committee (COL) was founded in 1912 and transformed into the Luxembourg Olympic and Sports Committee (COSL) in 1974.

The missions of the COSL are derived from its statutes and the framework provided by the 2005 Sports Act. They revolve around the following areas:

- Development of sport and physical education in Luxembourg
- Uniting all sports organisations and representing the interests of the sports move-

ment

- Organising participation in the Olympic Games and other Olympic multi-sport events
- Representing the Olympic and sports movement at national and international level
- Promoting the Olympic movement and its values, and the social and educational values of sport

The COSL consists of 9 permanent employees who are supported by 3 interim project staff. The COSL is structured into five departments: technical, promotional, executive, administrative and finance office.

EOA: We are delighted that you are part of the EOA family now. Can you, as our main contact person of the organisation, briefly introduce yourself so that everyone gets to know you?

After 15 years of activity as team manager in various sales, marketing and project management departments in the financial sector, I have joined COSL at the beginning of 2022 as



RALF LENTZ, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COSL.

Secretary General and Managing Director. Prior to this I was active in COSL as a volunteer member of the Board of Directors as well as the Technical Board, Sports Commission and Athletes Commission. As an athlete, I was a

member and captain of the Luxembourg national volleyball team.

EOA: Has there been any projects related to promoting the Olympic idea/values/heritage that have been carried out in your country?

Olympic and sports values are promoted by COSL mainly through the Olympic Day and the "COSL Spillfest". For Olympic Day, every year since 1987, around 400 primary school children have been introduced to sports in various ateliers, with the focus on activities with an integrative character (e.g. judo for the blind, sitting volleyball, etc.). The children and young people are also introduced to the Olympic values through workshops, fun games and discussions with former Olympians. The annual "COSL Spillfest" has been taking place since 1981. In close collaboration with its federations and partners the COSL aims to present a wide range of physical and sporting activities, in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, to a large audience of families and young people. Between 10,000 and 15,000 visitors come to this event every year. In addition to these flagship events, COSL is regularly involved at local level in promoting Olympic and sports values to children and teenagers.

EOA: Does your organisation have any new educational projects planned for the coming years, also with regard to the 2024 Paris Games?

In the past, the COSL was primarily active in competitive and elite sport, but it has recently set itself the goal of expanding its activities as part of its mission to promote physical activity and the Olympic, social and educational values of sport. In this context, COSL, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Sports and with the support of the "Œuvre Nationale de Secours Grande-Duchesse Charlotte", is developing concepts to promote physical activity at local level, complementing exist-

ing initiatives. The project aims to accelerate and facilitate initiatives that (re)motivate citizens of all ages and fitness levels to adopt a physically active lifestyle, and to encourage all stakeholders - such as clubs, schools, educational and care facilities of all kinds, as well as local authorities and sports coordinators - to implement these campaigns on a permanent and sustainable basis, and to evaluate their impact on an ongoing basis.

EOA: What do you hope to derive from joining the EOA? Do you have expectations and wishes?

As a small NOC, COSL is highly dependent on the exchange of experience with other players in the development of new initiatives. In this context, we are certain that the EOA and its members can be of invaluable help in COSL's aspirations to become more involved in the EOA's core missions and to become even more of a driving force in the sports sector of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the greater cross-border region.

EOA: Thank you so much.



MOLDOVAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY

Interview with Ms. Cristina Vasilianov, Secretary General of the National Olympic and Sports Committee of the Republic of Moldova

EOA: We would like to know more about your organisation. Can you outline the structure

and functioning of your NOA and give us a brief history?

The Olympic Academy of the Republic of Moldova was founded on 27 December 2013 by decision of the Executive Committee of the National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOS). Our National Olympic Academy is part of the structure within the CNOS. The President of the institution is Anatolie Popusoi, a renowned coach of the Republic of Moldova and university lecturer. The project manager is Evghenii Draganov, who is responsible for conducting the Olympic lessons. The Olympic Academy, founded in accordance with the principles of the Olympic Charter and the provisions of the CNOS Statutes, has the task of promoting the Olympic ideas, studying the cultural, ethical, historical and sociological aspects of the Olympic Movement, promoting integrity and the spirit of fair play in sports and supporting other cultural-sporting activities.

EOA: We are delighted that you are part of the EOA family now. Can you, as our main contact person of the organisation, briefly introduce yourself so that everyone gets to know you?

I have been Secretary General of the NOC of Moldova for 15 years. I am also President of the Moldovan Skating Federation, Member of the EOC Executive Committee and Vice Chairperson of the EYOF Winter Commission of the EOC. As an athlete, I was a fencer and took part in World and European Youth Championships.

EOA: Has there been any projects related to promoting the Olympic idea/values/heritage that have been carried out in your country?

Every year, the Olympic Academy is part of the programmes of the main CNOS initiatives, such as the World Olympic Day, the Olympic

Festival, and the ECO Festival. The main activities of the Olympic Academy include training sessions, seminars and meetings in academic environments - universities, colleges and high schools where the younger generation introduced to the history of Olympism and the top athletes who take part in these activities share their own experiences. The young people who take part in these activities have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the exhibits of the Olympic Museum in the CNOS premises.

One of our most important projects is "Olympic Lesson", which was very successful in 2023 when we doubled the number of Olympic Lessons to 60 compared to the previous year. Throughout the year, the Olympic House opened its doors to students of high schools and gymnasiums from Chisinau. The children



ZALINA MARGHIEVA SPEAKS AT THE EOA CONGRESS.

had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating history of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement and to visit the Olympic Museum. In an interactive and fun way, the children were involved in games that helped them to better understand the Olympic values and the principles that guide this international movement.

Notable personalities who have made histo-

ry in sport in the Republic of Moldova gave speeches to the children: Among others, the two-time Olympic champion and President of the National Olympic Committee of Moldova, Nicolae Juravschi, Olympic champion Larisa Popova, President of the Olympic Academy of Moldova, Anatolie Popusoi, and the country's currently most prominent athlete, hammer thrower Zalina Marghieva. In addition to teaching at the Olympic House, the team from the National Olympic and Sports Committee also promoted the project in other locations in the Republic of Moldova. In 2023, over 2,000 children aged between 7 and 17 took part in the "Olympic Lessons".

EOA: Does your organisation have any new educational projects planned for the coming years, also with regard to the 2024 Paris Games?

In anticipation of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, we are planning to include a special chapter about the upcoming Olympic Games in the "Olympic lessons". We want to tell the children about the Summer Olympics and the athletes who will represent the Republic of Moldova in France.

EOA: What do you hope to derive from joining the EOA? Do you have expectations and wishes?

By joining the EOA, we would like to continue promoting the ideals of Olympism and the Olympic Movement. For us, this can be a new chapter in our activities and a recognition at the highest level. Without a doubt, this new step will be a strong motivation for the Olympic Academy of the Republic of Moldova to continue its process of development.

EOA: Thank you so much.



5.3

SELECTED ACTIVITIES of the National Olympic Academies



COOPERATION WITH THE JAPANESE OLYMPIC ACADEMY.

21 April 2023

ANOF BRINGS OLYMPIC SPIRIT TO UNIVERSITIES

The National Olympic Academy of France (ANOF) launched an Olympic and Paralympic programme for universities. The "ANOF Student Olympic and Paralympic Programme" aims to engage the student community in the Olympic and Paralympic dynamic, by activating the second objective of the "Generation 2024" label, and to build the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The programme is based on the dissemination of the Olympic and Paralympic spirit and the promotion of sport among university students, including its scientific, sporting, educational and cultural dimensions.

The programme raises awareness of the importance of sport for health, promote Olympic and Paralympic values, instil an Olympic and Paralympic culture, encourage the participation of volunteers, change people's attitudes towards disability and promote initiatives by students and young doctoral candidates for scientific research on Olympic and Paralympic themes. The programme includes theoretical plenary sessions, sport and para-sport training, information and exchange workshops

with experts and/or Olympic and Paralympic athletes, and Participation in a sports event as a volunteer for the Territorial Olympic and Paralympic Relays.

The ANOF Student Olympic and Paralympic Programme is an excellent initiative to prepare university students for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. This innovative and dynamic programme provides an excellent opportunity for institutions of higher education to promote their projects and benefit from the support of the Olympic Academy. The different dimensions of the programme offer students a varied and engaging experience that encourages them to get involved in sport and volunteering.



ISPORTSWALL INTRODUCES 70+ MODULES.

8 May 2023

"MOVE AND KNOW" PROJECT TO PROMOTE CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The Lithuanian Olympic Academy has initiated the project "Move and Know", which is aimed to develop health-enhancing physical activity and critical examination of physical activity indicators, self-control, and social skills, targeting 1200 children aged 10-13 in the city of Klaipeda. The project duration is

set for 34 months, from the beginning of September 2022 to the end of June 2025. "Move to Know" is financed by the Lithuanian Sports Sponsorship Fund.

By providing an interactive and engaging environment that combines fun and learning, the project aims to promote physical activity among children. Innovative technology such as ISports Wall and Polar Team Pro system are utilised to apply physical activity promotion measures. This technology facilitates the achievement of the project's objectives, enabling children to develop critical examination of physical activity indicators and other social skills.

Amazing Interactives Ltd has developed a new innovative system called the ISportsWall, which can convert a large 4m to 6m wall within a school hall into an interactive classroom for catch-up learning and exercise. Currently, the system has over 70 modules that cover both educational and physical activities. By throwing balls or touching the wall, large and small groups of pupils can interact with the modules, making physical activity fun and engaging for the children. This approach is aimed to increase their motivation and participation in physical activities.

Providing coaches with essential performance insights on individual and team performance, the Polar Team Pro system offers GPS-based movement data, inertial sensor metrics, and integrated heart rate monitoring. On-screen heart rates help push children towards higher training zones, giving coaches accurate feedback on training effort and recovery times.

The project will teach the children valuable skills but most importantly, they will develop a lifelong love for physical activity. What is more, enhancing the health of children, the project's impact will be seen beyond the duration of the project.



THE GERMAN-ISRAELI SEMINAR IN FRANKFURT.

18 May 2023

SHALOM AND GUTEN TAG: NOAS OF GERMANY AND ISRAEL MET FOR SECOND TIME

In the beginning of May 2023, the second German-Israeli Seminar took place in Frankfurt after its launch in 2019. The two-day seminar strengthened the binational relationship and brought together nine delegates from Israel and Germany. In this regard, the seminar was organised by the German Olympic Academy (DOA), conducted by them and the National Olympic Committee of Israel (NOCIL) under the auspices of the EOA.

The meeting of the Israeli and German delegates ensured an insightful and intense discourse about currently relevant issues such as talent recognition, education of coaches, the position of women in sports and the necessity of appointing women in leadership positions in German sports and influences on female athletic performance. Furthermore, the safety of women in sports, overall harassment, the sexualisation of women in sports and the strategic prevention of them were topic of discussion for the second day and presented by speakers like Elena Lamby from the German Sports Youth, who focused on Safe Sports, for example.

The great programme was accompanied by culinary and cultural events over the days. The second meeting is considered a milestone and the next seminar is already planned for 2024 or 2025 in Israel and will take place under the auspices of NOCIL.



THE #SPORTAJMOINBERIMO PROGRAMME.

25 May 2023

SLOVENIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY SUPPORTS THE VALUE OF READING

In today's age, when technology is becoming more prevalent and life is becoming more virtualised, curiosity about reading among the youth and young adults is decreasing. However, the Slovenian Olympic Academy recognises the problem and the great potential that reading has.

Consequently, the Slovenian NOA recently launched their #sportajmoinberimo programme to encourage reading among young athletes. It seeks to show young athletes the value of reading and education, and how they also positively influence their athletic careers.

For this, Olympians are invited to the main libraries and share their experiences and opinions on how reading and education have helped them in sport and after their athletic career.

The target group consists of young people aged 15 to 19 who engage in sports or sporting activities in their free time frequently. According to statistical data, this target group makes up more than half of Slovenia and a large part of Europe. About half of all young people exercise at least once a week, but almost all of them use the internet and social media.

The programme is an encouraging platform to raise awareness about the relevance of reading as a counterbalance to social media con-

sumption and the value of reading in sports as well.



OLYMPISM IN ACTION.

31 May 2023

OLYMPISM IN ACTION: THE OLYMPIC FAMILY FOR THE COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL

As part of the Olympic Committee of Israel's strategy to promote Olympic values, the Education Department, together with the Athletes Commission, is leading initiatives of community involvement and social responsibility.

Among its initiatives, a collaboration was formed between the NOC of Israel and Latet, the largest NGO in Israel combating poverty and food insecurity in Israel. This cooperation started with one of Latet's programmes called Nutritional Security, aiming to reduce nutritional insecurity among families and individuals living in severe poverty by salvaging, collecting, and distributing food.

The first action took place before Passover, when students of the Olympic Class, a programme led by the NOC of Israel and the Olympic medallist Arik Ze'evi, mobilised for 10 days of collecting food from customers in a supermarket in Tel Aviv. The second stage involved over 70 athletes and coaches, including the Olympic medallists Yael Arad, Peter Paltchik and Shahar Zubari, together with the NOC CEO Gili Lustig and staff members, who arrived at Latet's logistics centre with the aim of packing food packages for families living in nutritional insecurity.

28 June 2023

SPANISH NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE JOINS THE OLYMPIC WORLD LIBRARY NETWORK

The Spanish National Olympic Committee has become the first international partner of the Olympic World Library (OWL) network, an extension of the IOC Olympic Studies Centre's (OSC) online library. The OWL Network, established in 2016 by the OSC, serves as a library catalogue, information portal, and search engine specifically focused on literature related to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games.

The agreement between the OSC and the Spanish NOC was facilitated by Alejandro Blanco, President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, and overseen by Raúl Chapado, President of the Royal Spanish Olympic Academy. Chapado emphasised the opportunity to showcase their resources and support education and research initiatives. Digitising the works of Conrado Duránte, the founder and former president of the Royal Spanish Olympic Academy, is one of the initial priorities for the Royal Spanish Olympic Academy within this project. Chapado highlighted that Duránte's significant contributions as a historian, author, and expert on the ancient and modern Olympic Games and Olympism would now be easily accessible to a global audience through the Olympic World Library. With this first collaboration, it is hoped that a path will be opened, and that other organisations will join in, in order to be able to continue transmitting and preserving the history of the Olympics.

30 June 2023

ZUGLÓI HAJÓS ALFRÉD HUNGARIAN-GERMAN BILINGUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IGNITES OLYMPIC SPIRIT

Zuglói Hajós Alfréd Hungarian-German Bilingual Elementary School, located in Hungary, is actively engaging its students in Olympic

education and training through the Olympic Values Education and Training (OVEP) Pilot programme. The school aims to carry on the spirit of the Olympics and integrate the OVEP materials into various subjects, including physical education.

To achieve this goal, the school has planned a series of activities for the classes throughout the academic year. Fourth grade students will focus on Hungarian reading, while the 5th grade will delve into the history of the ancient Olympics in their history class. Sixth grade students will have a class teacher lesson dedicated to the preparation and presentation of Olympians, and the 7th grade will engage in an Olympic quiz. Additionally, some of the older classes will participate in a rowing competition and have a theme day with a visit to the Olympic and Sports Museum. The integration of Olympic education extends beyond physical education classes. For example, the 7th grade will have discussions on conveying the Olympic core values in drama and theater class, as well as exploring Olympic records in physics class. Other groups will have opportunities to express their opinions on fairness in sports and participate in Fair Play lessons in collaboration with the International Fair Play Committee.



THE OLYMPIC DAY HELD IN UKRAINE.

27 July 2023

UNITING YOUTH FOR PEACE THROUGH OLYMPIC VALUES IN UKRAINE

Despite the ongoing Russian aggression on the territory of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Olym-

pic Academy remains an active participant in the international Olympic Movement. As in previous years, the Olympic Day was successfully held in all 26 regions of Ukraine under the motto "Ukraine among friends. Let's move together to victory for the sake of peace!".

Olympic quizzes, brain-rings, athletics and cycling races were held as part of the Olympic Day celebration. In addition, seminars "Integration of Olympic education into the system of educational institutions", "Olympic Day – the world holiday of Olympic sports" took place for students and lecturers of higher educational institutions.

On improvised venues, famous Ukrainian Olympians passed on their knowledge and skills to the younger generation and were a vivid example of the embodiment of the principles of unity, friendship and support for children and youth. The Olympic Academy of Ukraine has prepared a traditional Olympic diary for the Olympic Day.

The Olympic Day has united the children and youth of Ukraine around the Olympic values – friendship, excellence and respect for the sake of peace.



International Fair Play Passport

Passport of sport values



INTERNATIONAL FAIR PLAY PASSPORT.

18 September 2023

THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR PLAY PASSPORT: A MILESTONE FOR OLYMPIC VALUES

On June 3rd 2023, a remarkable project was unveiled at the 16th International Session of NOAs and NOCs Delegates in Olympia. The

"International Fair Play Passport", the result of collaboration between the National Olympic Academy of Italy (AONI) and Greece (HOA), is set to positively influence the world of sport and beyond.

Under the auspices of the International Fair Play Committee (CIFP), the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM) and in collaboration with the National Olympic Committee of Italy (CONI) and the Hellenic Olympic Committee (HOC), this innovative project was launched in a ceremony by, among others, HOA President George Alikakos, AONI President Mauro Checcoli, EFPM Secretary General Ioannis Psiopoulos.

For the holders of the International Fair Play Passport, respect essentially comes first. It extends not only to sport, but also to everyday life, to sports clubs, schools and families. This passport has the potential to shape a global sporting culture and promote full inclusion in sport. Olympic values work strongly against deception, physical and verbal violence, exploitation, over-commercialisation and corruption.



GERMAN STUDENTS VISITED THE PANATHENAIC STADIUM. —

20 September 2023

BETWEEN ANCIENT SITES AND CURRENT ISSUES OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT: OLYMPIA SEMINAR OF THE GERMAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY

From 11th to 17th September, the German Olympic Academy (DOA) held its "Olympia Seminar" on the premises of the IOA in

Ancient Olympia. 90 participants consisting of students from 10 universities as well as experts and multipliers from sports organisations, sport politics, media and academia spent an intensive week together.

Under the overall theme of a possible German Olympic bid, the German group discussed current challenges of the Olympic movement. Politics, Olympic values, financing, and environmental sustainability were the focus of the expert presentations and the debates and discussions prepared by the students.

The seminar also included cultural visits to the archaeological sites of Epidaurus, Ancient Olympia and Delphi.



TIAGO VIEGAS AND ARNAUD RICHARD.

13 November 2023

NOAS OF PORTUGAL AND FRANCE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Taking advantage of the presence at the EOA Congress Vilnius, the presidents of the NOAs of France, Arnaud Richard, and Portugal, Tiago Viegas, signed a protocol establishing the partnership between the two entities with a view to marking, initially, the celebration of the Paris 2024 Olympics. The agreement came into force immediately, lasting for the entire school year of 2023-2024 and may be renewed for the following school years.

The activities to be developed together will take the form of conferences and joint research projects in the thematic domain of Olympism, the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games.

The protocol establishes as its main objectives to create an active network of young people in France and Portugal, capable of spreading Olympic values; to cooperate in the organization of common Olympic education actions and dissemination of Olympic values; to exchange visits with a view to participating in demonstrations, meetings and exhibitions organized by the two entities or by each of them in France and Portugal; to edit, publish, distribute and exchange books, magazines, newsletters and other printed materials aimed at promoting the objectives and missions of the two academies.



/// ABOUT THE EOA



6.1 OVERVIEW

Organisational structure

The European Olympic Academies is the umbrella organisation of National Olympic Academies on the European level. It was founded in 2018 in Ljubljana and is a registered association under German law with a non-profit purpose. It has grown steadily since then and counts 30 members as of 2023. Its head-

quarters are in the House of German Sport in Frankfurt, Germany.

The primary mission of the EOA is to promote Olympic values, philosophy and ideals. More specifically, the mission is defined by four objectives:

1

To collaborate by acting as a link between the National Olympic Academies in Europe with the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the International Olympic Academy (IOA) and other European and international organisations.

2

To promote the exchange of experiences between the members.

3

To promote Olympic Education from a practical point of view with particular consideration for the respective cultural and systematic characteristics of the member countries.

4

To create incentives for young generations to spread the Olympic values and to unite the Olympic community.

The main body of the EOA is the General Assembly. In this forum, the members - National Olympic Academies in Europe - meet annually to decide on basic issues. The General Assembly also elects members of the EOA Executive Board every four years, which is empowered to lead the organisation during its term of office. The Executive Board consists of the President, two Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Treasurer and two Additional Board Members.

In addition, there are commissions whose

members are appointed by the General Assembly for the purpose of advising the Executive Board. The four current commissions are the Communication Commission, Development and Cooperation Commission, Olympic Education Commission and the Olympic Heritage Commission.

The structure of the EOA is based on the Statutes, which were adopted at the First General Assembly in Ljubljana and amended at the Second General Assembly in Nicosia.



6.2 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** *of the European Olympic Academies (EOA)*

The General Assembly is formed by delegates from EOA member organisations, who meet annually at a conference to approve key decisions for the EOA. It is the supreme executive body of the EOA where each member organisation is entitled to one vote in elections.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the outbreak of war, the General Assembly for 2021 was held online in April 2022. The General Assembly approved the NOA of Kosovo as a new EOA member and elected new EOA auditors. The fifth meeting since the founding of the General Assembly took place on 23 November 2022 in the Deutsche Bank Park in Frankfurt, Germany. The General Assembly

elected a new Executive Board, added the Maltese Olympic Academy as a new member and approved the EOA Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2030.

In November 2023, the EOA members have convened again in Vilnius, added four new members, adopted administrative amendments to the Statutes and a change in the functioning of the EOA Commissions, which was consolidated in the Statutes and new Rules and Procedures.

The next General Assembly will take place at the premises of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece, in autumn 2024.



THE EOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS LAST MEETING IN FRANKFURT IN NOVEMBER 2022.



DR. CLEA PAPAELLINA VOTED ON BEHALF OF THE CYPRUS OLYMPIC ACADEMY
AT THE FIFTH EOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 2022.



EXECUTIVE BOARD *of the European Olympic Academies (EOA)*

The EOA Executive Board acts as the executive and steering body and is elected every four years by the General Assembly. According to the statutes of the EOA, the Executive Board's main task is to make decisions on the strategic direction of the EOA and its content. The current EOA Executive Board was elected for a four-year term until 2026 at the Fifth EOA General Assembly in Frankfurt. The current members are briefly introduced below.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Laemmer, President



Professor at the German Sport University Cologne, Board Member of the German Olympic Academy, Editor of STADION (International Journal of the History of Sport), Co-Founder and Board Member of the

German Sports and Olympic Museum in Cologne. (selected positions and achievements).

Prof. Dr. Mariia Bulatova, Vice President



Director of the Ukrainian Educational and Scientific Olympic Institute in Ukraine, President of the Olympic Academy of Ukraine, Vice-President of the Olympic Committee of Ukraine, Member of the IOC Commission

"Culture and Olympic Heritage", FISU Education Committee and EOC Education Commission (selected positions and achievements).

Dr. Ivans Klementjevs, Vice President



President of the Latvian Olympic Academy, former Member of the Saeima (Latvian Parliament 2006-2022), Olympic champion in Seoul 1988, silver Olympic medalist in Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996 in canoe

sprint. Sevenfold times world champion in canoe sprint (selected positions and achievements).

Marion Guigon-Lacroix, General Secretary



Vice-President of the National Olympic Academy of France, Head of Communication & Brand at NGO Plan International France.

Bernard Hilgers, Treasurer



Curator of the Dutch Olympic Committee NOC*NSF Heritage Sport Collection, Member and Spokesman of the Dutch Olympic Academy, Responsible for Corporate Olympism and Cultural Heritage

and the Olympic Pop-up Museum.

Dr. Clea Papaellina, Board Member



Permanent Member of the Special Teaching Staff for Physical Education of the Department of Education of the University of Cyprus, Vice Chair of the EOC Culture and Education Commission, Dean of the National Olympic Academy of Cyprus, Member of the Executive Council Member of the Cyprus National Olympic Committee and Cyprus National Paralympic Committee, Member of the Development Commission of the

International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS).

Prof. Dr. Asta Sarkauskiene, Board Member



Professor at the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism at Klaipeda University, Lithuania, President of the Lithuanian Olympic Academy, and the Head of the Lithuanian National Olympic Committee Olympic Heritage Commission (selected positions and achievements).



THE EOA EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS BOARD MEETING IN VILNIUS IN NOVEMBER 2023.



6.4 COMMISSIONS *of the European Olympic Academies (EOA)*

According to the new EOA Statutes, amended in 2023, the Executive Board appoint commissions for specific topics or areas of activity. These commissions advise the Executive Board on issues relating to their area of expertise and may submit proposals for review. The remits of the four current EOA commissions are outlined below:

Communication Commission

The aim of this commission is to promote the EOA. The commission is responsible for the corporate image of the EOA, coordination of campaigns and development of a communication strategy. The commission members use a variety of mediums to communicate including the EOA website, newsletter, social media channels, media and the press. The purpose of this commission is also to provide corporate communication tools and expertise to other EOA commissions. Until the end of 2023, the commission members were Marion Guigon-Lacroix (Chair and Board Representative, FRA), Boryana Toncheva (BUL), Erodotos Miltiadous (CYP), Alexandr Kliment (CZE), Revo Raudjaerv (EST) and Alexandra-Maria Grispou (GRE).

Development & Cooperation Commission

The aim of this commission is to foster partnerships and cooperation with National Olympic Academies from Europe and other European and international institutions. In addition, it is responsible for the production of strategic plans for the growth and development of the EOA. Until the end of 2023, the commission members were Julien Buhajezuk (Chair, FRA), Ales Solar (SLO), Aghajan Abiyev (AZE), Jana Janotova (CZE) and Vassiliki Balta (GRE).

Olympic Education Commission

The aim of the Olympic Education Commission is to advocate the promotion of Olympic values in an educational context and to provide strategic guidance on EOA Olympic Education programs. The responsibilities of the Olympic Education Commission are to advise on the development and implementation of an education strategy which is based on the Olympic values and how to incorporate an educational focus into EOA projects. Until the end of 2023, the commission members were Enkelejda Caushi (Chair, ALB), Asta Sarkauskiene (Board representative, LTU), Sasa Ceraj (CRO), Danira Bilic (CRO), Reeke Remmelkoor (EST), Denise Panagopoulou (GRE), Lilla Szijj (HUN), Yarden Har Lev (ISR), Antra Gulbe (LAT), Claudia Santos (POR) and Simona Amarnar Tabara (ROU).

Olympic Heritage Commission

The aim of this commission is to celebrate Olympic heritage and to initiate projects which will bring the history of the Olympic Movement to life for future generations to experience. The commission is responsible for historical research, making recommendations on the preservation of Olympism and promoting Olympic ideals as widely as possible through these activities. Until the end of 2023, the commission members were Zdenek Skoda (Chair, CZE), Ivans Klementjevs (Board Representative, LAT), Vassiliki Tzachrista (GRE) and Frantisek Seman (SLO).



Learn more



6.5 **HEAD OFFICE** *of the European Olympic Academies (EOA)*

The EOA Head Office supports the Executive Board in implementing decisions at the operational level and is particularly instrumental in member affairs and cooperation in EU projects. Since January 2022, Soenke Schadwinkel, as Executive Director, has been leading a small team of students and interns in the office at the House of German Sport. Katrin Wallmann joined the EOA as Manager, Olympic Education & EU Projects, in May 2023 and has taken over all the content-related tasks. Inga Galstian, a sport journalist student at the German Sport University Cologne assists the team in administrative and communication tasks along her studies.

The internship programme is now entering its fourth year. In 2023, the EOA was fortunate to provide Polina Novikova and Emma Rantamaa with insights into the Olympic Movement and to benefit from their new ideas and valuable contributions.

External honorary staff, experts and volunteers support the EOA at events and special tasks. As a result, the Head Office has gained a well-functioning and professional structure throughout the last year, which will be able to handle the future workload adequately.



THE EOA HEAD OFFICE IN THE HOUSE OF GERMAN SPORT.



/// CONTACT





REACH OUT

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The EOA Head Office is situated in the House of German Sport (Haus des Deutschen Sports) in Frankfurt.

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