

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF EU GRASSROOTS SPORTS POLICY DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

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Disclaimer:

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01 BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

Europe is continuing to face many challenges that are impacting citizens' health and require new ways of thinking and acting; a fact that has been significantly emphasised by the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes major social, economic, environmental, and demographic shifts, along with the ongoing struggle to close the gap that exists in terms of opportunities for people to conduct a healthy lifestyle. In the European Union (EU), two thirds of the adult population do not reach the recommended physical activity levels despite physical inactivity being rated as the fourth leading risk factor for mortality, triggering an estimated 1 million deaths per year.

There is an increasing need to raise awareness of the physical inactivity epidemic and to promote the benefits of living an active, healthy lifestyle. Physical activity crosses social, cultural, and economic boundaries, and builds bridges and bonds like little else can. Physical activity increases physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing, reduces environmental and economic costs, preserves cultural diversity, and creates peace and harmony. By (re)introducing physical activity into the lives of all people, it is possible to bring joy to citizens and communities throughout Europe.

About Europe in Action

Europe in Action Project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2022, and it is led by nine partners:

- TAFISA
- Knowledge Centre for Sport & Physical Activity Netherlands
- Ministry of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Poland
- Turkish Sport for All Federation
- Portugal Institute of Sport and Youth, I.P.
- Association Sport for All Serbia
- Sports Union of Slovenia
- Cyprus Sports Organisation
- Hellenic Republic Ministry of Culture and Sports/General Secretariat of Sports)

The project aims to promote participation in sport and physical activity by providing non-formal educational activities and knowledge-exchange opportunities across Europe, transferring existing key policies into practical action. Europe in Action has guided local and national stakeholders during the implementation of practical actions, focusing on identified key policy areas to achieve a more active society.

Europe in Action undertook a regional-specific approach as it is imperative to consider geographical regions of Europe as unique and diverse, each with their own needs, priorities, challenges and opportunities in terms of grassroots sport. By focusing on each individual region, a specific analysis and understanding of the grassroots sport setting was provided along with insight into the realities of developing, implementing and promoting grassroots sport opportunities.

The project hosted European conferences and “Active Meetings”, offering an opportunity to bring together grassroots sport stakeholders for knowledge and experience sharing and the presentation of case studies and good practices. The events also provided a pivotal moment for the project partners to present and disseminate key findings from the project.

About this Report

The purpose of this report “Regional Analysis of EU Grassroots Sports Policy Delivery Framework” is to review the available resources at national, regional and European levels dedicated to the implementation of EU Grassroots Sport policies. This will further include an analysis of the needs of each region with planning, implementing and monitoring Grassroots Sport policy deliverables and highlight the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which were evidenced during the mapping of policies and practices.

The project partners have mapped out implementation frameworks (including gaps, needs, priority areas etc.) relating to the delivery of practical solutions to identified EU policies. These findings will provide a significant case for the key themes and priorities to be selected as a focus as part of the project and educational framework (IO4).

02 METHODOLOGY

Starting from the understanding that different regions in Europe have different approaches, priorities, strengths and weaknesses, the project set out to assess the current status of each of the five identified regions (Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, The Balkans & Turkey) to comprehend their specific needs and highlight gaps between European policy and local implementation where interventions could be beneficial.

Based on the 13 themes of TAFISA Mission 2030, a desktop research and benchmarking were carried out to map out existing grassroots sport policies, resources, and guidelines at the European level. The 13 themes are as follows:

- Active Cities
- Community and Volunteering
- Cultural Heritage and Diversity
- Digitalisation and Innovation
- Economic Impact and Resources
- Education
- Environment
- Gender Equality
- Governance, Leadership, and Integrity
- Health and Wellbeing
- Peace, Development, and Partnership
- Play and Physical Literacy
- Social Inclusion

For each of these themes, a mapping of available policies, guidelines, strategies at national and local levels helps highlight priority themes in each region. These themes are then matched against the analysis of existing local deliverables to identify potential gaps and discrepancies between priority themes and implementation of programmes and initiatives.

The research is complemented by a SWOT analysis looking at the priorities and implementation for each region, as well as consultation through Multiplier Sport Events and a survey completed by TAFISA Europe member organisations which provided further learnings on the needs and expectations of organisations, and what resources would further support them in implementing effective initiatives for their community.

03 EU GRASSROOTS SPORT POLICIES

There are many existing thorough and robust European sport and physical activity policies which enrich the HEPA environment across Europe. It is not the intention of Europe in Action to replicate what already exists, but more so to complement existing policy and assist in implementing recommendations at local and regional level.

TAFISA Mission 2030: For a Better World through Sport for All

TAFISA Mission 2030 "For a Better World Through Sport for All" is the guiding document for a global strategy to fight the worldwide physical inactivity epidemic. The goal is to create a better world through Sport for All, by addressing 12 global challenges.

Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle

The Tartu Call is a proposal to strengthen the cooperation between different policy areas to promote healthy lifestyles. It included 15 commitments to promote healthy lifestyles through diets, sport, physical activity, education and food.

HealthyLifestyle4All

As a follow-up to the Tartu Call for a Healthy Lifestyle, the HealthyLifestyle4All is the European Commission's two-year campaign that aims to link sport and active lifestyles with health, food and other policies. It showcases the European Commission's commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles for all, across generations and social groups, noting that everyone can benefit from activities that improve health and well-being.

EU Workplan for Sport (2021 – 2024)

The 2021-2024 Work Plan outlines the guidelines and objectives of the European Union on the subject of Sport and establishes the following priority areas: Protect integrity and values in sport; Socio-economic and environmental dimensions of sport; Promotion of participation in sport and health-enhancing physical activity.

EU Report “Grassroot Sports – Shaping Europe”

This report provides an evaluation of the place and role of grassroots sport in European society and ideas on how the EU could better support and develop grassroots sport in order to strengthen the network of sports clubs.

Council of Europe – European Sports Charter

The European Sports Charter defines the scope within which sport, Sport for All, and the sport movement constitute a human right and can contribute to society, along with recommendations for member States to implement as part of their national policies.

Kazan Action Plan

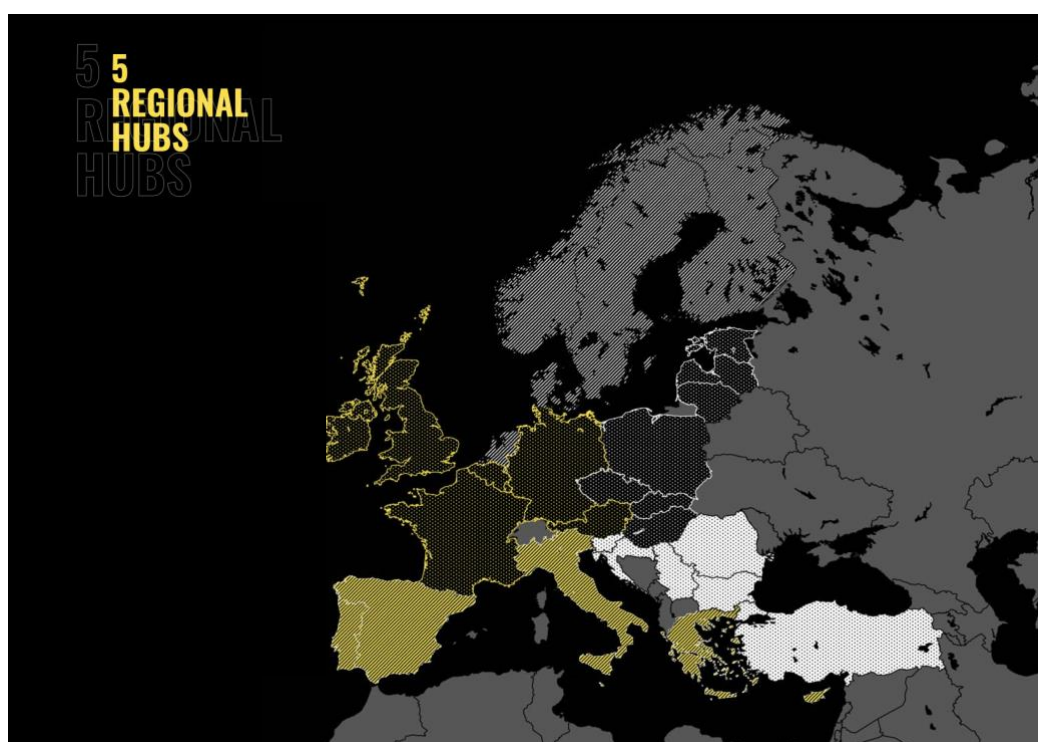
The Kazan Action Plan resulting from MINEPS VI provides a framework encouraging policy convergence and coordinated efforts by policy-makers and stakeholders in the field of physical education, physical activity and sport.

WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity (2018-2030)

The Global Action Plan on Physical Activity recognises the manifold benefits of physical activity and aims to provide a framework of effective policy action to increase physical activity, under the vision “More active people for a healthier world”:

04 REGIONAL FINDINGS

The following part outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in each region of Europe.



Region	Countries
Western Europe	Austria Belgium France Germany Ireland Luxembourg United Kingdom
Eastern Europe	Czech Republic Estonia Hungary Latvia Lithuania Poland Slovakia
Southern Europe	Cyprus Greece Italy Malta Portugal Spain
Northern Europe	Denmark Finland Netherlands Norway Sweden
The Balkans + Turkey	Bulgaria Croatia Romania Serbia Slovenia Turkey

This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in each region of Europe to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc.

Western Europe

The following report outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in the region of Western Europe. For the purposes of the Europe in Action project, the region of Western Europe consists of following countries:

- Austria
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Luxembourg
- United Kingdom

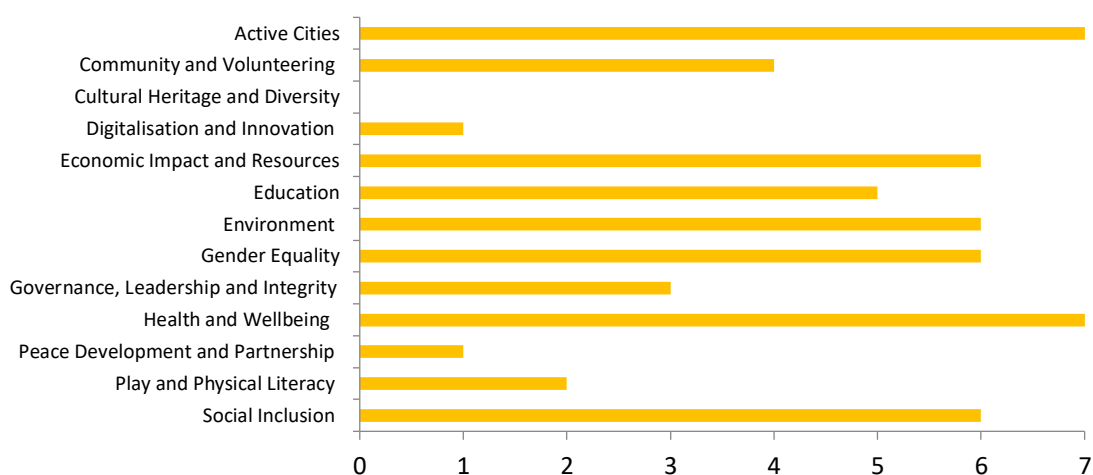
National

The first component of IO2 involved mapping and identifying national strategies, policies and guidelines to evaluate the transfer of European policy to national level. This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in Western Europe to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc.

The policies and strategies were sourced from a wide range of authors, including ministries of sport and government agencies (e.g., Austrian Ministry of Sport provided the National Movement Action Plan strategy).

Table 1 provides a summary of the themes identified in grassroots sport resources at the national level:

Table 1: Themes identified from National Grassroots Sport Policies and Strategies in Western Europe



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Western Europe highlighted the followings:

- All 7 countries within the region identified **Health and Wellbeing** and **Active Cities** as key themes
- **Economic impact and Resources, Environment, Gender Equality** and **Social Inclusion** were the second most cited themes, with 6 counties specifically mentioning these as key areas
- The themes of **Digitalisation and Innovation**, and **Peace, Development and Partnership** were only cited by a single country each

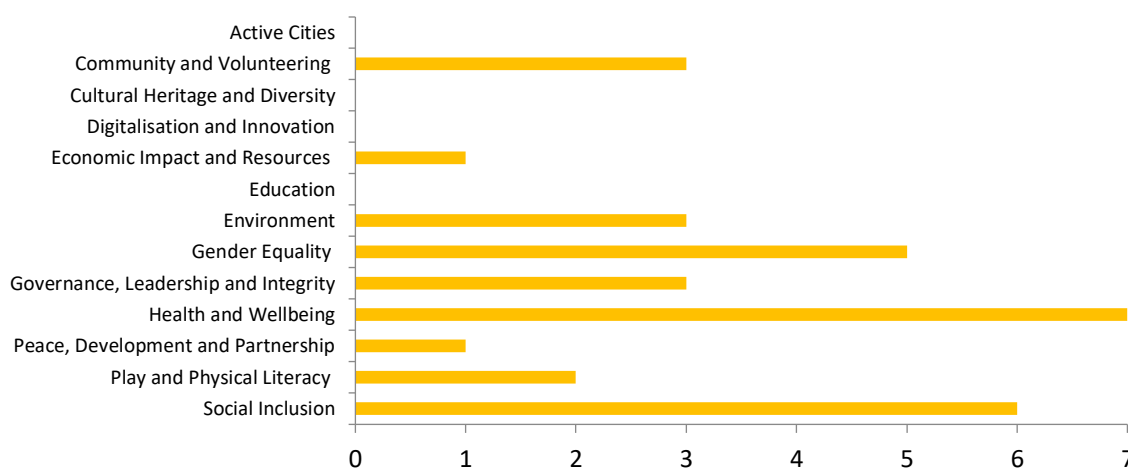
All other themes were represented similarly across the region (2-5) excluding the theme of Cultural Heritage and Diversity. This theme was absent in the findings of the review, indicating that national grassroots sport strategies and policies in Western Europe are not prioritising this. However, it is of interest to note that the review was undertaken at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and before the EU launched the new Work Plan on Sport.

Regional/Local

This component of IO2 involved the research and analysis of 60 existing local deliverables relating to practical solutions to identified EU policies across Western Europe. Themes were checked across all countries to identify the region's priority areas, gaps, opportunities, limitations, needs, strengths, and weaknesses. **A total of 9 out of the 13 themes were identified in the practical deliverable mapping from across Western Europe.** Deliverables consisted of a range of initiatives and guidelines, and were sourced from a wide range of authors, including governmental agencies, national institutions and charities (e.g., Sport England of the United Kingdom provided guidelines on a code for Governance, Leadership and Integrity - [see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

Table 2 provides a summary of the results:

Table 2: Themes from Local Deliverables in Western Europe



The analysis on the themes from local deliverables in Western Europe highlighted the followings:

- **Health and Wellbeing** was represented across all countries in Western Europe which is consistent with the areas of importance highlighted in the national policy and strategy review
- **Gender Equality** and **Social Inclusion** were the next most represented themes in the region's local deliverables as they were identified in 5 and 6 of the countries, respectively. This is consistent with previous findings for both.
- The previously significant theme of **Economic Impact and Resources** was barely represented in the results, subsequently contrasting the findings of national areas of significance.
- The themes of **Active Cities, Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Digitalisation and Innovation** and **Education** were not covered in any of the local deliverables. This is consistent with the national areas of importance previously highlighted for Cultural Heritage and Diversity and Digitalisation and Innovation, but significantly contrasting for Active Cities and Education.

Summary

Overall, the review of national policies and strategies in Western Europe revealed both similarities and differences of the priority areas identified in EU grassroots sport policies. There were areas that were consistent in their representation from local deliverables up to national policy and strategy such as the themes of Health and Wellbeing, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. There were also some inconsistencies with the focus areas. This is because some priority areas for national policies and strategies were not reflected in identifiable local deliverables such as Economic Impact and Resources and Education. In addition, there are also some clear gaps in both the national policies and local deliverables that require strengthening. In particular, the exclusion of Cultural Heritage and Diversity from both reviews is a point of interest.

Eastern Europe

The following report outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in the region of Eastern Europe. For the purposes of the Europe in Action project, the region of Eastern Europe consists of following countries:

- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Slovakia

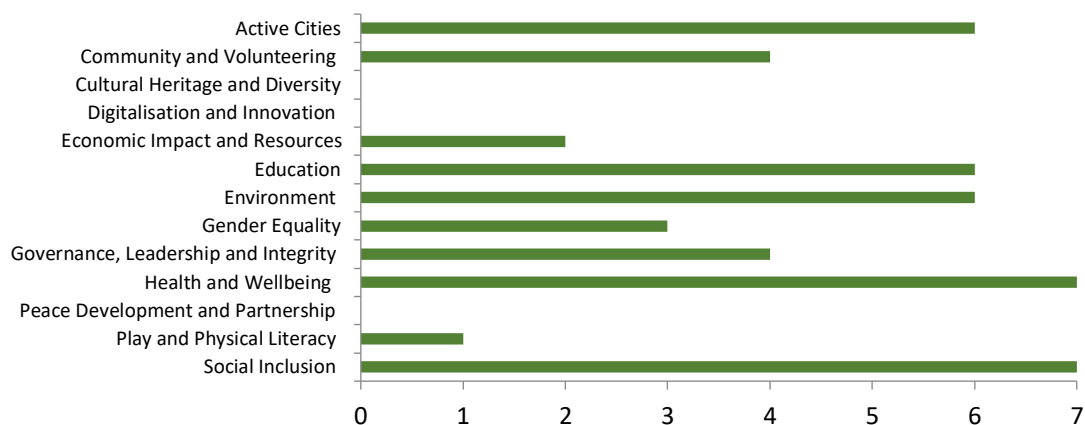
National

The first component of IO2 involved mapping and identifying national strategies, policies and guidelines to evaluate the transfer of European policy to national level. This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in Eastern Europe to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc.

The policies and strategies were sourced from a wide range of authors, including ministries of sport and government agencies (e.g., Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities provided the National Standard Programme for Pre-Schools).

Table 1 provides a summary of the themes identified in grassroots sport resources at the national level:

Table 1: Themes identified from National Grassroots Sport Policies and Strategies in Eastern Europe



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Eastern Europe highlighted the followings:

- all 7 countries within the region identified **Health and Wellbeing** and **Social Inclusion** as key themes
- **Active Cities, Education** and **Environment** were the second most cited themes, with 6 counties specifically mentioning these as key areas
- The themes of **Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Digitalisation and Innovation, and Peace, Development and Partnership** were absent in the findings, indicating that national grassroots sport strategies and policies in Eastern Europe are not prioritising these.
- The themes of **Play and Physical Literacy** was only cited by a single country.

All other themes varied in their representation across the region (two-four). However, it is of interest to note that the review was undertaken at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and before the EU launched the new Work Plan on Sport.

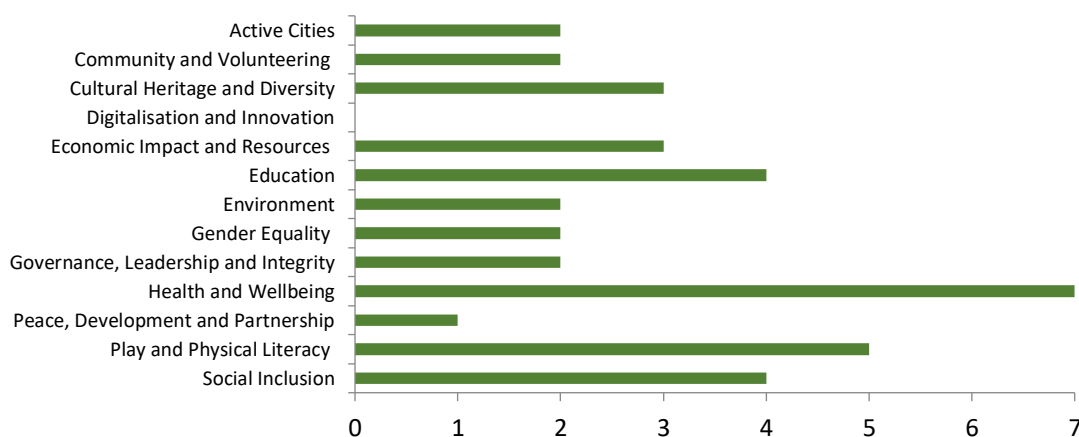
Local

This component of IO2 involved the research and analysis of 66 existing local deliverables relating to practical solutions to identified EU policies across Eastern Europe. Themes were checked across all countries to identify the region's priority areas, gaps, opportunities, limitations, needs, strengths, and weaknesses. **A total of 10 out of the 13 themes were identified in the practical deliverable mapping from across Eastern Europe.**

Deliverables consisted of a range of initiatives and guidelines, and were sourced from a wide range of authors, including governmental agencies, national institutions and charities (e.g., The Slovak Anti-Doping Agency provided guidelines on a code for Governance, Leadership and Integrity - [see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

Table 2 provides a summary of the results:

Table 2: Themes from Local Deliverables in Eastern Europe



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Eastern Europe highlighted the followings:

- The theme of **Health and Wellbeing** was represented across all countries in Eastern Europe which is consistent with the areas of importance highlighted in the national policy and strategy review.
- **Play and Physical Literacy** was the next most represented theme in the region's local deliverables as related practices were identified in 5 of the countries. This contradicts previous findings as the national policies and strategies review never highlighted this as a priority theme.
- The themes of **Education** and **Social Inclusion** were represented in deliverables in 6 of the region's countries. This is somewhat consistent with previous findings; if not, slightly underrepresented.
- The previously significant themes of **Active Cities** and **Environment** were also underrepresented in the results as the national policies and strategies reviews highlighted these areas as significant, therefore subsequently contrasting findings.
- The theme of **Digitalisation and Innovation** was not shown in any local deliverables. This is consistent with the national areas of importance previously highlighted.
- Interestingly, **Cultural Heritage** was represented by local deliverables in 3 countries in the region. This significantly contrasts findings from the national policies and strategies review which showed it was not an area of significance.

Summary

Overall, the review of national policies and strategies in Eastern Europe revealed both similarities and differences of the priority areas identified in EU grassroot sport polices and strategies. There were areas that were consistent in their representation from local deliverables up to national policy and strategy such as the theme of Health and Wellbeing. There were also some inconsistencies with the focus areas. This is because some priority areas for national policies and strategies were not reflected in identifiable local deliverables such as Active Cities and Environment. In addition, there are also some clear gaps in both the national policies and local deliverables that require strengthening. In particular, the exclusion of Digitalisation and Innovation from both reviews is a point of interest.

Southern Europe

The following report outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in the region of Southern Europe. For the purposes of the Europe in Action project, the region of Southern Europe consists of following countries:

- Cyprus
- Greece
- Italy
- Malta
- Portugal
- Spain

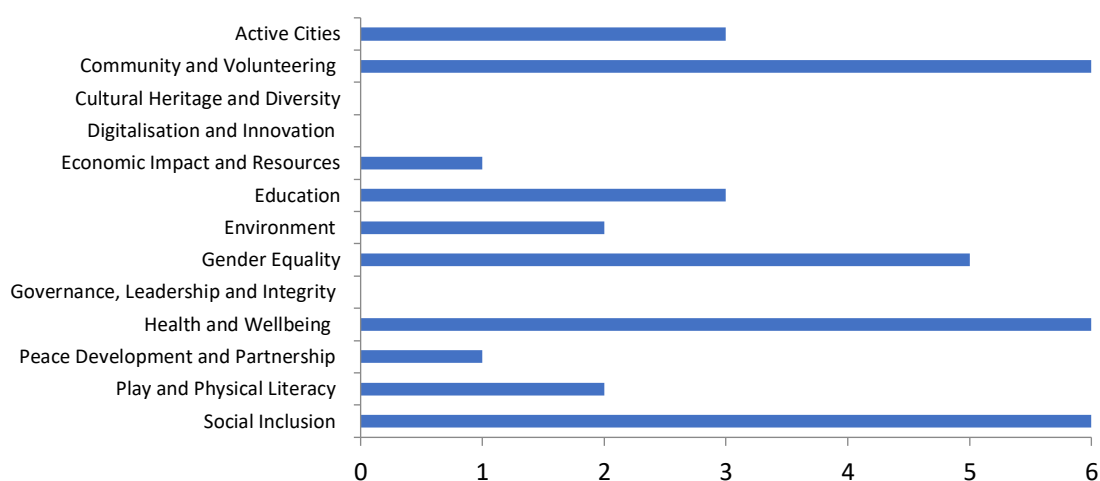
National

The first component of IO2 involved mapping and identifying national strategies, policies and guidelines to evaluate the transfer of European policy to national level. This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in Southern Europe to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc.

The policies and strategies were sourced from a wide range of authors, including ministries of education, sports, health, and government agencies – the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth tutored by the Ministry of Education, has created a National Plan to promote the Ethics in sports.

Table 1 provides a summary of the themes identified in grassroots sport resources at the national level.

Table 1: Themes identified from National Grassroots Sport Policies and Strategies in Southern Europe



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Southern Europe highlighted the followings:

- All 6 countries within the region identified **Health and Wellbeing, Community and Volunteerism and Social Inclusion** as a key theme, followed by **Gender Equality**.
- The themes **Cultural Heritage, Digitalisation and Innovation** and **Governance, Leadership and Integrity** were absent in the findings, indicating that national grassroots sport strategies and policies in Southern Europe are not prioritising these themes.
- **Economic Impact and Resources** and **Peace, Development and Partnership** were only cited once and, other themes varied in their representation across the region (2-3).

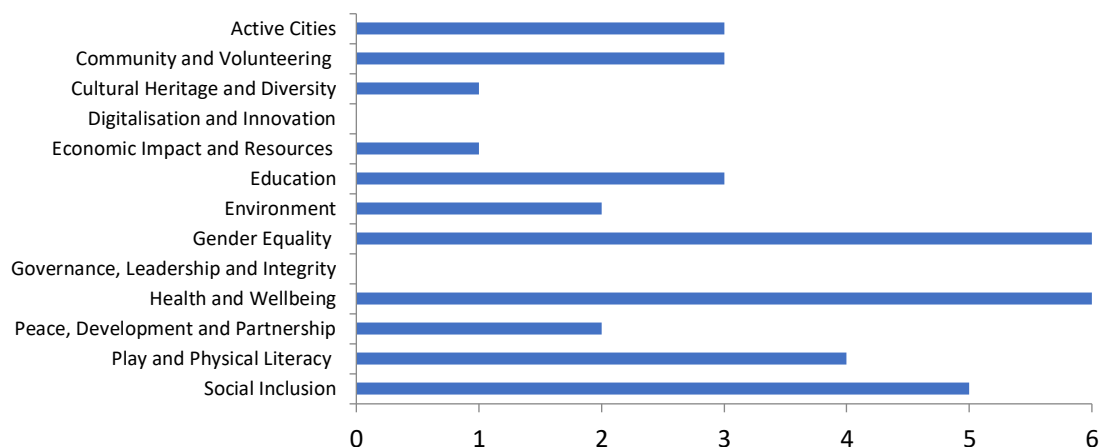
It is relevant to note that this review was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it will be interesting to make a review of these national policies and strategies after the EU New Work Plan on Sport.

Local

This component of IO2 involved the research and analysis of 70 existing local deliverables relating to practical solutions to identified EU policies across Southern Europe. Themes were checked across all countries to identify the regions priority areas, gaps, opportunities, limitations, need, strengths, and weaknesses. **A total of 12 out of the 13 themes were identified in the practical deliverable mapping from across Southern Europe.** Deliverables consisted of a range of initiatives and guidelines, and were sourced from a wide range of authors, including governmental agencies, national institutions, and others – the Ministry of Sport and Culture from Greece has launched a programme to promote blood giving by sport professional and ministry employees, inspiring the population to do sport and support blood donations ([see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

Table 2 provides a summary of results:

Table 2: Themes from Local Deliverables in Southern Europe



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Southern Europe highlighted the followings:

- The **Health and Wellbeing**, and **Gender Equality** themes were represented across all countries in Southern Europe, which is consistent with the national policy and strategy areas highlighted previously in this report.
- However, **Community and Volunteerism** is represented in deliverables in only 3 countries of this Southern Europe group, which contradicts with the previous findings as the national policies and strategies review which showed it was a significant area in all of 6 regions countries.
- **Digitalisation and Innovation** and, **Governance, Leadership and Integrity** were not shown in any local deliverables, which consists with the national areas of importance previously listed.

Summary

Overall, the review of national policies and strategies in Southern Europe reveal similarities with the priority areas identified in EU grassroots sport policies and strategies. There were areas that were consistent in their representation from local deliverables up to national policy and strategy such as Health and Wellbeing and Gender Equality. However, there were also some inconsistencies because some priority areas for national policies and strategies were not reflected in identifiable local deliverables such as Community and Volunteering, which was considered one of the main national grassroots sport policies and strategies but, when investigated the local deliverables, only half of the countries have considered it.

Northern Europe

The following report outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in the region of Northern Europe. For the purposes of the Europe in Action project, the region of Northern Europe consists of following countries:

- Iceland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Finland
- Denmark
- Netherlands

National

The first component of IO2 involved mapping and identifying national strategies, policies and guidelines to evaluate the transfer of European policy to national level. This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in Northern Europe to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc. The policies and strategies were sourced from a wide range of authors, including ministries of sport and government agencies.

The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Northern Europe highlighted the followings:

- All 6 countries within the region identified **Health and Wellbeing** as the most cited theme.
- **Gender Equality, Education** and **Social Inclusion** but also other themes as Mental health and PA were the second most cited themes.
- **Economic impact and Resources, Environment, Volunteerism, Play and Physical Literacy** follow third with 6 countries specifically mentioning these as key areas.
- The themes of Empowerment, Active Cities, Integrity and innovation were only mentioned by single countries.
- **Digitalisation**, and **Peace, Development and Partnership, Cultural Heritage and Diversity** were cited by no single country.

These themes were absent in the findings of the review, but it would be too quick to assume that policies and strategies on these themes are not available. There can be several reasons why they are not found in the first desk-research. In the case of Diversity, looking at Sweden as an example, we see that diversity is deeply rooted in society and this is the case for the sport sector too. For instance: 45% of 'sport leaders' and 55% of total sport employment in Sweden are female. The need to promote (gender) diversity could then be less opportune than in other countries with lower percentages.

Furthermore, it is of interest to note that the review was undertaken at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and before the EU launched the new Work Plan on Sport 2021-2024 (December 2020) and the European Parliament the Assessment report on EU sports policy (June 2021)

Regional/Local

This component of Work Package 1 involved the research and analysis of *50 existing local deliverables* relating to practical solutions to identified EU policies across Northern Europe. Themes were checked across all countries to identify the region's priority areas, gaps, opportunities, limitations, needs, strengths, and weaknesses. **A total of 6 out of the 13 themes were identified in the practical deliverable mapping from across Northern Europe.** But many deliverables exist of a combination of themes whereas not every theme is specifically mentioned. Deliverables consisted of a range of initiatives and guidelines, and were sourced from a wide range of authors, including governmental agencies, national institutions and federations ([see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Northern Europe highlighted the followings:

- The **Health and Wellbeing** theme were represented across all countries in Northern Europe which is consistent with the areas of importance highlighted in the national policy and strategy review.
- The previously significant theme of **Economic Impact and Resources** and **Digitalisation and Innovation** was barely represented in the results, subsequently contrasting the findings of national areas of significance.
- The **Environment** deliverables were higher at local and regional level compared to national level.
- The themes of **Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Community and Volunteerism, Economic impact and resources** were not covered in the included local deliverables.

Summary

Overall, the review of national policies and strategies in Northern Europe revealed both similarities and differences of the priority areas identified in EU grassroot sport policies. There were areas that were consistent in their representation from local deliverables up to national policy and strategy such as the themes of Health and Wellbeing, Education and Social Inclusion. There were also some inconsistencies with the focus areas. This is because some priority areas for national policies and strategies were not reflected in identifiable local deliverables such as Economic Impact and Resources and Education. In addition, there are also some clear gaps in both the national policies and local deliverables that require strengthening. In particular, the lack of the themes Cultural Heritage and Diversity from both reviews is a point of interest.

The Balkans and Turkey

The following report outlines conclusions from the review of existing European, national, and local resources dedicated to the implementation of key EU grassroots sport policies in The Balkans and Turkey. For the purposes of the Europe in Action project, The Balkans and Turkey consists of following countries:

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovenia
- Turkey

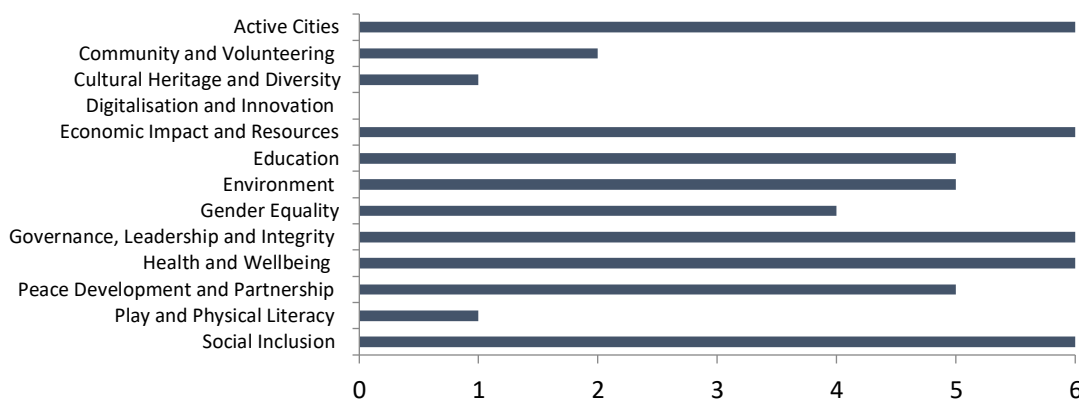
National

The first component of IO2 involved mapping and identifying national strategies, policies and guidelines to evaluate the transfer and implementation of European policy to national level. This mapping allowed for an understanding of the priority areas in differing countries in The Balkans and Turkey region to ascertain similarities, differences, gaps, needs, etc.

The policies and strategies were sourced mostly from ministries and governments, e.g. National Program of Sport in the Republic of Slovenia ([see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

Table 1 provides a summary of the themes identified in grassroots sport resources at the national level.

Table 1: Themes identified from National Grassroots Sport Policies and Strategies in The Balkans and Turkey



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Southern Europe highlighted the followings:

- Below 5 themes were found in national policies of all countries in the region:
 - **Active Cities**
 - **Economic Impact and Resources**
 - **Governance, Leadership and Integrity**
 - **Health and Well-being**
 - **Social Inclusion**
- The theme of **Education** was mentioned in all countries' national policies except of Turkey.
- Themes such as **Environment** and **Peace, Development and Partnership** were represented by most of the countries (5).
- In contrast, there were some themes that were underrepresented. For instance, the themes of **Cultural Diversity** and **Play and Physical literacy** were found in only one country each.

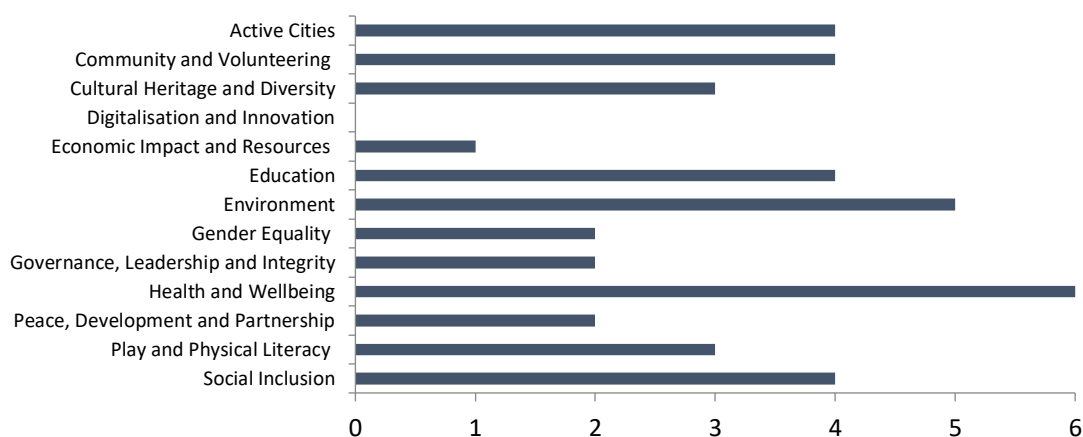
Local

This component of IO2 involved the research and analysis of *102 existing deliverables* relating to practical solutions to identified EU policies across The Balkans and Turkey region. The selected 13 themes were cross-examined across all six countries to identify the region's priority areas, gaps, opportunities, limitations, needs, strengths, and weaknesses. **A total of 12 themes were identified.**

Deliverables were sourced from a wide range of authors, including ministries (like Ministry of Health in Slovenia), national institutions, sport organisations (like Association Sport for All in Serbia and Turkish Sport for All Federation) and other NGOs. Selected examples included a range of campaigns, programmes, and guidelines ([see IO3 Country Insights for expansive and specific list](#)).

Table 2 provides a summary of the results:

Table 2: Themes from Local Deliverables in The Balkans and Turkey



The analysis on the themes identified from national grassroots sport policies and strategies in Eastern Europe highlighted the followings:

- The theme of **Health and Well-Being** was the most represented as examples of local deliverables were identified in all six countries.
- The next most represented theme was **Environment**, cited at least once in 5 of the 6 countries within the region.
- The themes of **Active Cities, Community and Volunteerism, Education**, and **Social Inclusion** were found in four of the countries in the region. These results are all consistent with the findings from the national policies.
- The themes of **Governance, Leadership and Integrity**, and **Gender Equality** were cited in 2-3 countries in the region. This is somewhat inconsistent with the significance afforded to these themes in the national policies.
- The least represented themes were **Economic Impact and Resources** which was only found in one country in the region.

Summary

Overall, the review of national policies and strategies in The Balkans and Turkey region compared to local deliverables showed both similarities and differences. Areas that showed consistency in representation from national policies and strategies to local deliverables were Health and Well-being and Environment. On the other side, some inconsistencies could be seen in examples when national policies were not reflected in local deliverables, like in the case of Economic impact and Resources. The analysis also pointed out priority areas like Cultural Heritage and Diversity, Play and Physical Literacy and Gender Equality where a clear lack of examples could be seen in national policies as well as local deliverables.

05 RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the policy delivery framework across the identified regions highlights some common issues across Europe (representation of Health and Well-Being in national policy, and few if any deliverables in Digitalisation and Innovation at the local level, for instance) but a diversity of situations and approaches. Taking into account the different strengths and weaknesses of regions in specific areas, and the general need for more resources, education and knowledge to tackle themes, we would recommend the following:

- Increased exchanges both within and between regions to share on experience, knowledge, good practices, successes and challenges; facilitating learning from each other to improve on weaknesses and full exploit opportunities identified in regions and countries by drawing inspiration from countries where they are a strength.
- Opportunities for training, education, and generally capacity building for professionals and volunteers in grassroots sports and the sport sector.
- Facilitated cooperation between stakeholders at all levels (governmental and local levels, intra- and inter-regional cooperation) to coordinate action and bridge the gap between policy and practice at national, regional and European levels.
- Resources to raise awareness of national policymakers about existing EU policy framework, and potential of grassroots sports to be utilised as a resource to tackle various challenges.

These recommendations can be implemented in the form of platforms for connecting, sharing and capacity building available to policymakers, grassroots sports stakeholders, professionals and volunteers.