

THE SPORT TRANSPARENCY INDEX NEWSLETTER

EDITION NO. 3 – JULY 2024



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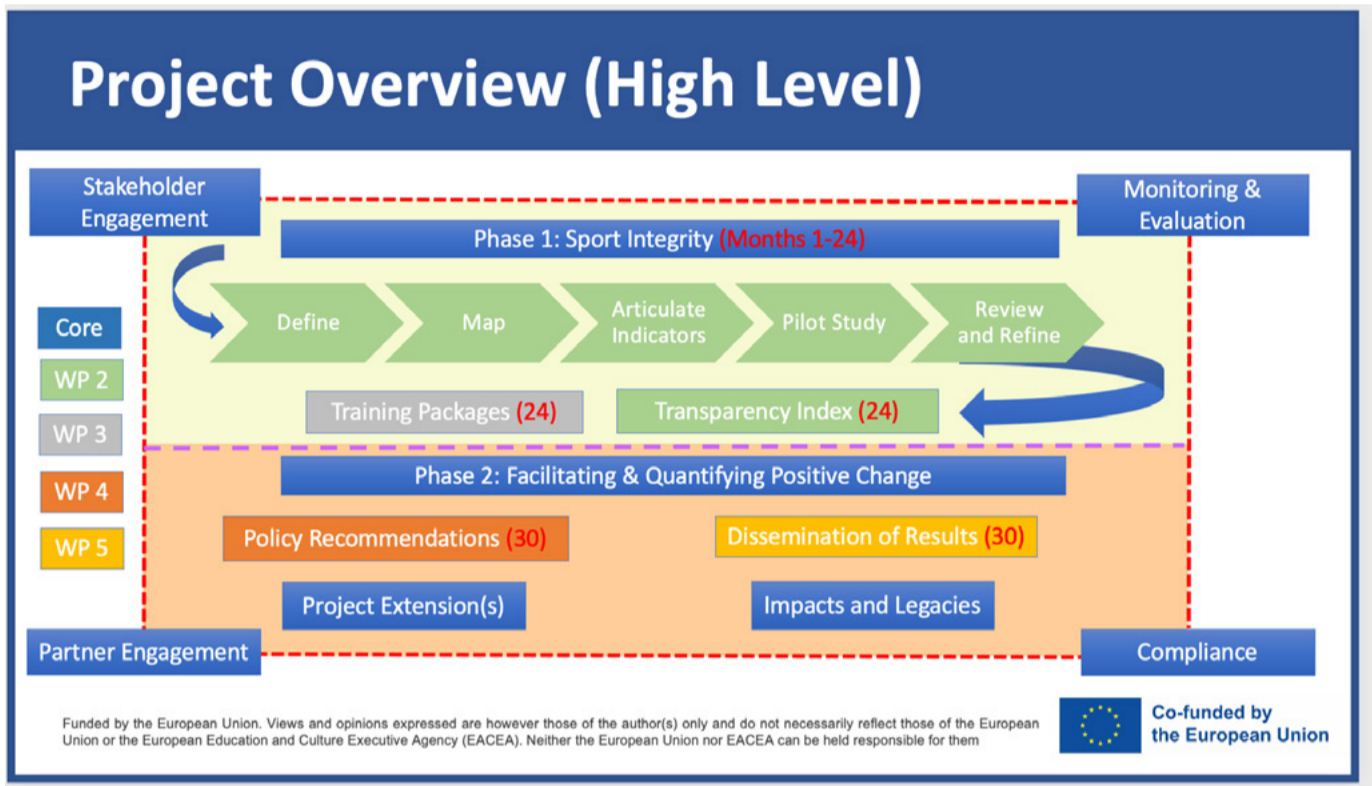


Advancing the Sport Transparency Index

The Sport Transparency Index, led by the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) and funded by Erasmus+, aims to benchmark sports stakeholders—such as clubs, leagues, and governing bodies—using criteria to evaluate transparency and integrity. It aligns with the EU's agenda, aiming to establish a universally applicable and validated index for evaluating transparency levels. This project involves 11 delivery partners from across Europe and four associate partners, including sports and governance organisations.

The Sport Transparency Index aims to address the following objectives:

- Assess transparency and governance in European sport organisations.
- Develop knowledge exchange mechanisms to identify and address gaps in organisational structures.
- Provide training and policy interventions to support sports stakeholders.



To achieve the aforementioned aims, the Sport Transparency Index employs a methodologically robust framework, leading to the completion of the following key deliverables:

- A. Mapping the European Landscape on Sport Transparency**
 1. Multi-method research to identify existing models and gaps. Please find the final report on our website [HYPERLINK].
- B. The Sport Transparency Index Development**
 1. Design and Implementation of an objectively ranked matrix, including key indicators for the assessment of transparency in sport organisations
 2. The undertaking of a pilot study to test, review and refine the methodology
 3. The introduction of the Sport Transparency Index to evaluate European sport organisations and validate the efficacy of the project
- C. Digital Training Package for Sport Transparency**
 1. Creating an inclusive and accessible online training programme to enhance understanding, identification and implementation of the transparency and good governance indicators, which make up the Sport Transparency Index. This should help relevant stakeholders to improve transparency within their own sporting organisations. The Digital Training Package will be available on an e-Learning platform.
- D. Policy Recommendations on Sport Transparency**
 1. Proposing evidence-based policies for promoting transparency and good governance.

The Sport Transparency Index is a pioneering initiative addressing transparency and governance in sport. It offers a robust methodology, stakeholder engagement, and practical solutions to enhance integrity across the sports ecosystem. This project is set to become a cornerstone for improved governance, benefiting European sport organisations and beyond as well as ensuring sustainable integrity for future generations.

The Sport Transparency Index - Pilot Study

Following the release of our research report, Mapping the European Landscape on Sport Transparency, the Portuguese Swimming Federation led the development of the pilot study. This aimed to test and validate each of the 15 Sport Transparency Index indicators with the support of 18 researchers from six project partners.

In addition to Portugal, the researchers who participated in the pilot study included participants from the Netherlands, Spain, and Cyprus, specifically Sílvia Costa, Isabel Lavinha, Icaro Pinho, Tatiana Dias, Carolina Ferreira, and Rodrigo Roque from the Portuguese Swimming Federation (FPN); Martijn Looren de Jong from the European Multisport Club Association (EMCA); Francisco Melo from The Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA); João Pedro Jorge from the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS); Jorge García Unanue, Samuel Manzano Carrasco, Andrea Micallef, Anna Villafañe, Jorge Palma, Carlos Majano, Laura Moreno, and Antonio Alonso from the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM); and Christos Anagnostopoulos from the Institute for Sport Governance (ISG).



The process for the Sport Transparency Index Pilot Study followed an organisational framework of four phases:

Phase 1 began on April 8th with a meeting with all the partners and researchers for the presentation of the process and an introductory training session.

In Phase 2, between April 9th and May 22nd, all the researchers evaluated the websites of 196 sport organisations from a cross-section of different European sport organisations from multiple classifications to enable conclusions regarding generalisable stakeholder applicability. These were organised by levels: Level 1 - Umbrella World Organisation (UWO); Level 2 - World Federations (WF); Level 3 - European Federations (EF); Level 4 - Umbrella National Organisation (UNO); Level 5 - National Federations (NF); Level 6 - Regional Associations (RA); and Level 7 - Clubs (CL).

Phase 3, between June 7th and 23rd, consisted of construct validation and inter-evaluator reliability assessment through the observation of the same 20 sports organisations by three different observers, which justifies the $n=256$ ($196 + 3 \times 20$).

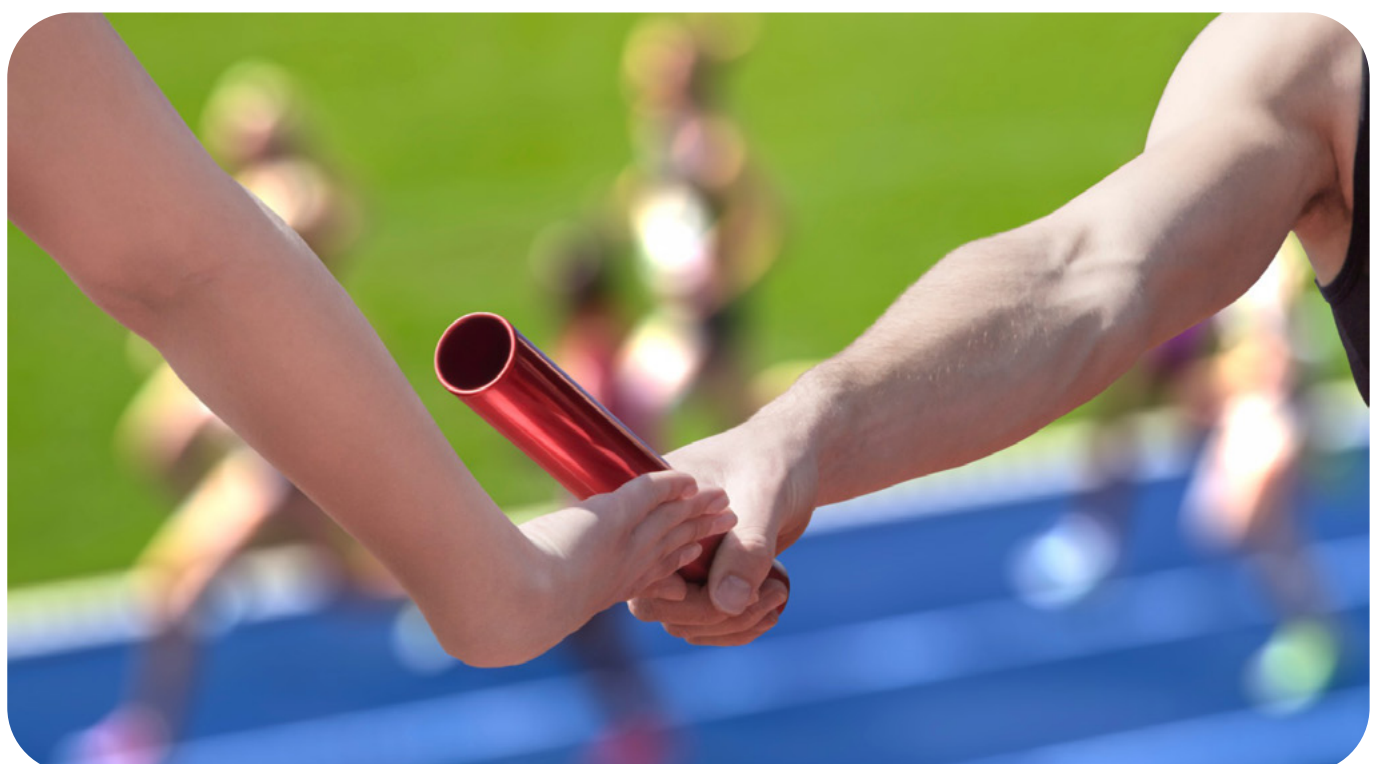
For the final phase, the results evaluation showed that of the 196 sport organisations investigated, 3.57% were level 2 (WF), 3.57% were level 3 (EF), 3.06% were level 4 (UNO), 37.24% were level 5 (NF), 10.71% were level 6 (RA), and 41.84% were level 7 (CL).

The first draft report was sent on June 27th for discussion with Iain Lindsay, leading to the final Report of the Sport Transparency Index Pilot Study, which has been presented at the scheduled Sport – T Index Meeting 4 on July 16th, 2024, in Warsaw.

Call for Participation: Aid us to shape the Policy Recommendations on the Promotion of Sport Transparency

We are pleased to invite sport organizations, stakeholders, and experts from across Europe to participate in the discussion and debate phase of our Policy Recommendations Report on the Promotion of Sport Transparency.

This phase, set to commence in early 2025, aims to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration on enhancing transparency, integrity, and governance within the sports sector. Your insights and experiences are invaluable to finalising our policy report, which will propose robust and actionable solutions for promoting sport integrity across all levels. Interested parties are encouraged to express their interest by completing the [Get Involved Form](#) and selecting the policy recommendation box or by contacting Panos Papageorgiou, EPSI Project Manager, at panos.papageorgiou@epsi.eu.



The “Sport-T-Index” Project at the XIV Ibero-American Congress on Sports Economics

The XIV Ibero-American Congress on Sports Economics (CIED14), organized by the Spanish Society of Sports Economics (SEED) and, in this edition, by the members of the Sport Management European Research Group (SMERG) of the European University of Madrid, in collaboration with the Circle of Managers of Madrid, was held in Madrid from June 12 to 14.

Madrid, renowned for its track record in organizing and promoting sports, was the ideal venue for this congress. The city, which stands out for its international impact and commitment to sustainability in sports management, integrates scientific evidence into its actions. This event picked up the baton from the previous edition, held in Valencia, opting for a hybrid format that allowed for greater attendance from those interested in the economics and management of sports. In this way, CIED14 consolidates itself as the most important annual academic-professional event in the field of sports management.

The main theme of this edition was “Investment in Sports: Intelligent, Sustainable, and Global Management,” a topic of great relevance in recent decades in the sports sector. The congress addressed investment in sports and the identification of business models aligned with new consumer behaviors. Additionally, various thematic areas of great relevance in the economy and management of sports at the national and international levels were discussed.

Among other presentations, the highlight was the presentation by Dr. Jorge García-Unanue from the University of Castilla-La Mancha, who presented the European project “Sport-T-Index: Transparency and Good Governance in Sport.” This project, currently under development, aims to address various aspects related to good sports governance, redefining and strengthening the standards of integrity and transparency in the sports world. Dr. García-Unanue presented the project’s objectives, main phases, and relevant results obtained so far.

In this way, attendees were able to gain a deeper understanding of the “Sport-T-Index” project, being a standout presentation at CIED14 due to its importance for the future of sports. With its focus on transparency and good governance, the project not only redefines integrity standards in sports but also promotes more ethical and sustainable practices. Dr. García-Unanue’s presentation emphasized the importance of adopting these standards to improve confidence and efficiency in sports management. The advances and results obtained so far reflect a significant step towards a fairer and better-governed sport, aligned with the best international practices.

XIV CONGRESO IBEROAMERICANO
DE ECONOMÍA DEL DEPORTE

12 A 14 DE JUNIO
MADRID 2024



SPORT-T-INDEX: Transparency and good governance in sport

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FOURTH SPORT TRANSPARENCY INDEX PROJECT MEETING IN WARSAW

The fourth Project Meeting for the Sport T-Index project was held in Warsaw, Poland on July 16, 2024. Hosted by the Institute for Sport Governance (ISG), the consortium - including EFDN, SIGA Europe, UCLM, IOTC, VUB, FEDAS, EPSI, FPN, EMCA, and ICSSS reviewed the project's progress since the last meeting in Athens and discussed future plans.

Project leader Iain Lindsey began with a warm welcome and introduction, followed by a general update on the project and a detailed report on the pilot study. The results from the pilot study were promising, providing scientific validation for the Sport Transparency Index.



A large part of the meeting was dedicated to valuable discussions about partner deliverables. Representatives from each organisation provided updates on their tasks, sharing their achievements, challenges, and suggestions for improvements.

As part of the agenda, the partners reviewed KPIs to evaluate the project's impact and effectiveness.

The meeting wrapped up with plans for the next transnational project meeting and the final Sport Transparency Index conference.



Final Sport Transparency Index conference

We are delighted to share the first update regarding the Sport T Index Conference! This conference will take place June 2025 in Brussels and will be free to attend. We aim to host it in a hybrid format, making it accessible to everyone interest in Sport, Transparency and Integrity! The activities will include the sharing of the Sport Transparency Index, have insightful presentations around Sport Transparency and Integrity; hold a ceremony for those that have completed our Training Course and more!

