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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council on 11 and 12 May 2026:
Lipica Conclusions - Measuring the Impact of Sport: From Economic to Social Perspectives
- *Information from Slovenia*

Lipica Conclusions

Measuring the Impact of Sport: From Economic to Social Perspectives

Information from Slovenia

Slovenia would like to inform the Council of the EU about the outcomes of Peer Learning Activity (PLA) held in Lipica, Slovenia, in February 2026, on advancing the economic and social impact of sport across the EU.

The PLA followed after a high-level event attended by Slovenian Minister of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Matjaž Han, and European Commissioner, Mr. Glenn Micallef, who reaffirmed that the way sport is organised in Europe produces economic and social benefits which go well beyond the competitive successes at major competitions.

Over the course of two days Lipica hosted over 100 experts from 25 EU Member States, alongside representatives from 19 international organisations and 15 national sports stakeholders. This event has made a notable contribution to the ongoing European discussion surrounding the systematic measurement of the economic and social impacts of sport.

The discussions held in Lipica reaffirmed that sport generates significant economic, social, health and community value, which is not yet fully or consistently captured across EU Member States. This limits the importance and visibility of sport's contribution in policymaking and investment decisions, including at the EU level.

Building on the work of the EU Task Force on Harmonised Sport Statistics and the progress achieved with national Sport Satellite Accounts (SSAs), participants in Lipica underlined the importance of moving towards a more coherent and coordinated EU approach to measuring the impact of sport.

In particular, *Lipica Conclusions*, as the main written outcome of discussions in Lipica, endorsed by participants in a subsequent written procedure, highlight the following key areas for future work:

- Strengthening the economic measurement of sport
- Advancing the measurement of social impact
- Developing a pragmatic EU approach to social value, and
- Promoting coordination and capacity building at EU level.

Lipica Conclusions underline that strengthening the evidence base on sport is essential for informed policymaking and investments to sport. A more systematic and coherent approach will enable a clearer assessment of sport's contribution to key EU priorities, including public health, social inclusion, employment, education and economic growth, thus contributing to EU's main political agenda on competitiveness.

Slovenia invites EU Member States and the European Commission to take note of *Lipica Conclusions* and support further work towards a coordinated EU approach to measuring the economic and social value of sport. A full text of *Lipica Conclusions* is available in the annex to this note.



Measuring
the Impacts
of Sport

Lipica Conclusions

Measuring the Impacts of Sport: From Economic to Social Perspectives

February 2026

Peer Learning Activity (PLA) in Lipica reaffirms that **sport generates significant economic, social, health and community value** which is not yet fully and comparably captured across the EU. Building on the work of the EU Task Force on Harmonised Sport Statistics and the progress achieved with national Sport Satellite Accounts (SSAs), participants underline the **need to advance towards a more coherent EU approach to measuring the economic and social impact of sport**, including through the development of methodologies for estimating the social return on investment (SROI). This includes, among others, the following:

1. Consolidating Sport Satellite Accounts as the Economic Backbone

- Continuing the development and implementation of **national Sport Satellite Accounts (SSAs)**, supported by EU-level coordination and technical assistance.
- Promoting a **common set of economic indicators**, including GDP, employment (FTE), public and private expenditure, consumer spending, trade flows, investment and the economic value of sport volunteering.

2. Advancing Coordination on Social Impact Measurement

- A **coordinated EU monitoring approach** based on a set of indicators related to sport participation, volunteering, employment, facilities, sport events, injuries, physical education, sedentary behaviour, inclusion and equality.
- **Improving the comparability of data and surveys** on sport participation across Member States, including in relation to frequency, duration, intensity, type and context of participation.

3. Developing a Pragmatic EU Approach to Social Value in Sport (SROI)

- **Exploring a minimum common approach** to social value calculation, initially focusing on health-related cost savings associated with physical activity, sport volunteering and sport participation
- Supporting **voluntary pilot projects in Member States** to test SROI methodologies in different contexts.
- **Using evidence from both SSAs and SROI** analyses to better assess the impact and efficiency of public investment in sport.

4. Next Steps

- Continue work within the **EU Expert Group on Sport Statistics at Eurostat** and strengthen coordination between statistical authorities and sport policy stakeholders, including through appropriate involvement of sport ministries and among relevant Commission services
- Explore possibilities to **provide continued technical and financial support** for coordination and capacity building, including through the Erasmus+ programme and other relevant EU funding instruments.

- Consider the integration and monitoring of economic and social sport indicators in **relevant EU policy frameworks**, including the next EU Work Plan for Sport, the revision of the HEPA Recommendation, and the forthcoming strategic document on the future of EU sport policy planned by the European Commission for 2026.

The Lipica Conclusions underline that **advancing towards a coordinated system** for measuring the economic and social value of sport is both feasible and necessary. A **phased, proportionate and evidence-based approach** will ensure that sport's contribution to health, employment, social inclusion and cohesion is fully recognised and **mainstreamed** in EU policymaking and in the investment decisions at national and EU level. This will strengthen **the strategic positioning of sport** within the EU economic governance, health policy, social cohesion and sustainable development frameworks.
