



# ORIENT

young explorers re-discover local communities through orienteering

**Orient – Young explorers  
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through orienteering**

## **IO5 – ORIENT MANIFESTO**



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





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# 1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEX

## *The ORIENT project*

The present document has been developed in the framework of the project ORIENT – Young explorers re-discover local communities through orienteering (622532-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-SPO-SCP), a 30-month project co-financed by the Erasmus + SPORT programme of the European Union.

ORIENT stems from the idea of bringing together young people from different backgrounds through a particular grassroots sport: orienteering. The project aims to enhance social inclusion and foster capacity and community building by creating opportunities for young people from different social and cultural groups to socialise and develop new skills.

ORIENT adopts a multi-stakeholder approach, boosting cooperation among stakeholders, namely sports trainers and representatives from civil societies organisations. This approach will equip sports trainers' and CSO's workers with innovative methods to encourage the participation of vulnerable young people in sports activities at the community level. Through the practice of outdoor activities, young people will be encouraged to reflect on social inclusion issues while discovering urban and natural local contexts.

# THE PROJECT

ORIENT project has the following **objectives**:

- Include vulnerable young people, at risk of social exclusion or socially excluded, in sport activities at community level;
- Equip sport trainers, as well as sport associations and workers from civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the field of social inclusion with tools to promote the participation of vulnerable young people in the local community through a grassroots sport (Orienteering).
- Enhance social inclusion across partner countries while raising awareness of societal barriers and social exclusion, promoting long-term and positive change at local level.

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The **activities** planned during the project duration include:

- Collection of inspiring good practices, tools and methodologies using orienteering for social inclusion (IO1)
- Development of a curriculum about orienteering for social inclusion for sport trainers & CSOs (IO2)
- Creation of a toolbox for orienteering routes for young people (IO3)
- Co-creation of compendium with «routes of inclusion» from participatory mapping workshops and an orienteering contest (IO4)
- Drafting a Manifesto with the potential of orienteering for social inclusion (IO5)

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Finally, ORIENT expects to achieve the following **results**:

- **ORIENT ANTHOLOGY:** good practices, tools and methodologies using orienteering for social inclusion.
- **ORIENT CURRICULUM:** the basics on orienteering and innovative methodologies to promote the participation of vulnerable young people in orienteering activities.
- **GEARS & IDEAS:** a toolbox for orienteering routes
- **ORIENT COMPENDIUM: "ROUTES TO INCLUSION":** co-created by sport trainers, civil society organizations' workers and young people through participatory mapping.
- **ORIENT MANIFESTO:** with results and recommendations on the potential of orienteering for social inclusion.



# THE OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE OF THE MANIFESTO

The present document aims to extend and amplify the impact of ORIENT, through the development of a so-called IO5 ORIENT Manifesto. The objectives of the Manifesto are to:

- **Demonstrate the potential of orienteering and sport in general to foster positive values and dynamics at community level, hence**
- **Encouraging policy-makers to enhance their policies to support such initiatives to create stronger and more inclusive societies**

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## HOW TO USE THE MANIFESTO

This document is supposed to serve as a tool for sports associations, CSOs and policy makers to promote orienteering as means to enhance social inclusion. For this purpose, it draws on experiences and good practices in the ORIENT project countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Italy.

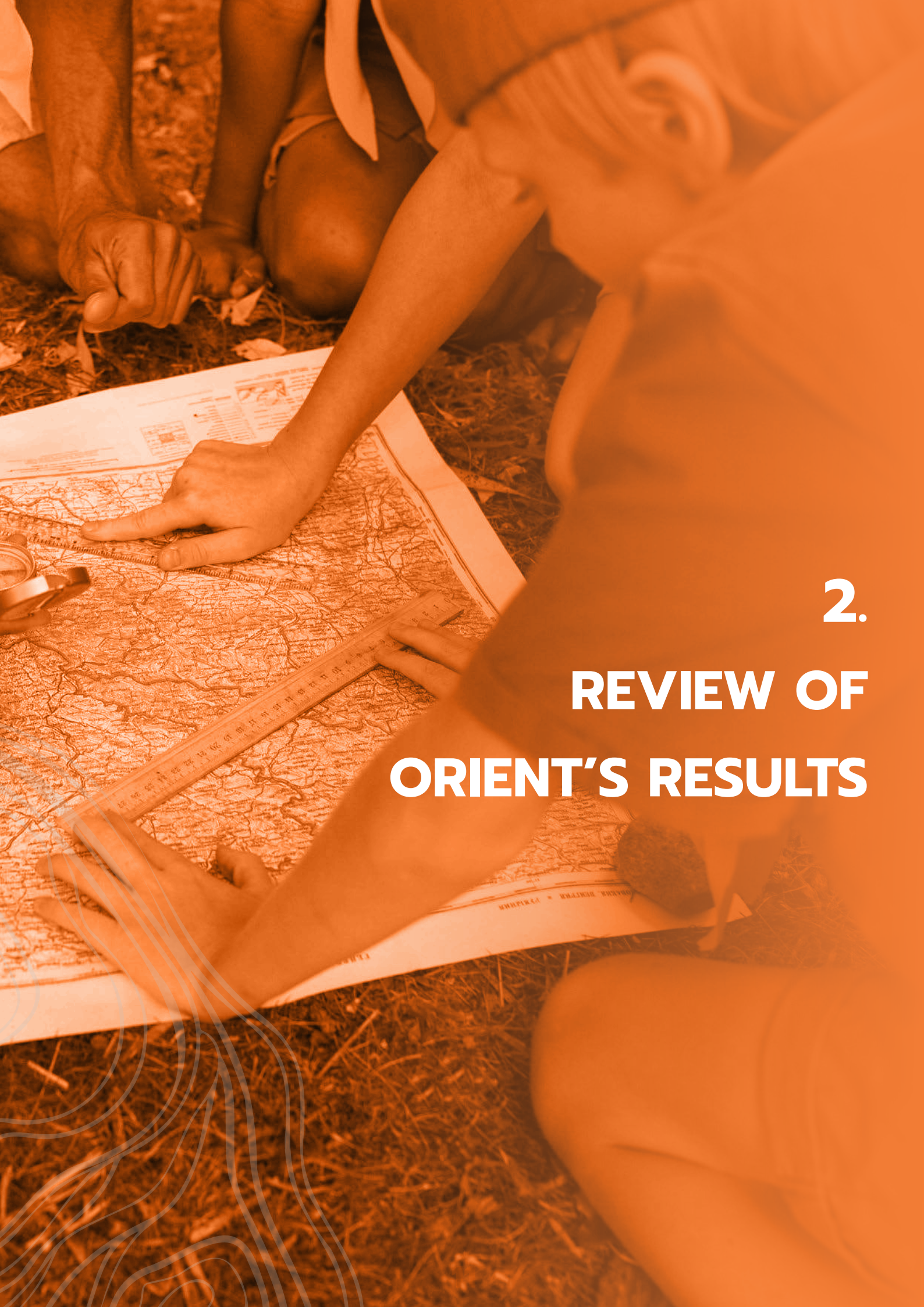
After a short introduction on the ORIENT project and its major achievements, it provides information on existing policies related to sport/orienteering and social inclusion in the project countries, the level of implementation of these policies and provides recommendations for policy makers for strengthening social inclusion through sports, i.e. orienteering.

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## KEY DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this report, a policy is understood as a course of action adopted and pursued by a government, ruler, political party or another public body. A policy maker is understood as someone, especially in a government or political party, who decides on new policies.





## 2. REVIEW OF ORIENT'S RESULTS

## 2. REVIEW OF ORIENT'S RESULTS

### *The ORIENT Experience*

Building fairer and more inclusive societies has become an ever-growing challenge with young people lacking concrete tools for community building. The ORIENT project chose orienteering as a grass-root initiative able to enhance the connection and networking between the members of the same community and to promote a sense of belonging to it. In the project framework, orienteering has proved to be a valuable instrument to boost cooperation among different social groups and to foster social inclusion of vulnerable young people, thus creating more inclusive societies. In order to do that, the ORIENT project developed a set of resources, methodologies and tools based on the use of orienteering for social inclusion.

To start with, a cross-country research in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria and Austria allowed the identification of existing good practices of orienteering for social inclusion. This resulted in the ORIENT Anthology, a collection of best practices on the use of orienteering for social inclusion, accompanied by an analysis of the methodology and the resources needed to replicate these initiatives. For this reason, the **ORIENT Anthology** represents a source of inspiration for new forms of engagement of sports and civil society organisations in community activities aimed at improving social inclusion through sports.

The knowledge pooled through the research phase provided the methodological framework for the **ORIENT Curriculum**, an Open Educational Resource that provides sports trainers and CSOs' workers with skills, knowledge, methodologies and tools to enable them to arrange innovative orienteering-based activities to promote the participation of disadvantaged youth in the local community through orienteering. At least 50 facilitators among sports trainers and CSOs' workers were trained in the use of orienteering to foster the social inclusion of vulnerable young people in partner countries.

To reach out to young people, the **ORIENT toolbox** containing all the essential information and tools for practicing orienteering was created. The toolbox was designed for young people and consists of a mix of conceptual and hardware gears: the Ideas Box, a step-by-step guide to learning the basics of orienteering, and the Orienteering Kit, with all the tools (compass, control points and map holder and much more) to effectively participate in orienteering activities. Therefore, the ORIENT toolbox provides a practical framework and an already designed kit that can be used also by facilitators for the replication of orienteering-based activities for social inclusion.

After being trained, partners and facilitators worked alongside at least 150 young people in the co-creation workshops for the identification of local areas of social and cultural value, to create new orienteering routes. Through a joint co-creation process, each team of young people produced one route linked to the theme of social inclusion. This process culminated with the orienteering contest, where all participating teams tried the routes previously developed by other teams. In the end, the 'routes for inclusion' designed by young people in each partner country were collected in the **ORIENT Compendium**.

The ORIENT activities were developed in a way to respond to the needs identified among the target groups in the involved countries, with relatively different social groups and social exclusion phenomena, thus enhancing the transferability of the methodologies also to different contexts. Thanks to these activities, young people from marginalised backgrounds - such as NEETs and migrants - participated in team-based activities while at the same time discovering the history and the cultural identity of their cities, thus enhancing their connection to the local community. The discovery of natural and urban areas through sports increased appreciation for cultural heritage and green spaces and allowed young people to develop a positive attitude towards their local context.



At the same time, sports and civil society organisations that participated in the project gained additional experience in dealing with vulnerable groups through sport and acquired new methodologies to address social inclusion in a new, fun and educational way. Through their participation in the project, these organisations enhanced their competences in addressing common challenges such as social exclusion and intolerance, strengthening their engagement in the social field and establishing themselves as important pillars of the local community.

By doing this, the ORIENT project has supported several European policies in the field of sport.

In line with the **EU Work Plan for sport 2017-2020**, the ORIENT project engaged different key actors in the field of sport and social inclusion, such as sports trainers with technical experience in sports, civil society organisations' workers with competences in promoting social inclusion and policy-makers with expertise in both fields. By doing this, ORIENT fostered cooperation and a fruitful exchange of complementary skills among these stakeholders, empowering them to work jointly to promote orienteering-based initiatives capable of fostering social inclusion. By providing education and training opportunities in and through sports, the project greatly enhanced the competences of all the professionals involved, who can now easily replicate the methodologies and approaches learned in future orienteering-based activities and initiatives.

In accordance with the policy document of the European Commission on **Developing the European Dimension in Sport**, the ORIENT project recognised sport as a "vehicle to promote social inclusion of minorities and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups", working to increase awareness of the role of sport as a great contributor for the creation of more inclusive, united and supportive societies. By offering marginalised young people - at risk of social exclusion or socially excluded - a chance to take part in sports activities in a group setting, the ORIENT project addressed the priority "encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport", thus contributing to "foster social integration, enhance intercultural understanding and a sense of belonging to a shared community" (**2020 Erasmus+ programme guide**). Following the guidelines of the European Commission's **White Paper on Sport**, according to which "sport promotes a shared sense of belonging and participation and may therefore also be an important tool for the integration of immigrants", the ORIENT project also involved young people of foreign origins and with migratory backgrounds, supporting their integration in the local community.

When partner organisations of the ORIENT project were surveyed about their views in term of **key achievements, success factors, challenges and lessons learned**, they highlighted the following points:



## **Key achievements**

- ▶ The involvement of young people that come from different social and cultural backgrounds: by promoting sport activities in a group setting and with a special focus on social inclusion, the project has fostered participant's integration and sense of belonging to their local community.
- ▶ The creation of an innovative methodology and the development of resources and tools (such as the orienteering maps) that can be easily adopted and replicated by sport trainers and CSOs workers.
- ▶ The orienteering competition which brought together young participants from diverse backgrounds, providing them with the opportunity to test their navigation skills in a challenging outdoor activity.
- ▶ The training of CSO workers and trainers, working with youth around the topic of orienteering, and the mere presentation and efforts to popularise orienteering sport in the society.
- ▶ The set-up of a local network of sport and civil society organisations that will continue to collaborate, using sport as a pedagogical tool to foster participation and community cohesion

## **Success factors**

- ▶ Selecting orienteering as a sport: Orienteering has proven to be an excellent tool to promote social inclusion of vulnerable youth.
- ▶ Jointly involving sport trainers and CSOs workers in the local training activities, first as learners and then as facilitators.
- ▶ Mixing different approaches: holistic approach, reflection embedded in learning, experiential learning, result-oriented approach, collaborative & peer learning, cross-cultural communication, participatory mapping and co-design, stress relief methodologies and positive communication.
- ▶ Connecting sport and local heritage: This has allowed participants to play sport while discovering the history and the cultural identity of their cities.
- ▶ Promoting the project widely among interested youth from various backgrounds and engaging them at all levels.
- ▶ Ensuring that all participants feel included, valued and respected, regardless of their background or abilities.
- ▶ Including staff and trainers who are passionate about the topic.



## Challenges

- ▶ To provide safety of participants during the orienteering competition which required a significant amount of planning and coordination.
- ▶ Creating the orienteering map in a way that meets the needs and abilities of all participants.
- ▶ In some cases, recruiting participants for the orienteering competition as orienteering was not always well known as a sport in all of the target countries.
- ▶ Participatory mapping workshops had to be adapted to the needs of the participants (e.g. reducing the theoretical part (history, rules and regulations, map symbols, etc.) while giving more space to physical and non-formal activities.

## Lessons learned

- ▶ Orienteering can help young people to develop a variety of skills such as problem solving, decision-making, leadership and teamworking, while at the same time raising self-confidence and boosting their sense of agency.
- ▶ Orienteering can play a crucial role in promoting knowledge of local realities: through the practice of orienteering young people can look at their local environment under a new light, as a dimension for socialising, sharing and working together as a team.
- ▶ Orienteering can provide opportunities for marginalised and underprivileged groups to integrate with more ease in their local community, thus laying the foundation for the creation of more inclusive societies.
- ▶ Vulnerable youth needs to be given visibility, time and tools to become active in the society, e.g. through orienteering.
- ▶ Orienteering can be easily adjusted and used in different contexts, e.g. as a treasure hunt, or as a game that can help you to get to know your environment and engage with your community.
- ▶ There is a need to invest further efforts into popularising orienteering due to lack of knowledge among youth about the sport.
- ▶ Sport organisations, CSOs and youth are in general interested in new opportunities and initiatives.
- ▶ Positive feedback and inputs from CSO workers, trainers, physical education teachers and professors to utilise the developed curriculum, hence, their interest.
- ▶ Exchange of best practices and experiences with the different EU partners is helpful and adds value to the results.







**3.**

**SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SPORT  
FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH:  
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES  
OF EXISTING POLICIES**



# 3. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND SPORT FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF EXISTING POLICIES

## Existing policies for social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth in the target countries

### *a. Strengths and good practices*

Providing accessibility to and affordability of sports programs and facilities has been identified as a strength and good practice in several countries. It ensures that all members of the community have equal opportunities to participate, regardless of age, race, nationality, physical abilities, or disabilities. This promotes social inclusion and healthy lifestyles for all. Focusing on providing targeted support and resources for marginalized and underrepresented groups, such as individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and members of ethnic or racial minorities, is a crucial step towards promoting equality and inclusivity within the community. This approach ensures that these groups have access to the resources they need to thrive and participate fully in the society.

### *b. Examples of relevant policies in the target countries*

Approaches taken by the countries covered in this report are varying considerably: On the one hand, there are countries with national and regional level legal regulations and strategies on social inclusion in connection with sport (e.g. Austria, Bosnia Herzegovina, Greece, Italy). On the other hand, there are also cases when national policies are not available, but where CSOs are actively promoting sport and inclusion through different strategy papers (e.g. Cyprus). In the case of Bulgaria, different strategies are in place that promote social inclusion in different sphere of life but without explicitly connecting inclusion with sport (e.g. National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Inclusion and National Youth Strategy).

Relevant laws and strategies policies at national or regional level cover topics such as:

- ▶ Access to public funding for sport associations and other organisations that promote inclusion and sport (e.g. Austria, Italy)
- ▶ Availability of sport (e.g. BiH, Greece)
- ▶ Sport clubs for people with disabilities (e.g. BiH, Greece)
- ▶ Integration and inclusion of vulnerable groups in all spheres of life (e.g. Bulgaria)
- ▶ Foreign children registration procedures for sport associations (e.g. Italy)
- ▶ Promotion of sport as a tool for the integration of vulnerable groups (e.g. Austria, Italy, BiH)
- ▶ Development of the social and educational dimension of sport (e.g. Italy)

Detailed examples of relevant policies in the partner countries can be found in the (non-exhaustive) list in Annex 1, including a brief description on how these policies relate to social inclusion and vulnerable youth. In all target countries, CSOs are actively promoting social inclusion and sport for vulnerable groups through various projects, strategies and initiatives.

### ***c. Weaknesses and shortcomings of existing policies***

Partners have identified also a number of weaknesses and shortcomings when it comes to existing policies for social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth in the target countries:

- ▶ Overall, monitoring, reporting and dissemination of existing national strategies is seen as a challenge (e.g. Bulgaria; youth policy at the local level). It was noted that in some countries this is partly due to insufficient coordination between the responsible institutions.
- ▶ Concerning persons with disabilities, it was noted that facilities and buildings are not always physical accessible (e.g. Cyprus). With regard to sports clubs for persons with disabilities, it was observed that there may be challenges in providing resources for individuals with varying needs, such as specialized equipment or facilities (BiH).
- ▶ Policies need to expand their focus also more strongly on LGBTQI+ communities and their participation in sports (e.g. Greece).
- ▶ Participation in national competitions (e.g. under Italian flag) can be a challenge for youth with migrant background since they cannot apply for citizenship before the age of 18.

### ***d. The level of implementation of existing policies***

As already mentioned above, monitoring the implementation of existing policies remains a challenge in many cases. Exact data is often lacking.

In many cases, policies do not define specific budgets linked to its implementation. Applying for funds to support efforts to promote social inclusion and sport nonetheless is often possible through different governmental institutions. In cases where specific funds are available, sports clubs and other eligible institutions are often not well informed or aware of existing funding opportunities.

There are, however, also cases where funding of initiatives related to sports and inclusion are explicitly stipulated in respective legal acts (e.g. Austria (see example above) and Italy).



### ***e. Policies that would be required or useful to promote social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth***

The EU Workplan for Sport (2021-2024) aims to “ensure, through cross-sectoral cooperation, the awareness of other EU policy domains of the important contribution that sport can make to Europe’s socially and environmentally sustainable growth, digitalisation as well as recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and future resilience, as well as to achieve the SDGs.” Targeted policies are required in order to achieve this goal.

It would be also useful for policies to promote social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth to address the following themes:

- ▶ Investment in sport and physical activity
- ▶ Green sport and education
- ▶ Monitoring of lifelong physical activity
- ▶ Impact in sport in children’s life
- ▶ Increasing sponsorship opportunities
- ▶ Promoting a better connected and diverse sports community
- ▶ Provision of information to young people on the rights of groups with fewer opportunities or groups of people who might be threatened by social exclusion.
- ▶ Promoting activities that contribute to reducing discrimination through sport (e.g. among Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth)
- ▶ Promoting actions for social inclusion and against social exclusion in the school environment.

### ***f. Further opportunities to foster social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth at the policy level***

Firstly, it is suggested to enhance the overall policy dialogue between all relevant stakeholders. For this purpose, relevant institutions, young people, sport clubs, coaches and other stakeholders should be gathered around one table in order to discuss and exchange ideas about the required changes and interventions from a social inclusion perspective. Furthermore, existing mechanisms for coordinating, implementing and monitoring relevant policies should be strengthened (e.g. Bulgaria).

Overall, further policies are required to facilitate the participation of vulnerable groups in sport. People with a disability, for example, often experience barriers as sports infrastructure is often not adapted to their needs, transport to training is not always accessible and coaches often lack the knowledge to integrate people with disabilities into their activities. Similarly, it can be particularly difficult for youth living in lower-income neighbourhoods or underserved communities to practice sport, as sports equipment and infrastructure are usually absent. It is therefore important to bring sport both in urban suburbs and rural villages, as the proximity to marginalised areas is a key factor to their participation. Creating new policies in this regard will help to promote social inclusion and keep youth engaged in sport.

Practically, this will also require investing in the development of coaches and program leaders through targeted training and resources, hence, education. This can include specialized instruction on how to effectively engage and support youth from vulnerable groups, as well as cultural sensitivity training to help leaders work effectively with youth from diverse backgrounds.





**4.**

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO POLICY-MAKERS  
TO SUPPORT SPORT-BASED  
ACTIONS TO FOSTER  
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND  
TO ENHANCE THE POTENTIAL  
OF ORIENTEERING AND  
TEAM-BASED SPORTS**



## 4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY-MAKERS TO SUPPORT SPORT-BASED ACTIONS TO FOSTER SOCIAL INCLUSION AND TO ENHANCE THE POTENTIAL OF ORIENTEERING AND TEAM-BASED SPORTS

Based on the achievements, lessons learned and challenges outlined in this report, the following recommendations are put forward to policy-makers in order to support sport-based actions to foster social inclusion and to enhance the potential of orienteering and team-based sports:

### ***a. Policy makers at the local level***

- For local municipalities to make resources available for orienteering. This can be done by:
  - ▶ Allocating funds to sport and financially supporting orienteering clubs and associations;
  - ▶ Organising orienteering events and competitions open to everyone;
  - ▶ Mapping city centres and natural sites and ensuring open access of the maps;
  - ▶ Granting permission to access and use public land for orienteering purposes.
- For municipalities to design and implement strategies and other actions to include vulnerable youth, encouraging a culture of physical activity and positive attitude towards sports and inclusion. This could include e.g. activities such as sports festivals, specific funding opportunities by municipalities for sports initiatives; recreational activities and sports etc.
- To put a specific focus on geographic areas with a greater concentration of young people at risk of exclusion.
- To develop new collaborations with sports organisations on the ground e.g. sport clubs in their communities and to jointly plan and implement social activities to promote sport and social inclusion.
- To enhance the skills of educators in the implementation of inclusive practices through the support of comprehensive training programs.





### ***b. Policy makers at regional/national level***

- ▶ For relevant Ministries (e.g; sport, social affairs) to recognise the potential of orienteering in promoting participation and solidarity and consequently to invest more funds on the promotion of orienteering as a grassroots sport but also as a tool for social inclusion.
- ▶ To develop policies that promote sport and social inclusion and that respond to the actual needs of young people including from marginalized groups.
- ▶ To provide adequate financial means that ensure the implementation of these policies, expanding the availability of overall resources and facilities that cater the needs of marginalized groups and individuals with disabilities.
- ▶ To thoroughly implement and monitor these policies.

### ***c. CSOs and sport association engaged in activities related to social inclusion and sports.***

- ▶ For CSOs and sport associations to work more closely with national orienteering federations to develop programs, raise funds and organise events that enlarge the fanbase and increase youth participation in orienteering.
- ▶ To promote educational opportunities for sports trainers and CSO's workers to ensure diversity and inclusion in their practices with young people. In this regard, the ORIENT methodology could be a powerful tool to train professionals to tackle social exclusion in and through sport.
- ▶ To give more priority to initiatives related to social inclusion and to develop and implement more projects related to sports and its potential for social inclusion.
- ▶ To take advantage of EU funding schemes like Erasmus+ for sports.



The background is a monochromatic red-tinted image. On the left, a white flag is partially visible, draped over a surface. Below the flag, a circular compass is shown, resting on a map. The compass face is visible, with cardinal directions (N, E, S, W) and degree markings. The map beneath the compass shows some geographical features and lines. The overall composition suggests themes of navigation, exploration, and policy-making.

**ANNEXES**  
**EXAMPLES AND POLICIES**  
**IN THE TARGET COUNTRIES**

# ANNEX 1: SOCIAL INCLUSION & SPORT FOR VULNERABLE YOUTH – COUNTRY EXAMPLES

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## *Fostering participation in sports for persons with disabilities – Bosnia and Herzegovina*

There are a number of policies in place for the promotion of fair and equal access to sports for all citizens, regardless of their abilities. Many sports in Bosnia and Herzegovina include people with disabilities. Some of them are: sitting volleyball, sitting basketball, paralympic shooting and a few more. Sport clubs for people with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina also play an important role in promoting social inclusion and breaking down barriers between people. By participating in sport and physical activities together, individuals with disabilities are able to form connections and friendships with people who share similar experiences. As an example, The Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina has published a "Guide to Parasport" within the "Social Integration through Parasport - Parainspired!" project, which promotes the support for social integration by encouraging sustainable sports exchange in order to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the sporting events organised in the cross-border region between Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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## *Legal initiatives promoting social inclusion and sport – Austria and Italy*

National inclusion efforts in Austrian sport have been reflected in the Federal Sport Promotion Act since 2013 (Bundesförderungsgesetz BSFG 2013 and BSFG 2017). In Austria, 14 federal sports associations have already made their respective sports inclusive and are members of the Austrian Paralympic Committee.<sup>1</sup> The goals of federal sports promotion listed in the law explicitly includes social integration of people with a migration background through sport; and inclusion of people with disabilities in sport. The law defines types of funding and the distribution of federal sports funds: Specific funds are allocated for different categories and purposes in line with the goal of the law.

In Italy, the Minister for Youth Policy and Sport issued a Guideline Act for the period 2020-2022 which defines public policies in the field of the promotion of sport. The Act is based on the binomial "sport – health" and identifies young people, women and all those who are at a disadvantage as the main beneficiaries of any government action. The Guideline Act provides incentives to national sports federations that promote:

- ▶ social inclusion of people with disabilities;
  - ▶ healthy lifestyles and the fight against childhood obesity;
  - ▶ sport in schools as a mean of combating marginalisation and various forms of addiction;
  - ▶ cultural inclusion; prevention of discrimination, violence and racism;
  - ▶ sport as a social aggregation tool.
- 

## *Implementing the Bulgarian National Youth Strategy – Bulgaria*

Overall, the Bulgarian National Youth Strategy as a major guiding document related to youth is assessed as very positive. The main challenges are associated not with the contents of the document, but rather with its implementation and monitoring. The National Youth Program (2021-2025), which is in compliance with the objectives of the National Youth Strategy (2021-2030) is supposed to serve as tool for the implementation of youth policy in the country. Monitoring is however challenged by an interrupted dialogue between key stakeholders – on the one hand, those responsible for youth policies at the national and local level, and on the other hand, between the administration and youth organizations in general.

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### ***CSOs promoting sport and inclusion – Cyprus***

In Cyprus, a number of CSO-led initiatives and strategies are being implemented to promote social inclusion and sport. These include initiatives and strategies:

- ▶ to promote equal opportunities to groups with lower economic background and people living in rural areas.
- ▶ to promote sports for foreigners and immigrants.
- ▶ to provide support to municipalities to create sport programmes or events that integrate religious minority groups.
- ▶ to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of vulnerable population groups through physical activity and sports.

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### ***Limited resources for sport clubs – Greece***

There is no specific budget linked to the implementation of such policies. Generally, the sports clubs especially the amateur ones, have many economic difficulties and there are many arguments with the Ministry of Sports about the limited economic resources they provide. Many sport clubs do social activities under Social Responsibility initiatives that can be implemented thanks to sponsorship or own funding. Additionally, the majority of sport organisations are not informed about other funding opportunities e.g. from the EU and it is a matter of personal involvement and knowledge of the organisations' personnel whether they are participating in EU funded project or social initiatives.

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### ***Public funding of sport initiatives – Italy***

The Department of Sport manages the "Fund for interventions in favour of amateur sports associations, amateur sports clubs and sports promotion bodies". Funds were allocated to financing programs aimed at:

- ▶ promoting sport, including equal opportunities, combating all forms of discrimination, increasing the integration of disabled people, ethnic minorities, immigrants and other vulnerable groups;
- ▶ promoting sport in school of all levels, including afternoon and extra-curricular activities;
- ▶ encouraging healthy lifestyles through the practice of sport even among students who are in difficult socio-economic conditions.

The Department of Sport also has a Fund to support the strengthening of the Italian sports movement. This fund is used to finance projects for one of the following purposes:

- ▶ promoting the sport of disabled people;
- ▶ support the implementation of international sports events;
- ▶ supporting motherhood of non-professional athletes;
- ▶ ensuring the right to practise sport as the main form of developing children's personalities, including through awareness-raising campaigns;
- ▶ supporting the implementation of women's sporting events at national and international level.

# ANNEX 2: POLICIES RELATED TO SPORT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE TARGET COUNTRIES

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Name of policy **Bundesport förderungsgesetz BSFG 2013 and BSFG 2017**

Regulating body Nat. Parl Geographical Coverage Austria, state level Date 2017

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Sport promotion and public funding

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
The goals of federal sports promotion listed in the law also explicitly include social integration of people with a migration background through sport; and inclusion of people with disabilities in sport. The law defines types of funding and the distribution of federal sports funds: Specific funds are allocated for different categories and purposes in line with the goal of the law.

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Name of policy **Regional strategies, e.g Sportstrategie 2025 for the region of Steiermark**

Regulating body Reg. Gov. Geographical Coverage Austria, Regional level Date 2017

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Sport, references to inclusion and integration

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
Specific reference to persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

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Name of policy **Sport policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Article 28**

Geographical Coverage Bosnia and Herzegovina (state level) Date 2017

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Sport clubs for people with disabilities

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
**The policy** refers to basic principals in sport stating that all have equal right to sport regardless of gender, skin colour, ethnicity or nationality, social status, religion, political or other belief, disability, health status, age, race, sexual orientation, or any other personal attribute. **Sports clubs are established** in order to organize competitions and recreational sports activities for people with disabilities. Sports clubs for people with disabilities can perform sports activities on amateur and professional levels.

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Name of policy **Sport policy of Republika Srpska - Article 5**

Geographical Coverage BiH, Republika Srpska Date January 1st, 2021.

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Availability of sport

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
**Availability of sport to all citizens under equal conditions** regardless of age, race, nationality, level of physical abilities, degree of any disability, gender, gender identity, and any other personal characteristics, political and any other affiliation or orientation.

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**Name of policy** **Sport policy of Canton of Sarajevo**

**Geographical Coverage** BiH, Canton of Sarajevo **Date** October 31, 2012

**Overall themes/topics this policy regulates** Sport clubs, rights and obligations of sportsmen, etc

**Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth**  
Article 12-17 – referring to persons with disability

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**Name of policy** **National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Social Inclusion with horizon up to 2030**

**Regulating body** Ministry of Labor and Social policy **Geographical Coverage** Republic of Bulgaria

**Date** Updated by Council of Ministers Decision n°368/02.06.2022

**Overall themes/topics this policy regulates** The main objective of the measures and activities planned is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups and create conditions for their full involvement through adequate income support, labour market inclusion and access to quality services.

**Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth**

It is the response that the government undertakes with the clear awareness that it must not only mitigate the negative consequences of poverty and inequalities, but also overcome the factors that reproduce them. The topics of poverty and inequality are inextricably linked and dominate public debate in both developing and developed countries. This is a complex social issue, and it is of utmost importance to solve it to understand the relationship between the concepts and to establish the reasons that give rise to them.

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**Name of policy** **National Youth Strategy (2021-2030)**

**Regulating body** Ministry of Youth and Sports **Geographical Coverage** Republic of Bulgaria

**Date** Approved by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria on 22.07.2021.  
Valid until the end of 2030.

**Overall themes/topics this policy regulates** The strategy focuses on the following objectives:

- ▶ **Goal 1:** Promotion of non-formal learning;
- ▶ **Goal 2:** Promoting employment and support for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs);
- ▶ **Goal 3:** Promoting the engagement, participation and empowerment of young people;
- ▶ **Goal 4:** Development and consolidation of youth work on a national scale;
- ▶ **Goal 5:** Connectivity, tolerance and European belonging;
- ▶ **Goal 6:** Promotion of a healthy and nature-saving lifestyle;
- ▶ **Goal 7:** Promotion of culture and creativity among young people.

**Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth**

The active participation of young people in the economic, social and political life of a country is of key importance both for their well-being and for the prosperity of the country. For this reason, youth policies in Bulgaria outline a systematic and holistic approach to create favorable conditions for young Bulgarians to be full members of society and drivers of positive change. This approach is implemented through the National Youth Strategy, which with its 10-year horizon sets the main direction and strategic goals in the sector, according to Art. 4, para. 4 of the Youth Act.

# ANNEX 2

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Name of policy **The National Youth Program (2021-2025)**

Regulating body Ministry of Youth and Sports Geographical Coverage Republic of Bulgaria

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates The program is in compliance with the objectives of the National Youth Strategy (2021-2030) as an implementing tool of youth policy in the country. Project proposals in the following thematic areas are funded under the program:

- ▶ Non-formal learning to acquire skills and key competences
- ▶ Ecology and environment protection
- ▶ Leisure time, creativity and culture
- ▶ Promotion of healthy lifestyle
- ▶ Tolerance and European affiliation

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth

The program is designed as a response to the witnessed trends with regard to various public processes, whereas its main priority is to ensure supportive and encouraging environment for personal, professional and social realisation of young people in the country.

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Name of policy **Sports For All**

Regulating body CSO<sup>2</sup> Geographical Coverage Cyprus Date 1985

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Equal opportunities to groups with lower economic background and people living in rural areas.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth Due to the low cost of the program people from all economic backgrounds can join.

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Name of policy **Tackling dependence on legal and illegal substances**

Regulating body CSO Geographical Coverage Cyprus Date 1985

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Promoting sports activities and healthier choices to prevent drug use.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth Giving the opportunity to the specific target group to access sports.

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Name of policy **Strategic programme for inclusion of foreigners and immigrants**

Regulating body CSO Geographical Coverage Cyprus Date 1985

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Promotes sports for foreigners and immigrants.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth Provides financial support to municipalities and communities to promote sport.

2 No national/regional policy in place. Instead, a number of CSO initiatives are included in this table



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Name of policy **National plan for supporting minority religious Groups**

Regulating body CSO<sup>2</sup> Geographical Coverage Cyprus Date 1985

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Provides financial support to municipalities to create sport programmes or events that integrate minority religious groups

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth Provide equal opportunities and resources through sports for all people residing in Cyprus

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Name of policy **National plan to support vulnerable population groups**

Regulating body CSO<sup>2</sup> Geographical Coverage Cyprus Date 1985

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates The plan targets people with long-term physical and mental disabilities and noncommunicable diseases. Its purpose is to improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of vulnerable population groups through physical activity and sports.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth The objectives include raising awareness among the groups of the benefits of greater involvement in physical activity, identifying people's basic physical activity needs, and offering free exercise services and sports equipment through organizations that specialize in working with people with disabilities and noncommunicable disease.

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Name of policy **Law 2725/1999 (Government Gazette A-121/17-06-1999)**  
**"Amateur and professional sports and other provisions."**  
<https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-athlitisimos/n-2725-1999.html> (in Greek)

Regulating body Greek law Geographical Coverage Greece Date 1999

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Sport clubs for people with disabilities.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth The said Law foresees specific sanctions such the imprisonment of up to one year and the payment of a fine for anyone who uses, individually or as a team member, expressions that offend the national identity of individuals, or are racist in nature, or insult the national anthem, the Olympic symbols or the Olympic Games (Article 41F paragraph 2).

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Name of policy **Law 4726/2020 (Government Gazette 181/A/18-9-2020)**  
<https://www.e-nomothesia.gr/kat-athlitisimos/nomos-4726-2020-phek-181a-18-9-2020.html> (in Greek)

Regulating body Greek law Geographical Coverage Greece Date 2020

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Availability of sport.

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth In the newly established Law, (Law 4726/20203) specific modifications in Article 22 were made for the enhancement of the Statute of the Hellenic Olympic Commission which has the duty of "development and implementation of actions and interventions against all forms of discrimination and violence in sports, as well as the development and implementation of actions to raise awareness and inform society about the battle against all forms of discrimination and violence in sports" (Article 2). Article 22 of the Statute additionally mentions, among others, the intervention of the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Deontology Committee in cases of formal accusations of disrespect to diversity (race, colour, language, gender, religion, politics or other beliefs, etc.).



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Name of policy **Disciplinary Code. (2020). EPO**

[https://www.epo.gr/media/files/KATASTATIKO\\_KANONISMOI/2020\\_2021/Peitharhikos\\_Kwdikas\\_2020.df](https://www.epo.gr/media/files/KATASTATIKO_KANONISMOI/2020_2021/Peitharhikos_Kwdikas_2020.df) (in Greek)

Regulating body Hellenic Football Federation (EPO) Geographical Coverage Greece Date 2020

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Disciplinary Code for football players

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
It indicates specific sanctions to football players, team officials and fans who belittle or discriminate against anyone, because of their race, colour, language, religion or ethnic origin, or commit any other, racist or contemptuous, act. These sanctions can be exclusions from games and monetary fines (ranging from 500€ to 50.000€ depending on the perpetrator), favouring the opposing team, holding a match without an audience (behind closed doors), and relegation to the lower category at the end of the running championship.

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Name of policy **Guidelines for Sport presented by the Minister to the Parliament**

Regulating body Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Geographical Coverage Italy Date 5 May 2021

Overall themes/topics this policy regulates Development of the social and educational dimension of sport, with a focus on fostering social inclusion and integration of disadvantaged people

Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth  
The policy aims to make sports available to everyone by bringing sports activities to *“disadvantaged areas and urban peripheral areas, with the aim of removing social economic imbalances and increasing urban safety”*. This is likely to have *“a directly proportional impact on health and on social welfare”*, with the reduction of marginalisation and the increase in *“social integration and inclusion of weak categories”*.



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**Name of policy** **Law n°12/2016**

**Geographical Coverage** Italy

**Date** 16 February 2016

**Overall themes this policy regulates** Foreign children registration procedures for sport associations.

**Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth**  
The law has allowed foreign minors to be registered within Italian sports federations. The law recognizes the principle of *ius Soli* applied to sport club registration and applies to all children who regularly reside in the Italian territory *"at least from age 11 onwards"*: they can expect to enrol in the federations *"with the same procedures required for Italian citizens to become members."*

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**Name of policy** **Guideline Act for the three-year period 2020-2022**

**Regulating body** Presidency of the Council of Ministers - Minister for Youth policies and Sport

**Geographical Coverage** Italy

**Date** 18 May 2020

**Overall themes/topics this policy regulates** Promotion of sport as a tool for:

- ▶ physical and personal well-being of people at all ages;
- ▶ aggregation and inclusion, especially of women, young people, students and those experiencing disadvantages;
- ▶ the dissemination of ethical and educational values, healthy lifestyles and the practice of sport as a means of well-being at all ages.

**Brief description of how this policy relates to social inclusion and sport for vulnerable youth**  
The policy aims at promoting the social and cultural inclusion of young people through sport, preventing all forms of discrimination, violence and racial hatred and fighting against marginalisation.





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