

ISCA Europe Continental Report 2017 - 2019

ISCA EUROPE

Europe and the European based member organisations of ISCA are privileged to be invited to many of the project based initiatives of ISCA. Due to the funding opportunities for projects with a geographical scope of Europe, we have been able to provide more than 60 project initiatives with external co-funding over the last decade and the last two years has been no exception. You can find descriptions of the various projects in the Annual Reports, but here we have listed some of these project initiatives:

- Integration of Refugees Through Sport
- MOVEment Spaces
- Grassroots Sport Diplomacy
- No Elevators Day
- Open Streets Day
- Bike for Europe
- European School Sport Day
- Active Voice

These initiatives fall primarily within two of the ISCA Strategy's three themes. That is **Solutions** and **Campaigns**. And in this way the European based members are well covered with organizational membership services concerning Solutions and Campaigns through ISCA's general project activities.

ADVOCACY towards selected European institutions

The third theme of the ISCA Strategy is **Advocacy**. That is political promotion and lobby for the grassroots sport and recreational physical activity sectors.

We see very few international organisations which are ready to fully commit to a dedicated support and to give the grassroots sport and recreational physical activity sectors first priority.

That is ISCA's position and mandate.

We have prioritized our advocacy towards selected European institutions. That is:

The European Union

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- European Committee of the Regions

The Council of Europe

- Ministers of Sport (meetings)
- Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) – as member of the Consultative Committee

World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe

In the following we will briefly describe our involvement and advocacy initiatives towards these political institutions.

The European Union

- European Commission

Due to the many projects that ISCA is leading or is partner in, we have several relations to the Directorate responsible for the sport program (ERASMUS+ Sport). ISCA is as well invited to join as resource /experts in various panels organized by the European Commission, such as:

- The Tartu Call for Healthy Lifestyle, where three European Commissioners joint forces in Tartu, Estonia 2018.
- The Cluster meeting on the economic dimension of sport

Our position is strongly based on our vision and mission and our knowledge and insights from ISCA initiatives and from our members.

The primary contacts to the European Commission is the President, Secretary General and Project managers.

- European Parliament

We have identified around 30 Members of the European Parliament with whom we have direct communication. Many of the contacts are established through ISCA Europe member organisations. We do advocate by providing opinions and data as well via direct dialogue and interactions.

The **No Elevators Day** is one example on how we through a campaign are entering the European Parliament and interact with members of Parliament. +25 members of the European Parliament took actively part in the No Elevators Day in 2018. See more here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK2kl9v3ZYk&t>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rb9c9KFp0Xw&t>

- European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union. It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities (70% of all EU legislation).

We interact with the Committee of Region in situations where the topic is related to our interests. We have in several cases benefitted from members' contacts to mayors who are members of the European Committee of Regions.

The Council of Europe

The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 and is the oldest Pan European intergovernmental organization. The mission of the Council of Europe is to uphold Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law. It includes 47 member states. In 1975 the Council of Europe adopted the European Sport for All Charter. Since then the Council of Europe has worked in the field of sport. The latest formal setup is the so called Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS). EPAS is a voluntary based collaboration among member states in the field of Sport. EPAS currently consist of 37 member states. NGO's in sport can be member of the EPAS Consultative Committee. ISCA is full member.

ISCA participates in the Council of Europe initiatives and we are as well also invited as experts. For example as expert on sport for all at an evaluation visit to the Ministry of Culture in Georgia in 2018.

Every second year the Ministers of Sport meets in the Council of Europe Sport Ministers conference. At the Ministers of Sport conference in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2018 the member states adopted the **Tbilisi Declaration on the human right to sport**. ISCA was the first NGO to support the Tbilisi Declaration ; <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/tbilisi-declaration>

Revision of the European Sport Charter

The European Sport for All Charter from 1975 was revised in 2001 and it is decided that this basic document for the sport political work in the Council of Europe should be revised again in the coming year. ISCA participated in the initial meeting and will contribute to the process defending the space for participation sport and grassroots sport.

The primary contacts to the Council of Europe is the President and the Secretary General.

World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organisation is divided in six regions. ISCA has for more than a decade had a good relation to the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe.

We contributed to the first regional WHO Strategy on Physical Activity in Europe 2015. This strategy was a stepping stone for the Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018 -2030.

We have actively used and promoted this regional physical activity strategy through European ISCA members. As example UISP Italy has translated this strategy into Italian and widely promoted the message and suggestions within the Strategy.

The Headquarter of World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe is located in Copenhagen and ISCA has interacted with the headquarter staff as part of the European Week of Sport.

For future consideration

For the last four years the Advocacy towards European intergovernmental organisation has been conducted as part of the Executive Committee primarily executed by the President and Secretary General. However, it is worth considering if we can establish more interaction and impact by including ISCA members more in this task.

A new European Parliament is elected. It has 751 members from 28 different countries. As well we see an increasing involvement of the European Committee of Regions with its 350 delegates. We have a Council of Europe with 37 member countries of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport. Altogether a lot of access points for advocacy.

The best access to European Parliament members, delegates in the Committee of Regions and members of the Council of Europe can be established by combining the national relations (from ISCA Members) and the international approach.

Therefore, it could be considered if a setup including more ISCA members from Europe could strengthen our capacity and impact of the advocacy towards these intergovernmental organisations.

Mogens Kirkeby, ISCA President