

**September 2017**

*Sport has a significant impact on the European Union's economy and society, and its importance is ever growing. It is a field in which the EU's responsibilities are relatively new. In the 2014-2020 period, a specific budget line is for the first time available under the Erasmus+ programme to support projects and networks in the area of sport.*

**State aid in sport: Striking a difficult balance**

*Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, June 2017*

The European Commission decisions on state aid for sports infrastructure adopted up until recently revealed a consistent and favourable approach towards aid measures for sports infrastructure. In the process, the Commission has translated some recurring general principles into operational exemption criteria. Building on those principles, in 2014, the Commission's General Block Exemption Regulation clarified the types of sports infrastructure investment that should be considered exempt from the EU's general laws on state aid.

**Audiovisual rights in sports events: An EU perspective**

*Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, March 2017*

Premium live sports content attracts large audiences, drives TV subscriptions upwards and generates advertising for broadcasters. With no foreseeable end to the rush for premium sports rights, the dramatic intensification of competition in the past 20 years has led to a steep increase in the pricing levels of audiovisual rights. In 2009, EU broadcasters spent around €5.8 billion on the acquisition of rights, representing nearly 17 % of their total €34.5 billion programming spend. This briefing outlines the regulatory framework under which audiovisual sports rights agreements are negotiated in the EU.

**Good governance in sport**

*Briefing by Vivienne Halleux, January 2017*

Historically, sports organisations have enjoyed considerable autonomy in running and regulating sport. This autonomy, strongly defended by sports authorities as a means to safeguard the inherent sporting values from external influence is increasingly being challenged, and made conditional on compliance with good governance principles, including those of democracy, transparency, accountability in decision-making, and representative inclusiveness. The EU's action for good governance in sport, mainly taking the form of recommendations and financial support for specific initiatives, has delivered some concrete outcomes, including the development of a set of principles applicable to organisations across the whole sports movement.

**Match-fixing: Issues and policy responses**

*Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, April 2016*

Match-fixing, i.e. the manipulation of results of sporting contests, or elements within a game, is considered as one of the most serious problems facing sport. Globalisation has further aggravated the phenomenon, with transnational criminal organisations taking advantage of changes in regulations, and flaws in legal and judicial systems. Certain sports, notably cricket, football and tennis, seem particularly affected. In the EU, the Framework Decisions on combatting corruption and the fight against organised crime underpin the operational work carried out on this issue by Europol and Eurojust. However, their provisions are still insufficiently well enacted by EU countries, while the impact of international legal instruments, such as the United Nations and Council of Europe conventions, is also limited.

**FOLLOW EPRS**<http://epthinktank.eu>

@EP\_thinktank



european parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



european parliamentary research service

## [Physical education in EU schools](#)

Briefing by Ivana Katsarova, November 2016

The low levels of physical activity among children and adolescents in the European Union are alarming and have become a matter of great concern for policy-makers, since physical inactivity is responsible for over 500 000 deaths per year and accounts for economic costs over €80 billion per year. Physical education is part of all central curricula in the EU, and is compulsory in primary and secondary education. However, on average, just under 70 hours per year are dedicated to the subject.

## ['Third-party ownership' of football players](#)

At-a-glance note by Vivienne Halleux, January 2016

Third-party ownership, also known as third-party investment in players, has been much debated in recent years. Defenders see it as a much-needed and legitimate source of external funding for clubs. Opponents highlight ethical and moral issues regarding the treatment of players and the integrity of competition. FIFA's decision to ban the practice has reignited the controversy, and triggered legal challenges before the European Commission.

## [Anti-corruption measures in EU sports policy](#)

At-a-glance note by Vivienne Halleux, June 2015

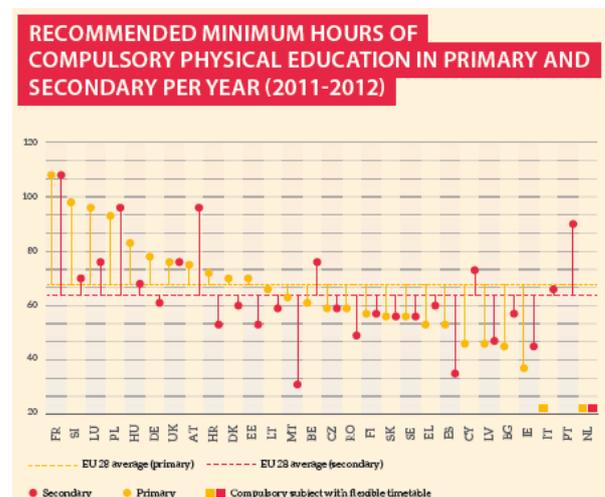
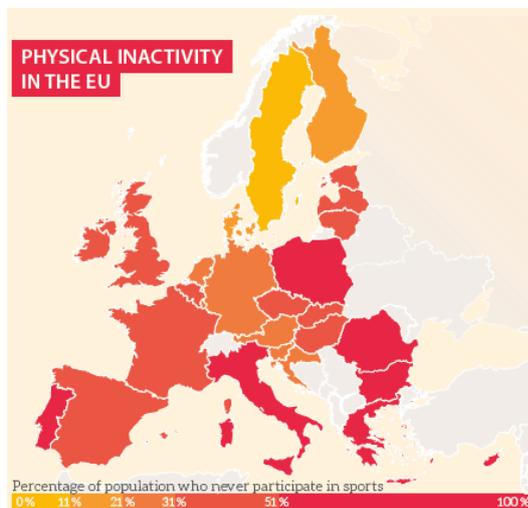
Corruption and good governance in sport have been a constant concern for the EU since the very beginning of its sport policy. Its approach rests mainly on structured dialogue and cooperation with relevant competent organisations, sports movement and bodies, and financial support for projects and networks.

## [EU sport policy - An overview](#)

In-depth Analysis by Vivienne Halleux, September 2015

The paper describes the emergence of an EU sport policy, emphasising the developments since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. Following an overview of key policy documents, tools and structures, a few examples are presented to illustrate how the policy is evolving. Special attention is given to the issue of the integrity of sport.

## Infographic [Sport and physical activity in the EU](#), September 2017



[eprs@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eprs@europarl.europa.eu) | [www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank) (Internet) | [www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu](http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu) (Intranet)

You can access this Topical Digest online at the websites below, or by scanning the QR code:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD\\_Sport.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_Sport.pdf)

<https://epthinktank.eu/topical-digests/>



FOLLOW EPRS



<http://epthinktank.eu>



@EP\_thinktank



european parliamentary research service



EPINFOGRAPHICS/EPRS



european parliamentary research service