

EU funding opportunities for sport Slovenia



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SPORT SPECIFIC FUNDING PROGRAMMES

ERASMUS+

Sport is fully embedded in the Erasmus+ Programme and sport proposals are eligible across all the key actions.

As an EU Member State, **organisations in Slovenia have full access to the Erasmus+ Programme** and can apply both as coordinator and as partner of a project.

Key Action 1

Managed by [Center Republike Slovenije za mobilnost in evropske programe izobraževanja in usposabljanja \(CMEPIUS\)](#), open opportunities can be found on the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Platform](#).

The National Agency can decide to open a second call for proposals, depending on budget availability. This second call is usually opened in Autumn and selected projects start in the following year.

Key Action 2

Organisations in Slovenia can participate as coordinators or partners in all actions under Key Action 2:

- Partnerships for Cooperation (Cooperation partnerships and small-scale partnerships);
- Not-for-profit European Sport Events (European Local Event Types I and II, European-wide event);
- Capacity building in the field of sport.

Actions under Key Action 2 are centrally managed by the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#). Open opportunities can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

PILOT PROJECTS AND PREPARATORY ACTIONS

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPs) aim to test the feasibility of new policy initiatives and preparing the ground for future measures.

Priorities for the PPPAs change regularly and have so far included the fight against doping, environment and sustainability, social inclusion, and grassroots sports programmes and infrastructure innovation.

As an EU Member State, **organisations in Slovenia are eligible to apply for Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions.**

Open calls and opportunities can be found on the [EACEA website](#) and on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

OTHER FUNDING PROGRAMMES

CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES (CERV)

The [Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values \(CERV\)](#) programme aims to strengthen and promote EU rights and values by supporting democratic participation at all levels in society and further develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law. It is not sport-specific, but in some cases sport activities are mentioned in the calls for proposals.

CERV consists of **four strands:**

- **Union values**
- **Equality, rights, and gender equality**
- **Citizen engagement and participation**
- **Daphne**, to combat violence, including gender-based violence.

The CERV Programme is centrally managed by the [Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers \(DG JUST\)](#), the [Directorate-General for Employment,](#)

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[Social Affairs and Inclusion \(DG EMPL\)](#) and the [European Education and Culture Executive Agency \(EACEA\)](#).

Organisations from Slovenia are eligible to apply to the CERV Programme. Open opportunities can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

The European Solidarity Corps' objective is to **engage young people**. In sport, organisations can host young volunteers, individually or in groups (min. 10, max. 40), to engage in social sport projects and get insight into the daily operations of a sport organisation.

Structure

Solidarity Activities

- › Volunteering Projects
 - › Individual volunteering
 - › Team volunteering
- › Solidarity Projects
- › Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas

Humanitarian Aid related Solidarity Activities

- › Humanitarian Aid Volunteering Projects

Organisations looking to participate in the European Solidarity Corps need to acquire a **Quality Label**, indicating the ability and willingness to carry out high-quality solidarity activities. The Quality Label is attributed by the National Agencies for Solidarity Activities, and by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency for Humanitarian Aid.

The European Solidarity Corps are open to organisations from **Slovenia**.

- › Opportunities for **Volunteering Teams in High Priority Areas** and **Humanitarian Aid** are centrally managed and published on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

- › Opportunities for **Volunteering projects and Solidarity projects** are decentralised and can be found on the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Platform](#).

EU4HEALTH

EU4Health is the EU's ambitious response to the COVID-19 pandemic and health challenges. Its overarching objectives are to improve and foster health in the EU, tackle cross-border health threats, strengthen health systems and their resilience.

EU4Health is centrally managed by the [European Health and Digital Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#).

Organisations from Slovenia are eligible to apply for funding from the EU4Health programme, opportunities can be found on [HaDEA's website](#) and on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (LIFE)

[Environment and Climate Action \(LIFE\)](#) addresses challenges connected to climate change, degradation of the environment and loss of biodiversity, with the aim of providing an important added value and edge to initiatives at local, regional and national levels.

LIFE is centrally managed by the [European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency \(CINEA\)](#). [National Contact Points](#) are available to advise and support organisations based in European countries participating in the Programme.

Organisations from Slovenia are eligible to apply for funding from the EU4Health programme, opportunities can be found on [CINEA's website](#) and on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

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HORIZON EUROPE

[Horizon Europe](#) is the EU's flagship funding programme for research and innovation. It aims to boost cooperation and knowledge exchange while strengthening the impact of research and innovation (R&I) in tackling global challenges and supporting the implementation of EU policies.

Its overarching objective is to have a scientific, technological, economic and societal impact through the Union's investments in Research and Innovation.

Horizon Europe is centrally managed, the responsible Executive Agency varies according to the specific pillar and action.

Organisations from Slovenia are eligible to apply for Horizon Europe, opportunities can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is the key instrument to strengthen asylum policy, develop legal migration and support the efforts of third-country nationals with integration.

AMIF is implemented under shared, direct or indirect management. The majority of the funding is allocated to the national programmes (shared management).

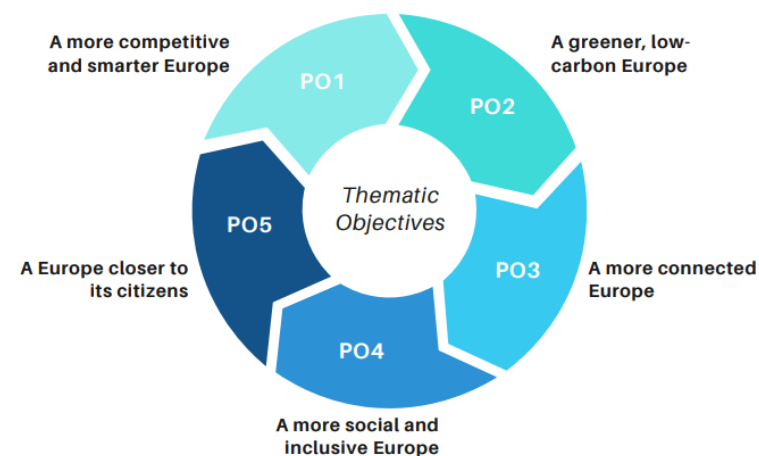
The centralised part is directly managed by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (HOME). Opportunities can be found on the [EU Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

In Slovenia, actions implemented under shared management are managed by the Ministry of Interior of Slovenia. Information can be found on the [National Portal for EU funding opportunities](#).

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS

The European Union's Regional Policy, also referred to as the Cohesion policy, contributes through European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU. It aims to reduce disparities between countries and regions and serves the Union's political priorities.

For the 2021-2027 funding cycle, the ESIF have five thematic priorities:



EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contributes to the general objective of strengthening the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the EU. It helps to reduce the disparities in development levels among the various regions within the EU.

Sport is explicitly mentioned in the Regulation (legal basis):

(20), In order to promote social inclusion and combat poverty, particularly among marginalised communities, it is necessary to improve access,

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including infrastructure to social, educational, cultural and recreational services, including sports, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities, children and the elderly.

Budget allocated to Slovenia: approx. EUR 1.54 billion

Information about the ERDF in Slovenia can be found on the [National Portal for EU Funding Opportunities](#).

Operational Programmes and responsible managing authorities ERDF 2021-2027

Managing authority	Operational Programme	OP mentions sport	Website	Email
Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development	National Programme	No	Website	Email

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND+

The European Social Fund+ (ESF+) is the EU's main instrument for investing in people. It finances the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its 20 principles through specific priorities/policy areas. It has the general objective to improve the access and quality of education and training, promote social inclusion and support actions under the Employment and Social Innovation strand.

Sport is explicitly mentioned in the Regulation (legal basis):

(15), Support from the ESF+ should be used to promote equal access for all, in particular for disadvantaged groups, to quality, non-segregated and inclusive education and training from early childhood education and care, while paying special attention to children coming from socio-economically

disadvantaged background, (...) by means of adult education and learning, including through sport and cultural activities.

Budget allocated to Slovenia: EUR 727 million

Information about the ESF+ in Slovenia can be found on the [National Portal for EU Funding Opportunities](#).

Operational Programmes and responsible managing authorities ESF+ 2021-2027

Managing authority	Operational Programme	OP mentions sport	Website	Email
Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development	National Programme	Yes, sport for health, intergenerational sport, sport for social inclusion, training of sport staff.	Website	Email

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (EAFRD)

The European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD) finances the CAP's contribution to sustainable development of rural areas through three long-term objectives:

- Fostering the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry,
- Ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action,
- Achieving a balanced territorial development of rural economies and communities.

The EAFRD's objectives are part of the national CAP Strategic Plans, elaborated by each Member State.

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Budget allocated to Slovenia: EUR 110 million per year until 2027

Information about the EAFRD in Slovenia can be found on the [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food website](#).

LEADER approach

An interesting element in EAFRD for sport organisations is the LEADER approach, which is becoming increasingly important (LEADER = Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale, i.e. link between activities for the development of rural economy). Various local actors, public and private, join in LEADER to form Local Action Groups (LAGs), who develop a local development strategy and manage their own budget. Projects can include, for example, the renovation of local sport infrastructure, if the LAG estimates it would have an added value for the community.

Information about the LEADER approach in Slovenia can be found on the [Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food website](#).

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION (INTERREG)

Interreg aims to boost cooperation among and within European regions to jointly tackle common challenges in various fields, including health, environment, education, research, and others. The programme has two specific objectives:

- Better cooperation governance
- Safer and more secure Europe

Structure

INTERREG A Cross-Border Cooperation	Between adjacent regions to promote integrated and harmonious regional development between neighbouring land and maritime border regions.
INTERREG B Transnational Cooperation	Over larger transnational territories or around sea basins, involving national, regional and local programme partners in Member States, third countries and partner countries and OCTs, with a view to achieving a higher degree of territorial integration.
INTERREG C Interregional Cooperation	To reinforce the effectiveness of cohesion policy.
INTERREG D Outermost Regions' Cooperation	Among themselves and with their neighbouring or partner countries or OCTs, or regional integration and cooperation organisations, or several thereof, to facilitate their regional integration and harmonious development in their neighbourhood.

People-to-people and small-scale projects (joint small projects) are supported within each strand.

The sport sector can benefit from components of Interreg by showcasing its potential contribution to the general policy objectives of the programme, particularly regarding the sustainability and accessibility of sport infrastructure or sustainable (urban) mobility, sport as a tool to increase social cohesion and support social inclusion in border regions, or by encouraging people-to-people contacts through, for example, exchanges between sport clubs.

Interreg is a decentralised programme, managed by National Authorities via the via Interreg Europe online system (iOLF).

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Information about the Interreg Programmes in Slovenia can be found on the [National Portal for EU Funding Opportunities](#).

Budget allocated to Slovenia: EUR 74 million

Operational Programmes and responsible managing authorities INTERREG 2021-2027

Managing authority	Operational Programme	OP mentions sport	Website	Email
Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)	(Interreg VI-A) Italy-Slovenia	No	Website	Email
Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy (Slovenia)	(Interreg VI-A) Slovenia-Austria	No	Website	Contact
Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development (Slovenia)	(Interreg VI-A) Slovenia-Croatia	Yes, cross-border joint events	Website	Email
Government Office for Development and European Cohesion policy (Slovenia)	(Interreg VI-A) Slovenia-Hungary	Yes, cross-border sport events, cultural exchanges including sport	Website	Email
Regione Emilia Romagna (Italy)	(Interreg VI-B) IPA Adriatic-Ionian	Yes, actions contributing to the Western Balkan agenda on innovation, research, education, culture, youth and sport.	Website	Email

Land of Salzburg (Austria)	(Interreg VI-B) Alpine Space	No	Website	Email
City of Vienna, Municipal Department for European Affairs (Austria)	(Interreg VI-B) Central Europe	No	Website	Email
Ministry for Public Administration and Regional Development (Hungary)	(Interreg VI-B) Danube Region	No	Website	Email
Région Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur (France)	(Interreg VI-B) Euro Mediterranean (EURO MED)	No	Website	Email
Bratislava Self Governing Region (Slovakia)	(Interreg VI-C) Interact	No	Website	Email
Conseil Régional Hauts-de-France (France)	(Interreg VI-C) Interreg Europe	No	Website	Email
French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (France)	Interreg VI-C Urbact IV	No	Website	Email Email