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The European Traditional Sports and Games Platform project (ETSGP) is co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union (EU) in 2017. It is led by TAFISA – The Association For International Sport for All, and a consortium of project partners:

- Flemish Traditional Sports Association (VlaS, Belgium)
- University School of Physical Education Poznan (Poland)
- Italian Traditional Sports and Games Federation (FIGeST, Italy)
- Public Benefit Organisation of Kavala City (Dimofelia, Greece)
- Gerlev Physical Education & Sports Academy (Denmark)
- Sport Fryslân (Netherlands)

The ETSGP project builds on the conclusions of the four European TSG projects co-funded by the European Commission as part of the preparatory actions in the field of sport (2013):

- Recall: Games of the Past – Sports for Today by TAFISA
- Europe is our Playground by Dimofelia
- Strengthening European Traditional Sports by VlaS
- G.a.m.e.s.N.E.T by FIGeST

It aims to create a European Platform on Traditional Sports and Games, serving as a central resource hub and ultimately a guide to the EU, Member States, European organisations as well as regional and local stakeholders for the safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games (TSG).

Specific project objectives include to:

- Create a common understanding of the status and situation of TSG in Europe, in regard to research, programs, events, policy, as well as the TSG themselves,
- Research, integrate and build upon existing successful local, national and regional initiatives relevant to the project,
- Preserve, promote and increase familiarisation and participation in TSG,
- Increase participation in Sport for All and (health-enhancing) physical activity through TSG, particularly targeting those who are currently sedentary and/or “do not like sport”
- Preserve and promote European heritage using TSG,
- Encourage social inclusion, understanding, integration and respect for others using TSG,
- Strengthen local, national and European identities and the link that exists between them through TSG mobilisation,
- Strengthen the knowledge base of sport, Sport for All, TSG and European heritage,
- Strengthen the sense of ‘pride in being European’ in all citizens across Europe.
- Highlight TSG as an effective tool to reach out to inactive children – boys and girls alike, and get them to play.
In order to fulfil the project’s mission and achieve the above general objectives, the primary actions of the European TSG Platform project consist of:

1. The publication of the present state of play of TSG in Europe, including identification of key priorities and formulation of recommendations for the safeguarding and promotion of European TSG;

2. The definition of the European TSG Platform’s scope of work, vision and mission, objectives, structure, strategy, activities, working process and financing, and finally;

3. The establishment of the European Platform for Traditional Sports and Games².
INTRODUCTION

European Traditional Sports and Games have in many ways and for many years, in contradiction to the advent of the modern Olympic sport movement, been progressively disappearing – critically putting at stake a large portion of European culture.

Traditional Sports and Games, because they are part of Europe’s intangible heritage and represent both the cultural diversity (TSG are local) and common cultural background of our societies (TSG are found everywhere, and many similar TSG can be found across Europe), constitute a privileged tool to foster cultural identification at the European level, as well as strengthen the European identity. Against the past decades’ trend towards their disappearance, the recent European projects co-funded by the European Commission’s preparatory actions in the field of sport have shown that engaging in sustainable action for the safeguarding and promotion of TSG will contribute to the building of a new momentum towards European identification.

Moreover, Traditional Sports and Games, because they are different to so-called ‘modern’ sports, have the power to appeal to people who are inactive, and increase the levels of participation in HEPA and Sport for All. The characteristics of TSG, which do not always include competition and high performance but are very often about fun, joy, inclusion, culture, heritage, tradition, movement and sometimes music, qualifies them as a significant lever for Sport for all participation policies. TSG are often low-cost and inexpensive to play and do not require elaborate materials and equipment, which ensures equal access to all interested players.

TSG have the power to build bridges between cultures, generations and foster social inclusion. At a time when Europe is facing skyrocketing migration flows and must think of solutions to ensure the integration of all migrants and refugees in the population, TSG can prove a useful and effective tool.

WHY A EUROPEAN TSG OVERVIEW?

The field of Traditional Sports and Games and the movement towards their safeguarding and promotion is rather new in our modern societies. Only recently have pioneer organisations investigated this area of work.

A basis has been set at international and European levels and the four projects co-funded by the European Commission through its preparatory actions in the field of sport in 2013 have revealed Traditional Sports and Games as an asset on the European agenda. However, no common understanding of the situation of Traditional Sports and Games in Europe exists. In order to build sustainable and effective policies, strategies and initiatives for the promotion of TSG in Europe, it is essential to establish such common knowledge and background.

This European TSG overview aims to tackle this deficiency by conducting an analysis of the current situation of TSG in Europe, draw conclusions, identify priorities and formulate recommendations for their safeguarding and promotion, acting as a backbone of the newly established European TSG Platform.
Ensuring a long-term and sustainable safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games in Europe requires the establishment of a coherent and holistic approach, founded on a solid evidence base.

In order to achieve this, the methodology followed to develop this European TSG overview was to focus on TSG status in the fields of policy, research and practice.

Combined together, policy, research and practice form a success triangle that provides the necessary ingredients for a comprehensive analysis:

- **Policy** is the driver of change and what fosters long-term commitment of authorities and stakeholders by providing a common and overarching vision. It has an impact on practical programmes and events, sometimes through funding.
  - A study of European and international policy papers, and a survey on the policy of EU Member States have been conducted to understand how TSG are considered within national, European and international institutions.

- **Research** is a necessary background that supports policies and escorts them. It provides practitioners and decision makers with data, evidence, findings and recommendations, through the analysis of the various facets of a specific topic. It is at the base of many practical programmes and events.
  - A literature review and identification of relevant scientific and academic papers and publications in the field of TSG has been made, as well as a directory of universities and scholars working on this topic throughout Europe.

- **Practice** is a broad area that can encompass the definition of strategies, development of a specific field, organisation of programmes and events, etc. It can reflect the implementation of policies or be completely independent. Often, good practice can also inspire policies. Practice can also be driven by research, or be subject of research.
  - A landscape of TSG development and institutions in Europe has been drawn, along with a study of programme and event patterns at local and national levels. Good practices have been collected in the form of “inspirations”.

Based on the conclusions drawn from the analysis of TSG within those three fields, priorities have been identified, and recommendations put forward to the following target groups:

1. **Policy Field – Public authorities and decision makers at European, national and local levels**: to ensure the safeguarding and promotion of European TSG, it is crucial to raise awareness and sensitise these key bodies to the issue of Traditional Sports and Games and the important role they can play with appropriate policy making and resource allocation.

2. **Research Field – Universities, research centres and scholars**: directions for future work and to develop a stronger evidence-base in the future have been identified and highlighted.

3. **Practice Field – European, national and local stakeholders, including sport federations, national Olympic committees, local clubs and associations**: those bodies are the practitioners that are in touch with European citizens on a daily basis through the organisation of programmes and events, and can influence actions of the individual and communities.
POLICY: THE NEED FOR POLITICAL SUPPORT AND RECOGNITION OF TSG

Despite being among the oldest forms of physical cultures and sport disciplines in Europe, Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) can be seen as a new topic that is not easily apprehended on the European sports political stage. For too long a lack of visibility, and the progressive disappearance of Traditional Sports and Games, which are recognised as “Intangible Cultural Heritage” by UNESCO, have led to the oblivion of the issue by politicians and decision makers. The results of the analysis of the state and situation of Traditional Sports and Games in Europe, from a policy perspective, suggest that time has come for the European Institutions and European States to tackle hands-on the safeguarding and promotion of TSG as a new priority of sports policy. Traditional Sports and Games, besides being deeply anchored in local areas and traditions, are a guarantor of the European cultural diversity. Their (re)introduction is also a way to tackle social challenges of today by promoting participation in Sport for All and physical activity, as well as encouraging social inclusion.

This chapter presents the results of an analysis of International and European sport policy papers, as well as of a Europe-wide survey targeted to ministries, Olympic committees and sport authorities at the national level. A pilot survey was also set up and disseminated to a handful of European regions, to catch a glimpse of the role that local government (including provinces and municipalities) can play in the promotion of TSG. Recommendations for policy changes are then made to the EU and its member states.

STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL BASE AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

Key to the safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games is their presence on the political agenda and in policy papers. Such recognition is often an important pre-requisite to release sustainable support from decision makers and institutions, and trigger sustainable action from practitioners.

The ETSGP project team has conducted a base-study to identify the sport policy papers within EU and Council of Europe’s Institutions, that mention Traditional Sports and Games. UNESCO policy papers were also reviewed in order to place the European situation within an international framework of reference.

Results suggest that whilst there is a strong political commitment to safeguard and promote TSG at an international level through UNESCO, the European policy remains weak in this domain – despite recent positive developments that support actions in the field of TSG through the European Union’s Erasmus + Programme.
A STRONG INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT: 
UNESCO’S FRAMEWORK FOR TRADITIONAL SPORTS AND GAMES

UNESCO is the United Nations’ arm for Education, Science and Culture. Among its mandates is the promotion of physical education and sport. Traditional Sports and Games are well recognised and deeply rooted within this mandate as “assistance and guidance services are provided for governments, NGOs, and experts to debate the evolving challenges of physical education and sport. UNESCO also assists and advises Member States wishing to elaborate or strengthen their training system in physical education. Furthermore, it offers its expertise in the design and implementation of development programmes in the domain of sport. UNESCO provides guidance, advisory services and assessments in related areas such as culture and social development; for example, to promote and develop Traditional Sport and Games. In addition, UNESCO plays the secretariat role for the Inter-Governmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). This Committee, composed of 18 elected Member States, has been created to promote international cooperation in the sphere of physical activity to strengthen peace, friendship, understanding, and mutual respect between peoples.”4

Traditional Sports and Games, their benefits to individuals and societies, as well as the importance of safeguarding and promoting them, are therefore present, at the highest level, within5:

- UNESCO’s International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport published in 1978 and revised in 2015,
- UNESCO’s Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003,
- The Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS)
- Various declarations signed with other International Organisations, such as the “TAFISA/UNESCO Busan Appeal on the Promotion and Preservation of Traditional Sports and Games” (2008) and “TAFISA/UNESCO Siauliai Call for Good Practices in Traditional Sports and Games and Community Development” (2012).

This has triggered, progressively, the implementation of practical initiatives at UNESCO and its Member State levels such as6:

- The recognition of TSG in general, and of specific TSG, as intangible cultural heritage. Member states are welcome to apply for recognition of some of their specific national sports.
- The patronage given to the World Sports Encyclopaedia, written by Wojciech Liponnski from the University School of Physical Education Poznan (2003)
- The publication of a “Preliminary Report on the Desirability and Scope of an International Charter on Traditional Sports and Games” (2005), along with a draft Charter of Traditional Games and Sports, during the Hundred and Seventy-Second Session of the UNESCO Executive Board7.
- The leading of collective consultations on Traditional Sports and Games (2006 – Paris, 2009 – Tehran and 2017 – Paris) that led to the establishment of a UNESCO Advisory Committee on Traditional Sports and Games and, in 2017, of working groups to drive an agenda to act on the following:
Elaborate Policy Guidelines on TSG on the ground of the draft Charter;
- Establish an international Platform on TSG;
- Develop an Online Worldwide Encyclopaedia on TSG, on the ground of the 2003 World Sports Encyclopaedia

THE EUROPEAN UNION: PRACTICAL INITIATIVES AND SUPPORT WITH LIMITED POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS

The European Union took a huge step forward thanks to the “European Parliament Resolution of 2 February 2012 on the European Dimension in Sport”\(^8\), which recognised UNESCO’s statements on Traditional Sports and Games as intangible cultural heritage and called the European Commission to support TSG.

The practical implications and results were of significance, as following this resolution, the below steps were taken by the Commission:

- The “Call for Proposals EAC S03 13 (2013): Preparatory Action ‘European Partnership on Sport’\(^9\)” including one priority dedicated to “promoting traditional European sports and games” was published and four European projects subsequently selected and co-funded by the EU\(^9\). The results of those projects were subsequently presented during a dedicated session at the EU Sport Forum 2015 in The Hague, Netherlands;
- A TSG Expert Meeting was hosted by the European Commission in January 2016;
- Traditional Sports and Games have been integrated in the Erasmus + Programme – Sport section, under “Small collaborative partnerships”, and projects are being co-funded since 2016\(^10\);
- The Commission ordered the implementation of a “Mapping of Traditional Sports and Games in Europe”, whose final report was delivered in 2016\(^11\);
- The Commission’s leadership has shown strong intentions to support TSG on the long term

In addition, it is important to note that the High-Level Group on Grassroots Sport\(^12\) that was founded by the European Commissioner in 2016, handed in its report and recommendations including an incentive to invest in the use of Traditional Sports and Games.

Nevertheless and besides the European Parliament’s Resolution, Traditional Sports and Games are absent from all policy papers published by the European Union since its sport competence was consecrated in 2007, which raises concerns about the future and sustainable support of the EU for TSG. Those papers include:

- White Paper on Sport 2007;
- Treaty of Lisbon 2007
- European Council Declaration on Sport 2008;
- EU Physical Activity Guidelines 2008
- EU Communication on Sport 2011
- Council Recommendation of 26 November 2013 on Promoting Health-Enhancing Physical Activity Across Sectors;
- EU Work Plan on Sport 2011 - 2014;
- EU Work Plan on Sport 2014 – 2017;
AN ABSENCE OF RECENT POLICY AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe is the continent’s leading, intergovernmental human rights organisation, which includes 47 member states, 28 of which are from the European Union. Sport falls within its mandate, and the “Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport” (EPAS) is, since its launch in 2007, the body in charge of “giving fresh momentum to pan-European sports co-operation and address the current challenges facing sport in Europe. EPAS provides a platform for intergovernmental sports co-operation between the public authorities of its member states. It also encourages dialogue between public authorities, sports federations and NGOs. This contributes to better governance, with the aim of making sport healthier and fairer and ensuring that it conforms to high ethical standards. EPAS aims to promote the development of sport in modern society, while emphasising its positive values. It develops policies and standards, monitors them and helps with capacity-building and the exchange of good practices. It uses Council of Europe sports standards.”

The study of the Council of Europe’s policy papers related to sport reveals that since the end of the 20th century, when a “Resolution on European Sports Co-operation” was passed in 1989, and a “Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Role of Sport in Furthering Social Cohesion” was adopted in 1999, no reference to Traditional Sports and Games is made in any policy papers, resolutions or recommendations. This includes the European Sports Charter (1992, revised in 2001) and the Code of Sports Ethics (1992, revised in 2001).

Another concern is the absence of TSG within the statutes or the mandate of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport, which has not led any activities in the field since its creation.

The resolution and recommendation adopted at the end of the 20th century nevertheless constitute interesting foundations, that still have relevance and could be re-energised to tackle challenges of today. Strengths indeed lie in:

- The practical works linked to the Resolution on European Sports Cooperation 1989, since Traditional Sports and Games were at the time named as a research priority of the council of Europe’s Committee for the Development of Sport. Two seminars were held in Vila Real, Portugal in 1988 and in Leuven, Belgium in 1990 – resulting in the publication of a “Typology for the classification of traditional games in Europe” that is nowadays widely recognised throughout Europe.
- The recommendation of 1999 that invites governments and member states, “with regard to migrants, ethnic groups and refugees [...] to develop projects where the various groups – such as national minorities – are encouraged to bring fresh impetus or enthusiasm to certain sports and introduce new sports and traditional games into the society where they live; [...]”
Furthermore, a potential, practical framework currently exists through the Council of Europe’s “European Heritage Days” (EHD), which aim to:

- raise the awareness of European citizens to the richness and cultural diversity of Europe;
- create a climate in which the appreciation of the rich mosaic of European cultures is stimulated;
- counter racism and xenophobia and encourage greater tolerance in Europe and beyond the national borders;
- inform the public and the political authorities about the need to protect cultural heritage against new threats;
- invite Europe to respond to the social, political and economic challenges it faces.

Countries, provinces and local entities are provided with the opportunity to showcase their tangible and intangible heritage, including Traditional Sports and Games – even though no direct reference is made to them: “Sport” is included in the EHD as a sub-field of intangible heritage.

**A FIELD TOO OFTEN NEGLECTED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

In order to understand how Traditional Sports and Games are considered and embedded at the national level, the ETSGP project team released a survey aimed at gathering information about the policies of EU Member States in the TSG field. The below analysis of the collected data details survey results and provides some conclusions, as well as a base for recommendations for the ETSGP, and the betterment of the European TSG field, that are presented at the end of this chapter. The survey responses have also helped the project team to identify actions that can be executed by the ‘European TSG Platform’ as a central resource hub for TSG.

**SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target group:</th>
<th>Sport policy makers at national level, i.e. Sport Ministries, National Olympic Committees and sport authorities across the EU. When those were not reachable, some other organisations considered to be relevant for, and well informed about, national TSG policy and promotion were contacted to answer the survey and provide data about their country.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Release date:</td>
<td>5th April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date:</td>
<td>15th May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of invitees:</td>
<td>32 from 28 EU Member States and Programme Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of respondents:</td>
<td>21 from 18 countries (65% response rate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondent countries:</td>
<td>Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses were typically analysed by country, rather than by organisation, unless otherwise specified.
SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS & IMPORTANT NOTES

The following are the questions put to participants of the survey, as well as an analysis and a summary of their responses with items or trends of particular importance noted for each question or series of questions.

Question 1: Organisation Details

Respondents were requested to provide the following details:
- Country
- Name of organisation
- Website of organisation
- E-mail of contact person
- Short description of organisation

The following organisations responded:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Université Catholique de Louvain</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uclouvain.be">www.uclouvain.be</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Cyprus Sport Organisation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyprusports.org">www.cyprusports.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport</td>
<td><a href="http://www.msmt.cz">www.msmt.cz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kul.ee">www.kul.ee</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Finnish Baseball Association/Pesäpalloliitto</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pesis.fi">www.pesis.fi</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture and Sport / General Secretariat of Sport</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gga.gov.gr">www.gga.gov.gr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>Hungarian Leisure Sport Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.masport.hu">www.masport.hu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Sport Ireland</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sportireland.ie">www.sportireland.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gaa.ie">www.gaa.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Italian Federation of Traditional Sport and Games</td>
<td><a href="http://www.figest.it">www.figest.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Comité Olympique et Sportif Luxembourg</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teamletzebuerg.lu">www.teamletzebuerg.lu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>NOC*NSF</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nocnsf.nl">www.nocnsf.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>University School of Physical Education, Poznan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.awf.poznan.pl">www.awf.poznan.pl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Ministry of Sport and Tourism</td>
<td><a href="http://www.msport.gov.pl">www.msport.gov.pl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Portuguese Institute of Youth and Sport</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ipdj.pt">www.ipdj.pt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Ministry of Youth and Sports</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mts.ro">www.mts.ro</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>Romanian Sport for All Federation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sportulpentrutoti.ro">www.sportulpentrutoti.ro</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport</td>
<td><a href="http://www.minedu.sk">www.minedu.sk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>High Council for Sports</td>
<td><a href="http://www.csd.gob.es">www.csd.gob.es</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Turkish Sport for All Federation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.his.gov.tr">www.his.gov.tr</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Sport England</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sportengland.org">www.sportengland.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 2: Are TSG mentioned in national policy papers of your country (e.g. national sports plan, national physical activity guidelines, other)?
If yes, please provide:
• The name of the paper
• Description of the TSG policy & objectives OR English translation of the paragraphs relevant for TSG

The responses are summarised in the chart below.

Important to Note:
Amongst those countries whose policy papers do mention TSG, TSG are typically mentioned within culture policy or with reference to diversity in sports, but rarely specifically as TSG under sports policy or within sport policy papers.

Question 3: Are TSG included in the programmes of the education system / school curricula of your country?
If yes, please provide:
• Title/name of the programme(s) or curricula
• Description of the TSG policy & objectives OR English translation of the paragraphs relevant for TSG

The responses are summarised in the chart below.
Important to Note:
Amongst those countries whose education systems or curricula do mention TSG, TSG is only occasionally present in its own right, however TSG are often included in a more general manner, under dance, motion/motor abilities/play, or specific national games (for example Gaelic football).

Questions 4 & 5: Are TSG mentioned in the mission or objectives of your organisation (question 4)? If TSG are not mentioned in the mission or objectives of your organisation, what is the main reason (question 5)?

The responses are summarised in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion of Organisations that Specifically Reference TSG in their Objectives</th>
<th>Showing Reasons Why they Do Not</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9% YES</td>
<td>91% NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% No – TSG are not a priority of my org.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64% No – TSG are part of an overall approach, not a specific objective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% No – TSG are a regional matter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9% No – Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Important to Note:
Like for national systems and curricula, TSG are rarely mentioned as an entity in their own right within the objectives of national policy makers, but considered to be included within other, broader streams, such as Sport for All, physical activity and culture, or by a partner organisation.

Question 6: What is your organisation’s policy on TSG?
Some organisations noted that they are actively promoting TSG as part of traditional heritage/culture and/or physical activities, whilst others, in keeping with the responses to questions 4 and 5, generally support TSG, but typically as part of an overall sports and/or physical activity and/or games and play mandate. Additional patterns seem to appear: when ministries, NOCs and sport authorities have a policy on TSG, they tend to do it via the recognition of TSG federations and/or associations, through membership and/or funding.

Important to Note:
In some cases, it was mentioned that an absence of a mandate to cover TSG explain their absence from organisational policy.
Questions 7 & 8: Does your organisation provide structural (question 7) or occasional (question 8) funding to TSG organisations (e.g. traditional sports federations or associations; umbrella organisations promoting TSG...)?
If yes, please describe how this funding works, and list the funded TSG organisations in your country.

The responses to questions 7 and 8 are summarised in the chart below.

Important to Note:
• Structural funding support was noted as typical for sport-specific TSG member organisations/federations, with a few mentions of general sports organisations. TSG as an entity in itself not typically supported.
• Occasional funding support was noted as rarely being for TSG as an entity in itself but supported through education, Sport for All or sport specific programmes.

Question 9: Does another national organisation responsible for sport policy (e.g. National Olympic Committee, Sport Ministry) within your country provide financial support to TSG organisations, projects, programmes or events?
If yes please give us the name of the organisation and provide a contact.

The responses are summarised in the chart below.
Important to Note:
Many respondents were unsure or did not submit a response. Other organisations that contribute funding for TSG were mentioned to include other ministries (human capacities, sports, culture and national heritage), local governments, Olympic committees, financial/lottery institutions, and national sports organisations.

Question 10: Is your organisation or another national body responsible for sport policy formally recognising TSG federations or associations? If yes, by whom are they recognised? If possible, please list the recognised TSG-organisations in your country.

The responses are summarised in the chart below.

Important to Note:
Despite some confusion amongst respondents, typically ministries or general national sports bodies (including NOCs and sport authorities) are responsible for recognition of TSG organisations. Some noted that whilst they are currently not recognising any TSG organisation, application for recognition and membership is open, with equal rights to any other sport federations.

Questions 11, 12 & 13: What is your organisation’s involvement in leading actions in the field of TSG in the past (question 12), present (question 11) and future (question 13)?

The responses are summarised in the chart below.
Important to Note:
Considering the number of respondents, the trend for leading actions in the field of TSG is stable but not encouraging, as organisations that are currently not leading actions in the field of TSG do not plan to do so in the future. Actions that are led are often municipality-based action, such as festivals or sport specific actions.

Question 14: Is your organisation providing specific incentives to national and regional/local organisations, in your country, to safeguard and promote TSG? If yes please describe.

The responses are summarised in the chart below.

![Chart showing 30% of organisations providing incentives for safeguarding & promoting TSG, and 70% not providing]

Important to Note:
Incentives for safeguarding and promoting TSG were noted to include event co-financing, or general support within sport and culture policy.

Questions 15 & 16: What are the strengths (question 15) and weaknesses (question 16) you identify in, or attribute to, TSG?

Strengths and weaknesses cited by respondents are depicted in the following graphic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support from public authorities</td>
<td>Preservation and promotion of national culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of financing</td>
<td>Popularity: Appeal to wide range of people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of trainers</td>
<td>Link to natural &amp; built environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In competition with IT and Olympic/popular sports</td>
<td>Community building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of visibility, awareness, promotion &amp; recognition</td>
<td>Diversity of TSG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not taken seriously/considered a „real sport“</td>
<td>Foster participation in physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No specific policies in place</td>
<td>Inclusive &amp; easy to play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of structuration - small sport clubs atomized</td>
<td>Boost tourism and economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of media attention</td>
<td>Strong educational tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard to implement in larger populations versus small communities</td>
<td>Ability to cross gender/age/cultural barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSG are out of date/obsolete and not attractive</td>
<td>Attractive to children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low cost &amp; little equipment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 17: The main objective of the ETSGP Project is to create a European Platform serving as a central resource hub for TSG and support to the EU, the member states and their regions to safeguard and promote TSG. Please let us know what kind of information you would be interested in to help you deal with TSG.

Respondents would like to see the following included in the European TSG Platform to be established:

- Information on (EU) funding opportunities
- Calendar of events
- Networking and experience sharing opportunities
- European map with relevant TSG per country
- TSG contact list and contact points by country
- Share of good practices for integration of TSG into Sport (for All) and education programs/platforms
- Future trends and potential recognition for TSG
- Information on how TSG can remain relevant,
- Information on how to make them more attractive
- Proof of the economic value of TSG

OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

Key findings from the ETSGP survey include:

- TSG are seen as an important tool for the preservation of heritage and culture, education, inclusion and integration, tourism, and increasing participation in sports and physical activity.
- The promotion and safeguarding of TSG struggles from a lack of structuration, visibility and awareness, funding, political support and official recognition. It also faces an increased use of information technology and new media during free time, as well as the competition with Olympic or modern sports.
- TSG are often not specifically mentioned within EU Member State’s national policy papers or the organisational objectives of national sport authorities (including ministries and NOCs), which for some of them results in the understanding that TSG as such are not part of their mandate.
- When TSG are specifically mentioned, they are often included in policy and action under a more general mandate for the promotion of sports, physical activity, culture or heritage, rather than as a specific entity themselves, or they are included within a particular sport or game which happens to be traditional to the country or region.
- TSG have a stronger presence in educational policy and are often found to be included in the official curricula of the EU Member States.
- Levels of recognition and of structural funding by national sport authorities are higher when TSG are structured in specific sport federations, or in a federation gathering various TSG.
- There is a mitigated interest in TSG, which can be explained by lack of easily accessible information, including event schedules, good practice, and relevant contacts and organisations working in the field.
Recommendations collected from respondents for the European TSG Platform to be established by the project team include:

- Highlighting the lack of awareness, support and promotion of TSG at a national level to the European Commission.
- Including a calendar of events, good practice examples, funding opportunities and research around TSG, as well as relevant contact organisations within Europe.
- Providing a networking tool for those responsible and interested in TSG to easily access each other and information.
- Based upon the results of this survey, and new information regarding those responsible for TSG across Europe, further investigate relevant policy and actions (and where there is a lack) within the field of TSG.

**TSG: A REGIONAL MATTER?**

Complementary to national institutions and policy makers, in most EU Member States, local government (regions, provinces and municipalities) plays an important role in the promotion of sport, through the development and implementation of their own policies and programmes. The ETSGP project team has therefore prepared the grounds for a future analysis of the Traditional Sports and Games policies at regional level.

The survey that was led with national sport authorities was adapted to target regional bodies, and the derived survey was pilot-tested with four European regions that are representative of the geographical and political diversity of Europe:

- Provincial Council of Barcelona, belonging to Catalunya, a region of special status in Spain, Southern Europe;
- The Province of Fryslan, in the Netherlands, Northern Europe;
- Sport Vlaanderen, the representative sport body of the state of Flanders in the Federal country of Belgium, Western Europe;
- Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poland, Eastern Europe.

Whilst the limited sample of surveyed organisations does not allow for conclusions to be drawn, the below trends can be highlighted and will need to be proof-tested within a future widespread study and outreach:

- TSG are seen as an important asset to safeguard and promote as they are “a part of tradition and culture of the region, which makes it unique”, and they can be a tool towards increasing participation in sports and physical activity.
- The awareness, knowledge and visibility of TSG at regional level seems to be of higher level than at national level. This could be explained by the fact that TSG, if not structured nationally, are well played locally where the regions have more access, insight and contacts with the population.
- Levels of recognition, structural and occasional funding of TSG organisations are high, which supports the hypothesis that TSG are more structured at local level.
- Regional governments include TSG as an entity into themselves, as part of their objectives and regular activities.
For more details of responses, please see below:

- Two out of four respondents confirm that TSG are mentioned within their policy papers including for example law of subventions, budget, financial statements, annual report, policies and subsidies;
- TSG are mentioned within the mission or objectives of three out of four of the respondents;
- All four regional bodies confirm that they provide TSG organisations with both structural and occasional funding, and three out of four confirm that, in addition, other regional bodies and municipalities support TSG financially;
- Three out of four regions are currently leading actions in the field of TSG, and are planning to continue in the future;
- Two out of four regions formally recognise TSG associations within their region;
- When mentioned, TSG are often included in policy and action under a more general mandate for the promotion of sports and physical activity, as for national bodies. However, they are more prone to make specific reference to them as some activities and objectives highlighted are proper to Traditional Sports and Games:
  - The Province of Fryslan defines its policy on TSG as to “promote, stimulate and maintain” them;
  - The Provincial Council of Barcelona lends TSG materials to 311 municipalities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The below table features policy recommendations for the safeguarding and promotion of TSG to the European Union, Council of Europe and EU Member States, based on the conclusions and analysis of European policy papers and the survey of national sport authorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Recommendations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Recognise and promote TSG as an excellent tool to tackle many challenges of today such as:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fostering social inclusion,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increasing participation in sport and physical activity,</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improving community health and cohesiveness,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Promoting cultural exchange and understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recognise Traditional Sports and Games as a common European intangible cultural heritage, which also celebrates the diversity and wealth of cultures and traditions in Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations to the European Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Include Traditional Sports and Games, as a subject on its own and in a consistent way in existing and future policy papers and EU work plans for sport, as a way to secure a legal base for future sustainable actions;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Integrate Traditional Sports and Games within the European Week of Sport;
• Enlarge funding opportunities for the field of Traditional Sports and Games, with a focus on supporting their structuration at European and national levels;
• Introduce the topic of TSG on the agenda of the EU Committee of the Region’s Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC), which has a mandate on youth and sport as well as culture and cultural diversity. Promote inter-regional cooperation for the safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games;
• Ensure cooperation across the relevant units of the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport & Culture, European Commission;
• Put Traditional Sports and Games on the agenda of the European Parliament’s Intergroup “Sport”
• Support the works of the newly established European Platform for Traditional Sports and Games;
• Promote TSG through existing events at European level
• Raise awareness of Traditional Sports and Games within EU Member States;
• Include Traditional Sports and Games as part of the Bulgarian Presidency’s Social Inclusion Conference and Report: “Grassroots sport as a tool for integration and a bridge between tradition and innovation” (First half of 2018).

Recommendations to EU Member States

• Include Traditional Sports and Games as a subject on its own within each sport, culture and education policy, at national level, as a way to secure a legal base for future sustainable actions;
• Consecrate the safeguarding and promotion of Traditional Sports and Games as a national objective, and develop a national strategy for Traditional Sports and Games;
• Integrate Traditional Sports and Games within the national sports curricula;
• Provide incentives for the structuration of Traditional Sports and Games at national level; potentially through the formation and recognition of a national Federation gathering the identified TSG of the country;
• Nominate a public body or sport authority to be the leading body for TSG, with responsibilities including official recognition of other TSG organisations and actions, definition and mapping of national and regional TSG, dissemination of information regarding funding opportunities and best practice, cross-sectoral cooperation, and networking;
• Provide funding opportunities for Traditional Sports and Games;
• Seek out existing TSG events, programs and initiatives to promote and support
• Raise awareness of the importance of Traditional Sports and Games within the country;
• Support local government (regions, provinces, municipalities) policies and actions in the field of TSG.
Recommendations to the Council of Europe

- Update the resolution and recommendation from the late 20th century, which still have relevance nowadays.
- Include Traditional Sports and Games within the mandate of EPAS and commence a consultation with Member States and the Consultative Committee.
- Increase the focus on, and visibility of, Traditional Sports and Games as part of the European Heritage Days. On a specific year, make TSG the common theme of the European Heritage Days.
FOR A DYNAMISATION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF TSG

Research constitutes a necessary background that supports policies and escorted them, also providing practitioners and decision makers with data, evidence, findings and recommendations, through the analysis of the various facets of a specific topic. It should serve as a base for practical programmes and events.

As a core part of the European Traditional Sports and Games overview, the project team has gathered information on the state of research in the field of TSG within EU Member States. The collected data was analysed to understand what is the current situation of TSG in the European academic field, and draw recommendations for further works. In total, more than 250 publications of significance were identified and collated into a European bibliography.

Some 18 universities, research centres and scholars have also been found working in the field throughout the continent, and put together in a European directory.

METHODOLOGY

The development of the European TSG bibliography followed a methodology in three stages. Data was collected from the 1st of March to the 31st of August 2017 by:

1. Identifying European research works, publications and papers at all levels (local, national and international).

   A desk research and literature review were performed to obtain an overview of scientific TSG papers and publications written in English, by utilising the “publication finder interface” EBSCOhost Web. Key words that were used include “traditional games”, “traditional sports”, “TSG” and “play”. Other platforms such as Research Gate were also explored, and the European Traditional Sports and Games Association bibliography was screened to find appropriate literature. Selected and important European Journals (e.g. Studies in Physical Culture and Tourism) and monographs (e.g. Games and Society in Europe, Cultura 2000; Traditional Games and Social Health) were finally scanned to develop the most valuable European bibliography. All collected data was analysed to extract first conclusions and help design and develop a survey.

2. Disseminating a survey directed to selected, European academics who are experts or scientifically interested in the field of TSG, and ETSGP project partners.

   Following the analysis of the desk research and literature review, the electronic survey was created and distributed via e-mails and social media, with the request to list the recent and most important/outstanding publications on Traditional Sports and Games from their regions/countries. Publications could be submitted in their mother tongue and in English, if there are some. They were then reviewed by the ETSGP project team and added to the bibliography.
3. Carefully verifying, analysing and structuring the findings and data
The ETSGP bibliography and directory of universities, research centres and scholars were created. Conclusions were drawn and recommendations formulated.

RESULTS ANALYSIS & IMPORTANT NOTES

The analysis of the collected works and database focused on finding out in what context TSG are taken as a main topic of research by academics and scholars – and the extent of existing publications, in English language. This analysis revealed that research in the field of TSG is mainly centred around five areas, and led the project team to structure academic publications in five different sections:

• **TSG core (historical) bibliography** – a list of the most important published sources on TSG in historical or anthropological contexts. The core bibliography constitutes a base to TSG knowledge. Its publications may help readers to understand what is the cultural phenomenon of “play” – as a primary part of certain games or sports, and genesis/heritage and evolution of sports and games that we consider as traditional. There five most relevant publications are highlighted, from Huizinga’s *Homo Ludens*... to Liponski’s *World Sports Encyclopaedia*. Then the most valuable historical bibliography is underlined with the result of 7 records that include Alice Berta Gomme’s *The Traditional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland* – one of the oldest, and *The history of games* written by Tylor.

• **TSG in policy bibliography** – a list of the most important published sources on TSG that concern policy matters at all levels (e.g. local, regional, national and international/European). Several but few interesting publications prepared by UNESCO, Roland Renson and others were gathered.

• **TSG in social bibliography** – a list of the most important published sources on TSG concerning all the social aspects of play, sports and games in the broad context (e.g. health, inclusion, bridging generations, prevention). This is the area where most research in the field of TSG has been found, with an abundance of publications mostly from Belgium, France, Poland and Spain.

• **TSG in physical education bibliography** – a list of the most important published sources on TSG devoted mostly to PE didactics (e.g. how to practice those activity forms in the school setting and during a formal process of education).

• **TSG in physical activity bibliography** – a list of the most important published sources on TSG as an opportunity to practice old forms of physical activities during leisure time by children, youth, adults and the elderly. The ETSGP project team notes that, in particular, academics in Poland and Spain are more orientated to researching the physical education and physical activity contexts of TSG. A reason could be that Poland and Spain have traditional sports and games forms located in their national school curricula.
CONCLUSIONS

The analysis of the European literature in the field reveals that, in comparison to other themes, TSG are not a popular and/or attractive enough topic researched by European scholars. While there are quite many publications approaching TSG at the international level (written in English), they are mostly written from the historical and socio-cultural contexts. It means that they are to inform readers how is the situation of TSG in certain European regions (e.g. Traditional Sports and Games in Aragon; Traditional Sports and Games in Brittany). Besides and whilst the TSG bibliography from eastern Europe is ample, it seems that the topic has been barely touched by eastern European scholars and universities – with the exception of Poland.

In addition, there is still a lack of literature focusing on TSG as a tool, i.e. how they can be used to solve issues like physical inactivity, or problems faced by specific target groups like overweight or disabled people. A lack of sources on TSG as a form of therapy in aging and rehabilitation (e.g. Can TSG be a solution for getting the elderly adults engaged?) has been found.

Finally, more research should be done in the area of TSG in physical education, and linked to the introduction of TSG as part of regional/national physical education curricula. A deep research on TSG in the physical activity and health context should also be performed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to Universities and Scholars

- Invest research in TSG and physical education, to develop an evidence-base and convince educational authorities to include TSG as a part of regional/national physical education curricula.
- Develop TSG activities as a research method/tool to monitor (e.g. by interventions) the levels of physical activity or fitness and health problems of targeted populations.
- Promote TSG by circulating papers and citations through academic platforms such as “Research Gate”.
- Work in the field of TSG to link and exchange knowledge – creating an annual symposium on Traditional Sports and Games.
- Eastern European universities and scholars to fully enter the field and dedicate more research on the field of TSG, in all areas – time is urging to avoid losing critical information and data known by the older generations.
THE SAFEGUARDING AND PROMOTION OF TSG, IN PRACTICE

Traditional Sports and Games form a particular field that is difficult to apprehend. The number of TSG disciplines is countless and one must take into account their unique characteristics:

- Whilst some TSG can be clearly linked to a specific region or country around the world (e.g. fierljeppen in Fryslan, the Netherlands), some stem from popular practices and emerged spontaneously, at different times, from local plays all over the world. Some variations of the same game can therefore be found across Europe, with different origins (e.g. skittle games, “jeu de palet”, or “kapela”). They are at the same time “local” TSG and “European” or “global” games, as their practice is widespread.
- In some countries, the same TSG discipline, or form, is played under different names across the regions;
- The level of development of TSG varies from one to the other – they range from simple children’s games (e.g. blindman’s buff or red light – green light) to high level competitive sports (e.g. gaelic football or pétanque).
- Some TSG are practically becoming extinct (e.g. grele…), while others have managed to become global, competitive sports (e.g. curling, faustball…).

As already identified by numerous reports, there are different ways of safeguarding and promoting Traditional Sports and Games in Europe. This explains the various levels of structuration and the wide diversity of organisations that are working in the field.

This chapter provides an analysis of the structuration and landscape of TSG organisations in Europe, as well as of existing patterns – programmes and events types – for the safeguarding and promotion of TSG. A non-exhaustive directory of TSG organisations, and TSG inspirations (good practices) are provided in the appendices.

THE MULTIPLE FORMS OF ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH TSG IN EUROPE

The analysis of the structuration of TSG in Europe has revealed a wide range of existing organisations working in the field of TSG. Different in their nature, they also vary in terms of structure, objectives and activities.

The ETSGP project team suggests the below categorisation:

- Geographical TSG (con-)federations
- Specific TSG organisations
- TSG Supporter Organisations
- Research and conservation-based organisations
A directory of organisations working in the field of TSG in Europe has been developed and can be consulted on www.tsgplatform.org.

**GEOGRAPHICAL TSG (CON-)FEDERATIONS**

A new trend began at the end of the 20th century with the emergence of TSG (con-)federations with a mission to represent and organise the various TSG from a defined geographical area. In opposition to federations focusing on specific TSG disciplines, these “geographical” (con-)federations are usually supporting a variety of disciplines, or forms, that originate from a nation, or a region.

These (con-)federations have been observed at national level (e.g. Italian Federation of TSG, Turkish TSG Federation, Portuguese Traditional Games Federation) and regional level (e.g. Flemish Traditional Sports Association). Among other activities, they often coordinate the organisation of competitions, championships and tournaments, provide technical and administrative support to the TSG they represent, communicate about those TSG, and implement promotional programmes and events.

The ETSGP Project team highlights the importance of forming such (con-)federations – which are still a minority in Europe – for the safeguarding, promotion and propagation of TSG. They can be recognised by national and regional sport authorities and seek support and resources. They can empower the TSG they represent and help them grow, as well as increase their visibility. Most importantly, they can include and preserve those sports or games that are too weak to structure themselves into sport clubs or federations, and could not survive on their own. It is recommended that national and regional sport authorities encourage and support the development of such entities.

**SPECIFIC TSG ORGANISATIONS**

Following the model of structuration of modern sports, many Traditional Sports have structured themselves and have engaged in regional, national, continental or global development, forming local clubs and regional, national, continental or global federations.

**Local Sport Clubs**

Local sport clubs offer opportunities to practice a sport through training, and often access to competitions and championships. Depending on the level of development of the sport – whether it is practiced locally only, regionally and/or nationally – local sport clubs may be affiliated to larger federations, or at times stand-alone.

**Regional federations**

Regional federations offer opportunities to practice and compete in a sport, and represent a network of local clubs. Depending on the level of development of the sport and its geographical expansion, they may be affiliated to national federations. Sometimes, they can also be stand-alone (e.g. Flemish catapult shooting Union – Vlaamse Katapultbond).
**National federations**
National Federations govern and organise championships and competitions for their sport. They represent a network of local clubs, and potentially regional federations (depending on how practiced the sport or game is). They are sometimes affiliated with European/international federations, but can also exist in only one or a few countries (e.g. Finnish Baseball Association - Suomen Pesäpalloliitto).

**Continental or Global federations**
Continental and global federations govern a sport internationally, and organise continental/global championships. They represent a network of national federations (e.g. International Fistball Association).

**TSG SUPPORTER ORGANISATIONS**
Traditional Sports and Games are not only promoted by organisations that focus specifically on one or more TSG, nor solely organised for competitive purposes. There is an important number of organisations in Europe that are working to safeguard and/or promote TSG in their diversity and globality. These have various aims such as preserving the cultural and ludo-diversity of Europe, offering the widest range of sport and physical activities to the population, and achieving wider benefits such as increased participation in sport and physical activity, better health or social inclusion. These organisations are of particular importance as they encompass TSG that are not always strong enough to structure themselves, exist or survive on their own. Their role in safeguarding, revitalising and promoting those TSG is vital.

**Multi-Sport and Sport for All Federations**
The main aim of multi-sport and Sport for All federations is to provide to the population at large, and specific target groups, with opportunities to regularly practice (non-competitive) Sport for All and physical activity. TSG are often included in their portfolio of sports and activities (e.g TA-FISA, French Federation of Sports in Rural Areas – FNSMR, Hungarian Leisure Sport Association). These federations are found at European, national and regional levels.

**Sport Associations**
Besides sport-specific TSG clubs or association exist in Europe some sport associations that promote TSG in their diversity, and have a non-competitive purpose. Those associations can have various aims, be it TSG preservation, social inclusion, work with children, etc... (e.g. Association of Games and Sports Gallo-Bretons in France, or Escuela Autonomica Juegos Tradicionales Valenciana in Spain...)

**Non-Sport Organisations**
Many non-sport organisations of various statuses (social and cultural associations for example) offer various Traditional Sports and Games as part of their activities – either at European, national or regional level (e.g. Asociacion Cultural y Científica de Estudios de Turismo – AccETTD, Extremadura, Spain).

**Regional and Local Sport Authorities**
Non-profit regional and local sport authorities (e.g. Olympic bodies, sport and knowledge centres, confederations) are regularly found to promote Traditional Sports and Games in various
ways such as the organisation of programmes and events, lending of equipment, funding, re-
cognition of TSG clubs or federations, etc. This is, for example, the case for Sport Fryslan, in the
Netherlands.

Local governments
Public bodies (i.e. sport and/or culture bodies/departments) of European regions, provinces or
municipalities (e.g. Public Benefit Organisation of Kavala City, Greece) often include Traditional
Sports and Games within their objectives and their sport and culture activities. They provide
support to organisations within their territory, such as infrastructure, equipment or funding, and
sometimes organise programmes and events that include and/or promote TSG.

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION-BASED ORGANISATIONS

A last category of organisations working in the field of TSG is composed of entities that focus
on the research, conservation, revitalisation and promotion of TSG. Their main purpose is often
linked to preserving Europe’s intangible cultural heritage, researching the origins of TSG and
their societal aspect, spreading knowledge to the public and teaching how TSG can be used in
educational, cultural or recreational (pastime) contexts. Those organisations include:

Museums
Museums gather TSG information and artefacts, which they expose in dedicated areas. Some
museums can be fully dedicated to TSG (be it to a TSG in particular, or to the various TSG of a
region or country), or TSG can be included in museums of a broader topic (e.g. regional muse-
ums or sport museums like Sportimonium). Museums often include documentation centres to
extend the knowledge of TSG as well as preserve local, regional, national or European publica-
tions and archives. They also organise workshops and TSG practice and activities.

Academic bodies
Some universities, research centres or other educational institutions in Europe focus on TSG re-
search. Depending on the university, faculty, researchers and scholars, TSG are apprehended th-
rough various lenses such as anthropology, physical education, history, social sciences, tourism,
etc. Some bodies also organise seminars, programmes, practical events (e.g. University School
of Physical Education Poznan, Poland), or develop wider approaches for the promotion of TSG
(e.g. Gerlev Sports Academy, Denmark).

TYPES OF TSG PRACTICES

Closely linked to the different kinds of organisations working in the field of TSG in Europe, va-
nous patterns of TSG practices and activities have been identified by the ETSGP project team.

They can be classified in 2 main categories:

• TSG structuration and development
• Promotion of TSG in their diversity

The various activities, programmes or events that can be classified under those two categories
are presented below and each of them is accompanied by recommendations and a related in-
spiration (good practice), that can be consulted on www.tsgplatform.org.
TSG STRUCTURATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The development of specific TSG disciplines encompasses a number of activities that can be classified as follows:

- Structuration of TSG
- Game renewal
- Official championships and competitions
- Player, coach, officials and volunteer training

Structuration of TSG

An important step for the sustainable safeguarding, promotion and propagation of specific TSG disciplines and TSG in their diversity, is their structuration into sport clubs, sport federations and geographical (con-)federations gathering various TSG. The ETSGP project team has identified this as one of the crucial activities taking place in Europe. While some sport clubs and federations have a long history (e.g. Flemish Traditional Sports Association and Italian Federation of Traditional Sports and Games – see below inspirations), recent developments have shown some new institutions (e.g. Portuguese Federation of Traditional Sports and Games in 2016) are being created, and some express interest in safeguarding, representing and promoting the TSG movement as a whole in their country (e.g. Finnish Baseball Association).

Recommendations

- **Individual specific TSG players** to structure themselves into local sport clubs and further on to regional and national federations, and seek support from local and regional public authorities.
- **Specific TSG disciplines** that are already well structured into clubs and federations to promote and include other regional and local TSG that do not have the strength to survive on their own. Alternatively, they should organise themselves with other disciplines to create a regional or national TSG (con-)federation, that will promote their own sport as well as safeguard and propagate those TSG that to not have the strength to survive on their own.
- **Local, regional and national public and sport authorities** to provide incentives for the creation of regional or national TSG (con-)federations representing various disciplines as well as games that do not have the strength to survive on their own.

Inspirations:

- Flemish Traditional Sports Association (VlaS)
- Italian Traditional Sports and Games Federation (FiGeST)

Game Renewal

A positive trend that has been observed in many parts of Europe is the renewal of TSG that tend to disappear or struggle to survive for various reasons – lack of visibility, low numbers of players, too difficult or dangerous rules, inconvenient equipment, lack of infrastructure, interest and funds, etc.

Several initiatives have been identified with organisations re-introducing some TSG to the public, in new versions that engage simplified rules, equipment, infrastructure and more fun.
TSG renewal is seen by the ETSGP project team as key for the future development of TSG in Europe, that would benefit from a more important focus.

**Recommendations**

- **All specific TSG clubs and federations** to reflect on the relevance and possibility of modifying their game or sport and attract new players via simplified versions, which can be showcased in-house or at any sport, cultural and/or educational event.
- **Multi-sport, Sport for All and cultural associations, as well as play centres**, to reflect on the opportunity to render more TSG accessible to the public, by introducing simplified versions, if relevant.
- **Organisations working in the field of TSG** to consider cooperating with companies producing tools, toys or sport equipment, to produce TSG kits for dissemination and play in various settings.

**Inspiration:**
- Festivalwip 46

**Official Championships and Competitions**

Official championships and competitions of specific TSG disciplines are widespread in Europe, and typically organised by sport clubs, federations of specific disciplines, geographical (con-)federations and modern sport federations.

Whether at local, regional, national or European/international level, the organisation of such championships and competitions is crucial to ensure the sustainable development of TSG as they draw visibility, attract new players and the media, and often support from public and sport authorities.

Very much linked to the structuration of TSG, the organisation of official TSG championships and competitions should be promoted as much as possible.

**Recommendations**

- **Local, regional and national public and sport authorities** to support (in-kind and financially) TSG clubs and federations organise official TSG championships and competitions.
- **TSG clubs and federations** organising official championships to also include friendly tournaments and trial sessions, for new players or beginners.

**Inspiration:**
- French Championship of Quilles de Huit

**Player, Coach, Officials and Volunteer Training**

Player, coach, officials and volunteer training are activities inherent to structured TSG in Europe, and organised depending on the level of development of disciplines. They are of importance for the propagation of specific TSG and the sustainable recruitment of new players.
Recommendations

- **Local, regional and national public and sport authorities** to provide a framework for the training of coaches and volunteers of specific TSG that are unorganised or unstructured, using already existing and successful schemes.
- **TSG clubs and federations** to develop training programmes for (young) coaches, officials and volunteers.
- **Geographical TSG (con-)federations** to gather knowledge from TSG clubs and federations and organizations, open or share training schemes for players, coaches, officials and volunteers of TSG that are not structured.
- **Local, regional and national public, sport and educational authorities**, in cooperation with TSG clubs and federations, to train school teachers and equip them with the knowledge and skills to teach TSG in kindergarten, schools and other educational institutions.

PROMOTION OF TSG IN THEIR DIVERSITY

Numerous types of activities, programs and events that are promoting Traditional Sports and Games in their diversity have been identified in Europe. These are:

- **Activities that engage the public to play and/or discover TSG**
  - Festivals
  - Promotion programs
  - Tournaments
  - Play areas
  - School and university programs
- **Activities that empower the public and practitioners to deliver TSG**
  - Exhibitions
  - Play kits
  - Conferences and seminars
  - Networking programmes

**Festivals**

Festivals are among the easiest and most popular forms of promotion of Traditional Sports and Games Europe-wide. Sometimes entirely dedicated to TSG, they are often focussed on other topics (e.g. sport festivals, music festivals, cultural festivals, culinary festivals, medieval festivals, local festivals) and include Traditional Sports and Games as part of the activities. Demonstrations are organised, as well as opportunities for the public to engage and try out the TSG that are showcased.

TSG festivals are an easy, cost-effective and inclusive entrance door for the promotion of TSG, as they often do not require much time, infrastructure, equipment or funds. Festivals also allow for the gathering of local TSG clubs that organise the presentation of their game(s) or sport(s) and are then able to follow up with participants to increase their membership base. If there are no local clubs, the presentation of traditional games that are not institutionalised, by coaches, volunteers or physical education teachers is an accessible objective.
Recommendations

- **TSG festival organisers** to foster social inclusion and cultural exchange by inviting all communities of the municipality where it takes place to not only discover local TSG, but also present and introduce TSG from their countries of origin.

- **Organisations working in the field of TSG**, whether at local, regional or national level, to cooperate and organise TSG festivals as a way to introduce all kinds of games and sport disciplines to the public.

- **Public authorities** to:
  - Encourage organisers of festivals of any kind (sport, music, cultural, culinary...) to introduce TSG demonstrations as part of the festival,
  - Encourage local sport clubs to organise TSG festivals,
  - Organise TSG festivals themselves when the TSG movement is too weak to organise itself

Inspirations:

- TAFISA World and European Sport for All Games
- Festival “Games and Sports of the World”
- Tocati - Festival Internazionale dei Giochi in Strada

Promotion Programmes

Promotion programmes cover a wide range of activities that are inscribed on a longer term (weeks, months, sometimes years) than sport events or TSG festivals. They can be organised at any level, on small and large scales, in various settings (e.g. schools, pensions, hospitals, public and open spaces), have various objectives (either promote TSG themselves, or use TSG for broader purposes (social inclusion, participation in sport and physical activity, health, etc.)), can target the wider population or specific groups (children, elderly, disabled, etc.). Also, Traditional Sports and Games are sometimes used as a tool in programmes of a wider scope (educational, cultural, health).

Promotion programmes are important as they are an accessible, often cost-effective (they do not necessarily require much equipment or infrastructure) tool to safeguard and propagate TSG in a sustainable way, at any level.

Recommendations

- **TSG programme organisers** to think of including an intergenerational component. Given TSG progressively disappeared during the 20th century, the current elderly are the last generation that used to play them on a daily basis and have a wealth of knowledge to share with younger generations. Including the elderly allows the passing on of knowledge that will soon be lost, and for the elderly to be active, as a target group with their families and the children.

- **TSG programme organisers** to think of relevant stakeholders that are present at local, regional and national levels, which can bring an added value to your TSG programmes. Engage a relevant cross-sectorial cooperation and, in the case of local
programmes, include local schools and sport clubs to optimise the sustainability.

- **Sport for All and physical activity programme organisers** to include Traditional Sports and Games as sport activities among others.

**Inspirations:**

- Europe is Our Playground\(^{49}\)
- Recall: Games of the Past – Sports for Today\(^{50}\)

**Tournaments**

Besides official championships and competitions, many friendly, recreational TSG tournaments are organised throughout Europe to allow people of all levels to try out and play TSG. They can be focused on one sport or gathering various sport disciplines or games.

**Recommendations**

- **Organisations working in the field of TSG,** whether at local, regional or national level, to organize and use friendly tournaments as promotional tool - their competitive element can be appealing to the media, authorities and the public, and bring together regular and new players.

- **Tournament organisers** to keep tournaments open to as many players as possible, and if needed, organise groups with different levels.

**Inspiration:**

- Critérium des Jeux Sportifs Traditionnels\(^{51}\)

**School & University Programmes**

School and university TSG programmes are diverse, organised by schools and universities themselves or with the help of external institutions. Such programmes play an important role as they put children directly in touch with TSG and train those people that are in daily touch with children how they can organise TSG activities.

**Recommendations**

**Schools and External Organisations Supporting Schools:**

- External organisations that are developing TSG programmes for schools should from the very beginning talk to the school authorities and engage them in the building process to ensure that the programme is fitting with the school curriculum and rules, and is complementary to the activities already organised.

- Include TSG within PE lessons: they are easy to teach and allow teachers to renew contents and diversify activities. Many of the TSG features and the competencies they develop are compatible with, and will help achieve, curriculum objectives.

- Make after-school hours more playful and physically active with TSG; educators or young people may organise them voluntarily. You may ask for external organisations to help.
• Use the playground: this is a place for free play and where children themselves are at play, but you may provide inspiration through TSG.
• Extra-curricular sessions: training and empowering older students in TSG can foster initiation of their use during playtime during the school day. This often gives a good atmosphere in the schoolyard, the local district and prevents negative behaviors.
• Event at school: organize a special TSG day or evening in your kindergarten or school and invite the kids’ families to have fun and be active!

Universities
• Include TSG as a theme within the official curriculum and lectures. Topics might include definitions of TSG, skills development, multiculturalism in physical education classes, ludodiversity, classification of TSG, the importance of safeguarding and reintroducing TSG, the benefits of TSG and what they can bring to modern societies, children and youth of today, TSG and tourism, anthropologic and historic approaches.
• TSG can be integrated in practical physical education lessons within the official curriculum.
• The integration of TSG into college sports programmes or other courses outside the official curriculum is possible, of course depending on voluntary engagement of one or two persons who know at least one game or sport which is regarded to be a TSG.
• Many universities have summer universities or host other special events organised for and with students. TSG can complement events, providing opportunities for socialisation and play.

For more advice, visit www.recallgames.com/take-action.

Inspirations:
• Frisian sport in your class
• University School of Physical Education Poznan

Play Areas
Play areas dedicated to the trial of TSG are observed in various places of Europe, organised by local associations, museums, and sometimes educational institutes. They gather various local, regional, national and/or European TSG, and depending on their scale, are often permanent and open to the public for free or a small fee. Some of the organisations hosting those play areas link them to programmes that cater for various target groups such as schools, workplaces, the elderly, disabled people, etc. They can also be of touristic added value.

Recommendations
• Play areas are a crucial tool for the conservation and revitalization of TSG, and too few of them exist in Europe. Real open-air museums, they allow the public not only to gather knowledge about TSG, but try them out. National and regional sport authorities are encouraged to support the creation and development of such areas in their territories, as a way to highlight their culture. Involve museums, universities,
TSG clubs and federations and other relevant stakeholders to sustain benefits and increase participation in TSG on the longer term.

- **Play area creators** to first focus on local, regional and national games. Gather TSG that require convenient or no equipment, and that can be played in open areas without specific infrastructure.

**Inspiration:**
- Gerlev Play Park\(^{54}\)

**Exhibitions**
Throughout Europe, exhibitions are a common and frequent way to inform the public about TSG. Sometimes with posters and information panels only, they can also include artefacts and TSG equipment, and at times TSG demonstrations. Often temporary, they can be stand-alone or part of umbrella programmes or events dedicated to TSG or any other themes. They can be easily set in any type of setting (schools, museums, public buildings, outdoor, etc.).

**Recommendations**

- **National and regional sport museums, as well as history and cultural museums** to include temporary or permanent exhibitions about TSG in their collection shown to the public.
- **Event organisers** to include TSG exhibitions as part of bigger TSG or non-TSG programmes and events, where relevant.
- **TSG exhibition organisers** to organise side-events to TSG exhibitions, such as conferences and/or seminars. Invite experts and local elderly citizens to share their experience.
- **Exhibition organisers** to invite local schools to visit the exhibitions, in order to transmit TSG knowledge to the children. Encourage the parallel creation of school programmes.

**Inspiration:**
- Exhibition – Jogo Tradicionais. 100% Futuro\(^{55}\)

**Play Kits**
Play kits contain a set of Traditional Sports and Games along with their rules and necessary equipment to play them. Often produced by non-profit organisations they can sometimes be commercialised.

**Recommendations**

- **Sport clubs and TSG federations** are encouraged to share resources and collaborate to put together easy versions of their games and sports for inclusion in play kits, which they can disseminate for free or limited fees.
- **Multi-Sport, Sport for All federations and museums** may find it a good idea to develop such kits.
• **Play kit producers or owners** to target settings such as schools, homes for the elderly, hospitals, etc. for the dissemination of the play kits – they can trigger the start of wider programmes reaching out to more (new) players.

• **Play kit producers or owners** to engage volunteers and educators to organise play sessions (in schools...) and train them on how to use the pay kits.

• **Play kit producers or owners** to look for potential commercial partners (e.g. toy industries), which may be interested to invest resources and disseminate the play kits more widely.

• **Play kit producers or owners** to start by including easy games that do not require complex equipment and can be played in open and public spaces with no specific infrastructure.

• **Play kit producers or owners** to use images or drawings along with the rules to ensure that they are understood and appealing.

**Inspiration:**

• Play Kit – Jogo Tradicionais. 100% Futuro!\(^{56}\)

**Networking Programmes and Events (including Conferences and Seminars)**

Networking programmes and events can involve a wide range of activities that gather TSG organisations, experts, and sometimes sport and public authorities. Meetings, conferences and seminars are often organised by all types of organisations working in the field of TSG, and contribute to the growth of the Traditional Sports and Games movement through the sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise. Sometimes, wider programmes can even aim at creating or strengthening networks at local, regional, national or European levels.

**Recommendations**

• **TSG organisations working in the field of TSG** at all levels are encouraged to create networks and/or coalitions, in order to strengthen their political weight, empower the TSG movement and seek resources and funding to safeguard and promote TSG.

• **TSG organisations working in the field of TSG** to organise conferences and seminars, and invite key stakeholders (public and sport authorities) to participate in order to increase their knowledge and awareness of the importance of safeguarding and promoting TSG.

**Inspiration:**

• Strengthening European Traditional Sports (SETS)\(^{57}\)
CONCLUSIONS

The results of the European TSG overview have revealed that the general picture of European Traditional Sports and Games is as follows:

- Traditional Sports and Games, as a European phenomenon, constitute a field that is rich and often misinterpreted, due to the absence of a mutual understanding of what TSG are.

- TSG are encompassing a broad range of games and disciplines that vary across Europe.

- Their high diversity is also represented in the multitude of organisations that are working with them. The landscape of stakeholders is scattered insofar as the organisations working with TSG are of various natures and do not always follow the structure of the modern sport system.

- TSG organisations have their own codes. What makes them special is the fact that they are mainly rooted in a cultural, and not only sport background. Along with their lack of visibility, this challenges the policy making among EU and Member States’ institutions.

- Traditional Sports and Games have been suffering, for many years, from a progressive disappearance, due to a lack of public interest. Over time, the number of players has decreased.

- A lack of funding, recognition and professionalism is a barrier to their self-promotion.

It appears that in order to ensure their survival, there cannot only be a focus on safeguarding TSG – as it is often now. It is paramount to also promote and rejuvenate them. The present report establishes a common understanding about the situation of TSG in Europe, from the points of view of policy, research and practice. It is crucial that as a next step a change of mindset is accomplished, Europe-wide, within the TSG movement towards a positive approach for the propagation of TSG.

This approach must embrace the richness and diversity of TSG, as well as the various regional and local cultures and traditions of Europe – levels where TSG are anchored. It has been confirmed, though, that the creation of synergies, learning and experience sharing between the TSG movement, organisations working with TSG, and authorities and decision-makers at European, national, regional and local levels is urgently needed. In order to respect this diversity, it is recommended not to establish an organisation that claims to represent TSG, would have a uniform view and standardise the field. Instead, a more flexible, not binding European TSG Platform, acting as a catalyst for the empowerment and strengthening of organisations working with TSG, and sharing of information, is the proposed solution.
The creation of a European Platform for Traditional Sports and Games that is open to all those who are interested, and that serves as a tool for the propagation of TSG in their diversity, is the main result of this project. To tackle the various issues and engage with opportunities that have been revealed, this platform aims to:

- Provide support to the TSG movement and organisations working with TSG,
- Clarify what TSG are, foster recognition and raise awareness of the values and benefits of TSG,
- Enable collaboration and offer networking and experience sharing opportunities amongst all stakeholders in the field of TSG,
- Increase the visibility of TSG Europe-wide,
- Work together with European institutions and EU member states, for the safeguarding and promotion of TSG,
- Modify and/or adapt TSG to the demands of today,
- Empower interested stakeholders to re-introduce TSG in their field,
- Create a bridge between traditional and modern sports.

It is time for TSG to be considered and recognised as a subject of their own by all parties involved, and escape the usual schemes or areas where they are usually classified and cannot compete with other structures already in place – such as the modern sport system.
FOOTNOTES

1 For more information, please see “About the ETSGP Project Partners” on www.tsgplatform.org.
2 The platform’s future on-going activities will be linked to available resources and funding.
3 TAFISA’s “Recall: Games of the Past – Sports for Today” project, Dimofelia’s “Europe is Our Playground” project, FIGEST’s “G.a.m.e.s.N.E.T project”, VlaS “SETS project”
5 Consult UNESCO Policy Papers mentioning Traditional Sports and Games on www.tsgplatform.org
6 More information about UNESCO’s policy and initiatives about Traditional Sports and Games can be found at http://bit.ly/2TPzKnP
8 Consult EU Policy Papers mentioning Traditional Sports and Games on www.tsgplatform.org
12 Consult EU Policy Papers mentioning Traditional Sports and Games on www.tsgplatform.org
17 Not every respondent completed every question. Typically, 15 or 16 out of 18 possible countries completed each question.
18 In countries where more than one organisation responded, priority was given to responses from national policy makers (Ministry or NOC). Responses from other organisations were used to consolidate the results. In countries where one organisation, which is not a Ministry, NOC or Sport Authority responded, only answers relevant to national policy were processed – when relevant. When irrelevant, the answers were not processed.
19 Answers from NOCs, Ministries and Sport Authorities only were processed.
20 Ibid
21 Answers from Ministries, NOCs and Sport Authorities were processed, as well as answers form other organisations that reflect on their funding experience with Ministries and NOCs.
22 Answers from NOCs, Ministries and Sport Authorities only were processed.
23 Ibid
24 Consult the European TSG bibliography on www.tsgplatform.org.
25 Consult the European Directory of Universities, Research Centres and Scholars working in the field of TSG on www.tsgplatform.org.
31 TSG are “motor activities of leisure and recreation which can have a ritual character. They are part of the universal heritage diversity. They are practiced in an individual or collective manner, deriving from regional or local identity; they are based on rules accepted by a group that organises competitive or non-competitive activities. Traditional games dispose of a popular character in their practice and in their organisation, yet if turned into sport tend to be uniform and institutionalised. The practice of traditional games promotes global health” (Jaouen, Liponski).
33 Consult the European TSG bibliography on www.tsgplatform.org.
34 Consult the European TSG bibliography on www.tsgplatform.org.
38 See Inspiration and learn more on www.tsgplatform.org.