

TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Title of Initiative: Developing a Quality Sports and Leisure Infrastructure

Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.

Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:	
Objective(s):	<i>Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict prevention/peace building
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Integrating sport for sustainable development and peace in COVID-19 recovery and/or 2030 Agenda strategies, programmes and policies</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other (please specify) 	
Implementation mechanisms:	<p><i>What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?</i></p> <p>The implementation of the initiative involves the construction and renovation of sports infrastructure facilities, of both local and national significance, and educational establishments containing parts used for sports purposes.</p> <p>Development of sports facilities in three areas is underway:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme on the Renovation of Sports Grounds in Schools: approx. EUR 2 million are allocated for this purpose and approx. 10 facilities are renovated every year. It is estimated that approx. EUR 290,000 are needed for renovation per sports ground; 80% of the project funds are allotted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, 20% by the municipality; - Programme on the Sports Support Foundation (SSF): under this programme, renovation of municipal sports facilities is implemented according to a procedure established by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and decisions taken by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport from the Sports Support Foundation; projects are managed by the Central Projects Management Agency, a public entity. This area receives approx. 20% of the funds of the Sports Support Foundation (approx. EUR 3 million on an annual basis); - State Investments Programme: projects on sports facilities are financed by investment funds of the state budget, with contributions from municipalities. The average value per project being approx. EUR 6 million, the amount of state funds allocated for project co-financing every year totals EUR 11 – 12 million. <p><i>What is the time frame of implementation?</i></p> <p>The term of implementation differs from project to project and varies between 1 and 10 years.</p>
<p>Target Audience(s):</p>	<p><i>Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?</i></p> <p>Children and youth, community members and disabled persons are priority groups in terms of use of the renovated sports facilities. The focus is on the development of sports activities for disabled people.</p> <p>Target groups by programmes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Programme on the Renovation of Sports Grounds in Schools is designed for pupils of secondary schools; - facilities renovated under the SSF are used by physical activity groups and grassroots sports groups; - facilities the development of which is financed by the State Investments Programme are used by participants in physical activity groups and sports professionals seeking excellence.

<p>Partners/Funding:</p>	<p><i>Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government of the Republic of Lithuania establishes the procedures for the financing of the sports infrastructure and allocates funds; - The Ministry of Education, Science and Sports develops implementing legal acts (formulates procedures, makes selection, takes decisions etc.); - The Central Project Management Agency implements the procedures for the sports facilities‘ development, maintenance and repairs established by the Government and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, selects eligible applicants, concludes contracts, ensures eligibility of expenses, and exercises supervision over continuity of project results; - municipal administrations and secondary schools plan the development of sports infrastructure in municipalities, takes part in discussions with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports on the development of relevant sports in the municipalities and the need for sports facilities, file applications for financing and co-finance projects, and implement projects; - some sports federations implement programmes on the development of relevant sports infrastructure: e. g. the Lithuanian Football Federation, in cooperation with municipalities, implements a programme on installation of full-size (105 m x 68 m) grounds with artificial surface (the relevant municipality is responsible for the installation of the base and other works, the LFF provides the surface materials). 3-4 grounds are installed every year; by now, approx. 30 were completed. <p><i>What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?</i></p> <p>Budget allocations by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, municipal funds, and funding by private sponsors and partners.</p>
<p>SDG Alignment:</p>	<p><i>To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?</i></p> <p>The development of sports facilities contributes to the following SDG goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal 11 ‘Sustainable cities and communities’ – public sports spaces that are fitted out and reconstructed enable the inclusion of various social groups and increase the availability of sports opportunities; the projects involve communities in sports activities and promote physical activities and mass participation. Project promoters are encouraged to provide as many services as possible free of charge; - Goal 10: ‘Reduced inequalities’ – through access to the facilities in all regions of the country as the distance to another similar facility is taken into account (points are given for facilities that are more remote), also through availability of sports facilities to people with the aim to reduce regional seclusion;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal 4: ‘Quality education’ – renovated school sports grounds, municipal sports facilities including pools enable the quality implementation of programmes on both formal and informal physical education. <p><i>Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.</i></p> <p>By developing the sports infrastructure, the following goal identified in the National Progress Plan is attained: ‘<i>Enhance national and civic identity, increase cultural penetration and promote creativity of society</i>’, specifically, its task ‘<i>Seeking to make highest achievements of Lithuania’s sports more numerous</i>’ and its operational objective ‘<i>Enable the development of sports</i>’.</p> <p>The initiative also contributes to the objective stated in the Strategic Operational Plan for 2022-2024 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport: achieve, by 2024, that 90% of the strategic sports branches have at least one facility meeting international standards and designed for training and holding international sports events (to increase the share by 20% starting from 2020). With the aim to promote a wider supply of sports infrastructure that is more convenient for people, the initiative contributes to the overall policy of sports education at secondary schools by implementing the task of inclusive education and increasing its availability as well as the measure ‘<i>Implementing modernisation of educational establishments and improvement of infrastructure</i>’. According to the Strategic Operational Plan, 8 municipal sports grounds are planned to be renovated every year.</p> <p>The expansion of the swimming pool infrastructure and increasing its access to children will contribute to the implementation of the governmental programme on teaching children to swim.</p>
<p>Alignment with global frameworks:</p>	<p><i>How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the <u>Kazan Action Plan</u>, <u>WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity</u> or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?</i></p> <p>The development of the sports infrastructure contributes to the objectives of the Kazan Action Plan as it aims to provide as many residents as possible with a convenient sports access that meets their needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.3. Foster quality physical education and active schools - I.7. Foster empowerment and inclusive participation - II.2 Make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

	<p>Promoting people’s involvement in physical activity contributes to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan’s (2013-2020) target to reduce inactivity of the world population 10% by 2025 and to the objective identified in the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity – to reduce it 15% by 2030. Better supply of sports infrastructure facilities ensures implementation of Objective 2 ‘Create active environments’ in the WHO Global NCD Plan on PA, in particular Action 2.5 designed for enhancing the formulation of national and local policies through improved access to sports infrastructure to various target groups. The initiative also contributes to Objective 3 ‘Create active people’ as renovated sports grounds at schools can be used by young talented athletes; on the other hand, the renovated facilities adapted to individual sports can be used for pupil’s physical education activities – e. g. the programme on teaching children to swim is implemented in municipal swimming pools.</p>
<p>Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:</p>	<p><i>Which of the four thematic areas of the <u>UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace</u> is this initiative designed to align?</i></p> <p><i>To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?</i></p> <p>The development of sports facilities contributes, first of all, to Activity 2 of the UN Action Plan ‘Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies’. As the sports infrastructure development strategy is based on a comprehensive policy on the development of both physical activity and excellence in sports, it also seeks to attain various other aims, including those of social policy, such as reducing regional disparities and social seclusion, ensuring equal access to different social groups in the area of meeting natural mobility needs and thus increasing their involvement in health-promoting physical activities and adopting healthy lifestyle. It also contributes, by improving infrastructure for the training of elite athletes, to the seeking of excellence in sport.</p>
<p>Outcomes:</p>	<p><i>What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?</i></p> <p>The target stated in the National Development Plan: to reduce the share of the population that is never involved in any exercising (never does sports) from 34% (2019) to 30% (2024) and to increase the share of residents receiving sufficient physical activity services in their locality (according to the Strategic Operational Plan of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) by 6% by 2024.</p> <p>Outcomes achieved and still to be achieved:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the programme on the renovation of sports grounds of educational establishments, renovation of 103 school sports grounds was completed in 2014-2021. 31 stadiums at educational establishments will be renovated by 2025; - In 2019–2020, funds of the State Investments Programme were used to complete 15 investment projects including on 6 swimming pools. In the period 2015-2025, 17 projects are underway including 7 swimming pools; - 45 sports projects were financed by the loan taken in the name of the State in 2020 (Covid-19); - It is estimated that in 2019–2025, funding of the SSF will be used to renovate 35 sports facilities; renovation of 14 of them has already been completed.
Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:	<p><i>What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?</i></p> <p>The impact of the projects is evaluated according to the strategic evaluation indicators provided above during 5 years after the project completion date, with reports submitted to the Government (the indicators include the number of physically active residents and the number of sports events).</p> <p><i>What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?</i></p> <p>Population surveys; reports by sports infrastructure project promoters.</p>
Challenges/Lessons learned	<p><i>What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?</i></p> <p>Increasing cost of project implementation, cumbersome public procurement procedures, poor strategic planning at municipalities, too large number of the projects financed.</p> <p><i>What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?</i></p> <p>It has transpired that project to which larger funding was allotted and which were implemented in a shorter period are more valuable and with a better payback. In future, we hope to invest in quality rather than quantity.</p>