

GRASS Implementation Plan

February 2024

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PURPOSE OF GRASS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Welcome to GRASS!

The National Olympic Committee of Portugal (COP) is really looking forward to working with all the other partners in this project which we believe is relevant, timely and through our collaborative efforts will be of great benefit to sport and wider society across Europe.

This Implementation Plan has been developed by the coordinator - COP - to provide the consortium partners with more precise information about the work and activities to be carried out through GRASS, the full list of expected outcomes with corresponding timelines, and the structure and responsibilities of the consortium regarding the project.

This is an important document, and each partner involved in GRASS should familiarise themselves with its content to ensure the delivery of the expected work plan to the highest possible standard and with the involvement and contribution of all partners.

The objective is not to duplicate the original Application Form submitted to the European Commission but to provide a useful summary of the overall project to partners.

It is central to note that it has been developed based on the content of the application, which was originally submitted in March 2023, so the implementation of the expected work programme may differ if judged necessary by the consortium, after early discussions between the partners and, if they agree, make appropriate adjustments in line with agreed goals and objectives.

Further information or clarification can be obtained by contacting a member of COP staff using the following contact details:

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This GRASS Implementation Plan does not include detailed information about the precise role of each partner of the project but general information about the whole project.

A specific partnership agreement was developed and signed grant allocated to each partner.

SHORT SUMMARY OF GRASS PLAN

TITLE: “Safe GRASSroots Sport: building capacity for grassroots sport organisations”

ACRONYM: GRASS

EU PRIORITY: Protection of integrity and values in sport | safe environment and good governance in sport

DURATION: 24 months from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2025

Background:

Although there is widespread evidence of the benefits of sport, less well recognised is the negative influence on health and well-being, if integrity of sport is challenged by violence and abuse, or that all forms of abuse breach human rights. So pervasive is a belief in the essential 'goodness' of sport that there is a deep-seated reluctance among sport organisations to consider any negative aspects of sport, despite evidence of harms that may occur in sport context, just as they do outside sport. These issues represent a blind spot for sport organisations through fear of reputational damage, ignorance, or silence. Grassroots sport organizations being vital to the EU sport sector, and frequently the first response to violence and abuse, especially involving children and young people, have lack of awareness concerning their responsibilities to ensure safe sport environments, either at recreational, educational or in building up athletes.

Aim: raise awareness, build capacity, and assist grassroots sport organisations to tackle safeguarding, facilitating, encouraging and strengthen good governance to ensure safe sport environments at grassroots level.

Main expected outcomes:

1. Mapping of best practices and stakeholders (including potential pilot grassroots sport clubs) in the field of safe sport
2. Online self-assessment tool on safeguarding, so that grassroots sport organisations can assess the extent to which they are protecting their sport community.
3. Digital Toolkit for a safer sport in grassroots sport organisations

Impact:

GRASS will contribute to ensure the safety and well-being of every sport participant at grassroots sport level through a comprehensive response to the need for 'safeguarding' within sport at a community level, a challenge that, if continuing to be unaddressed, undermine the integrity of sport.

EU Added value:

Cost effective strategy to engage and build capacity of grassroots sport organisations to understand, be aware of safeguarding in sport and have practical skills for applying policies and measures to ensure safe sport environments in their communities.

Dissemination:

A communication strategy with various dissemination and communication activities including national consultation workshops and national events at NOC/partners countries, a web page, and a mid-online and final conference at the project's close.

THE GRASS PARTNERSHIP

It was realised at the start of the design process that the project objectives would better be achieved if a strong and recognised partnership of representatives from different kinds of NOCs/countries in terms of geographical and cultural background, including third countries, newcomers, and less experienced organisations to the cooperation partnerships, as well as size and operational capacities, were brought together to focus strategically to tackling safeguarding in sport.

In this sense, GRASS Cooperation Partnership includes three types of stakeholders:

- countries involved in EU/COE joint project - CSIS, in different stages of implementation (1 NOC + 1 NGO)
- Countries not involved in CSIS project, with different levels of knowledge and experience and territorial diversity coverage, including a third country (2 NOC)
- expert organisations in the field of safeguarding (3)

GRASS partnership constitutes 7 stakeholders:

- Three national Olympic committees
- a governmental organisation responsible for sport
- three expert organization in the field of safeguarding in sport

Moreover, the partnership includes, as associated partner, the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe, a platform of intergovernmental sports co-operation of its 46 member states and of dialogue between public authorities, sports federations, and NGOs, that will contribute to the dissemination and exploitation of intellectual outputs.

The consortium should ensure that the outputs are developed in line with the realities and expectations of the sector.

The team of partners will also be essential for implementing a relevant consultation process as well as wide dissemination and promotional activities through the Olympic movement and beyond.

All the necessary GRASS activities will be coordinated by COP who will take responsibility for project management, financial management, quality control.

All project partners will attend full partner meetings and take responsibility – with COP support – for leading on the work packages assigned to them and for organising full partner meetings linked to their work package and delivering national consultation workshops and national events at NOC/partners countries.

All partners will make inputs to work packages led by other partners and to organising and taking part in the **Mid-Online Conference and Final Conference**, planned to take place in Lisbon in November 2025 and hosted by COP.

PARTNERSHIP

The list of partners including their name, country and website is included below.



COMITÉ OLÍMPICO
DE PORTUGAL

P1 – Olympic Committee of Portugal (coordinator)

Portugal

<https://comiteolimpicoportugal.pt/>



UNIVERSITAT DE VIC
UNIVERSITAT CENTRAL
DE CATALUNYA

P2 – Universitat de Vic

Spain

www.uvic.cat



P3 – Qantara Sports

Portugal

<https://qantarasports.com/>



P4 – Centre for Ethics in Sport

Belgium

<https://www.ethischsporten.be/>



P5 – Olympic Committee of

Albania

Albania

<https://nocalbania.org.al/>



P6 – Olympic Committee of

Slovenia

Slovenia

<http://www.olympic.si/>



P7 – Ministry of Youth and Sports

of Bulgaria

Bulgaria

<http://www.mpes.government.bg/>

THE CONTEXT OF GRASS

Studies across the EU (a growing body of evidence but with serious limitations due to the lack of common terminology and study methodologies) have confirmed that sport provides an environment in which a significant proportion of violence and abuse can occur to various forms.

A literature review about safeguarding children in sport show that in the pioneering studies (in the 1980s) there was a particular focus on sexual abuse. The beginning of the 1990s saw new empirical studies followed by early-stage child protection programs¹. Progressively, the type and scope of abuse has been expanded to include other forms of abuse occurring in sport, with a broadening of geographical coverage of specific evidence, going beyond the original countries in which the studies were conducted (UK, Australia, and Canada).

A recent study on prevalence and characteristics of interpersonal violence against children (IVAC) inside and outside sport - Child Abuse in Sport: European Statistics (CASES)² - in six European countries (UK, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Romania, and Spain), found that most respondents (79%) rated their overall experience of sport as either 'good' or 'very good'. However, three-quarters (73%) reported having had at least one experience of interpersonal violence in sport, before age 18. The most common experience was psychological violence (65%); followed by physical violence (44%); neglect (37%); and non-contact sexual violence (35%); the least common experience inside sport was contact sexual violence (20%).

Data shows that sport is not immune to abuse. Abuse occurs in sport just as outside of sport and that these experiences are common in the sport. After a number of high-profile cases in recent times, this research helps understand the scale of the problem more clearly.

This is timely research to remind that safeguarding in sport should be the collective concern, a shared responsibility and is about actions, not just words. Cooperation and communication between stakeholders are needed to develop holistic practical measures and tools that aims to assist grassroots sport organisations to have safeguarding policies and procedures in place to ensure sport participants are protected from abuse. "If it takes a community to make an athlete; it takes a community to protect athletes."

In recent years a number of measures have been taken to ensure that organisations implement safeguarding procedures to reduce the risks of harm, namely establishing 'Safeguarding Officers' (SO) as key players in International Federations (IF), National Olympic Committees (NOC) and National Federations (NF), but to provide a safe environment in sport it is essential that at local level, grassroots sports organisations are also assisted to assure their responsibility to take affirmative steps and encouraged to organisational learning, good governance and leverage a safe sport culture.

¹ Brackenridge, Celia H., Rhind Daniel (2014): Protection in Sport: Reflections on Thirty Years of Science and Activism. Soc. Sci. 3, 326–340.

² Hartill, M., Rulofs, B., Lang, M., Vertommen, T., Allroggen, M., Cirera, E., Diketmueller, R., Kampen, J., Kohl, A., Martin, M., Nanu, I., Neeten, M., Sage, D., Stativa, E. (2021). CASES: Child abuse in sport: European Statistics – Project Report. Ormskirk, UK: Edge Hill University

THE NEED FOR GRASS INITIATIVE

“Safeguarding Children in Sport: A mapping study”³ developed through the Work Plan for Sport (2017- 2020) remarks the following recommendations (p. 5) that also reinforces GRASS approach:

- Need to develop more consistent standards and practices in the development and implementation of safeguarding policies and measures.
- Need to develop clearer and more comprehensive guidance on the role of specific actors in supporting more effective safeguarding measures, from ministries through to sport federations and community sport organisations, due to the horizontal nature of the issue involving many actors (sport organisations, children, parents, sport entourage, peers etc.) and levels of governance (sectorial, organisational, national), which creates issues with ownership and monitoring of the initiatives.
- There is also potential to develop clearer guidance on the implementation of public initiatives targeting relevant stakeholders and practitioners, building on the recommendations of relevant international bodies.
- There is still scope in some countries to develop more consistent background checks on sport employees who work with children. One solution is to focus more on the education of sport staff working with children and with children with disabilities (e.g., coaches, instructors, specialists in sport medicine) to allow them to acquire specific knowledge and invest in their life-long learning.

This mapping study also has shown that there is a strong variation in the level of policy advancement the issue of safeguarding. The categorisation of policy advancement relates to the extent to which the issue is present in the national sport policy agenda and how far special policies and measures exist to safeguard children in sport. Other factors taken into consideration in the categorisation include the existence of educational and awareness raising campaigns and participation in relevant EU projects, and countries were divided into advanced, intermediate, and limited.

Grassroots sport organisations are a first response in the protection system for children and young people and have a duty of care to ensure safe sport. Some realities, however, exist and constitute a set of challenges, which cannot be ignored. These can be summarized as follows:

CHALLENGE 1: There is a number of safeguarding initiatives at international and national level but lack systematic reviews of available data and evidence on relevant policy measures and initiatives for grassroots sport organisations.

- GRASS proposed solution: explore, collate, and provide best practices initiatives on safeguarding to prepare comprehensive guidelines and tools for grassroots sport organisations.

³ European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, Safeguarding children in sport: a mapping study, Publications Office, 2019. Available at: <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/74666>

CHALLENGE 2: There is still a lack of grassroots sport organisations awareness concerning their Duty of Care to ensure safe sport for children and young people.

- GRASS proposed solution: raise awareness on major dimensions, risks and barriers envisaging a safer sport landscape for children and young people in grassroots sport organisations, by reflecting on their experiences, current practices, and mechanisms through an online self-assessment tool.

CHALLENGE 3: There is a number of measures to ensure that organisations implement safeguarding procedures to reduce risks of harm, namely establishing ‘Safeguarding Officers’ (SO) as key players in IFs, NOCs and NFs, but lacking to reach local, grassroots sports level.

- GRASS proposed solution: develop practical, clear and comprehensive guidance to assist grassroots sport organisations in the development and implementation of safeguarding policies and measures.

Therefore, the project can play a major role in helping the Olympic Sport Movement to assist grassroots sport organisations to adopt safeguarding policies and measures, and finally, to ensure a safe environment for children and young sport and motivate others to follow.

THE PLAN OUTPUTS FROM GRASS

To deliver the solutions considered in section above, GRASS will deliver the following Intellectual Outputs (IOs).

- IO1 - A comprehensive mapping of best practices initiatives in the field of safe sport and of stakeholders (including potential pilot grassroots sport organisations in each NOC/country partner)
- IO2 - A practical online self-assessment tool on safeguarding for grassroots sport organisations
- IO3 – A practical digital toolkit for a safer sport in grassroots sport organisations

Short presentation of each of the expected Intellectual Outputs:

IO1 - A MAPPING OF BEST PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF SAFE SPORT AND OF STAKEHOLDERS

The overall goal will be to publish a comprehensive mapping of the best practices initiatives on safeguarding children and young people in sport. This mapping will be developed through the collection and analysis of data gathered through the implementation of various research activities. The comprehensive mapping will include qualitative data that will be relevant to prepare comprehensive guidelines and consistent tools for grassroots sport organisations and it will provide new knowledge and information on the characteristics, challenges, and specificities of best practices initiatives on safe sport.

The project will conduct wide desk research and literature review which will be followed by a series of interviews with relevant best practices owners. The analysis of information from type one and type two will be valuable in itself and will also be used to inform the design and implementation of the tools.

The project also provides a mapping of stakeholders (including potential pilot grassroots sport organisations, with contact points for safeguarding) for each NOC/country partners.

IO2 - A ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL ON SAFEGUARDING TO ENABLE GRASSROOTS SPORT ORGANISATIONS TO ASSESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE PROTECTING THEIR SPORT COMMUNITY

The project proposes to develop an Online Self-Assessment Tool which will enable grassroots sport organisations to reflect on their experiences, current practices and mechanisms, with a view to improve and/or develop an efficient safeguarding policy, encouraging organisational learning and leverage a safe sport culture.

The Online Self-Assessment Tool will help grassroots sport organisations to assess in which extent they are safeguarding children and young people. Completing the Online Self-Assessment Tool, the respondents will get a “traffic light” rating for each area/dimension, with identification of risks and with recommendations for improvement.

To achieve this outcome each partner NOC/countries partners will run a workshop to increase knowledge and capacity on how to use the Online Self-Assessment Tool by the selected pilot grassroots sport organisations.

The Online Self-Assessment Tool foresees the translation to the language of each partner NOC for an easier and swift dissemination at national level.

IO3 - AN DIGITAL TOOLKIT TO FACILITATE ENGAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR A SAFER SPORT WITHIN GRASSROOTS SPORT ORGANISATIONS IN EUROPE

The partners will collaborate to design a practical digital toolkit for grassroots sport organisations to respond to some of the identified realities and challenges faced by them and particularly to facilitate the engagement, development, and implementation of safeguarding policies and measures to assure safe sport environments at base, local level.

This intellectual output lies at the heart of the project. The objective of producing such a practical toolkit with concrete help and advice will be particularly relevant to grassroots sport organisations deploying or planning to deploy safeguarding policies and measures as it will enable them to be exposed to good practice guidelines and to improve and ramp up their own safeguarding action plan processes. The innovative toolkit will therefore have an impact on grassroots sport organisations by increasing and improving their engagement and capacity building.

In each partner NOC/countries workshop the selected pilot grassroots sport organisations will also test the Digital Toolkit.

The Digital Toolkit foresees the translation to the language of each partner NOC for an easier and swift dissemination at national level.

THE PROPOSED GRASS WORKPLAN

The table below gives a summary of work packages planned for the delivery of the GRASS outputs.

WP	WORK PACKAGE TITLE	TIMELINE	WP LEADER
WP1	Management: administrative, financial, quality control, monitoring, and evaluation Transnational project meetings	Ongoing throughout project	P1 – COP National Olympic Committee of Portugal Assigned partners
WP2	IO1 - Mapping of best practices and stakeholders (including potential pilot grassroots sport organisations)	February 2024 to august 2024	P2 – UVIC-UCC University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia
WP3	IO2 - Online self- assessment tool for grassroots sport organisations	June 2024 to March 2025	P3 - QS-PT Qantara Sports
WP4	IO3 - Digital toolkit for a safer sport in grassroots sport organisations	november 2024 to november 2025	P4 – ICES Centrum Ethiek in de Sport
WP5	Dissemination, promotion, impact, and sustainability	Ongoing throughout project	P1 - COP National Olympic Committee of Portugal and all partners

The workplan consists of five work packages. The exact actions required for the delivery of each of work package and the distribution of the lead roles and responsibilities amongst the partners will be agreed at the first Full Partner Meeting in February 2024. However, all partners will be asked to contribute to each work package through, for example, desk research, providing feedback on draft products and other related activities.

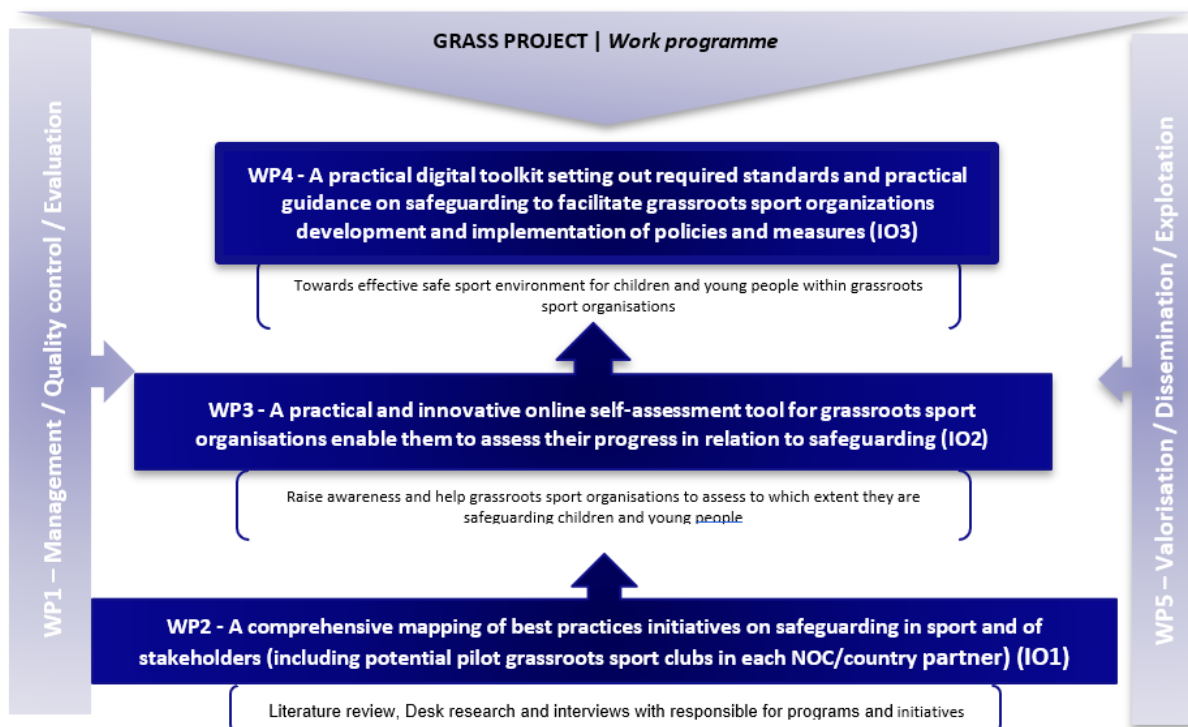
The first work package relates to the overall management of the project. These include administrative, financial, quality, monitoring, and evaluation, as well as the organisation of Full Partner Meetings (Transnational Project Meetings). The last work package relates to the Communication and Dissemination activities.

The three technical packages (WP2 + WP3 + WP4) were designed and structured to ensure a logical and chronological working process to deliver the expected Intellectual Outputs. All technical work packages have an expert organization package leader, supported by COP.

Each technical work package relates to the production of a specific intellectual output and the same phases of work have been considered for each of them:

1. **Preparation**, discussion, definition of the purpose and working methodology to be applied;
2. Implementation of the working methodology and **development** of the content of the Output;
3. Internal **monitoring** and supervision by the package leader and coordinator (quality, timeline etc);
4. Internal evaluation and **consultation** on the relevancy and quality of the content of the Output (*e.g., dissemination and feedback from partners, presentation during Partner Meeting, consultation with end users*);
5. **Finalisation** of the Output, professional layout and printing, and wide dissemination process (*identified target groups, channels, messages from the Dissemination Strategy*).

The graphic below illustrates how the work packages integrate into the full workplan and outputs.



GRASS EVENTS CALENDAR

GRASS will require a number of transnational and national meetings. The exact dates have not yet been agreed, but the following provides an approximate schedule.

TRANSNATIONAL FULL PARTNER MEETINGS

The transnational project meetings for all GRASS partners will take place as follows (tbc with partners).

Event Number	Date (tbc)	Proposed Location (tbc)	Meeting Focus
Full Partner Meeting 1	February 2024	Portugal	Kick off meeting
Full Partner Meeting 2	July 2024	Spain	IO1 - Comprehensive Mapping
Full Partner Meeting 3	November 2024	online	Preparation Midterm conference
Full Partner Meeting 4	March 2025	Belgium	IO2 – Online Self-assessment tool IO3 - Innovative Digital Toolkit
Full Partner Meeting 5	July 2025	online	Preparation National Events and Final Conference
Full Partner Meeting 6	November 2025	Portugal	Conclusion meeting

The host organisation of a full partner meeting will be responsible for managing the overall logistics of the transnational meeting. The coordinator, COP, and corresponding package leaders will prepare the detailed agenda and working papers/presentations for the event.

NATIONAL EVENTS

GRASS will organise the following NOC/countries Workshops and National events.

The workshops are planned to take place between **April – June 2025**, will comprise around 4/5 representative of grassroots sport organisations from the NOC/partners countries to introduce the overall GRASS initiative, to share and discuss the main realities and challenges faced by sport based on the main findings of the Mapping (IO1), and present, consult and test the draft version of the Online Self-Assessment Tool and Digital Toolkit (IO2 e IO3) to facilitate engagement, and development of safeguarding policies and measures. All discussions will be conducted in the national language.

Event Number	Venue	Date (tbc)	Organising Partners
workshop 1 Pilot local clubs (4/5)	Albania	April – June 2025	P5– KOKSH/NOC National Olympic Committee of Albania
workshop 2 Pilot local clubs (4/5)	Bulgaria	April – June 2025	P6 – MYS Bulgaria Ministry of Youth and Sport
workshop 3 Pilot local clubs (4/5)	Portugal	April – June 2025	P1 – COP National Olympic Committee of Portugal
workshop 4 Pilot local clubs (4/5)	Slovenia	April – June 2025	P7-OKS-ZŠZ National Olympic Committee of Slovenia

The National Events are planned to take place between **August - October 2025**, with representative of main stakeholders from the sport and child protection sectors from the NOC/countries partners to introduce the overall GRASS initiative, to share and discuss the main realities and challenges faced by pilot grassroots sport organisations based on the main findings from the consultation/testing, and present the Online Self-Assessment Tool and Digital Toolkit to the sport movement. All discussions will be conducted in the national language.

Event Number	Venue	Date (tbc)	Organising Partners
National event 1	Albania	August - October 2025	P5– KOKSH/NOC National Olympic Committee of Albania
National event 2	Bulgaria	August - October 2025	P6 – MYS Bulgaria Ministry of Youth and Sport
National event 3	Portugal	August - October 2025	P1 – COP National Olympic Committee of Portugal
National event 4	Slovenia	August - October 2025	P7-OKS-ZŠZ National Olympic Committee of Slovenia

MAJOR EVENTS:

- **MID TERM CONFERENCE (online) – DECEMBER 2024**

The Mid Term Conference will be organised with the project consortium and a number of external experts with the aim of present the progresses of the project and provide initial insights on the forthcoming project outputs; provide a platform for the evaluation of the state of play and for discussion on the next steps; and to link the project with the wider discussion on safeguarding in grassroots sport level.

- **FINAL CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 2025**

The final event in GRASS calendar, is organised with the aim to reach a wide audience and effectively disseminate the deliverables of the project.

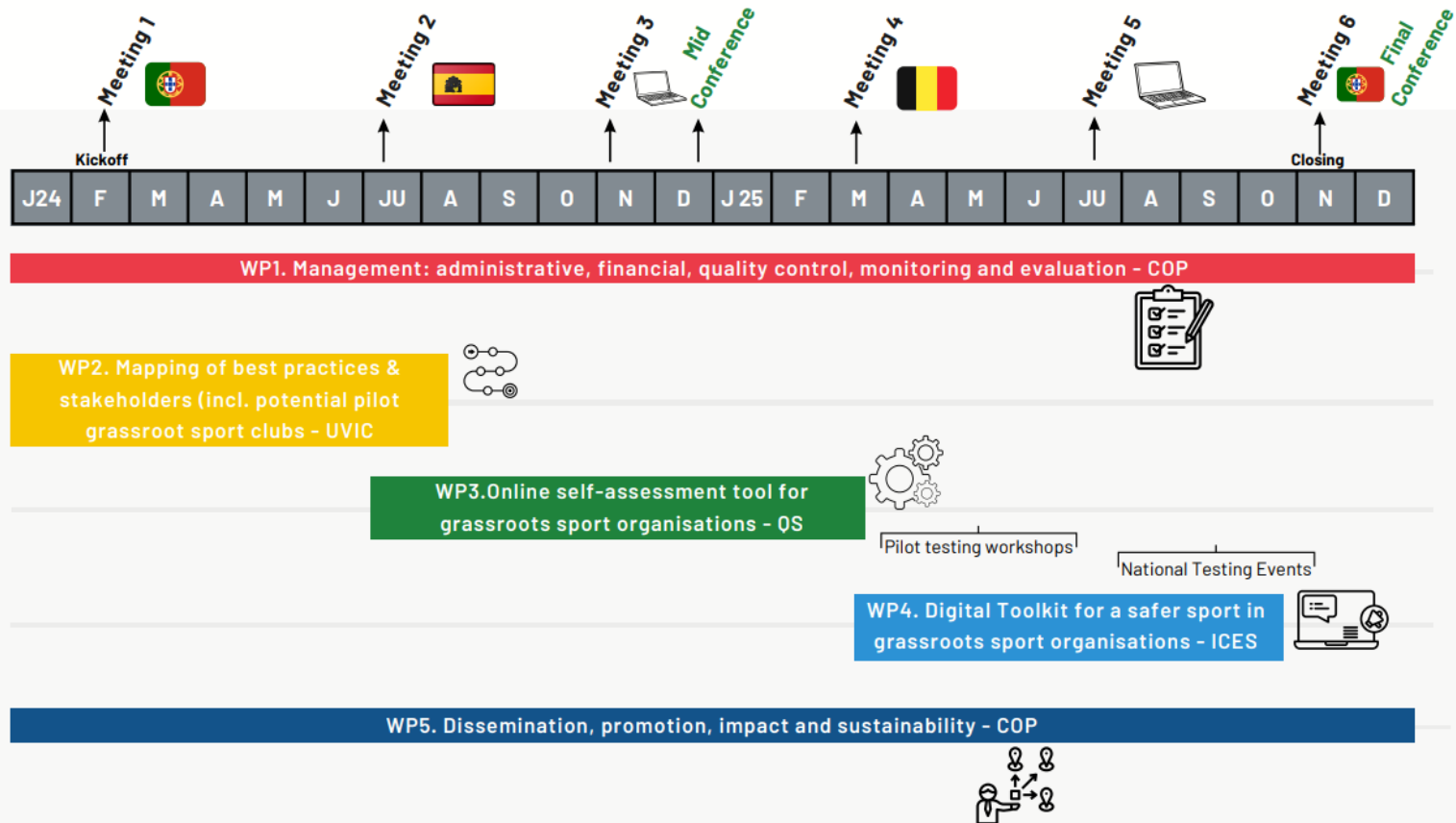
This will be a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders such as national ministries responsible for sport and child protection area, the European Commission, universities and training providers, research centers, National Olympic Committees, sport clubs, municipalities and local authorities, sport federations (EU and national), sport for all organisations, and European sport networks (umbrella organisations). Grassroots sport organisations will be invited to participate in the event and deliver testimonials about their experience.

The main topic will be safeguarding in grassroots sport level, its primacy in delivering a safe sport context for children and young people and its contribution to protect integrity and values through sport, focusing on improving good governance. In order to facilitate interaction, the event will include some plenary sessions and working group discussions on specific issues.

The overall objective is present GRASS, discuss the main findings and introduce the innovative outputs for safeguarding in grassroots sport level, developed through the funded period.

The graphic on the next page provides an overview of the workplan and meeting/event schedule.

#SAFERGRASSPORT TIMELINE



GRASS: STAKEHOLDERS, TARGET GROUPS, DISSEMINATION

The general objective of the dissemination and exploitation strategies is to ensure the widest impact possible. GRASS intends to reach out to a variety of target groups, relevant stakeholders, policymakers and the public through its research, development and consultation activities and events.

A detailed communication and dissemination provide a formal planning document for using and disseminating knowledge, information, and tools throughout and beyond GRASS project. The plan facilitates the common understanding of the aims of the dissemination activities; represent a key tool to take advantage in an effective and planned way of the dissemination channels to be used within the project.

GRASS partnership, including EPAS/COE as associated partner will use a specific strategy for conducting efficient and consistent dissemination during and beyond the project lifespan. The systematic dissemination and communication activities will be crucial to raise awareness about the project and its expected innovative outputs, to optimise the impact of the work and to enhance the potential for the intellectual outputs to be known, considered, and implemented in a sustainable way.

It will be important to ensure that relevant stakeholders from the grassroots sport level and particularly those with regular contact with children and young people, including parents and children themselves, will be targeted and made aware of the project and its achievements, using appropriate channels. Moreover, partners will have a significant role in convincing stakeholders and potential end-users of the added value and expected impact of the initiative for grassroots sport organisations, children and young people, the sport sector at all levels and European society more broadly.

Three major periods of dissemination activities can be identified. For each period, there will be different objectives, channels and audiences targeted through the dissemination activities:

- 1. Early in the project:** dissemination about the existence of GRASS
- 2. During the project:** dissemination about the progress of the work and opportunities to contribute, for example by taking part in the mapping of best practices and stakeholders, joining national consultation workshops and the national events, sharing comments and feedback, or attending the mid and final Conferences.
- 3. At the end/after:** dissemination to promote and present the project's final intellectual outputs, raise awareness, and share new knowledge on safeguarding, support exploitation and use of innovative tools, and create the conditions for sustainability.

The main objectives of the dissemination activities carried out through the project will be:

To raise awareness and reputation for the project and the main aims/outcomes to be expected
To make the best possible use of the of the variety of the partners' networks to disseminate across a wide mix of stakeholders at all levels in Europe (e.g., grassroots sport clubs, national sport federations, National Olympic Committees, governments, and ministries responsible for sport, child protection agencies, parents and children/young people in sport, and young athletes' entourage).

To use the widest possible range of means/channels available to ensure that the target audience, including end users/beneficiaries, are made aware of the project, its final intellectual outputs and the potential added value and positive change for the whole sector and the society.

The detailed work programme outlines the specific activities and expected outputs to be developed through GRASS. A number of these activities previewed throughout WP5 refer to Dissemination, promotion, impact, and sustainability where the following tools will be developed:

- Website. The main information hub for all external communications and information spread.
- Social media platforms. The social media presence will promote the project exposure and create a community of interested individuals and stakeholders. Social media profiles to be created are *facebook, twitter, Instagram and linkedin*.
- Brand book. This document will include the project logo, visual identity, and project image design norms.
- Leaflet. The leaflet will present the project and activities summary and will be disseminated in digital format.
- Periodic newsletters. To be sent to stakeholders and community.
- YouTube channel. To life streaming NOC/countries workshops, national events, and conferences.

Identified stakeholders will be reached by each partner engaging them at each key stage of the research and development, awareness raising through their own networks and routine activities, and by EOSE proactively promoting the project through its own membership and by regular communication with key policy and decision makers. The NOC/countries partners workshops and national events planned for the 2nd and 3rd trimester of 2025 will provide the opportunity to focus with national stakeholders on the two key intellectual outputs.

The Conferences will be relevant to all stakeholders from the sector as it will provide the opportunity to present the results of the GRASS and put the spotlight on safeguarding in sport, including the contribution to building the capacity of grassroots sport organisations. A wide variety of stakeholders will be invited to participate to ensure the representativeness of the whole spectrum of organisations in the sector. The graphic below shows a non-exhaustive list of stakeholders that will be targeted, involved, consulted through the activities of the project as well as all potential end-users and beneficiaries of the innovative intellectual outputs.



HOW GRASS CONNECTS TO EU POLICY

GRASS embraces the Treaty of Lisbon in Article 165 that outlined that “protecting the physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the youngest sportsmen and sportswomen”, is a way to develop the European dimension in sport and therefore a specific aim for Union action in the field of sport.

The European Commission’s White Paper on Sport, one of European policy developments relevant to safeguarding in sport, recognise the importance of protection of children in sport, notably the importance of actions against sexual abuse and harassment of minors in sport: “sport organisations to cooperate on the protection of the moral and physical integrity of young people through the dissemination of information on existing legislation, establishment of minimum standards and exchange of best practices”.

The European Union Work Plans for Sport been acknowledging the importance of “Safe environment in sport” since WPS 2014-2017, as one key topic defined for priority area Protection of integrity and values in sport. Overall, it aims at providing a safe environment in sport and preventing abuse, discrimination, and violence, with the overarching goals being to raise awareness, best practices exchange and to build knowledge in order to develop healthier societies.

Expert Group on Good Governance set up in 2016 through the Work Plan for Sport (2014-2017), developed recommendations on the protection of young athletes and safeguarding children's rights in sport⁴ and specific recommend that grassroots clubs should have a child protection policy in place when staff or volunteers have direct contact with minors.

The Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on safeguarding children in sport (2019)⁵, invited sport organisations to ensure that children are and feel safe in sport, and that they are heard and treated fairly and respectfully. Also, invite to development of clear sets of guidelines and regulations to make sure that sports organisations deal with child safeguarding concerns effectively.

GRASS will be a timely and important response from the sector to this policy context.

4 European Commission (2016): Recommendations on the Protection of Young Athletes and Safeguarding Children's Rights in Sport.

5 Available at: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG1212\(01\)&rid=3](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019XG1212(01)&rid=3)

