



CALL FOR PROPOSALS "INCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT RISK OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN SPORT"

1. Introduction and Background

Deadline for submission of project proposals

The Call is conducted as an open procedure in the form of a **permanently open call**. Project proposals will be accepted continuously, starting **from July 2, 2025, at 9:00 AM** until the available financial resources are fully depleted, and no later than **December 31, 2026**.

Background:

This PDP is implemented within the framework of Priority P3. Social Inclusion, Specific Objective (hereinafter: SC PULJP) SC ESO4.8. 3.h) Encouraging active inclusion to promote equal opportunities, non-discrimination and active participation and improving employability, especially for disadvantaged groups.

Research showed that as many as 62% of people over 15 years of age do not engage in any physical activity. The foundations for overall development and a healthy lifestyle are laid from an early age, and it is important to create the habit of daily physical exercise in as many children and young people as possible.

2. Subject and Purpose of the Call

General Purpose of the Call:

- To strategically increase the level of social inclusion of children and young people facing various forms of vulnerability through the systematic implementation of free sports and recreational programs. This directly influences the reduction of social distance and the creation of equal opportunities for all.

Specific Objective of the Call:

- To ensure the complete and free availability of quality sports and recreational content for targeted vulnerable groups. The purpose is to use sport as a tool to strengthen psychophysical health, develop social skills, and encourage active participation in the community, thereby acting preventively against social exclusion. The projects are financed by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) within the Effective Human Resources Programme 2021–2027.

3. Eligible Applicants and Partners

Eligible Applicants (Project Leaders):

- **Associations** registered in the Register of Legal Entities in Sport, which includes sports clubs, federations, and other civil society organizations whose primary activity is sport.
- **Primary and secondary schools** that have an active and registered school sports club within their structure.



Partnership: Projects can be implemented independently or in a partnership, which is strongly encouraged to ensure a comprehensive approach to the target groups.

Eligible Partners:

- Institutions registered in the Register of Legal Entities in Sport or the Register of Social Service Providers, such as social welfare centers or children's homes, which can assist in identifying and including beneficiaries.
- Primary and secondary schools with a school sports club.
- Higher education institutions, especially faculties of kinesiology and related study programs, which can contribute with professional knowledge and resources.
- Kindergartens, with the aim of including children of the earliest age in adapted programs.
- Associations (sports, social welfare, or those programmatically focused on working with children, youth, and persons with disabilities).

Key conditions for the Applicant and Partners (cumulative):

- **Financial Capacity:** The partnership as a whole must demonstrate business stability in such a way that the sum of their total revenues amounts to at least 25% of the total planned eligible project costs (according to the last available annual financial report).
- **Operational Capacity:** The project team must have the resources to implement the project, which is proven by the partnership having at least 1 employed person or at least 1 engaged volunteer, based on the last annual financial report.

Conditions regarding the number of applications or projects:

- **Number of applications:**
 - An applicant may submit only one project proposal.
 - An applicant may be a Partner in several project proposals at the same time.
 - Partners may participate in more than one project proposal
- **Number of funded projects:**
 - Only one Grant Agreement may be concluded with one Applicant.

4. Target Groups

Activities must be aimed at one or more of the following vulnerable groups, with the goal of providing support to those for whom sports activities are often financially or socially inaccessible:

- **Children and youth (up to 30 years old) at risk of social exclusion** due to the socio-economic status of their family, which includes children from families of unemployed parents, parents receiving child allowance, those without adequate parental care, from single-parent families, and from families with three or more children.



- **Children with developmental disabilities (up to 18 years old) and youth with disabilities (18–30 years old)**, for whom sport provides not only physical rehabilitation but also the development of self-confidence and social integration.
- **Children and young adults (up to 21 years old) with behavioral problems**, for whom structured sports activities provide a positive model for using free time and contribute to the development of self-discipline.

The minimum number of participants who must be included during the project implementation is **10**. Applicants are encouraged to include as many beneficiaries as possible, which is also evaluated in the quality assessment process.

5. Financial Allocation, Grant Amounts, and Aid Intensities

Financial allocation

- **Total:** €19.000.000,00
- **Grant Amounts (per project):**
 - **Minimum grant amount:** €50.000,00
 - **Maximum grant amount:** €150.000,00

Co-financing Intensity

- **Co-financing Intensity:** Up to **98%** of eligible costs, which means the Applicant is required to provide a minimum of 2% co-financing from their own sources

Key features of financing

- **Advance Payment:** It is possible to receive an advance payment of up to **40%** of the total allocated funds, which facilitates liquidity at the beginning of the project.
- **State Aid:** Rules on state aid or de minimis aid **do not apply** to this Call, given the non-economic nature of the activities.

6. Project Eligibility

The project proposal must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Implementation must not start before the Grant Agreement enters into force.
- The project must last at least **12 months** and at most **36 months**, in order to ensure continuity and real impact on participants.
- All project activities must be implemented in the territory of the **Republic of Croatia**.
- It is strictly **forbidden to charge participants** any type of registration fee or fee for participating in project activities. All activities must be completely free of charge for end beneficiaries.
- Applicants must not request/receive funds from other public sources for costs that will be reimbursed within the framework of the applied and for financing the selected project.



- It is mandatory to ensure that projects contribution to the promotion of one of the following horizontal principles:
 - Ensuring equality between women and men and promoting gender equality
 - Combating discrimination on all grounds
 - Measures to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities

7. Eligible Project Activities

Mandatory activities:

1. **Implementation of sports and recreational activities:** Implementation of existing or improved programs for target groups. The program must be structured and continuous, meaning it includes a minimum of 70 training sessions (each lasting at least 45 minutes) within one year. Examples may include, but are not limited to: regular training in various sports (football, basketball, athletics, swimming, gymnastics, martial arts, dance), organizing sports camps during school holidays, conducting sports days, organizing internal leagues, or participating in local competitions.
2. **Implementation of educational workshops:** It is necessary to conduct at least 2 workshops on the importance of sports and healthy lifestyles for the target groups. These workshops should be interactive and adapted to the age of the participants, and topics may include: the importance of proper nutrition for athletes, prevention of sports injuries, fair-play principles, mental preparation techniques and coping with pressure, and generally promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Horizontal activities (also mandatory):

- **Communication and visibility:** Organizing a final conference to present the project results and creating various promotional materials (leaflets, posters, social media posts) to ensure the visibility of the project and its EU funding.
- **Project management and administration:** Activities that include project coordination, financial management, reporting, and administration.

8. Eligible Costs

The entire project financing is based on **Simplified Cost Options (SCOs)**, which significantly facilitates the administration and justification of costs.

- **Direct staff costs:** These are the only costs that are proven with actual amounts. They cover the salaries of staff directly involved in the implementation of project activities (coaches, workshop leaders, coordinators). They are calculated using unit costs (calculation of the hourly rate based on the last documented annual gross salary cost).
- **Other direct and indirect costs:** All other project costs are calculated by applying a **flat rate of 40%** to the approved direct staff costs. This model significantly simplifies the financial management of the project, as the Applicant does not need to collect and justify individual invoices for costs falling under this rate. The 40% rate covers a wide range of costs necessary for implementation, such as:
 - **Equipment and props:** Purchase or rental of balls, mats, cones, jerseys, and other specific sports equipment.



- **External experts:** Engagement of additional coaches, kinesiologists, physiotherapists, or psychologists to work with target groups.
- **Logistics for participants:** Costs of organized transport to training and competitions, accommodation and food costs during multi-day activities (e.g., camps or competitions).
- **Registration fees and memberships:** Payment of registration fees for participation in tournaments and competitions.
- **Venue:** Rental of halls, fields, or other sports facilities.
- **Promotion and visibility:** Costs of printing leaflets, posters, brochures, T-shirts, and organizing the final conference.
- **Administrative and office costs (overheads):** Costs of telephone, internet, office supplies, accounting services, and the like.

9. Other Important Terms and Information

Conditions and information that are crucial for successful application and implementation of the project:

- **Sustainability Obligation**
 - The beneficiary is obliged to ensure the continuation of project activities even after the end of EU funding. This is demonstrated by the inclusion of **at least 3 new members of the target groups** in the programs within the first year after the project's completion.
- **Proof of Cost Eligibility**
 - Costs must be documented (invoices, contracts, proof of payment) and in accordance with the Call rules.
- **Reporting Obligation**
 - Regular reporting on project progress, finances, and indicator achievement is required.
- **Financial Corrections**
 - Failure to achieve the indicators may result in financial corrections according to the Call's methodology.

10. Contact Information

For all questions, clarifications, and support in preparing the project proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us. Contact us via e-mail (info@kardinalnapravila-savjetovanje.hr) or phone (+385-99-265-8526). We are at your disposal for all the information and advice you need for a successful application.