



SPORT4IMPACT Forum

Background

The SPORT4IMPACT Forum www.sport4impact.net is a multi-stakeholder entity, founded by the International Institute Study Sport Society (IISSS www.iiiss.it) in partnership with High School on Psychology Agostino Gemelli – SACRED Heart Catholic University, ISTAR Institute at University of Trento, University of Salento and Territoria Policy & Research Centre for Local Development through PPPs methodologies with its head office in Milan, Italy.

The Forum was conceived, designed and established in the period 2017-2018 during the preparatory and follow-up phase of UNESCO MINEPS VI in Kazan within the framework of a cooperative alliance with UNESCO itself and with the Italian Ministries for Sports and for Foreign Affairs, while structurally interacting with UNODC and with the Italian network of universities acting to promote the social role of sports (UNISPORT Italia) and other international universities, by leveraging on a first international conference held in January 2018 in Milan at Catholic University premises on one side, and on a set of projects funded by the European Commission on the other side.

Mission

SPORT4IMPACT is an International Forum with headquarters in Milan (Italy) which promotes a systemic use of sport for social purposes in view of UN SDGs.

The Forum's mission is to substantially contribute to the design and implementation of policies and programs with the aim of building strong local communities through a strategic use of sport at the local level that optimally aligns with 16 SDGs through the 17th Goal (Multi-stakeholder approach/PPPs). Specific focus areas relate to social inclusion, sport integrity, skill development, capacity building, local development and innovation.

In short the mission of the Sport4Impact Network is articulated in two main components:

- on one side, to contribute to the elaboration and diffusion of specific approaches and methodologies to increase the impact of programs using sports for social scopes in a durable and substantive perspective (also by identifying at least one project with high potential for social transformation in each country);
- on the other side, to contribute to create the preconditions and the technical and contextual conditions to increase the potential for fund-raising of selected high-impact projects, with special attention to the segments of financial operators along ESG standards.

Sport4Impact currently interacts at different levels with approximately 100 countries, mainly based on academia, but including governments, sport bodies and specialized NGOs.

Sport4Impact cooperates strictly with the international financial community and with the private sector in order to raise capital for business operations accomplishing ESG standards aiming at social impact through private-public cooperation models. Sport4Impact is organizing the first international conference on Impact Investing for Sport in partnership with UNESCO on upcoming 15th April at Milan Stock Exchange.

Global footprint

The Sport4Impact Forum has formal members and substantive informal interactions with approximately eighty countries, including a relevant presence in Latin America (specially with Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba and Panama), in the Middle East and MENA Region (including Lebanon, Tunisia, Qatar, Israel) and in Africa (specially with South Africa, Burundi, Madagascar, Somalia, Senegal, Kenya and Nigeria).

Approach and Methodology

The Sport4Impact Forum follows a multi-stakeholder approach in forming long-term alliances with multiple agencies and engage in dialogue with academic experts, public and private sector entities, sport bodies and funders, SDP agencies and networks amongst others. As a community of practitioners, it interacts and collaborates with the United Nations system and promote international guidelines, conventions and resolutions. It promotes the application of a simplified methodology informed by international guidelines, conventions and resolutions of UNESCO, UNODC and DESA.

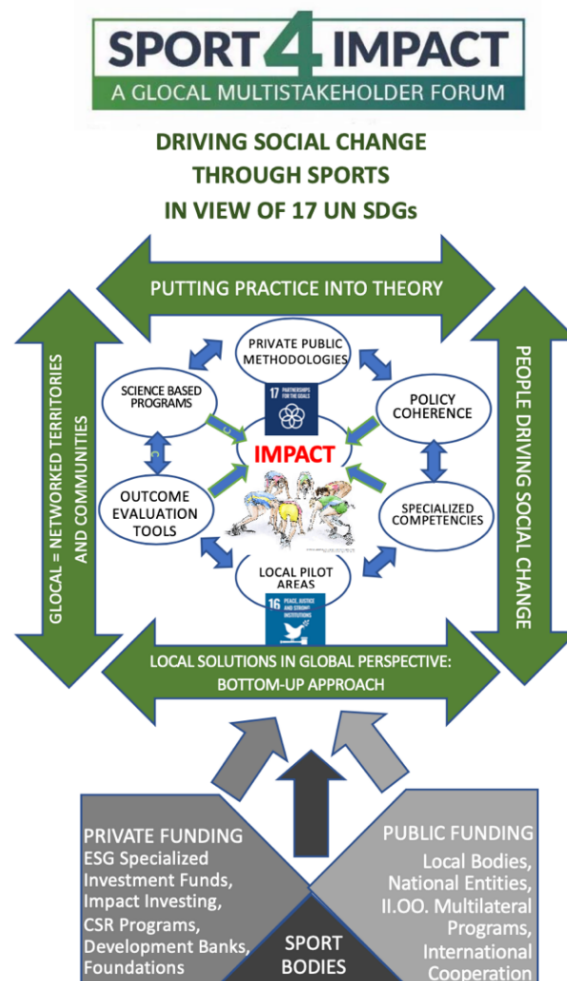


Figure 1. Sport4Impact approach and activities for impact

Activities

Promote the role of finance and facilitate collaboration from private sector entities to co-design and scale-up existing, sport (including SDP) programs, practices and local initiatives. Implement focused interventions such as newcos, facilitate access to funding and PPP operations within the ESG, CSR and by driving investments for optimal transformative change or impact. Key offerings include:

- Developing and implementing SDP projects in local pilot areas.
- Assisting in designing and offering science-based programs (e.g., digital education and SDP work).
- Implementing public-private methodologies.
- Offering outcome-focused evaluation tools.
- Advising on and assisting with policy coherence.
- Offering specialized competencies.

Other activities of global reach relate to hosting or offering international conferences on:

- Anti-match fixing since 2014.
- UNESCO supported international conferences in 2018, 2021 and 2023 that focused on featuring experts and representatives from diverse stakeholders to discuss topical issues around SDP.

Main Qualifying Initiatives

IISSS has contributed to and promoted projects and conferences at national and international level.

Under the patronage of the Department of Sport of Italy, and the support of UNESCO and GAISF, it organized the [First International Sport4Impact Conference](#) in 2018 in Milan.

In 2021, the [Second International Sport4Impact Conference](#) was held, in an online format due to Covid-19 restrictions. In 2021, IISSS also organized the '[Integrity in Sport](#)' Conference, promoted by the Council of Europe under the EPAS Program and the Department for Sport of the Italian Prime Minister's Office, with the collaboration of MAECI Ministero per gli Affari Esteri e la Cooperazione Internazionale within the framework of the Italian Presidency Semester of the Council of Europe.

Among the initiatives of note, IISSS contributed to the [UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport](#), drafting [Chapter 6 'Organised Crime and Sport'](#), published in 2021.

From 2020 to 2022, IISSS was an Associate Partner of the project [Doping Raising Awareness among youths in Sport recreational environments \(DRAWS\)](#), funded by the Erasmus+ program.

Links with the academic system

IISSS has built over time a strong system of relations with Italian and international universities. In particular with the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, the University of Trento and the University of Salento, the University of Tralee (Ireland), Manuel Fajardo University (Cuba), University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), Universidad de Alcalá (Spain), Notre Dame University (Lebanon), University of Athens (Greece), among others. In addition to individual universities, IISSS has a strong dialogue with university networks, both with regard to sport, especially with the UNISPORT ITALIA network <https://www.unisport-italia.it>, which brings together 55 Italian universities and aims to promote the strategic role of sport at university level, and the European ENAS network. As far as sustainability issues are concerned, IISSS has initiated a collaboration with the RUS network <https://reterus.it>.

Track record (Selected activities)

In addition to the above-mentioned Sport4Impact International conferences and the EPAS conference on 'Integrity in Sport', IISSS has contributed to organize the following conferences:

- 2014: **MATCH FIXING: a key issue for sports integrity**
<http://www.anti-match-fixing-formula.eu/images/Documenti/Match%20Fixing%20-%20Workshop%20-%20A4%20-%20ENG%2002.pdf>
- 2017: **PROTECTED REPORTING SYSTEMS: a key-leverage to contrast match-fixing and organized crime infiltration into the sport market**
<http://www.anti-match-fixing-formula.eu/images/Documenti/Agenda-MatchFixing-set2017-A4web-02ENG.pdf>
- 2018: **TACKLING CORRUPTION IN SPORT Towards a robust private-public alliance based on the UNCAC Resolution 7/8 The Italian scenario**
<http://www.anti-match-fixing-formula.eu/images/Documenti/Programma%20Conferenza%20-%20Match%20Fixing%20-%20Apr2018%20-%20A4%20-%2006%20ENG.pdf>
- 2018: **Prima Conferenza Internazionale Sport4Impact**
<http://conference2018.sport4impact.net>
- 2021: **Seconda Conferenza Internazionale Sport4Impact**
<https://conference2021.sport4impact.net/node/5>
- 2021: **Conferenza Internazionale "Integrità nello Sport"**
<http://integrityinsport-roma2021.it>

and has contributed to the design and implementation of the following projects:

- 2013: **Stop Match-fixing**
<http://stop-match-fixing-italia.org>
- 2015-2017: **Anti Match-fixing Formula**
<http://www.anti-match-fixing-formula.eu/>
- 2016-2018: **Anti Match-fixing Top Training (AMATT)**
<http://amatt-digitalclassroom.eu> - <https://www.amatt.eu>
- 2017-2019: **Training to Protected Reporting from Professional and Grassroots Sports (T-PREG)**
<http://www.tpreg-digitalclassroom.eu> - <http://www.tpreg-training.eu>
- 2020-2022: **Doping Raising Awareness among youths in Sport recreational environments (DRAWS)**
<https://asag.unicatt.it/asag-ricerca-e-progetti-draws>
- 2020-2022: **Skills By Sport for Med: Sport as a vehicle for developing skills for the labor market and promoting employability and entrepreneurship (SBS4MED)**
<https://asag.unicatt.it/asag-ricerca-e-progetti-skills-by-sport-for-med-sport-as-a-vehicle-for-developing-skills-for-the-labor>
- 2024: **Building Futures:** <https://www.building-futures.net>
DigiRoot: <https://digiroot-project.eu>