

Introduction to UNESCO Chair ongoing projects

The UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities their Families and Communities Through Physical Education, Sport, Recreation and Fitness" was established by UNESCO in 2013 in the Institute of Technology Tralee, which became Munster Technological University in January 2021. We work with UNESCO and other partners to advance disability inclusion in and through sport while taking an intersectional approach that considers inclusion in a broader scope.

We work on several projects to further inclusion, human rights, and SDGs in and through sport, including the below.

- **Kazan Plan Implementation:** In 2017, the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) adopted the Kazan Action Plan (KAP) "to facilitate international and multi-stakeholder policy convergence, ease international cooperation and foster capacity-building efforts of governmental authorities and sports". KAP is a coherent mechanism for policy development, implementation and monitoring aligned with universal human rights and the SDGs within and beyond the UN system. UNESCO Charged the UNESCO Chair with leading a global consortium to advance the inclusive policy actions of the Kazan Action Plan. This action (action 1) focuses on respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights in and through sport. The action closely aligns with a separate action (action 2) on measuring the contribution of sport, physical education and physical activity to the SDGs. Under action 1, the UNESCO Chair, in collaboration with many international partners, has developed a series [of draft tools](#) for states, NHRIs and civil society to assist them in reporting to the UN human rights monitoring bodies on human rights in and through sport. These draft tools include reporting indicators that are largely aligned to indicators under action 2 of the Kazan Action Plan and human rights indicators developed by OHCHR. The UNESCO Chair has met with several UN human rights treaty bodies in Geneva to discuss this initiative and present the draft tools. During these meetings, we called on the Committees to:
 1. Consider a General Comment on Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (PEPAS).
 2. Advocate and endorse the development of a UN Human Rights Fact Sheet on Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport.
 3. Ensure that state and non-state reporting mechanisms include representation from the PEPAS sector through direct reference in guidance notes and or list of issues.
 4. Endorse and promote the development of reporting templates and advocacy tools on treaty bodies and PEPAS.
 A side event at the Universal Periodic Review has also been held.
- **TRUST:** With funding from the Democratic and Inclusive School Culture in Operation (DISCO) program of the EU and Council of Europe, the UNESCO Chair, and key partners, are developing TRUST – The Rights Understanding in Sport - as a training module for use in schools, colleges, clubs and the wider community, providing resources for teaching human rights in and through sport and for embracing a human rights approach to sport education. It

includes theoretical and practical resources that will help foster effective rights-based sport education and delivery practices. TRUST also delivers advocacy and audio-visual materials to help raise awareness of the role that sport can play in promoting these rights, particularly when addressing the needs of all in sport, including minority groups such as people with disabilities. A draft for review is currently available and opportunities for dissemination of this resource are ongoing.

- **[TRUST Ireland](#)**: This project funded by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission aims to:
 - Increase understanding among state actors, the sports sector and grassroots organisations of sport both as a human right and as a tool for human rights promotion, including within the context of Irish reporting to UN human rights mechanisms.
 - Ensure that grassroots organisations can articulate to the State their contribution towards implementing human rights through sport on the ground and hold the State to account regarding their human rights treaty obligations related to sport and facilitate conversations between all actors.
 - Facilitate conditions for better engagement between all actors on human rights, sport reporting and policy development.

To achieve these aims, TRUST Ireland is preparing to host a series of workshops with rightsholders, including people with disabilities, Travellers, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, LGBTI+ community, women and girls and socio-economically disadvantaged groups. TRUST Ireland partners will train rightsholders from each of the identified groups to lead the rightsholder workshops to ensure that the sessions are as relevant as possible, fostering a sense of ownership over the process. Separately, we will convene with the National Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships, Higher Education Institutions and Education Training Boards and hold expert dialogues with representatives from across governmental departments. We hope that national human rights institutions and interested organisations in other countries will adopt TRUST Ireland as a good practice model for socialising human rights in and through sport and engendering multi-stakeholder cooperation in this domain.

- **[iPEPAS](#)**: iPEPAS is a blended learning, training and education resource which inclusivizes physical education, physical activity and sport (PEPAS) training and education, increasing the capacity of practitioners to operate inclusively. iPEPAS enables PEPAS-related training and education providers to increase the capacity and self-efficacy of their learners (i.e. pre-service or in-service practitioners) to operate inclusively. iPEPAS adopts an intersectional approach to inclusion, while focusing on the inclusion of people with disabilities. It is currently being piloted with the Mauritius Institute of Education.
- **[The Inclusive Martial Arts Platform](#)**, developed by the UNESCO Chair in collaboration with UNESCO ICM (International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement), provides educational resources for martial arts educators. An innovative online educational course has been designed for increasing self-efficacy among martial arts instructors, preparing them to work with women and girls effectively, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

- [Plan2Inclusivize](#) (P2I) is an active and participatory approach developed to promote social inclusion of children with disabilities through inclusive sports and play. It aims to encourage and contribute to mainstreaming inclusion in development and humanitarian programming to build inclusive societies. Plan2Inclusivize strives to improve the inclusion of children with disabilities in education and communities by increasing the capacity of practitioners and volunteers to deliver inclusive physical education and sport & play programmes as well as to facilitate children with disabilities to empower themselves by providing them with opportunities to experience inclusive sport and play. P2I is a five-day training course. It has been successfully piloted in several development and humanitarian settings in collaboration with Plan International and International Needs.
- [Universal Fitness Innovation & Transformation](#) (UFIT) is a social movement led by the UNESCO Chair building capacity in the fitness industry to mainstream diversity through local partnerships in a lifelong, life-wide manner for greater well-being. There are currently over 100 fitness clubs involved with UFIT across USA, Ireland, UK, Portugal, Spain and Peru. National taskforces have been set up in order to optimize the impact at a local level. The UFIT programme offers a range of online resources and onsite capacity building program or training to staff on how to include in keeping with the needs of the individual sites.