

THE SPORT TRANSPARENCY INDEX NEWSLETTER

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SIGA Sport Integrity Week 2023

The Sport Transparency Index took centre stage during SIGA's Sport Integrity Week 2023.

Held between 2 to 9 September, 2023 the global thought-leadership event was the landmark event of the year for all those in the sports industry with an interest in Sport Integrity.

The 2023 Sport Integrity Week delivered a globally inclusive and accessible celebration of Sport Integrity in a dynamic and interactive format. Events were hosted from multiple cities around the world, as SIGA promoted a de-centralized approach that raised global awareness of its mission and vision, while emphasizing the crucial role of its members, Committed Supporters and key projects - not least the Sport Transparency Index which was broadly disseminated to a global audience throughout the entire Sport Integrity Week.

The Sport Integrity Week mission is to unite the global sporting industry, share best practice and find solutions to current and future challenges to enhance Sports' governance, protect Sport's integrity and ensure Sport's long-term, sustainable development. To be involved in the 2024 edition of this unique global thought leadership event that takes place at a watershed moment in History, please contact the Sport Transparency Index Co-Ordinator Dr. Iain Lindsay below:

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Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) at the SIGA Sports Integrity Week 2023

On the 4th of September 2023, as a part of the SIGA Sport Integrity Week, the VUB team organized a small Hybrid (in person and online) event to discuss pertinent issues related to the Sport Transparency index. The meeting, which lasted for 2 hours, was divided into two sections: the first one was the keynote speeches of Dr. Aminova and Dr. Carlos Machado on the findings related to the transparency of Sport Federations, while the second part was a roundtable discussion related to Safeguarding Sport: Enabling Integrity and Compliance. Dr. Trisha Meyer, the Director of the Center moderated the discussion. Dr. Sofie Smismans, Researcher from the “Sports policy factors leading to international sporting success” international consortium, took an active part in the discussion.

Some of the topics which were touched upon included:

- Which key differences exist in transparency and disclosure of sport organizations vs. other types of organizations (e.g. public sector organizations)?
- Which mechanisms exist for controlling the size of sport organizations while applying similar standards of transparency and disclosure?
- What parallels can be drawn between disclosure and transparency vs legal system (civil law vs. common law system) or culture vs. Disclosure?
- Which relationships are more vulnerable for corruption and other malpractices in sport?
- In your opinion, what are the most effective strategies or best practices for promoting integrity and preventing corruption in sports organizations?
- What are the key motivational factors that can prevent engagement in misconduct in sports?
- How can international organizations and sports federations support integrity and compliance in sport?

The meeting continued with a coffee and sandwich networking. As a result of the meeting the team made significant progress in analyzing the 15 transparency indicators.



The Sport Transparency Index at the 23rd Conference of Sport Management & Recreation of HSASMR

We are pleased to share that the Sport Transparency Index was part of the academic presentations at the recent 23rd Conference of Sport Management & Recreation organised by the Hellenic Scientific Association for Sport Management & Recreation in Thessaloniki, Greece. EPSI's Project Manager, [Panos Papageorgiou](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sportandrecreationmanagement/), presented our project to a diverse and engaged audience comprising various stakeholders, including representatives from municipalities, academic institutions, sport associations, and organisations.

HSASMR LinkedIn Tag: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sportandrecreationmanagement/>



Research Report of the Sport Transparency Index

During the last months of 2023, VUB and SIGA mapped and conducted extensive research on existing models covering good governance in sport. The resulting report - outcome of WP2 - also takes a deeper look into the existing sport transparency indicators and cross compares them in order to propose 15 Sport transparency indicators to be utilised as the means of evaluation for the Sport Transparency Index. This index will enable stakeholders to objectively rank, compare and contrast basic transparency levels within sport (namely sport clubs, leagues, national associations and international governing bodies) in order to enable, facilitate, measure and quantify standards of transparency in Sport.

The report is structured as follows: the project roadmap is listed with the detailed actions for the implementation of each of the deliverables, steps, timeframe, specific methodology and other details. It is followed by a short literature synthesis, and explanation of the methodology, followed by an analysis. The analysis covers 13 different research projects, all specifically related to transparency indicators. The initial phase of the research identified 44 potential transparency indicators that could be adopted for the Index, this was, through a variety of mechanisms, refined and condensed to the final set of 15. The process of arriving into 15 indicators is outlined thereafter. The report ends with a conclusion, inclusive of an overview of some limitations faced during the project implementation. The appendixes include relevant documentation, including the mapping exercise for some federations, as well as the slides of the discussions prepared during the meetings in London and Toledo.

STI indicators Features	Definition	Validation	Evidenced by
Organizational/Governance Transparency			
Governance and organizational structure	<i>Publishing of sport organization's organizational structure</i>	The Sports Organization has an established organizational structure that delineates a clear separation of functions and makes this information publicly available on their website.	Online access to organizational chart
Code of Conduct	<i>Implementation of code of conduct that applies to its board members, management and staff</i>	Sport organization publish their code of conduct within internal regulations or documentation.	Online access to specific document (code of conduct) or itemized within the statutes
Board membership	<i>Publishing of sport organization's governance structure which helps identify potential conflict of interests</i>	Sport organization publishes the organization's governance structure, including the composition of the board and decision-making processes (including presence of independent actors), biography and CVs or any other information.	Board member composition published on the website
General assembly	<i>Publishing information related to the sport organization's general assembly, minutes, agenda or decisions reached</i>	The sport organization has a regular general assembly meeting, and the decision-making process is transparent, this serves as an indicator of public access to decision making process.	Online access to agenda, minutes or decisions of the general assembly
Membership (in organizations)	<i>Access to stakeholders, members, athletes and public or membership of the sport organization in larger structures</i>	The sport organization publishes the list of members on their website as a sign of transparency and enabling access to information	Public access to the list of organizational members/membership in organizations
Lists all Sponsors / Partners	<i>Access to sponsors and partners, and any fee-paying or affiliated stakeholders</i>	The sport organization publishes the list of affiliated partners or sponsors on their website to give public access to information.	Public access to the list of partners or sponsors
Operational Transparency			
Equal opportunities and diversity policy	<i>Documentation that outlines an organization's commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace and sports practice.</i>	The sport organization offers an equal opportunity and diversity policy to its staff and members	Online access to specific document or defined within the statutes
Data privacy and security policy	<i>Documentation that outlines the organization's commitment to protecting the privacy and security of personal data.</i>	The sport organization complies with data privacy and protection regulations.	Online access to specific document or defined within the statutes
Whistle blower policy	<i>Set of guidelines that protect employees who report illegal or unethical behavior within an organization, offering protection from retaliation.</i>	The sport organization offers whistleblower protection without reprisal	Organization's statutes and internal regulations
Stakeholder engagement/consultation policy	<i>Documentation outlining the organization's approach to engaging with stakeholders in decision-making processes defining the scope of engagement and communication channels</i>	Sport organizations take into consideration stakeholders' opinions when making decisions.	Online access to specific document or defined within the statutes
Betting-match fixing policy	<i>Documentation outlining the organization's regulations towards betting-match fixing practices.</i>	Sport organizations regulate the betting and match-practices of members and relatives.	Online access to specific document or defined within the statutes
Financial Transparency			
Compliance with accounting standards	<i>Compliance with international accounting standards through external audits.</i>	Sport organizations are audited externally.	Audited financial statements
Financial disclosure and reporting	<i>Publishing of financial statements and/or annual financial reports.</i>	Sport organizations make publicly available their financial statements and annual financial reports.	Financial statements and/or financial annual reports
Procurement policy	<i>Documentation outlining the procedures and guidelines for purchasing goods and services by a sport organization with publication of existing contracts.</i>	Sport organizations make available procurement contracts.	Online access to procurement mechanisms and/or policy
Corruption policy	<i>Document that outlines the measures and procedures that an organization has put in place to prevent and control fraudulent or corrupt practices.</i>	The sport organization includes corruption policies and/or anti-corruption mechanisms within its statutes as a separate distinctive document.	Online access to specific corruption policy documentation or substantial section devoted to corruption within the statutes.

SIGA Sport Integrity Journal

An article covering the Sport Transparency Index will be featured in the upcoming edition of the Sport Integrity Journal.

This special edition is dedicated to Good Governance in Sport and will be released on December 15th, 2023.

To access this edition and previous releases please visit the following link:

<https://siga-sport.com/siga-sport-integrity-journal/>

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