

# The Sport Transparency Index Pilot Study Report



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## **Introduction**

The Sport Transparency Index will independently evaluate and benchmark transparency levels within European Sport stakeholders. The project's goal is not only to measure and quantify Transparency but also to foster awareness, inclusivity, and capacity-building, thereby contributing to the broader objectives of promoting Integrity, Good Governance and facilitating positive evolution in European Sport.

The project has undergone multiple develop phases which began by conducting an in-depth Mapping Exercise which enabled the definition and articulation of a holistic Transparency and Governance Framework for European Sport. The corresponding multi-method research approach that was adopted included desk-based research, surveys, focus groups and interviews, in combination with the active engagement of high-level stakeholders.

The outputs facilitated the identification of existing models, structures, Good Governance barriers and enablers and corresponding gaps. This Research Mapping (which is available on the Sport Transparency Index Website) was used as the foundations to develop a 15-item Evaluation Matrix-Methodology that would be used to interrogate Sport Organisations and is intended to inform the Transparency Index rankings. These 15 items – to be referred to as Indicators – were divided into the following categories:

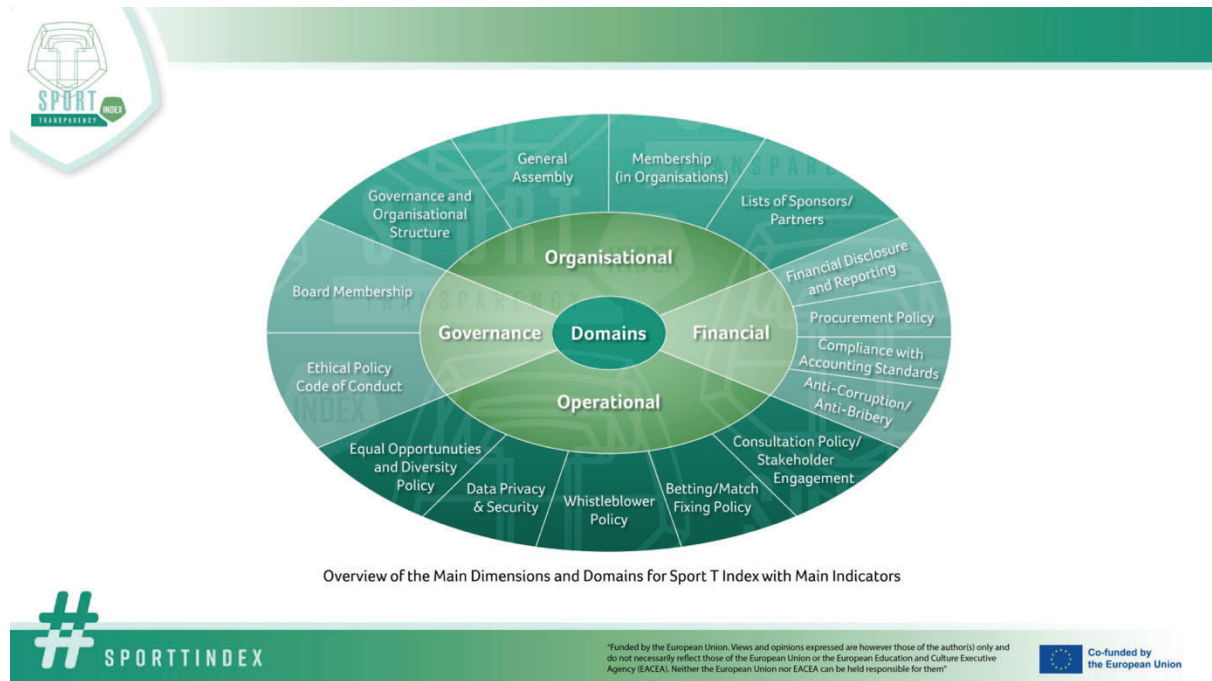
1. Organisational Indicators
2. Financial Indicators
3. Operational Indicators / Good Governance Indicators

The adoption of the above methodology will permit multi-dimensional, entirely objective and external evaluations of Sport Organisations to occur and a European Sport Transparency Index to be populated.

As per the project design following the articulation of this 15-item Evaluation Matrix a Pilot Study was conducted to test the validity of each Evaluation Matrix Item and corresponding grouping.

## Sport Transparency Indicators

The 15 Sport Transparency Index indicators are as follows:

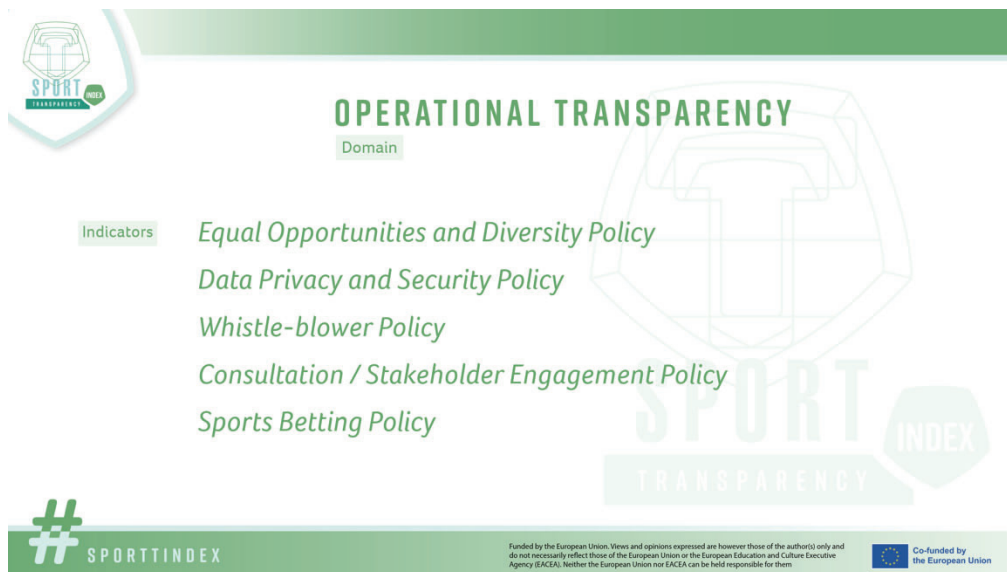


These 15 Sport Transparency Index indicators were further segregated into three umbrella categories:

Organisational / Governance Transparency Indicators:



## Operational Transparency Indicators:



The graphic features a green header with the Sport Index logo on the left. The main title 'OPERATIONAL TRANSPARENCY' is centered in green, with 'Domain' written below it. A list of indicators is presented on the left, and a large, faint background logo of the Sport Index is visible on the right. The footer includes the Sport Index logo, a disclaimer, and the European Union logo.

**Operational Transparency**  
Domain

Indicators

- Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy*
- Data Privacy and Security Policy*
- Whistle-blower Policy*
- Consultation / Stakeholder Engagement Policy*
- Sports Betting Policy*

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## Financial Transparency Indicators:



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**Financial Transparency**  
Domain

Indicators

- Accounting Standards*
- Financial Disclosure and Reporting*
- Procurement Policy*
- Anti-Corruption Policy*

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## Pilot study research objective

To test and validate each of the 15 Sport Transparency Index indicators across these three overarching domains.

## Methodology

### Development of the instrument

The process to test the validity of each indicators involved the recruitment of researchers from a variety of different nations across Europe, each with a designated area of research testing focus wherein they would apply the methodology to a specific and defined set of Sport Organisations.

The researchers that participated in the Pilot study comprised participants from the following nations:

- **Netherlands:** Managed by the European Multisport Club Association (EMCA)
- **Portugal:** Managed by the Portuguese Swimming Federation (FPN), The Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) and International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS)
- **Spain:** Managed by the University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM)
- **Cyprus:** Managed by the Institute for Sport Governance (ISG).

Prior to the evaluation process the researchers underwent a comprehensive review and training phase to ensure consistency of approach and continuity of process. Each researcher was also given an evaluation and process template to complete during their evaluations to ensure that each assessment was catalogued, which would permit generalisable findings regarding the process, the utility and the efficacy of each indicator in addition to the binary scoring that will generate the Sport Transparency Index score for each Sport Organisation.

### Indicator Evaluation

The researchers then applied the methodology to their designated populations and scored the Sport Organisations accordingly, whilst concomitantly evaluating the research process and each indicator. Following this process the researchers evaluated each of the indicators in accordance with the evaluation matrix and utilised the universal scoring and feedback mechanisms to compile their conclusions of the validity and utility of each indicator. These reviews were

subsequently collated and evaluated to enable conclusions to be drawn regarding the validity of each Indicator.

<b>Sport Transparency Index Indicators:</b>
<b>Organizational / Governance Domain</b>
1. Governance / Organizational Structure
2. Code of Conduct
3. Board Membership
4. Membership (in organizations)
5. List of Sponsors / Partners
6. General Assembly
<b>Operational Domain</b>
7. Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy
8. Data Privacy and Security Policy
9. Whistle-blower Policy
10. Consultation / Stakeholder Engagement Policy
11. Sports Betting Policy
<b>Financial Domain</b>
12. Accounting Standards
13. Financial Disclosure and Reporting
14. Procurement Policy
15. Anti-Corruption Policy

The evaluation process explored the perceptions of “degree of adequacy of the item to the assessment of transparency” on a scale that varied from 0- Not appropriate to 5- Very appropriate, aiming to test content validity.

The quantitative results showed that items showing lowest level of adequacy:

- a) items with the lowest minimum adequacy values are 11, 15, and 10.
- b) items with the lower average adequacy obtained by all responses are items 11, 14, and 15, and;

c) items with the greatest variability in adequacy was items 15, 10, and 11 showed significant variability in adequacy ratings, with high standard deviations.

## Data Collection

The Sports Organisations that were selected for review from the above nations were taken from multiple classifications to enable conclusions regarding generalisable stakeholder applicability. For further validation of the Sport Transparency Index Indicators the researchers evaluated the websites of 196 Sport Organisations from a cross section of different European Sport Organisations, namely:

- 7 (seven) World Federations (WF)
- 7 (seven) European Federations (EF)
- 6 (six) Umbrella National Organizations (UNO)
- 73 (seventy-three) National Federations (NF)
- 21 (twenty-one) Regional Associations (RA)
- 82 (eighty-two) Clubs (CL)

## Results

### Score Scale items

The descriptive analysis of Transparency Index items presented means from .02 (Item 11) to .88 (Items 1 and 3) and statistical deviations from .14 (Item 11) to .5 (item 2). Table 1 presents the means and statistical deviations to each item, as well as the total number of answers obtained to each item (missing values are not considered directly relevant to the validity of the indicator for the purposes of this review).

Descriptive Statistics			
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Analysis N
Item1	,88	,327	256
Item2	,50	,501	256
Item3	,88	,327	256
Item4	,61	,489	256
Item5	,78	,414	256
Item6	,45	,498	256
Item7	,24	,427	256
Item8	,56	,498	256
Item9	,19	,394	256
Item10	,13	,331	256
Item11	,02	,139	256
Item12	,36	,482	256
Item13	,61	,488	256
Item14	,22	,414	256
Item15	,18	,385	256

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of isolated items

Descriptive statistics of the overall result varies from 0 (Min.) to 13 (Maximum), with a Mean of 6,54 (Statistic deviation = 2.88).

#### Reliability

The 15 Sport Transparency Index indicators had sufficient reliability, with Cronbach's  $\alpha = .72$ . However, it should be acknowledged that Indicators 9 and 10 presented a correlation less than 0.1 and presented greater values of Chronbach alpha of, .73. In accordance with the validity testing an exploration of the results that reduced the indicators to 13 presented a Chronbach's  $\alpha = .74$ .

#### Test dimensionality

A principal axis factor analysis was conducted on 13 items with varimax rotation.

The Kaiser-Meyer Olkin measure verified the sampling adequacy for the analysis, KMO = .69 (which is above the acceptable limit of .5). An initial analysis was run to obtain eigenvalues for each factor in the data. Four factor had eigenvalues over Kaiser's criterion of 1 and in combination explained 56.53% of the variance. The scree plot was ambiguous and showed



inflexions that would justify retaining either 2 or 4 factors. We retained 4 factors because of the large sample size, the convergence of the scree plot and Kaiser’s criterion on this value and also, the accordance with based theory.

## CONSTRUCT VALIDITY

### Evaluation Results

There are no significant differences between evaluators,  $H(3) = 1.85$ ,  $p = .6$ ; with total means from 5.65 to 7 and medians from 5.5 to 7, as can be observed in the graph bellow. Detailed, evaluator IP presented a mean of 5.65 (SD = .65) and a median of 5.5; evaluator SC with a mean and median of 7 (SD = .83); evaluator IL with a mean of 6.15 (SD = .43) and a median of 6; and the last evaluator with a mean of 6.76 (SD = .85) and a median of 6.

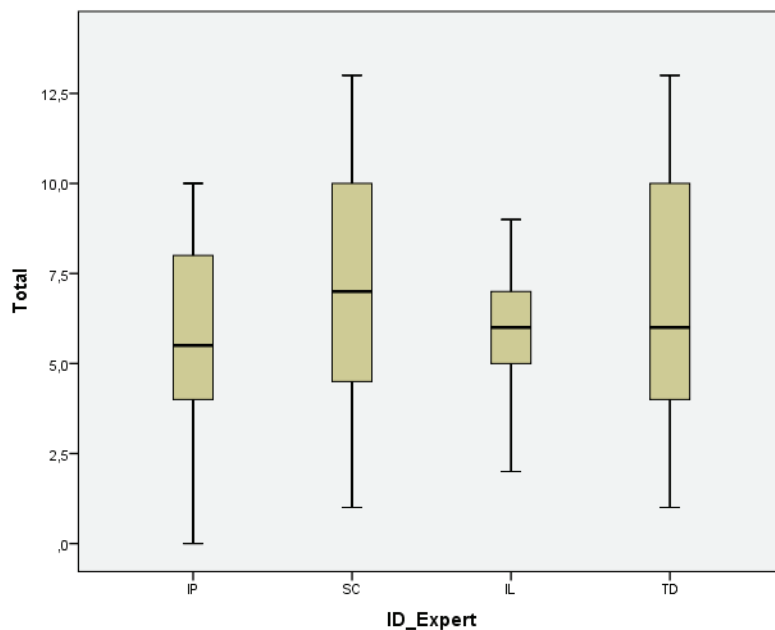


Figure 1. Transparency Index total results of evaluated significant differences between evaluators.

### Institution level results

The totals of Transparency Index were significantly affected by Institution level,  $H(5) = 63.29$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , with Levels 2- World Federations (WF) (Mdn = 9.14), 5- National Federations (NF) (Mdn = 8.11) and 3- European Federations (EF) (Mdn = 7.71) with higher total results, and Levels 6- Regional Associations (RA) (Mdn = 5.29) with the lowest (See Table 2 and Graph 2). In

the Graph 2 is also possible to observe a higher heterogeneity of transparency index total of the institutions of levels 5- National Federations (NF), 6- Regional Associations (RA) and 7- Clubs (CL).

**Report**

Total

Inst_Level	Mean	N	Std. Deviation
2	9,14	7	,900
3	7,71	7	2,690
4	6,83	6	1,472
5	8,11	94	2,236
6	5,29	42	2,616
7	5,31	100	2,863
Total	6,54	256	2,884

Table 2 – Transparency Index total means of evaluated institutions by Organizational levels

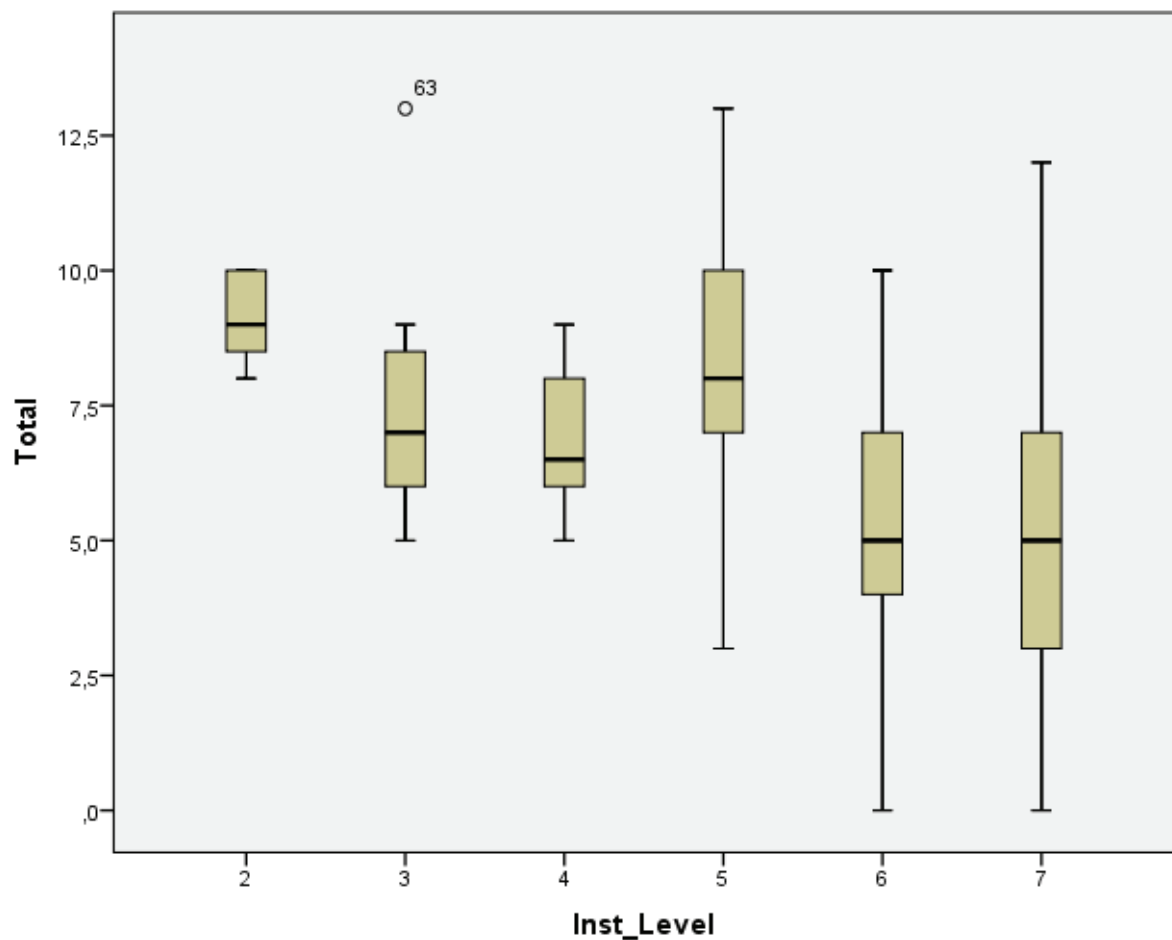


Figure 2. Transparency Index total results of evaluated institutions by Organizational level

## Conclusion

The Pilot Study demonstrated that the 15 item Sport Transparency Index Methodology presented good internal consistency. Despite there being a marginal improvement in the validity after removing 2 indicators (indicators 9 and 10) (Chronbach's  $\alpha = .74$ ) it was considered that the 15 items scale presents an equivalent internal consistency (Chronbach's  $\alpha = .72$ ) and the original 15 item set of indicators that were informed and constructed by the earlier phase of the project were considered validated by these results and process.

The construct validity, tested by evaluators consistency, also supported the conclusion that the indicators were validated, considering that there were no significant differences between evaluations during testing and training phases.

From an output perspective the initial data indicates there will be significant variances between institutions, attending to their organizational level, with the institutions of World Federations (WF), National Federations (NF) and European Federations presenting the highest total of transparency. The Regional Associations (RA) institutions presented the worst transparency index totals. The Regional Associations (RA), National Federations (NF), and Clubs (CL). However, the variance in results is considered to be indicative of the Good Governance Transparency landscape and not the validity of the Sport Transparency Indicators per se.