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@european_school_sport_day







Use this toolkit to get your school on the MOVE!







move and inspire a lifetime of health

among European youth.

Participation requires getting your school to #BeActive for at least 120 minutes by running, playing games, dancing, rope skipping or any other kind of physical activity.

This toolkit gives teachers, administrators and students all the information and resources needed to organise a European School Sport Day. Use it to #BeActive and move together with over 3,2 million Europeans at schools in 41 countries and counting.

This toolkit enables you to plan and lead a successful European School Sport Day in your community. It includes ideas and lessons learnt from other schools throughout Europe and the world for inspiration.

The Day is an opportunity not just to encourage students to #BeActive, but to empower students as leaders and advocates for health and fitness. Organising the Day is also an opportunity to engage your community from business leaders and civic organisations to public officials and administrators.

WHAT ABOUT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Find out using the <u>2022 Eurobarometer</u>, the <u>2021/2022 Health</u>

<u>Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) report</u>, or the <u>The Global</u>

<u>Matrix 4.0 on Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents.</u>

Use this data to generate support for the Day in your community.



Physical inactivity has a cost!

Engagement in sport and physical activity is at an all-time low. In many Member States, this trend is getting worse among students and adults alike.

It is not just people's health and well-being that suffer as a result; it is also our society and economy overall.

Source: <u>Inactivity Time Bomb</u>, ISCA



Did you know...?

- In Europe, the proportion of people who never exercise or play sport is at an alarming high at 45%. This figure has increased steadily since 2009 (Eurobarometer, 2022).
- Today's children may be the first generation to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents because of the lack of physical activity (<u>DesignedToMove.org</u>).
- Lack of exercise contributes to diseases that cost Europe over 80 billion euros annually (ISCA/CEBR, 2015 https://inactivity-time-bomb.nowwemove.com/).
- The most popular setting to #BeActive is in a park or somewhere outdoors, where nearly half of Europeans (47%) exercise or play sport. This figure has increased since 2017 (Eurobarometer, 2022).
- An alarming rate of boys and girls aged 11-17 spend less than one hour a day doing moderate-vigorous physical <u>activity</u> (77.6% and 85% respectively) (WHO 'Global status report on physical activity', 2022).



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHY AND HOW?

Do you know the **who**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how** about the Day? Discover the answers below, and use the messages in your communication.

Who organises it?

With the support of their school administration, anyone can propose and organise the Day. This includes students, teachers, parents, civic leaders, and other stakeholders.

Days with the best outcomes include the whole school and are community driven with a broad cross-section of volunteer support.

What is it?

A school sport day held simultaneously across the continent on the last Friday of September every year. We invite schools to #BeActive for at least 120 minutes by running, playing games, dancing, rope skipping or any other kind of physical activity.

The European Week of Sport, along with the European School Sport Day (ESSD), is part of the European Commission's response to the alarming decline in sport and physical activity across all Member States, highlighting sport as an essential part of European identity and promoting more active, healthier lifestyles to millions of people in Europe and beyond each year.

DO ADAPT

While harmonising messages as part of a coherent European movement is vital, you can adapt your European School Sport Day event and its messages to your local context.



When is it held?

26 September 2025. Always on the last Friday of September, following the tradition of the official Hungarian School Sport Day, which inspired the pan-European event.

Where?

Wherever possible. Indoors or outside, on a meadow or in water. The focus is on getting children on the MOVE

Why organise the Day?

Plenty of research shows that being physically active makes students healthier and better learners in the classroom. School spirit improves too with fun and inclusive team sport. Here are the top five reasons to organise a Day in your school:

- **1.** Raise the profile of physical education (PE) and sport in schools.
- 2. Create fun and enjoyment through physical activity for young people, especially after the inactive period during the pandemic.
- 3. Promote health and wellbeing for lifelong learning.
- 4. Encourage social inclusion and develop social competence among students.
- **5.** Connect with other European countries.

How to organise it?

Organising the Day is voluntary and requires support from schools and local communities. Participating schools will become part of the #BeActive movement, sponsored by the European Commission. For more information on the "how", go to the next page.

WHAT MAKES YOUR EUROPEAN SCHOOL SPORT DAY OFFICIAL?







Complete a school report at www.essd.eu



CHOOSE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE A GREAT FIT FOR YOUR SCHOOL

How should you organise the Day in your school? What activities work best in primary and secondary schools? How can you engage and excite students? What about civic groups, business leaders and other stakeholders? Get inspired by tips, insights and examples that can help you lead a successful Day in your community.

Be supportive

Plan activities that can develop the character and social skills of students. Many sports and games can build confidence, inspire a positive attitude and other qualities that underpin creativity, resilience and empathy.

Be appropriate

Make sure that the activities you plan are appropriate for the age, interests and ability of the students. Having fun along the way is just as important.

Be inclusive

Identify the students who are disadvantaged, under-represented or require special attention (e.g. especially unfit or lacking confidence. Create the conditions for students with special educational needs to participate). Design activities that encourage their participation and improve their integration into the community. Check out the videos here and here.



- Encourage active travel to school by walking, cycling, scooting, skating, skateboarding and more.
- Introduce a new sport to your school that is unusual or foreign (e.g. ultimate frisbee or flag-football).
- Host workshops with staff and students on the benefits of being active in school and brainstorm about new, creative ways to get your school 'on the move'.
- Create a theme for the Day and get inspired by the current and past focus topic toolkits: <u>Education through Movement</u>, <u>Joy in Sport and Physical</u> <u>Activity</u>, <u>Going Green in Sport</u>, <u>Healthy Lifestyle</u>, <u>MOVEment Spaces</u>, <u>Mental Health</u>, <u>Healthy Nutrition</u>.
- Invite parents (even the hardest to reach) to the Day with activities to engage them (e.g. coaching or supervisory roles).
- Encourage local sports clubs and fitness centres to support the Day.

Student organisers

How can students get involved in organising the Day? Lots of ways! While respecting ageappropriateness, students can:

- Suggest challenges, games and activities for their class or household
- Create a promotional poster for the Day
- Advise on ways to be more active at school



4.2 INVOLVING STUDENTS IN THE ORGANISATION OF ESSD

The organisation and implementation of school sports programmes should not only be the responsibility of teachers. Students can also learn a lot from organising a sport event. As well as contributing to the development of a range of skills, peer-led and peer-organised programmes can also have a motivating effect on participation.

Why is it beneficial to involve students in the organisation?

In the planning, organisation, delivery and evaluation of sport programmes, students develop a range of competences. It also gives students the opportunity to creatively apply the knowledge and competences they have acquired during their studies in real-life situations. The following key competences are expected to develop:

- Learning competences: Students can discover their own strengths through the organisation of colourful and varied sport programmes. They can draw on the knowledge and experience gained during their studies to solve problems in different situations. They can also put their theoretical knowledge into practice.
- Communication competences: Students use and get to know different channels of information exchange (visual, auditory, digital) and practice how to communicate effectively through them in different communication situations (teacher-student, student-student, etc.). They can practise reasoning and persuading others in real-life situations and make conscious use of the tools and possibilities offered by digital technology.

- Digital competences: Gathering the opinions of peers digitally, creating information leaflets and posters to advertise programmes, publicising events on social media, recording programmes on photo or video, possibly making a summary video, etc. all contribute to the responsible and ethical use of digital technologies by learners.
- Mathematical and thinking competences: Planning the possible costs related to the event, preparing a time schedule for the planning of the programme, collecting and organising data, critical reflection and decision-making, the need for logical thinking all contribute to the development of this competence.
- Personal and interpersonal competences: The planning and organisation of the sport programme is a team effort, which inevitably supports the development of skills such as:
 - following and respecting rules
- taking responsibility
- recognizing one's own role in a group, carrying out activities in a team, dealing effectively with unexpected situations

Competences of creativity, creative work, self-expression and cultural awareness: The very act of devising varied programmes supports innovation and creativity.

Employability, innovation and entrepreneurship competences: The programme organisation and design supports the sub-competences related to the named competence, such as:

- openness to entrepreneurship
- the development of initiative and a positive attitude towards new ideas,
- the development of employability skills,
- responsibility.



WHAT ACTIVITIES CAN WE INVOLVE STUDENTS IN?

We can involve students in the organisation of ESSD at different levels.

Preparation (planning and organisation)

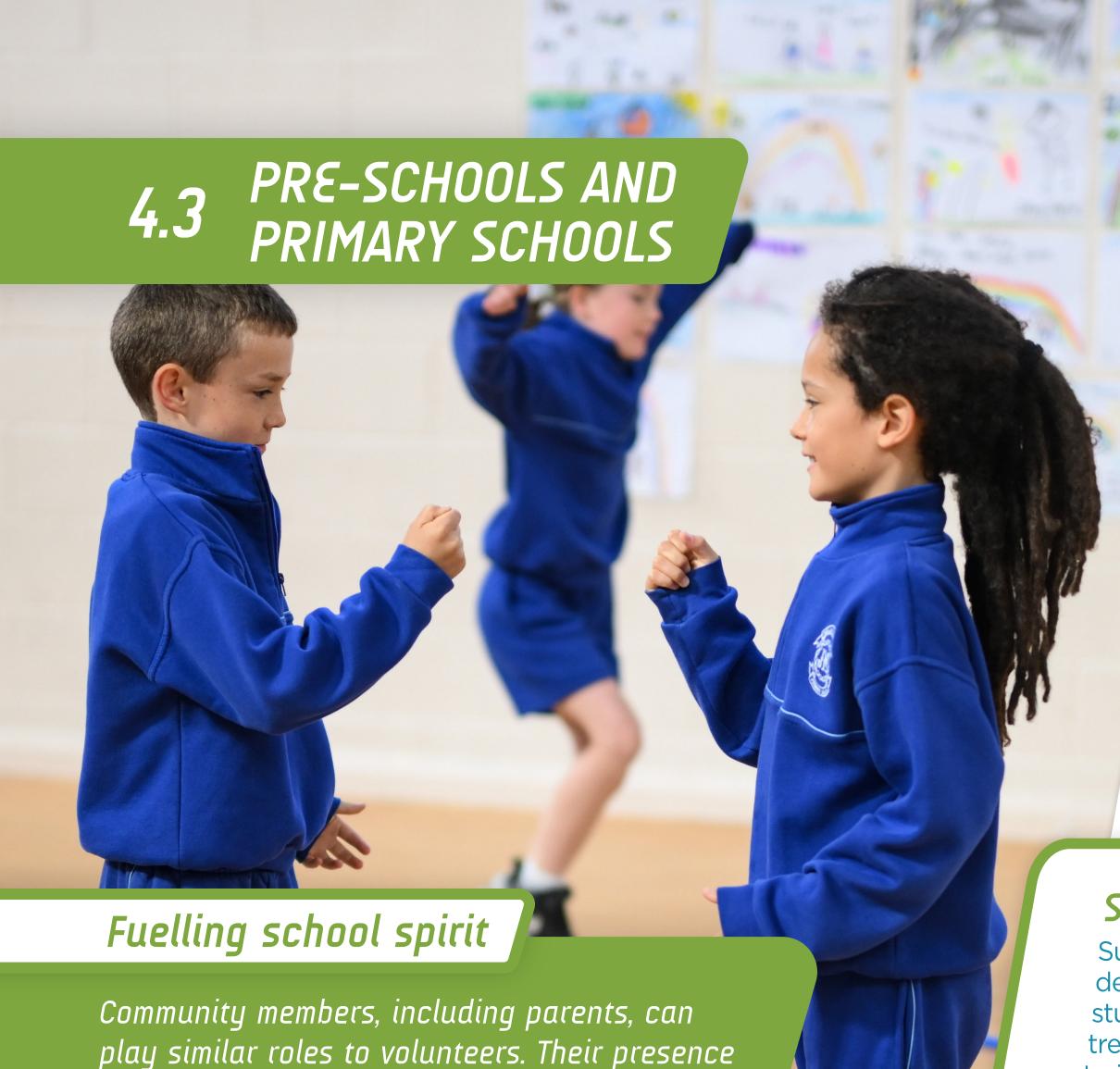
Let the students plan the activities for the ESSD day! They can do this by conducting a survey (even online) of their peers to find out what activities they would like to participate in. Have the students prepare a precise scenario and a to-do list of activities, and nominate one of them as the student responsible for carrying out the task. On the day of the event, help with unpacking materials and equipment, setting up the room and other preparations.

Conduct of the event

Based on the scenario of the event, students help to implement the programmes. They can accompany each class to the programme stations, take part in explaining each task, but also actively participate in documenting the event (e.g. taking photos).

Evaluation of the programme, follow-up

Joint evaluation of the programme can help to ensure the quality of future school programmes. Once the programme has been completed, students can report back in the form of either a newspaper article or a video presentation. This could encourage their peers to participate in similar events in the future.



will help to fuel school spirit and strengthen

community ties to the school.

Get inspired!

- Invite students to bring a ball to school and integrate it into the curriculum throughout the day.
- Integrate 'wake and shake' activities before each lesson where students can #BeActive with movement of all kinds.
- In between lessons, encourage students to walk or run outside with their teachers.
- Host a festival with games of all types (school Olympics) from foot races to football for all skill levels. More ideas at the <u>Joy in Sport and</u> <u>Physical Activity Toolkit</u>.
- Use team sports to better integrate disadvantaged or underrepresented students into the school community (<u>'let's play together'</u>).
- Challenge families of students to #BeActive with school-wide targets like completing 10 outdoor activities per week.
- **Design a trail** with fun outdoor activities like a treasure hunt, math challenge or exercise based on books students are reading (e.g. Superworm). More examples in the <u>MOVEment Spaces Toolkit</u>.

Superworm in the UK

Superworm is a popular children's book about how a superhero worm and his creature friends defeat the villainous Wizard Lizard. Based on the book, parks in the UK created trails to take students on an active journey with the super-creatures they know and love. Children run in treasure hunts, hunt for clues, and more with the support of adults. Consider building a similar trail at your school linked to a popular book or math lesson.

"Watch Superworm wiggle! See him squirm! Hip, hip, hooray for Superworm!"

Donaldson, J. (2012). Superworm. London: Alison Green Books.



In secondary schools, students' motivation to

may be avid athletes, while others may want

gravitate to leadership roles, while others may

to lose weight and get healthier. Some may

be fulfilling a class or club requirement.

support the Day and #BeActive will vary. Some



- Launch the Day with a school-wide activity in the morning like a run or dance. Close the Day with a school-wide yoga class.
- Challenge students to #BeActive for at least 20 minutes before school begins or try a new activity during breaks from class (dodgeball or bubble football). Families can take part in this challenge too.
- Organise staff vs. student games with popular spectator sports like basketball or volleyball.
- Gather used **sport equipment** from your community and have students create and play games based on the random equipment received.
- Lead **girls' only activities** that are 'by girls and for girls' with a mix of traditional sports like volleyball and other activities like dancing.
- Adapt curricula to #BeActive themes (e.g. biology lessons on exercise or algebra lessons related to sport). Check out the <u>Healthy and Phyiscally Active Schools Project</u> outcomes for further inspiration.

Youth organisers

Secondary school students are old enough to take on real leadership roles and responsibilities. Students can:

- Encourage peers to get involved (e.g. on social media)
- Ocach teams plan or lead an event
- Target established student leaders to serve as volunteers (e.g. from the student council or popular clubs).





Always use the #ESSD2025 and #BeActive hashtags!

Developing authentic, emotional, and inspiring content on social media is key to get your school 'on the MOVE'. Here are our recommendations to boost ESSD's social media presence with your school community.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT TYPES

The best social media posts include more than just text. They include photos, videos, GIFs, and Boomerangs – all of which are easy to take with a mobile device. Using live streams, you can share content in real-time too.

Videos

With all major social media channels favouring video content and live streams, short video footage (under two minutes) can significantly improve reach and drive engagement.

Vlogs

A vlog is a blog that contains video content, and is a growing trend on social media. Anyone with access to a video-capable camera can be a vlogger. Capture the action from events on camera and share online with your audiences.

Photos

Eye-catching visuals are consistently among the best-performing posts on social media. Capture event highlights with photos of people who are being active, branded with the #ESSD hashtag for the year (e.g. #ESSD2025).

GIFs and Boomerangs

Animated visuals are a great way to create dynamic content. Download Instagram's Boomerang app to easily make photo animations that will bring your Day to life online.

WHAT'S POPULAR NOW?







With students: TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat





With parents: X, Facebook



With policymakers and journalists:

TIPS!

Developing social media content to promote ESSD is a fun challenge. Use these tips to ensure maximum reach and engagement with the #ESSD and #BeActive brands.

Be consistent

Include the #ESSD2025 and #BeActive hashtags. Keep #ESSD2025 and #BeActive hashtags in English for tracking purposes and alignment with both European campaigns.

Be multi-lingual

Publish content in your own national language and in English to connect with the pan-European movement. Do include hashtags in your national language relevant to your audience.

Be integrated

Link to the ESSD and #BeActive websites to strengthen the European movement and ensure communication is integrated.

Be creative

Make posts entertaining to inspire more engagement.

Be timely

Leverage other high-profile events linked to ESSD and #BeActive.

Be repetitive

Share posts multiple times to improve reach.

Be engaging

Call on people to join ESSD and #BeActive, ask questions, tag a friend, and seek out dynamic conversations.

Be compelling

Create exclusive, insider content from behind-the-scenes.

Be smart

Capitalise on available ESSD and #BeActive assets using existing campaign multimedia including the mascot, emojis, and more.

APPS TO HELP

Thousands of apps are available to help you develop and promote your social media content. Here are some of the most popular. Some are free, while others require paid accounts.

Photo shooting and editing

Adobe Photoshop Express (iOS | Android)

Basic editing tools with different file and sharing options.

Snapseed (iOS | Android)

Advanced editing app. Good automatic edit option.

Camera+ (iOS)

Enhances iPhone to shoot quality pictures

Audio recording and editing

Voice Recorder Pro (iOS)

Records both voice and on-site audio with no length limit. Can record directly in the correct formats plus with a convert function.

PCM Recorder (iOS | Android)

Uses an internal mic, but records voice at a high quality (PCM/WAVE). Saves recordings to the SD-Card.

Live streaming

Periscope (iOS | Android) - Uses geolocation feature and connected to Twitter.

Video recording and editing

Canva (iOS | Android)

An online design and publishing tool.

Cinema FV-5 (Android)

Professional camera app.

Boomerang (iOS | Android)

Creates GIF-style mini videos that loop back and forth.

WeVideo (iOS | Android)

Cloud-based editor with advanced functions (i.e. screen recording and green screen), and publishes watermark-free videos.

KineMaster (Android)

Video editor that can operate without a network connection using advanced editing tools.

iMovie (iOS)

Video editing only on Apple devices.



STRATEGIES AND SAMPLE POSTS

- Hook to popular events ongoing in your community or country.
 The UEFA #championsleague is ON! Which team are you rooting for? Will you be integrating football in your school for #ESSD2025? #BeActive
- Share updates about preparation for the Day give people a taste of what to expect.

 Volunteers are arriving, fields are getting set...game on! #BeActive at #ESSD2025
- Include 'calls to action' (e.g. register for our Challenge, volunteer today, etc.)

 Calling all volunteers! European School Sport Day is in X days. Help us #BeActive at #ESSD2025
- Use videos and photos to highlight the achievements of students throughout the Day.
 Look who won gold at this year's ESSD! #ProudTeacher #BeActive #ESSD2025
- Incorporate emojis, especially popular ones among students (see www.emojitracker.com)

 Jose loved #ESSD. And, you will too. Sign up for next year.
- Add hashtags to your local area (e.g. #Budapest or #Berlin) to create local buzz. #ESSD2025 is the biggest school event of the year in #Brussels. Are you in? #BeActive
- Add hashtags about the activity to expand reach at the European level (e.g. #Football).
 1# on Facebook, and unlimited #s on Instagram.
 - ESSD's about #TeamBuilding, not just competition. #Friends4Life from school. #BeActive 🏵
- Put facts about inactivity and its dangerous consequences in your country, community, or school to attract journalistic interest and spread general awareness.
- X students in Italy spend Y hours sitting and watching TV everyday. We're getting students on the move. #BeActive with #ESSD2025 🌱 🌱



WHAT CAN ESSD PARTICIPANTS, ORGANISERS AND SUPPORTERS DO TO PROMOTE THE DAY?

STUDENTS

- 1. Plan
- Propose, invent and lead activities
- Create sport equipment (e.g. balls)
- 2. Prepare
- Promote the Day
- Set-up activities
- Promote on social media

3. Implement

- Lead and support activities under the supervision of organisers
- Take photos and videos
- Post on social media

4. Communicate

- Promote the Day
- Set-up activities
- Promote on social media

TEACHERS

- 1. Plan
- Set the goals and themes
- Design activities
- Establish an organising team
- Support students in planning

- 2. Prepare
- Coordinate closely with administrators
- Prepare equipment, resources, etc.
- Finalise and clarify roles
- Promote the Day, especially with stakeholders

3. Implement

- Lead the Day, inspiring and energising school spirit
- Organise pre-meetings with relevant students, administrators, and volunteers
- Gather student leaders, administrators, and volunteers to discuss results and lessons-learnt
- Evaluate results with questionnaires etc. to assess results and identify lessons-learnt

4. Communicate

- Post on social media and engage target journalists
- Award 'star' volunteer students
- Provide feedback to partners and stakeholders
- Report on the Day on the ESSD website

WHAT CAN ESSD PARTICIPANTS, ORGANISERS AND SUPPORTERS DO TO PROMOTE THE DAY?

ADMINISTRATORS

- 1. Plan
- Support organisers
- Harmonise ESSD with other relevant events
- Communicate with stakeholders

2. Prepare

- Communicate with stakeholders
- Engage volunteer students in preparation
- Engage and coordinate with relevant groups (e.g. health and nutrition)
- Promote the Day in print and digitally

3. Implement

- Support organisers in leading the Day
- Inspire and energise school spirit
- Offer lessons-learnt to organisers and help assess results

4. Communicate

- Ensure report on the ESSD website is submitted
- Share results with government authorities etc.
- Encourage and support student communications (e.g. school newspaper)

STAKEHOLDERS

- 1. Plan
- Provide financial or in kind donations, equipment, etc.)
- Look for synergies with other stakeholders

2. Prepare

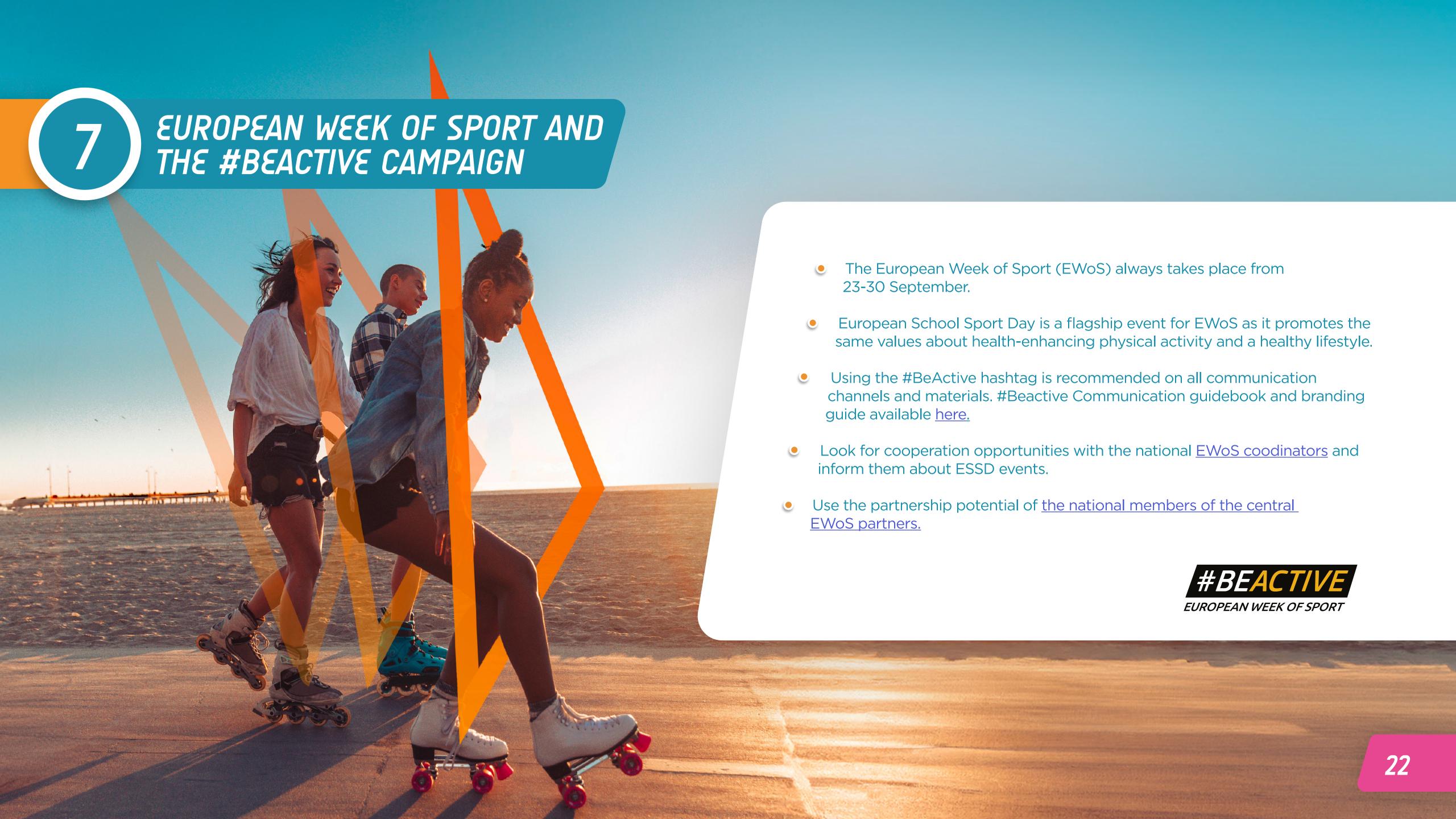
- Collaborate with students and organisers
- Build momentum for the Day on social media and other channels

3. Implement

- Volunteer time and resources
- Provide social and emotional support
- Offer lessons-learnt to organisers and administrators

4. Communicate

- Promote activities on social media and other relevant channels
- Encourage others to volunteer





The Sport #WithoutWaste initiative by BG Be Active aims to promote eco-friendly grassroots sports events and foster environmental responsibility. Through bottom-up education, awareness and policy-making activities, Sport #WithoutWaste helps to integrate environmental dimension into the design of your event and get your target group engaged on the topic of environment.

To organise a waste-free European School Sport Day, the initiative suggests several steps:

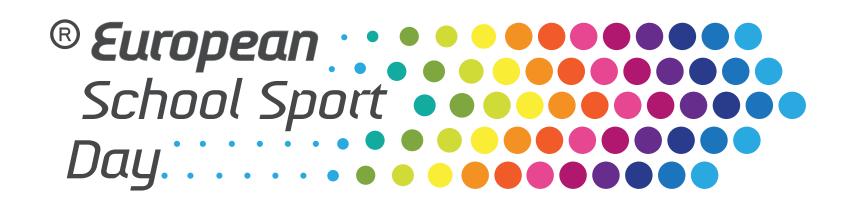
- 1. Define your sustainability priorities based on your context.
- 2. Collaborate with partners such as municipalities, recycling haulers, or community organisations.
- 2. Set realistic goals, whether it's an educational event or integrating an environmental dimension into your events.
- 4. Plan resources such as budget, equipment, and guidelines to support your network.
- 5. Communicate your green events through various channels and share success stories (use the #WithoutWaste hashtag).
- 5. Evaluate your goals and collect data on challenges and successes.

Check our <u>European Schools Sport Day 2022 – Going Green in Sport Toolkit</u> to get more inspiration for organising an active, educational event focusing on the environment. To integrate an environmental dimension in the design of your event/network's events, you can look into specific tips in <u>Sport #WithoutWaste – Action Pack</u>.

SPORT #WithoutWaste







#ESSD2025

CONTACT INFORMATION

Want to know more about ESSD? Consult our website: www.essd.eu

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