



Who We Are

YOULEAD is an Erasmus+ Sport project dedicated to increasing youth participation in sport governance. Through research, training, mentoring and practical tools, the project empowers young people to become active leaders and decision-makers while supporting sports organisations in building more inclusive, diverse and sustainable governance structures.



Project Partners



PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL
Project Coordination & Management



FÚTBOL MÁS SPAIN
Educational Programme



EUROPEAN MULTISPORT CLUB ASSOCIATION (EMCA)
Communication & Dissemination



EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL SPORTS ORGANISATION YOUTH (ENGSO YOUTH)
Educational Programme



INSTITUTO ANDALUZ DE LA JUVENTUD
Research, Best Practices & Policy Recommendations



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SPORT SECURITY EUROPE (ICSS Europe)
Monitoring and Evaluation



SPORTS EMBASSY
Monitoring and Evaluation

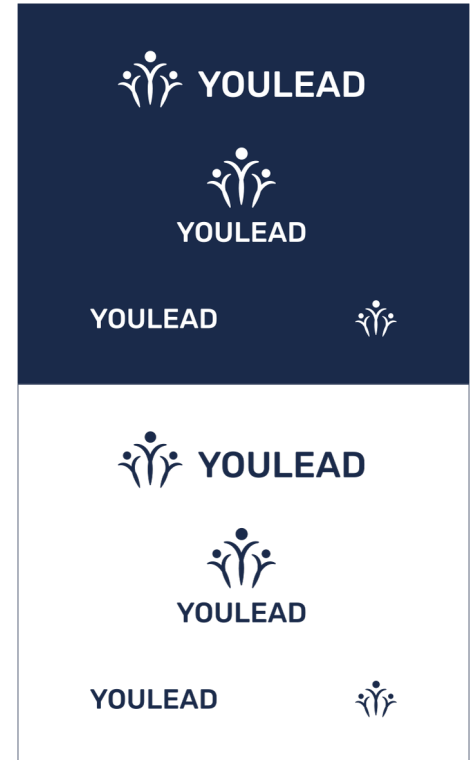


UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO (UoM)
Research, Best Practices & Policy Recommendations

YOULEAD Logo Officially Adopted

The YOULEAD consortium has officially adopted the project's visual identity, marking another important milestone in building a strong and recognisable European initiative. Inspired by collaboration, leadership and the active role of young people in sport, the new logo reflects the project's vision of empowering the next generation of leaders and promoting more inclusive and participatory sport governance.

Read the full story on our [website](#).



YOULEAD Partners Meet to Prepare for Project Launch

On 7 November 2025, the YOULEAD consortium met online for a coordination meeting organised by Panathlon International, bringing together partners from across Europe to prepare for the official launch of the project. The meeting focused on the first implementation steps, partner responsibilities and the roadmap for the months ahead, ensuring a shared vision for empowering young people to take a more active role in sport governance.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to present the first elements of the YOULEAD visual identity, marking an important step in establishing the project's recognisable brand ahead of its public launch.



YOULEAD Reaches First Financial Milestone



On 28 November 2025, YOULEAD reached an important milestone with the receipt of its first pre-financing payment from the European Union. Representing 30% of the total project grant, this initial payment officially marked the beginning of the project's financial implementation phase.

As project coordinator, Panathlon International distributed the corresponding budget shares to all project partners in line with the approved budget and the Grant Agreement, providing the financial foundation for the first phase of project activities and ensuring the smooth start of implementation.



YOULEAD Officially Kicks Off in Rome

On 23 January 2026, the YOULEAD Kick-off Meeting took place in Rome, Italy, hosted by Panathlon International, officially marking the launch of the Erasmus+ Sport project. Representatives of all project partners gathered to establish a common vision, review the work packages and agree on the roadmap for the next 30 months of implementation.

The meeting also highlighted the project's mission to increase youth participation in sport governance across Europe and laid the foundations for strong collaboration among partners throughout the project. A welcoming address from the Governor of the Lazio Area of Panathlon International further underlined the importance of the initiative and its expected impact on the future of European sport governance.



YOULEAD Research Committee Holds First Meeting



On 2 February 2026, the YOULEAD Research Committee held its first online meeting, marking the start of the project's research activities. The meeting focused on developing the research framework that will analyse youth participation in sport governance across Europe.

Partners discussed the research methodology, the structure of the national reports and the development of a benchmarking tool, while also agreeing to focus the research on young people aged 18–30. The outcomes of the meeting laid the foundation for the project's analytical work, which will support future recommendations, educational resources and more inclusive governance models in sport.



Coordination Meeting for the Podgorica TPM

On 10 April 2026, the YOULEAD consortium held an online coordination meeting to prepare for the upcoming Transnational Project Meeting (TPM) in Podgorica, Montenegro. Partners reviewed the meeting agenda, coordinated the next project activities and aligned expectations for the first in-person progress meeting.



First YOULEAD Steering Committee Meeting



On 15 April 2026, the YOULEAD Steering Committee held its first meeting, bringing together project leaders to review progress and oversee the strategic direction of the project. The discussion focused on monitoring the implementation of activities, coordinating upcoming milestones and ensuring effective collaboration across the consortium.

The meeting reinforced the Steering Committee's role in supporting high-quality project delivery, timely decision-making and the successful achievement of YOULEAD's objectives.

Sport4Impact: ImpactFinance Conference in Milan

On 17 April 2026, representatives of the YOULEAD partnership attended the ImpactFinance Conference in Milan, Italy, part of the Sport4Impact conference series dedicated to the future of sport through impact investment. The event explored how stronger governance, integrity and sustainable management can help sports organisations become more resilient and attractive for future investment.

During the conference, Bojan Mijatović (EMCA) presented the role of multisport clubs in creating long-term sustainable impact, highlighting governance and integrity as key factors for the future development of sport. These discussions strongly reflected the values and objectives of the YOULEAD project, which promotes more inclusive and effective governance in sport.



YOULEAD Presented at PASTECHL 2026

On 23–26 April 2026, the YOULEAD project was presented at the PASTECHL 2026 Conference in Bar, Montenegro. PASTECHL is an international scientific conference that brings together researchers, educators, academics and sport professionals to exchange knowledge and discuss the latest developments in sport science, education, technology and healthy lifestyles.

During a session dedicated to international projects, Prof. Dr. Stevo Popović introduced YOULEAD to the conference participants, presenting the project's main objectives, partnership structure and expected contribution to the European sport sector. Particular attention was given to YOULEAD's ambition to strengthen the participation of young people in sport governance and decision-making structures, while promoting more inclusive and gender-balanced leadership.

The presentation highlighted the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for young people not only to participate in sport, but also to contribute actively to the organisations and institutions that shape its future.



Second YOULEAD Steering Committee Meeting

On 21 May 2026, the YOULEAD consortium held its second online Steering Committee Meeting, coordinated by Panathlon International. Partners reviewed the progress of the project's key activities, with a particular focus on the external evaluation process, the Inception Note and the ongoing research activities under Work Package 2.

The meeting also focused on preparations for the upcoming Transnational Project Meeting in Podgorica, covering the programme, logistics and expected outcomes, while communication and dissemination activities were reviewed to ensure strong coordination and visibility across the consortium.

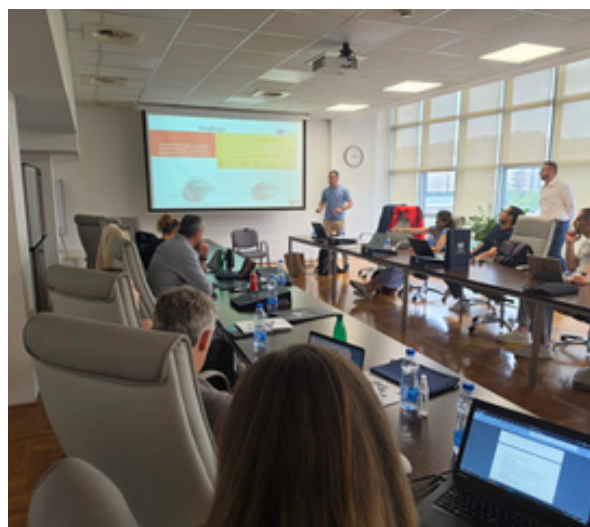


YOULEAD Partners Meet in Podgorica

On 23–24 June 2026, the YOULEAD consortium gathered in Podgorica, Montenegro, for the project's first Transnational Project Meeting, hosted by the University of Montenegro and the Balkan Institute for Science and Innovation.

During the two-day meeting, partners presented the first findings from research conducted in eight participating countries, discussing youth participation in sport governance with a particular focus on gender-balanced leadership and the involvement of young people under the age of 30.

The consortium also reviewed project progress, coordinated upcoming activities and agreed on the next steps in developing research outputs, educational resources and practical recommendations for more inclusive governance in sport.



YOULEAD at the 23rd International Congress of Panathlon International

On 4–5 June 2026, YOULEAD was presented at the 23rd International Congress of Panathlon International in Ghent, Belgium.

During a panel discussion dedicated to youth participation in sport governance, moderated by Fábio Figueiras (Panathlon International), Tiago Guilherme (ENGSO Youth) presented insights from the YOULEAD project and the EUYOUSPORT survey, highlighting the need for greater youth involvement and representation in sport decision-making.

The Congress also provided an important opportunity to increase the international visibility of YOULEAD and disseminate its objectives and activities among sport organisations, institutional partners and members of the Panathlon network from Europe and other regions of the world.



Want to join the project?

CONTACT US!

PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL

Fábio Figueiras

ccse-figueiras@panathlon.net

EMCA

Bojan Mijatović

development@multisportclubs.eu

ENGSO YOUTH

Tiago Guilherme

director@engsoyouth.eu

FÚTBOL MÁS SPAIN

Anna Donovan

anna.donovan@futbolmas.org

ICSS Europe

Joao Pedro Jorge

joao.jorge@theicss.org

JUNTA DE ANDALUCIA

Santiago Reyes Diaz

santiago.reyes@juntadeandalucia.es

SPORTS EMBASSY

Ines Caetano

ines.caetano@sportsembassy.pt

UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO

Stevo Popović

stevop@ucg.ac.me

