



Equipping Sports Higher Education Institutions with Intersectional, Innovative, and Inclusive Gender Equality Plans

Press release

15 September 2025

SUPPORTER Project Reaches a Key Milestone in Advancing Gender Equality in Sports.

As part of the [SUPPORTER project](#), eight sports higher education institutions from Central and Eastern Europe, with the support of expert partners, [University of Gothenburg](#), [South East European Research Centre](#), and [European Science Foundation](#), have successfully developed, endorsed, and published their [Inclusive, Innovative, Intersectional, and Impactful Gender Equality Plans \(4I-GEPs\)](#).

About the SUPPORTER Project

SUPPORTER is an EU-funded initiative that promotes sustainable and transformative institutional changes in sports higher education. Its primary focus has been on addressing gender-based violence and advancing gender equality, leading to the co-creation of the 4I-GEPs.

Developing the 4I-GEPs

[The eight 4I-GEPs](#) are the result of three years of collaborative, evidence-based work. Each institution carried out a gender equality audit, [designed tailored roadmaps](#), and engaged in mentoring, training, and mutual learning activities. This participatory approach ensured that the final plans were adapted to the specific contexts of each institution and the needs of the sports sector, while also aligning with European guidelines for institutional change.

These 4I-GEPs now serve as an inspiration for other sports higher education institutions seeking to design or implement their own inclusive gender equality plans.

SUPPORTER Resources

For institutions and organisations looking to start their own journey in advancing gender equality in sports, SUPPORTER has developed several resources:

- [Capacity-building videos](#): Drawing on the consortium's diverse expertise, SUPPORTER created training and mentoring programmes to strengthen institutional capacity. These videos include key concepts and challenges in addressing gender-based violence in academia, GEP as a tool for institutional change, data collection and analysis on gender-based violence in sports, and steps to designing inclusive Gender Equality Plans.
- [Recommendations](#): SUPPORTER has also published four sets of guidelines highlighting the roles and contributions of coaches, universities and faculties of sport, and lecturers and teachers in driving progress on gender equality in sports.

