SUSTAINABILITY STUDY 2017
IOC Recognised Federations

An assessment of the Initiatives, Trends and Needs
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ABOUT THE STUDY

This study represents the 6th edition of the International Federations Study (IF Study). This edition has been conducted by the AISTS (International Academy of Sports Science and Technology) with the support of ARISF (Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations). The sample for the study was the 37 members of ARISF (i.e. all IOC Recognised International Federations).

81%

Percentage of IOC recognised IFs that participated in the study

The previous two editions of the IF Study, which were held in 2014 and 2015, surveyed all approximately 100 members of SportAccord/GAISF. The response rates were respectively 37% (2014) and 40% (2015).

SCOPE: the environmental and social practices in sport.

OBJECTIVE: understand the current situation, trends and needs amongst IOC recognised international sports federations with regards to sustainability.
The Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) is the world authority of the IOC Recognised International Sports Federations. ARISF currently counts 37 International Sports Federations as its members, representing over 3'500 National Sports Federations.

1'200'000'000+
Worldwide practitioners of an ARISF sport

2'591'000
Number of people with disabilities affiliated to an ARISF sport

The ARISF Council is responsible for directing the policy, management and activities of ARISF.

50/50%
Men/Women ratio on the ARISF Council
GENERAL FINDINGS

After a sharp increase between 2008 and 2010 (from 32% to 83%), the percentage of IFs that claimed to have sustainability included in their organisational strategy shrunk to 71% in 2015 but increased again to 84% in 2017.

52%

Percentage of respondents that are the IF’s President, Secretary General or CEO.

One out of three IFs consider the use of evaluation criteria related to sustainability as a “must-have” in the selection of a host for their events. However, 90% provides (or wants to provide) their event organisers with guidelines for sustainability. Just over half of IFs has appointed responsible person for sustainability which is almost the same as Olympic Federations (AISTS IF Sustainability Study 2014 & 2015).

There is a high variation in spending on sustainability efforts between the IFs. Outdoor sports (e.g. ski mountaineering, water skiing) tend to spend slightly more, whereas indoor sports (e.g. bowling, billiard) spend less than the overall average. Several IFs could not provide this information other indicated to explicitly focus on saving costs through sustainability efforts.

$5.7%

Average IF budget spent on sustainability
The main issues for IOC recognised IFs when implementing sustainability are the lack of financial, human or educational resources. Figure 1 highlights the main challenges compared to the Olympic IFs which were surveyed in 2015.

**Figure 1**: Main challenges for IFs when implementing sustainability initiatives
“A big challenge is to convince member organisations with limited resources to use our sustainability guidelines for their events.”

John Liljelund, Secretary General International Floorball Federation

The top-3 answers to overcome these challenges, as shown in Figure 1, are for the ARISF members: ‘Best practices from other organisations’ (63%), ‘Engagement of volunteers’ (52%) and ‘Top down support’ (48%). The ‘engagement of volunteers’ continues to increase in importance for the success of IFs sustainability programmes (from 28% in 2014 to 45% in 2017).

‘Media pressure’ (11%) and ‘Sponsor’s interest or demands’ (22%) are considered of least value for ARISF members.
This year’s IF Survey asked for the first time the justification for IFs of their sustainability programmes. ‘Risk Management’, such as avoiding safety and environmental incidents or ensuring compliancy with regulations, and ‘Brand Enhancement’ were perceived as the most important justification.

![Figure 3: Justification to invest in sustainability initiatives](image-url)
A SELECTION OF INITIATIVES …

**Floorball**

“In our case, we are working with the manufacturers to try to find a way to recycle the plastic materials for floorball balls and sticks and to re-use them...”

**Lifesaving**

“Removing sea-weed from the beach before competition and re-use the removed sea-weed.”

**Muaythai**

All the 22,500 square feet of blue carpets laid for the World Championship were upcycled by three contractors into multiple usages.

**Powerboating**

Connecting the four international motorsport federations (FIA, FIM, FAI and UIM) with the renewable energy industry during the Motorsport & Environment workshop that took place alongside the 2017 Solar & Electric Boat Challenge.
The IOC’s strategic roadmap, Olympic Agenda 2020, is considered important or very important for 60% of the responding IFs. This is almost identical to the feedback from both Olympic and non-Olympic IFs in 2015. The Olympic IFs considered the importance, in 2015, higher than the non-Olympic IFs. In the justification of their choice, both constructive criticism as well as words of appreciation are shared by the ARISF members.

“The international sports movement must speak with the same voice and be in line with common environmental objectives.”

“(…) sustainability has always been part of our DNA. (…) Olympic Agenda 2020 helps us support this argument and convince our member federations of the necessity to do so.”

“Olympic Agenda 2020 has allowed us to become truly part of the Olympic Movement.”

“Our IF’s 2020 agenda is based on Olympic Agenda 2020. The publication of our sustainability programme was a direct result of the recommendations of the IOC.”
The study shows that 70% of the IOC Recognised IFs has measurable sustainability objectives and 59% regularly measures the impact of their initiatives. This is similar to the situation amongst Olympic IFs in 2015, which showed that 62% of them measured their activities. In 2014, only 31% of the IFs measured their sustainability initiatives (AISTS IF Sustainability Study 2014).

14%  
Percentage of IOC recognised IFs that uses international management standards, such as ISO 20121

IFs appreciate the availability of ‘good practices and case studies’ as well as concrete ‘implementation support’. The highest value however has ‘advocacy or lobbying’ or ‘education’.

59%  
Percentage of IOC recognised IFs that consider ADVOCACY, and EDUCATION as most valuable support for their sustainability efforts

Also, more innovative ideas as “joining forces on sustainability efforts with other ARISF members”, are mentioned as being potentially very valuable. A current informal collaboration between WFDF (Flying Disc) and IFF (Floorball), is exemplary in this.
ABOUT THE AISTS

The AISTS is an academic centre of excellence for education and applied research in sport. It forms a unique network of multi-field expertise in technology, management, economics, medicine, law, and sociology.

The mission of the AISTS is to Master Sport by positively contributing to sports management through a multi-disciplinary approach to education and sciences and by remaining at the forefront of the sports industry’s development and the Olympic Movement.

The AISTS responds to the needs of the sports industry by focusing its activity on three key pillars:

- **EDUCATION**: Educating leaders in sports management through adapted education programmes.
- **APPLIED RESEARCH**: Providing knowledge and expertise in relevant fields applied to the sports environment.
- **CONNECTIONS**: Acting as a strategic connector in the world of sport.