



The first issue of SDG Striker magazine is here! A magazine for a more sustainable world thanks to sport initiatives!

After much effort, the project partners of the SDG Striker project are pleased to present you the first issue of the project magazine!

The SDG Striker magazine is a dissemination tool that helps transmit and share information on sustainability to the different actors in the sports sector. SDG Striker magazine presents a series of strategies, success stories and testimonials that can serve to guide clubs, federations, players, and sport fans to take measures to reduce negative impacts and contribute effectively to the preservation of the environment, human development, and the fight against poverty. The purpose of the SDG Striker magazine is to inspire and motivate action by demonstrating that a sustainable management model for the sports sector is possible and beneficial for sport organizations and all the actors in the sector. In addition, the magazine presents the progress of the SDG Striker project and the sustainability measures implemented by its partners (the Scottish Football Federation, the Norwegian Football Federation, and the Portuguese Football Federation), which are developing a series of pilot projects aimed at efficiency in consumption, the reduction of waste and pollution and the development of local communities.

In this first issue of the magazine, you will find the presentation of the SDG Striker project and how it intends to promote the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (called SDGs) in the sports sector. Next, you will discover strategies to include measures for sustainability in sports entities and organizations. And finally, you will learn about three success stories and examples of sports organizations that show that it is possible to join the fight to preserve the environment and promote sustainable development:

- The Forever Green initiative of the Real Betis Balompie club, a platform to give visibility to actions in favor of sustainability in the world of sport.
- The European project PlayGreen, an example of different sports organizations contributing together to the fight against climate change and against inequalities.

- The efforts of the Norwegian Football Federation to replace the rubber in artificial turf pitches with non-polluting alternatives.

The SDG Striker magazine is a great opportunity to learn about the contribution of the world of sport in sustainability and demonstrate all the great potential that sport has for making this world a better place. So do not miss it and download it now!

Sport as a platform to take action on heatwaves and its effects

As years pass by, it is getting clearer that heat waves are going to get stronger and more frequent in Europe in the future, as a result of climate change. In 2022 we have already experienced a heatwave in springtime in the south of Europe, especially in Spain, reaching records for May's temperatures.

On one hand, when sport takes place outdoors, it requires an intense physical activity and it can be widely affected by heatwaves that can produce health affections on sports practitioners and the public attending to sport events, like dehydration, heat strokes and sunburns. On the other hand, when sports are taken indoors, the heatwaves result in a high increase on the resources needed for cooling the spaces. Therefore, climate change and heatwaves can have an important negative effect on the sports sector, hindering the practice of sports activities and its benefits on the population, as well as interfering in the celebration of sport events, affecting the economy of those who work in the sector and make a living out of it.

Thus, it is important that the sports stakeholders take action for adapting to this climate threats by implementing measures that allow the citizens to practice sport safely in summer and that allow the sport events to take place safely both for the public and the athletes. On the other hand, the sports sector can also contribute to reduce and counteract the causes of the climate change and the heatwaves, by implementing measures that reduce emissions and waste, and increase the efficiency in the use of the resources.

Given this framework, SDG Striker project pretends to promote and implement measures for sustainability in sport clubs and federations around Europe. The project tries to be a point of reference for sport clubs in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The following SDGs are relevant for combating heatwaves and its effects on sport:

- SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
- SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Related to heatwaves, SDGs 7 and 9 ask sport clubs and federations to create and adapt facilities and infrastructure to include sustainable design and management that allow reducing contributions to climate change and that provide a healthy environment to practice and enjoy sports protected from climate threats. In addition, SDG 12 and 13 urge sport clubs and federations to act for adapting to and mitigating climate change and its effects, amongst them heatwaves, as well as increase consumption efficiency and reduce waste emissions.

The SDG Striker project is taking steps towards the fulfillment of these goals by planning and implementing a series of pilots in the participant countries of Portugal, Scotland, and Norway. These pilots, as they are set to achieve the SDGs, they are combating climate change, the heatwaves, and its effects in the following way:

- The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) is installing solar panels in sports facilities, as a way to provide with sustainable and accessible energy to the sports activities. This allows the facilities to make clean energy available for refrigeration in case of heatwaves, and also contribute to cool naturally the interior of the buildings, as it has been demonstrated that solar panels block and absorb the energy of the sun that increases the temperature of the roof and the outer surfaces of the buildings.
- The Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) is installing alternative and more sustainable turf fillers for football pitches. The use of Norwegian birch wood as turf filler by the NFF can play an important role in forest management, contributing to fire prevention during periods of extreme high temperatures. Another goal is to reduce the pollution of water by microplastics and given that one of the main effects of heatwaves are droughts, preserving the quality and availability of fresh water is essential for combating water shortages and dehydration.
- Finally, the Scottish Football Federation (SFA) is implementing measures to foster energy efficiency and tackle energy poverty. These measures can lead to a major reduction of the Scottish football contributions to climate change, by reducing emissions as a way of combating climate change and the consequent heatwaves.

Promoting sustainability in the Cidade do Futebol in Portugal

This past May 2022, the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) hosted and organized the 1st SDG Striker Multiplier Sport Event, with the aim to present the SDG Striker project and its goals and achievements, as well as the contributions of the FPF to the project and to sustainability in the sports sector. It took place in the facilities of the Cidade do Futebol, the headquarters of the FPF.

The 1st Multiplier Sport Event of SDG Striker has been led by Francisca Araújo, head of Social Responsibility of the FPF, and was attended by students and professors of the master's degree in Sports Management from the School of Human Kinetics of the Lisbon University (Faculdade de Motricidade Humana da Universidade de Lisboa). The session included:

- The presentation of the SDG Striker project and its aims at promoting best practices for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the use of microplastics among sport stakeholders.
- The presentation of the role and contributions of the FPF in the SDG Striker project, focusing on the actions that the FPF is taking for the implementation and promotion of best practices in sustainability in the SDG Striker project context. And, specifically, presenting the pilot project for the installation of solar panels in the training center of the Football Club Sport Lisbon and Benfica.
- A tour around the facilities of the Cidade do Futebol to show the measures of sustainability implemented and specially the PV installations of the center.

- A section for questions and answers directed at the attendants, that allowed the students to bring some interesting inputs and ideas on how to manage a sport center for its sustainability.

The event was opened and attended by Pedro Pauleta, the director of the FPF and a famous retired Portuguese international football player, who played in the Portuguese national team and several European football clubs.

The SDG Striker project picks up strength in Scotland

Last 19th of May all the partners of the SDG Striker project met in Hampden Park Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland for the second Transnational Project Meeting (TPM), organised in the framework of the SDG Striker project and hosted by the Scottish Football Federation. SDG Striker is a European project, financed by the Erasmus+ Program, that aims to promote and implement sustainability initiatives in sport clubs and federations around Europe.

This meeting has been organized with the objective to encourage the partners involved in the project to meet, get to know each other, and create synergies in the planification and management of the project tasks. The meeting proved very successful, as new steps of the project building were reached, which will be here below detailed.

This gathering serves as Kick-off meeting of the 2nd phase of the SDG Striker project, which consists of translating all the planning done during the last months into the fully and effective implementation of the 3 pilots envisioned by the SDG Striker project:

- The implementation of measures for energy efficiency in sport facilities by the Scottish Football Federation.
- The implementation of solar panel installations in football stadiums by the Portuguese Football Federation.
- The implementation of more sustainable turf fillers in football pitches to reduce microplastic pollution by the Norwegian Football Federation.

The TPM also sets the foundations for the analysis of the pilots aimed at comparing before-implementation and after-implementation sustainability indicators.

Moreover, the TPM has been the occasion to present the recent 1st number of the SDG Striker magazine and to start the planning and creation of the 2nd number, having already started the writing and conception of the new articles that will comprise this next number.

Finally, the TPM marked the starting point for the organisation of the Multiplier Sport Events, which are meetings and conferences set to promote and share best practices in sustainability among stakeholders, sportsman and fans. The first round of Multiplier Sport Events will be organised in Portugal, Norway, and Scotland. SDG Striker is working hard to bring sustainable development to our communities through sport! Stay tuned!

