

STANDOUT PROJECT

Resources Associated with the STANDOUT Standards

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Abstract	Building on the standards framework presented in Deliverable 4.1, this deliverable provides practical guidance for applying the STANDOUT Standards at local level. It supports cities and municipalities in organising and conducting the self-assessment process, engaging relevant stakeholders, interpreting assessment questions, identifying and documenting evidence, and using assessment findings to inform planning and decision-making. Drawing on lessons learned from pilot implementation in participating municipalities, the document promotes a collaborative and learning-oriented approach that supports the development of outdoor sports and recreation across different local contexts.



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1. Executive Summary

The STANDOUT project aims to support cities and municipalities in creating more accessible, inclusive, sustainable and attractive environments for outdoor sports and recreation. As part of this objective, the project developed the STANDOUT Standards for Outdoor Cities and Municipalities, a comprehensive framework consisting of twelve categories and sixty-five indicators covering the key dimensions of outdoor sports and recreation development.

Building on the standards framework presented in Deliverable 4.1, this document provides practical guidance and resources to support its application at local level. It is intended to help municipalities organise and conduct the self-assessment process, engage relevant stakeholders, interpret assessment questions, identify appropriate information sources and use assessment findings to inform future planning and development.

The guidance is informed by the development and pilot implementation of the standards in Viana do Castelo (Portugal), Silkeborg (Denmark) and Sundsvall (Sweden). These pilots demonstrated that the framework can be applied in municipalities with different levels of experience, organisational structures and approaches to outdoor sports and recreation. They also generated valuable insights that informed the refinement of indicators, assessment questions and supporting guidance materials.

The document presents a recommended five-phase process for applying the standards, consisting of preparation, start-up, homework, workshop and final sprint phases. The process is designed to encourage stakeholder engagement, improve the quality of assessment responses and maximise the learning generated through the assessment. It also reflects one of the key findings from the pilot phase: the value of the standards extends beyond the assessment itself. Municipalities reported that the process strengthened cooperation, stimulated discussion and supported a more integrated understanding of outdoor sports and recreation.

In addition to explaining the assessment process, the document provides guidance on understanding the structure of the framework, interpreting assessment questions, working with uncertainty and identifying relevant information sources. It also outlines how assessment findings can support reflection, planning, decision-making and continuous improvement.

The resources presented in this document are complemented by Annex I: Complete Indicator and Assessment Framework. The annex brings together descriptions, examples, “Why?” and “What?” guidance, assessment questions, answer options and suggested evidence for each indicator. This integrated format allows municipalities to review all relevant information in one place and supports a practical and consistent assessment process.

The STANDOUT Standards are intended to support learning, collaboration and continuous improvement rather than comparison or certification. By applying the framework within their own local context, municipalities can strengthen their capacity to develop outdoor sports and recreation in ways that contribute to health, wellbeing, environmental sustainability, social inclusion and community development.

2. Introduction

The STANDOUT project aims to strengthen the development of outdoor sports and recreation across Europe by supporting cities and municipalities in creating more accessible, inclusive, sustainable and attractive environments for outdoor participation. As part of this objective, the project developed the STANDOUT Standards for Outdoor Cities and Municipalities, a comprehensive framework consisting of twelve categories and sixty-five indicators covering the key dimensions that influence participation, accessibility, quality, sustainability and long-term development of outdoor sports and recreation.

The STANDOUT Standards were developed through research, stakeholder consultation, partner collaboration and pilot implementation in municipalities from different European countries. The resulting framework provides a structured approach for examining the many factors that influence outdoor sports and recreation, including natural resources, infrastructure, accessibility, planning, governance, communication, education, community engagement and support services.

The framework was tested through pilot implementation in participating municipalities, including Viana do Castelo (Portugal), Silkeborg (Denmark) and Sundsvall (Sweden). Municipal representatives completed the assessment framework, reviewed indicators and assessment questions, and provided feedback on clarity, relevance and practical applicability. The experiences and lessons learned from these pilot municipalities informed the refinement of both the standards framework and the supporting resources presented in this document.

This document builds on the standards framework presented in Deliverable 4.1 and focuses on its practical application. It draws on the experiences of the pilot municipalities and provides guidance on organising the assessment process, involving relevant stakeholders, interpreting assessment questions and using the results to inform local planning and development. The aim is to help municipalities move from understanding the framework to applying it in a meaningful and manageable way.

A key finding from the pilot phase was that the value of the standards extends beyond the assessment itself. In Viana do Castelo, Silkeborg and Sundsvall, the process created opportunities for discussion, knowledge sharing and cooperation that went beyond the completion of the framework. Participants highlighted that the assessment helped improve understanding of local strengths and challenges and encouraged a more integrated perspective on outdoor sports and recreation across departments and stakeholder groups. The standards therefore function not only as an assessment framework but also as a tool for learning, collaboration and organisational development.

The resources presented in this document are intended to support municipalities and cities throughout the assessment process and to facilitate the practical application of the STANDOUT Standards. Together with Deliverable 4.1, they provide a foundation for strengthening outdoor sports and recreation policies, services and opportunities at local level and contribute to the long-term legacy and impact of the STANDOUT project.

3. How to Work with the STANDOUT Standards

3.1. Why follow a structured process

Experience from the pilot phase demonstrated that the way municipalities work with the standards elements is just as important as the assessment itself. The STANDOUT Standards cover a broad range of topics and involve knowledge held by different departments, organisations and stakeholders. For this reason, the project recommends a structured and collaborative approach to completing the assessment.

1. Distribution of time and effort

The assessment framework covers multiple dimensions of outdoor sports and recreation and requires information from different areas of municipal administration. A structured process helps distribute tasks among several people, making the workload more manageable and ensuring that relevant expertise is included throughout the assessment.

2. Strengthening cooperation between stakeholders

Outdoor sports and recreation are influenced by many sectors, including sport, planning, environment, tourism, health and education. The assessment process provides an opportunity to strengthen cooperation both within the municipality and with external stakeholders such as clubs, community organisations, businesses and tourism actors. These relationships can continue to contribute to future projects and initiatives beyond the assessment itself.

3. Improving learning and assessment quality

Some assessment questions can be answered by a single person, while others require input from multiple stakeholders. Bringing different perspectives together helps validate information, improve the quality of responses and create a shared understanding of local strengths, challenges and opportunities. The process also encourages learning across sectors and promotes dialogue between stakeholders with different interests and responsibilities.

4. Building ownership and long-term engagement

The assessment should be viewed as a tool for development rather than an end goal. A collaborative assessment process helps create ownership of both the results and the future actions that may follow. By involving relevant stakeholders from the beginning, municipalities can strengthen long-term engagement in the continued development of outdoor sports and recreation and related areas such as nature protection, public health, tourism and community wellbeing.

3.2. Overview of the recommended process

The framework is intended to support reflection, learning and continuous improvement in the development of outdoor sports and recreation. To maximise these benefits, the project recommends a structured and collaborative approach to completing the self-assessment.

The recommended process was developed and refined through pilot implementation in participating municipalities and is intended to help local authorities organise the assessment in an efficient and meaningful way. While the process can be adapted to local circumstances, organisational structures and available resources, its overall purpose is to ensure that relevant stakeholders are involved, information is gathered effectively and the assessment becomes a valuable learning experience rather than a purely administrative exercise.

The recommended process was informed by pilot implementation in municipalities with different levels of experience, organisational structures and approaches to outdoor sports and recreation development. For example, Silkeborg (Denmark), recognised as Denmark's Outdoor Capital, and Sundsvall (Sweden), a municipality with a long tradition of outdoor recreation development, were able to complete much of the assessment through existing organisational structures and established networks. In contrast, Viana do Castelo (Portugal) used the assessment as an opportunity to establish a dedicated working group and bring together stakeholders from multiple departments for the first time around a common outdoor sports and recreation framework.

These different approaches demonstrated that the framework can be applied successfully in municipalities with varying levels of maturity and capacity. At the same time, the pilot process highlighted the value of stakeholder engagement, cross-departmental dialogue and structured reflection. Feedback and experiences gathered from the pilot municipalities contributed to the refinement of indicators, assessment questions and supporting guidance, while also informing the recommended process presented in this document.

As a result, the recommended process to work with standards consists of five phases:

Phase 1 – Preparation: Establish the foundations for the assessment by identifying a coordinator, defining objectives, reviewing the standards and identifying relevant stakeholders.

Phase 2 – Start-Up: Introduce the assessment process, establish a working group, clarify expectations and allocate responsibilities for completing different parts of the framework.

Phase 3 – Homework: Stakeholders gather information, review available evidence and complete the assessment questions relevant to their areas of responsibility and expertise.

Phase 4 – Workshop: Participants come together to discuss responses, clarify uncertainties, validate information and reflect on key findings, strengths and development opportunities.

Phase 5 – Final sprint: The assessment is completed and consolidated, results are reviewed and potential priorities and actions for future development are identified.

The recommended process is illustrated in [Figure 1](#) and described in more detail in the following sections.

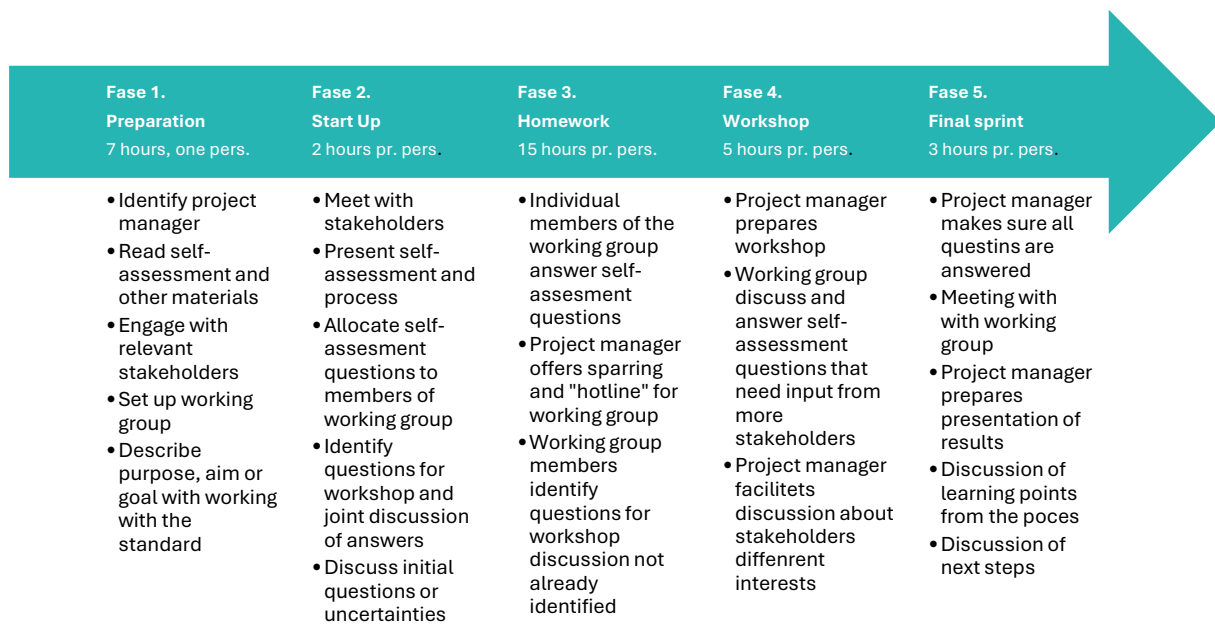


Figure 1. Recommended process for applying the STANDOUT Standards

Phase 1 - Preparation

Before beginning the assessment, municipalities should establish the organisational foundations needed to support the process. This includes clarifying why the assessment is being undertaken, identifying who should be involved and ensuring that sufficient time, resources and internal support are available. Time invested at this stage helps create a shared understanding of the process and increases the likelihood that the assessment will generate useful insights and outcomes.

Recommended Activities

The preparation phase focuses on establishing the organisational foundations for the assessment. The following activities are recommended before work begins on the assessment framework itself.

- Identify a project coordinator

A project coordinator should be appointed to manage the assessment process. The coordinator is responsible for organising activities, facilitating communication, monitoring progress and acting as the main point of contact throughout the assessment.

- Define the purpose of undertaking the assessment

The municipality should clarify its objectives for working with the STANDOUT Standards. Objectives may include gaining an overview of current strengths and challenges, supporting strategic planning, improving cooperation between departments, identifying development opportunities or preparing future initiatives related to outdoor sports and recreation.

- Establish a working group

A working group should be established to support the assessment process. The composition of the group will vary depending on the local context but should ideally include representatives from the key policy areas and organisations that influence outdoor sports and recreation. Bringing together different perspectives at an early stage helps improve the quality of the assessment and strengthens ownership of the process.

– Identify relevant stakeholders

The assessment benefits from involving stakeholders with different perspectives and expertise. Relevant participants may include representatives from sport, planning, environment, health, tourism, education, mobility and community development departments, as well as external organisations where appropriate. Municipalities may also consider involving sports clubs, community organisations, nature management bodies, tourism actors, educational institutions and informal outdoor communities.

– Review of the standards and supporting materials

Before beginning the assessment, working group members should familiarise themselves with the STANDOUT Standards, the assessment framework and the supporting guidance materials. This helps create a common understanding of the process and reduces uncertainty during later stages.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the preparation phase, municipalities should have:

- Appointed a project coordinator;
- Defined the purpose and objectives of the assessment;
- Established a working group;
- Identified relevant stakeholders to involve in the process;
- Developed a shared understanding of the standards and the assessment approach

Indicative Effort

The preparation phase is primarily led by the project coordinator and typically requires a relatively modest time investment. Based on the pilot experience, approximately seven hours of coordinator time may be required to organise the process, identify stakeholders and prepare the assessment.

Pilot Insight

Pilot municipalities highlighted the importance of appointing a dedicated coordinator at an early stage of the process. Coordinators played a key role in organizing meetings, distributing

responsibilities, supporting communication between stakeholders and ensuring that the assessment progressed efficiently. Municipalities also reported that involving multiple departments from the outset improved both the quality of responses and the learning generated through the process.

Phase 2 – Start-up

Once the working group has been established, participants should be introduced to the STAND-OUT Standards and the assessment process. This stage focuses on creating a common understanding of the framework, clarifying expectations and agreeing on how the work will be organised. A well-prepared start-up phase helps participants feel confident in their roles and reduces uncertainty before work on the assessment begins.

Recommended Activities

The start-up phase focuses on bringing together the working group and preparing participants to begin the assessment.

- Organise a start-up meeting

The project coordinator should organise a meeting with the working group and other relevant stakeholders. The meeting should introduce the STANDOUT Standards, explain the assessment process and provide an overview of the expected timeline and activities.

- Present the assessment framework

Participants should be introduced to the structure of the framework, including the categories, indicators and assessment questions. This helps create a shared understanding of the scope of the assessment and the topics that will be explored.

- Allocate responsibilities

Categories, indicators or groups of assessment questions should be allocated to members of the working group according to their expertise, responsibilities and access to relevant information. Clear allocation of responsibilities helps improve efficiency and accountability throughout the process.

- Clarify timelines and expectations

The working group should agree on deadlines, communication methods and expected levels of participation. Establishing clear expectations at an early stage helps maintain momentum and supports effective coordination.

- Identify initial questions and uncertainties

Participants should be encouraged to raise any questions regarding terminology, interpretation of indicators or evidence requirements. Addressing uncertainties early can improve consistency and reduce challenges during the assessment phase.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the start-up phase, municipalities should have:

- Introduced the STANDOUT Standards and assessment process to all participants;
- Established a shared understanding of the framework and objectives;
- Allocated responsibilities for completing the assessment;
- Agreed on timelines and working arrangements;
- Identified and clarified initial questions or uncertainties.

Indicative Effort

The start-up phase typically requires a joint meeting involving the project coordinator and members of the working group. Based on the pilot experience, approximately two hours per participant may be required to complete this phase.

Pilot Insight

Pilot municipalities highlighted the value of investing time at the beginning of the process to ensure a common understanding of the standards and expectations. Early discussions helped reduce uncertainty, improve consistency in responses and create stronger engagement among participants. Municipalities also reported that introducing the framework collectively encouraged valuable dialogue between departments that do not normally work together.

Phase 3 – Homework

Once responsibilities have been allocated, participants begin gathering information and completing the assessment questions relevant to their areas of expertise. This stage typically represents the largest share of the work involved in the assessment process and provides an opportunity to explore the framework in greater depth. In addition to completing the assessment, participants are encouraged to identify strengths, challenges and topics that may benefit from further discussion during the workshop phase.

Recommended Activities

The homework phase is undertaken individually or within small teams, depending on the organisational structure of the municipality and the nature of the questions assigned.

- Review assigned assessment questions

Working group members should review the questions allocated to them and familiarise themselves with the associated guidance materials and definitions.

- Gather information and evidence

Participants should collect relevant information, documentation and examples that can support their responses. Depending on the indicator, this may include policies, strategies, plans, reports, maps, statistics, budgets, communication materials or examples of projects and initiatives.

- Consult colleagues and stakeholders

Some questions may require input from colleagues, departments or external stakeholders. Participants are encouraged to engage with relevant individuals where additional information or expertise is required.

- Complete assigned questions

Participants should provide responses to the questions allocated to them and record any supporting information or evidence that may be useful during later discussions.

- Identify uncertainties and discussion points

Questions that are difficult to answer, require additional information or benefit from collective discussion should be noted and brought forward to the workshop phase.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the homework phase, municipalities should have:

- Completed the majority of assigned assessment questions;
- Gathered relevant information and supporting evidence;
- Identified questions requiring clarification or further discussion;
- Developed a preliminary understanding of strengths, challenges and opportunities within the municipality.

Indicative Effort

The homework phase is typically the most time-intensive stage of the process. Based on the pilot experience, participants may require approximately fifteen hours to review questions, gather information and prepare responses, although the time required will vary depending on local circumstances and the availability of information.

Pilot Insight

Pilot municipalities reported that gathering information and evidence was often the most demanding part of the assessment process. However, participants also highlighted that the process encouraged valuable reflection, increased awareness of activities taking place across different departments and helped identify strengths and opportunities that were not previously visible. Municipalities found that discussing uncertainties and collecting questions for the workshop phase significantly improved the quality of the final assessment.

Phase 4 – Workshop

After the initial information gathering has been completed, participants come together to review findings, discuss uncertainties and validate responses. This stage creates an opportunity to share

knowledge across departments and stakeholder groups, compare perspectives and develop a broader understanding of outdoor sports and recreation within the municipality. In the pilot phase, many municipalities identified these discussions as one of the most valuable parts of the assessment process.

Recommended Activities

The workshop should involve the working group and, where appropriate, additional stakeholders who can contribute relevant perspectives and expertise.

- Review key findings from the homework phase
Participants should present the main findings from their assigned questions, highlighting strengths, challenges, uncertainties and areas requiring further discussion.
- Discuss and validate responses
Questions that generate uncertainty or differing interpretations should be discussed collectively. The objective is to validate responses and ensure that the assessment reflects a shared understanding of the local situation.
- Identify gaps and opportunities
The workshop provides an opportunity to identify areas where information is missing, where further action may be required or where opportunities for future development exist.
- Facilitate cross-sector dialogue
Participants should be encouraged to discuss how different policy areas and stakeholders contribute to outdoor sports and recreation. These discussions can reveal connections between topics such as health, planning, environment, tourism, education and community development.
- Capture key learning points
Important observations, lessons learned and ideas for future action should be documented for use during the finalisation phase.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the workshop phase, municipalities should have:

- Reviewed and discussed assessment responses;
- Clarified and validated areas of uncertainty;
- Identified strengths, challenges and development opportunities;
- Documented key learning points and observations;
- Built a shared understanding of outdoor sports and recreation across stakeholders.

Indicative Effort

The workshop phase typically requires approximately five hours per participant, including preparation and participation in the workshop itself. The exact duration may vary depending on the size of the working group and the complexity of the topics discussed.

Pilot Insight

Pilot municipalities consistently highlighted the workshop phase as one of the most valuable parts of the process. Bringing together representatives from different departments and stakeholder groups created opportunities for dialogue that would not normally take place within everyday organisational structures. Participants reported that these discussions improved the quality of responses, strengthened cooperation and generated a broader understanding of how outdoor sports and recreation connect to multiple policy areas and community objectives.

Phase 5 – Final Sprint

The final stage focuses on consolidating the assessment and making sense of the information collected throughout the process. Responses are reviewed, key findings are brought together and any remaining gaps or uncertainties are addressed. This stage also provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been learned, identify priorities and consider how the assessment can support future planning and development.

Recommended Activities

The final sprint phase is typically led by the project coordinator, with support from the working group where necessary.

- Review and complete the assessment
The project coordinator should review the assessment framework to ensure that all questions have been answered and that any remaining gaps or uncertainties have been addressed.
- Consolidate findings
Key observations, strengths, challenges and opportunities identified throughout the process should be compiled into a clear and accessible summary.
- Review learning outcomes
The working group should reflect on the learning generated through the assessment process, including new insights, improved understanding of local conditions and opportunities for future collaboration.
- Discuss future priorities and actions
Participants should consider how the findings can inform future planning, projects, policies or stakeholder initiatives related to outdoor sports and recreation.
- Document the process

Municipalities are encouraged to document key lessons learned and good practice examples that may be useful for future assessments or knowledge exchange with other municipalities.

Expected Outputs

By the end of the final sprint phase, municipalities should have:

- Completed and validated the assessment framework;
- Consolidated key findings and observations;
- Identified strengths and areas for future development;
- Reflected on learning outcomes and stakeholder collaboration;
- Discussed potential priorities and next steps.

Indicative Effort

The final sprint phase typically requires approximately three hours per participant, although additional time may be required depending on the complexity of the assessment and the level of discussion regarding future actions.

Pilot Insight

Pilot municipalities reported that the final review of the assessment often revealed patterns and connections that were less visible when individual questions were considered separately. Participants highlighted the value of reflecting on the process as a whole and noted that the assessment helped create a stronger understanding of outdoor sports and recreation as a cross-cutting topic involving multiple departments, stakeholders and policy areas. Several municipalities also identified opportunities for future cooperation and development that emerged directly from the discussions generated during the assessment process.

4. Understanding the Assessment Framework

4.1. Structure of the framework

The STANDOUT Standards are organised as a structured framework designed to help cities and municipalities explore the many factors that influence outdoor sports and recreation. The framework provides a common approach for understanding current conditions, identifying strengths and opportunities, and supporting future planning and development.

The framework consists of twelve categories and sixty-five indicators covering a broad range of themes, including natural environments, infrastructure, accessibility, planning, communication, education, participation and stakeholder engagement. Together, these categories provide a holistic perspective on outdoor sports and recreation and recognise that successful outdoor environments depend on the interaction of many different factors. For ease of use, the resources associated with the STANDOUT Standards are presented in Annex I: Complete Indicator and Assessment Framework. For each indicator, the annex combines descriptions and examples, the associated “Why?” and “What?” guidance, assessment questions, answer options and suggested evidence within a single reference framework. This integrated structure allows municipalities to review all relevant information in one place and supports a more efficient and user-friendly assessment process.

Each category is supported by several indicators that focus on specific aspects of outdoor sports and recreation. Indicators are translated into assessment questions that encourage municipalities to reflect on their current situation and identify areas for future development. The questions are intended to stimulate discussion and learning rather than provide definitive or absolute answers. The relationship between the different elements of the framework is illustrated in Figure 2 below:

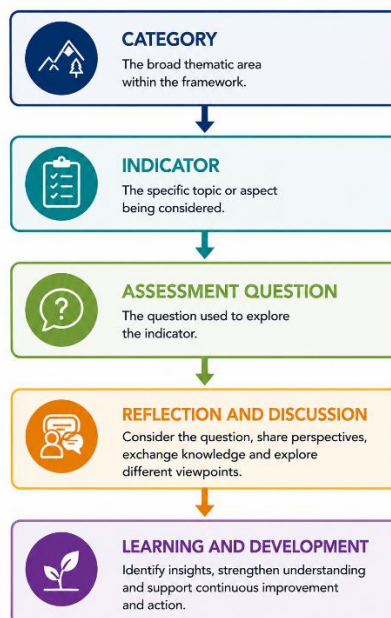


Figure 2. Assessment Framework logic

This structure allows municipalities to move from broad thematic areas to more specific considerations while maintaining a clear connection between assessment, reflection and future action.

The framework is designed as a self-assessment tool. It does not seek to compare municipalities or prescribe a single model for outdoor sports and recreation development. Instead, it encourages local reflection, stakeholder dialogue and continuous improvement while recognising the diversity of geographical, cultural and organisational contexts across Europe.

The following sections explain the different components of the framework in more detail and provide guidance on how municipalities can work with the assessment questions and associated resources.

4.2. Categories and indicators

The STANDOUT Standards are organised into twelve categories that together provide a comprehensive framework for understanding and developing outdoor sports and recreation at local level. The categories reflect the diverse factors that influence participation, accessibility, quality, sustainability and long-term development and recognise that successful outdoor environments depend on much more than infrastructure or natural assets alone.

Each category contains several indicators that focus on specific aspects of outdoor sports and recreation. While the categories provide the thematic structure of the framework, the indicators translate these themes into more specific areas for reflection and assessment. Together, the sixty-five indicators help municipalities explore how outdoor sports and recreation are supported through policies, planning, infrastructure, management, communication, education, participation and stakeholder engagement.

To provide an overview of the framework, the twelve categories can be grouped into four broader thematic clusters representing the key dimensions of outdoor sports and recreation development. These clusters reflect the structure used throughout the STANDOUT project and provide a simplified way of understanding how different aspects of outdoor sports and recreation are connected. Figure 3 illustrates how the twelve categories are organised within the four thematic clusters.



Figure 3. Organisation of the STANDOUT categories and thematic pillars

The indicators have been designed to encourage a holistic perspective. Some focus on the availability and quality of natural environments and infrastructure, while others address planning, communication, accessibility, inclusion, knowledge development, community involvement and service provision. Together, they reflect the understanding that outdoor sports and recreation are influenced by many interconnected factors and require collaboration across multiple sectors and stakeholders.

To support both understanding and practical application of the standards, the complete assessment framework is provided in the annex. For each indicator, the annex combines the guidance material (“Why?” and “What?”), assessment questions, answer options and suggested evidence within a single reference table. This allows users to review the purpose of the indicator alongside the corresponding assessment requirements.

Each indicator follows a common structure designed to support understanding and assessment. In addition to the assessment question itself, explanatory information is provided to clarify why the indicator is important, what aspect is being assessed and how the question may be interpreted in practice.

4.3. Understanding the assessment questions

The assessment questions are the core component of the STANDOUT self-assessment framework. They are designed to help municipalities reflect on their current situation, explore different dimensions of outdoor sports and recreation, and identify strengths, challenges and opportunities for future development. Rather than providing definitive measurements or absolute evaluations, the questions are intended to stimulate discussion, encourage learning and inform decision-making.

Each assessment question is linked to a specific indicator and should be considered together with the supporting information provided in the indicator guidance framework. The associated descriptions, examples, “Why?” and “What?” sections provide additional context on the purpose of the indicator, the issues being explored and the broader context of the assessment question.

The assessment framework was developed through an iterative process involving the STANDOUT project partners, a dedicated standards development group and pilot municipalities. Initial indicators and assessment questions were drafted by the standards development group and reviewed by project partners throughout the development process. The resulting framework was then tested through pilot implementation in participating municipalities.

As part of the pilot process, municipalities completed the assessment framework and provided structured feedback on the questions. This feedback focused on the clarity and understanding of the questions, the level of difficulty in providing responses, and any issues related to wording, terminology, scope, relevance or interpretation. The pilot phase also generated valuable discussions regarding data availability, stakeholder involvement and the practical application of the framework within different municipal contexts. Feedback received from partners and pilot municipalities was used to refine and strengthen the final version of the assessment framework.

The assessment questions have been developed to support reflection across a wide range of topics, including natural environments, infrastructure, planning, accessibility, participation, communication, governance and service provision. Some questions can be answered relatively easily using existing information, while others may require consultation with colleagues, review of municipal documents or discussion with external stakeholders.

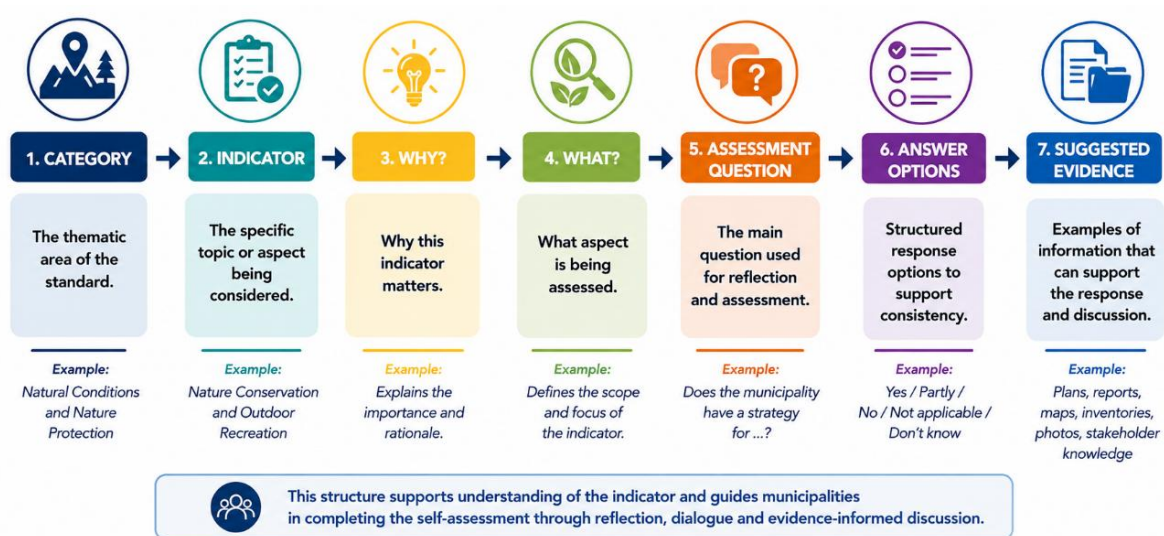


Figure 4. Structure of an indicator within the STANDOUT Framework

The structure of each indicator is intended to support both understanding and consistency. The assessment question itself forms the basis of the self-assessment, while the accompanying information provides additional guidance on how the question may be interpreted and consider the different factors that may influence their response.

Users should approach the assessment questions as a tool for reflection rather than a test with right or wrong answers. In some cases, municipalities may identify strengths and examples of good practice. In others, the questions may reveal gaps in information, differences in interpretation or opportunities for further development. These outcomes are a valuable part of the assessment process and can inform future planning and decision-making.

The self-assessment framework also includes answer options that provide a structured approach for responding to each question. These options help improve consistency across the assessment while still allowing municipalities to consider their own local circumstances and context. Suggested evidence is provided as supporting guidance and may include strategies, plans, reports, inventories, maps, records of activities or stakeholder knowledge. The purpose of this information is not to verify compliance, but to support informed reflection and discussion.

4.4 Working with uncertainty and information sources

As a self-assessment tool, the framework is intended to support reflection, learning and informed discussion rather than provide definitive measurements or audit-based evaluations. Municipalities should therefore approach the assessment process with the understanding that not every question will have a simple or immediately available answer.

In some cases, information may already exist in municipal strategies, plans, reports, inventories or other documentation. In other cases, answers may rely on the knowledge and experience of staff, stakeholders or local organisations. Differences in interpretation, incomplete information or uncertainty regarding a particular question should not be viewed as barriers to completing the

assessment. Instead, they can provide valuable insights into areas where further discussion, information gathering or collaboration may be beneficial.

Municipalities are encouraged to use the best available information when completing the assessment. As illustrated in Table 1, different situations may require different approaches, ranging from the use of existing documentation to consultation with colleagues and stakeholders. Uncertainty should be viewed as a normal part of the assessment process and can often highlight areas where additional discussion or information gathering may be beneficial.

Table 1. Recommended approaches for managing uncertainty during the assessment process

Situation	Recommended Approach
Information is readily available	Use existing documentation, records and local knowledge to inform the response.
Information is incomplete or outdated	Consult relevant colleagues, departments or stakeholders and use the best available information.
Different interpretations or opinions exist	Discuss the question collectively, document assumptions and seek a shared understanding.
Information is unavailable	Use professional judgement, identify information gaps and consider future data collection or monitoring needs.

Depending on the indicator, useful information sources may include:

- Municipal strategies, policies and action plans;
- Land-use, environmental and infrastructure plans;
- Reports, studies and surveys;
- Maps, inventories and databases;
- Records of programmes, events and activities;
- Stakeholder consultations and community engagement processes;
- Knowledge and experience held by municipal staff, local organisations and outdoor communities.

The suggested evidence included within the self-assessment framework is intended as supporting guidance rather than a formal verification requirement. Its purpose is to identify potential sources of information that may inform discussion and decision-making. Not all suggested evidence will be available or relevant in every local context, and municipalities should use professional judgement when determining how best to answer individual questions.

Where uncertainty exists, municipalities are encouraged to document assumptions, discuss differing perspectives and identify areas where additional information may be useful in the future. In many cases, the conversations generated through the assessment process can be just as valuable as the answers themselves, strengthening cooperation, improving understanding and highlighting opportunities for future development.

The objective of the STANDOUT Standards is not to achieve perfect answers, but to support a structured and informed reflection on how outdoor sports and recreation are planned, managed and developed within a municipality.

5. Using the Assessment Results

5.1. Reflection and discussion

The completion of the self-assessment represents an important milestone, but it should be viewed as the beginning rather than the end of the process. The greatest value of the STANDOUT Standards often emerges through the reflection and discussions that take place during and after the assessment, helping municipalities develop a deeper understanding of their strengths, challenges and future opportunities.

Municipalities are encouraged to review the assessment results collectively and engage relevant stakeholders in discussing the findings. This may include representatives from different municipal departments, elected officials, outdoor sports organisations, community groups, environmental organisations, tourism actors, educational institutions and other stakeholders involved in outdoor sports and recreation.

Reflection and discussion can help municipalities:

- Develop a shared understanding of the current situation;
- Identify strengths and examples of successful practice;
- Recognise challenges, gaps and barriers to participation or development;
- Explore connections between different policy areas and stakeholders;
- Generate ideas for future initiatives, projects or improvements;
- Strengthen cooperation and coordination across sectors.

The pilot phase of the STANDOUT project demonstrated that many of the most valuable outcomes emerged through dialogue between participants rather than through the assessment results alone. Discussions often revealed different perspectives, highlighted previously unrecognised strengths and challenges, and encouraged cooperation between departments and stakeholders that do not normally work together.

Municipalities may find it useful to organise a dedicated workshop or review meeting following completion of the assessment. Such meetings can provide an opportunity to discuss key findings, validate conclusions, identify priorities and consider potential next steps. These discussions should help participants explore different perspectives, validate key findings and identify potential priorities for future action.

To support these discussions, municipalities may wish to consider several guiding questions that help structure reflection on the assessment results and identify potential priorities for future action. Examples are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Suggested questions for reflection and discussion following the assessment

Reflection area	Example questions
Strengths	What aspects of outdoor sports and recreation are currently working well?
Challenges	What barriers, gaps or limitations were identified through the assessment?
Stakeholders	Which stakeholders are currently engaged and who could be more involved in future development?
Priorities	Which areas should be prioritised for improvement or further investigation?
Opportunities	What opportunities for new initiatives, partnerships or investments were identified?
Future development	How can the assessment findings support future planning and decision-making?

5.2 Supporting planning and decision-making

The STANDOUT Standards are intended to support informed planning and decision-making related to outdoor sports and recreation. While the assessment process provides an overview of current conditions, its greatest value lies in helping municipalities identify priorities, align stakeholders and inform future actions.

The assessment findings can inform a wide range of planning and development activities. Depending on local circumstances, municipalities may use the results to review existing strategies, inform policy development, prioritise investments, strengthen stakeholder cooperation or identify opportunities for new projects and initiatives. The framework can also help municipalities better understand how outdoor sports and recreation contribute to broader objectives related to health, wellbeing, environmental sustainability, social inclusion, tourism and community development.

The assessment encourages municipalities to consider outdoor sports and recreation from a holistic perspective. By bringing together information from different departments and stakeholders, the process can reveal connections between policy areas that are often addressed separately. This broader understanding can contribute to more coordinated planning and encourage collaboration across sectors.

Assessment findings may also highlight areas where additional information, resources or stakeholder engagement are required. In some cases, the assessment may confirm existing priorities and strategic directions. In others, it may highlight previously overlooked opportunities or challenges that warrant further consideration. Both outcomes can lead to more informed decision-making.

The framework does not prescribe specific actions or priorities. Instead, they provide a structured framework that municipalities can use to support local discussions, establish priorities and guide future development according to their own needs, objectives and resources.

Rather than prescribing specific actions, the framework provides a structured basis for discussion, prioritisation and future planning. Municipalities can use the insights generated through the assessment to guide development efforts, strengthen collaboration and support the continued improvement of outdoor sports and recreation opportunities.

5.3 Continuous improvement

The STANDOUT Standards are intended to support continuous improvement rather than a one-time assessment exercise. Outdoor sports and recreation environments evolve over time in response to changes in population, participation patterns, infrastructure, environmental conditions, public policy and community needs. As a result, municipalities are encouraged to view the assessment as part of an ongoing process of learning, development and adaptation.

The assessment findings can provide a useful baseline for future reflection and review. By revisiting the framework periodically, municipalities can monitor progress, evaluate the impact of actions and initiatives, and identify new opportunities for development. Regular review can maintain stakeholder engagement and ensure that outdoor sports and recreation remain visible within wider planning and policy discussions.

Continuous improvement does not require municipalities to address all identified opportunities at once. Instead, municipalities may choose to focus on a limited number of priorities that align with local needs, available resources and strategic objectives. Incremental improvements achieved over time can contribute significantly to the long-term development of outdoor sports and recreation.

The collaborative approach encouraged through the assessment process can also contribute to continuous improvement. Ongoing dialogue between municipal departments, stakeholders and community organisations can help strengthen partnerships, share knowledge and identify emerging challenges and opportunities.

The continuous improvement cycle illustrated in Figure 5 provides a simple example of how municipalities can use the STANDOUT Standards as part of an ongoing development process.

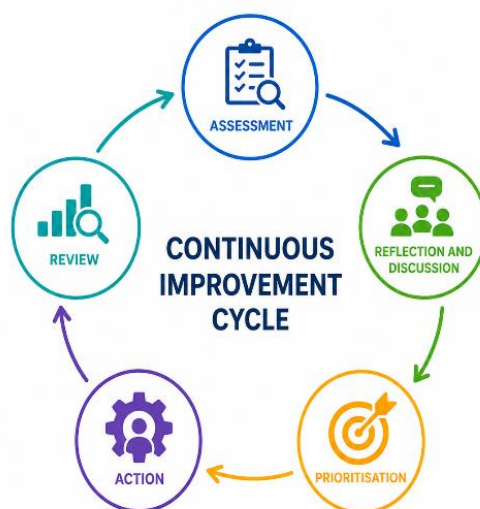


Figure 5. Continuous Improvement Cycle

6. Conclusion

The STANDOUT Standards have been developed to support cities and municipalities in understanding, assessing and strengthening the conditions that enable outdoor sports and recreation. Through a comprehensive framework of categories and indicators, the standards provide a structured approach for exploring the many factors that influence participation, accessibility, quality, sustainability and long-term development.

This document complements the standards framework by providing practical resources and guidance to support their implementation. Drawing on the experiences of the development process and pilot implementation, it presents recommended approaches for organising the assessment process, engaging stakeholders, interpreting assessment questions and using the results to support reflection and decision-making.

A key lesson from the STANDOUT project is that the value of the standards extends beyond the assessment itself. The process of working with the framework can encourage dialogue, strengthen cooperation between departments and stakeholders, improve understanding of local strengths and challenges, and support a more integrated approach to the development of outdoor sports and recreation.

The resources provided in Annex I offer municipalities guidance and practical tools needed to apply the standards within their own local context. While priorities, resources and circumstances will differ between municipalities, the framework is designed to be flexible and adaptable, supporting learning, reflection and continuous improvement rather than prescribing a single approach.

One of the clearest findings from the pilot phase was that municipalities approached the assessment in different ways. Some relied on established structures and existing networks, while others used the process to create new forms of cooperation and dialogue. The flexibility of the framework allows it to support both situations and reflects the diversity of local contexts across Europe.

Annex I

1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection		
1.1. Existing nature areas		
Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>Existing nature areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green areas (e.g., parks, forests, grasslands) - Blue areas (e.g., rivers, lakes, coastal zones) - Uncategorized open natural spaces (e.g., undeveloped peri-urban land, snowy terrain, uncultivated open fields) 	<p>Nature is the foundation of outdoor sports. Establishing a full inventory of natural land is a foundational step for planning outdoor recreation, conservation, and inclusive access.</p>	<p>All land areas that are classified (or mappable) as natural or semi-natural and are publicly accessible, regardless of whether they are protected, used, or formally managed. This includes both well-known parks and overlooked or informal green and blue spaces.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Have you mapped and inventoried your city or municipality's natural areas (including green, blue, and white spaces)?</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u> White spaces: Natural areas characterised by seasonal or permanent snow and ice that support outdoor sport and recreation.</p>	<p>No inventory or database.</p> <p>Inventory exists but incomplete or outdated (> 3 years)</p> <p>Comprehensive inventory, updated within 3 years, not publicly accessible</p> <p>Comprehensive, updated, and publicly accessible inventory</p>	<p>Official maps, GIS shapefiles, or inventory databases.</p> <p>Municipal reports containing extent of green/blue/white areas.</p>
<p>2. Please estimate the total area (in hectares) of nature areas within your city or municipality.</p> <p>Provide best-available official or estimated figures</p>	<p>Green spaces (ha) – parks, forests, meadows, grasslands</p> <p>Blue spaces (ha) – lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal or marine areas</p>	

White spaces (ha) – snowy, mountainous, un-categorised, or open natural land

Risks assessed but no adaptation measures implemented.

Risks assessed and measures planned but not yet implemented

Risks assessed, measures implemented, and the adaptation plan is monitored and updated periodically.

1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection		
1.2. Existing protected natural areas		
Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>Formally protected natural areas within the city or municipality/region.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National or regional nature reserves - Natura 2000 sites - Local conservation areas - Other zones with formal ecological or biodiversity protections <p>May also include protected peri-urban landscapes where applicable.</p>	<p>Protected areas are key indicators of ecological quality and resilience.</p>	<p>All areas with legal, policy-based, or formally recognized protection status for nature, biodiversity, or landscape value (within city boundaries or nearby, including peri-urban zones where citizens interact with protected nature).</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have designated protected areas (PAs)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Legal documents, protected area management plans, national/regional registers of PA</p>
<p>2. Please indicate which types of protected or designated natural areas are present within your city or municipality.</p> <p>Select all that apply</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u></p> <p>Protected areas may be designated at local, regional, national, or international level. Municipalities may use official national databases or European databases (e.g. EUNIS and Natura 2000) to identify protected areas located within their territory. Where exact municipal-level area data are unavailable, best available estimates may be used.</p>	<p>Natural protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks, wilderness areas)</p> <p>Marine or coastal protected areas (e.g. marine protected areas, coastal reserves)</p> <p>Protected cultural landscapes (e.g. protected landscapes combining natural and cultural heritage values)</p> <p>Local or municipal protected areas (e.g. areas designated by the municipality or local authority)</p> <p>Other protected or designated areas</p>	<p>Official PA registry, GIS maps, management plans.</p>

For each protected area category selected, please indicate the number of sites and the total area (in hectares) covered within your city or municipality, where data are available.	Natural protected areas (e.g. nature reserves, national parks, wilderness areas)
	Marine or coastal protected areas (e.g. marine protected areas, coastal reserves)
	Protected cultural landscapes (e.g. protected landscapes combining natural and cultural heritage values)
	Local or municipal protected areas (e.g. areas designated by the municipality or local authority)
	Other protected or designated areas (please specify)

1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection

1.3. Existing nature areas with valued characteristics for outdoor sports and recreation

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>Identification of existing natural areas that have specific environmental or physical qualities that make them particularly valuable for outdoor sports.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wind exposure (e.g., kitesurfing, sailing) - Reliable snow cover (e.g., cross-country skiing) - Water quality for open swimming or paddling - Elevation, slope or terrain quality (e.g., mountain biking, hiking, climbing) - Clean air or scenic quality supporting wellbeing-based activities 	<p>These valued characteristics directly support participation, quality of experience, and sport-specific development.</p>	<p>Natural spaces within or near the urban area that possess conditions particularly suited for outdoor sport and recreation.</p> <p>Not because of protection or classification, but because of their physical/environmental characteristics.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Which outdoor sport activities are feasible within the natural areas of the municipality?</p> <p>Consider activities that involve physical activity, interaction with natural elements, and contribute to health and well-being.</p>	<p>(Nordic) walking, running, hiking / trekking</p> <p>Cycling on green routes, MTB</p> <p>Orienteering, Geocaching</p> <p>Horse riding in natural areas</p> <p>Rock climbing, bouldering and treetop/adventure climbing</p> <p>Horse riding in parks</p> <p>Outdoor fitness</p> <p>Swimming and bathing in natural blue spaces</p>	<p>Monitoring reports, environmental quality data, municipal programs on environment/sport interface.</p>

	<p>Sailing, Kitesurfing, Windsurfing</p> <p>Surfing on river waves in the city or at the sea of coastal cities</p> <p>Canoeing, kayaking, SUP, Rowing</p> <p>Diving, Snorkelling</p> <p>Rafting</p> <p>Non-motorized air sports like Paragliding</p> <p>Snow sports like Cross-country Skiing, Snow shoeing, Sledding</p> <p>Ski touring, Alpine skiing and Snowboarding</p> <p>Educational trails/routes accessible on foot or by bike (with information about natural, historical or cultural sights on the way)</p> <p>Other activities (please specify)</p>
<p>2. Does your municipality measure and work on improving the natural conditions that affect outdoor sport (e.g. water quality, air quality, waste management, soil/erosion control)?</p>	<p>Water quality monitoring and improvement measures</p> <p>Air quality monitoring and improvement measures</p> <p>Waste management and cleanliness measures in natural areas</p> <p>Noise and traffic reduction measures affecting outdoor sport areas</p> <p>Soil protection and erosion control measures</p> <p>Other relevant measures (please specify)</p>

<p>3. To what extent does your municipality understand and meet the wishes and needs of outdoor sport practitioners regarding accessible natural areas?</p>	<p>No idea / No data collected</p> <p>We have investigated the wishes and needs of practitioners</p> <p>We have investigated and made some improvements, but there is still much to do</p> <p>We actively align planning and management of natural areas with the wishes and needs of outdoor sport practitioners (mostly are met)</p>
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1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection

1.4. Protection, conservation, and restoration of nature

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality actively engages in the protection, conservation, and ecological restoration of natural areas.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Measures to maintain biodiversity and ecological integrity - Restoration of degraded land or ecosystems - Nature-based solutions for climate adaptation - Management practices that balance access with protection 	<p>Outdoor sports depend on the long-term health of natural ecosystems. Active conservation and restoration support biodiversity, landscape quality, and sustainable recreational use.</p> <p>This indicator supports the dual goals of access and protection, aligning outdoor recreation with ecological responsibility.</p>	<p>Any official or organized effort by the municipality to preserve existing nature (e.g. conservation zones), restore degraded areas, or manage ecological impact from recreation and infrastructure.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What ecological restoration measures are implemented in natural areas within your city or municipality?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No ecological restoration measures are implemented Restoration of degraded forests, meadows, or grasslands River, wetland, or coastal habitat restoration (e.g. re-naturalisation, daylighting, erosion control) Soil and vegetation recovery in areas degraded by overuse (e.g. trail or slope rehabilitation) Biodiversity or ecosystem restoration in peri-urban natural areas Removal of invasive species and/or reintroduction of native species Nature-based restoration measures supporting outdoor sport safety or experience (e.g. stabilised riverbanks for paddling, re-greening ski or MTB areas) 	<p>Policy documents, management plans, municipal strategies, environmental reports, plus project reports, GIS data, monitoring outcomes.</p>

Other ecological restoration measures (please specify)

1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection

1.5. Transformation of land use to new natural areas for recreation and outdoor sports

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has taken actions to transform previously built-up, underused, or non-natural land (e.g., industrial sites, vacant lots, degraded urban areas) into new natural or semi-natural spaces that support recreation and outdoor sports.</p> <p>Examples can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conversion of brownfields into green corridors - Creation of green/blue infrastructure from abandoned zones - New public nature areas on former urban land - River daylighting or ecological re-greening projects 	<p>Many urban and peri-urban areas face land scarcity or environmental degradation. Transforming land use creates new opportunities for inclusive outdoor sport and contributes to climate adaptation, biodiversity, and urban well-being.</p>	<p>Projects or policies that resulted in new natural areas for outdoor sport or recreation that did not previously exist as accessible nature.</p> <p>This may include municipal land, partnerships, or regeneration programs.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What types of projects has your city or municipality implemented to transform previously built-up, degraded, or underused land into new natural or semi-natural areas accessible for outdoor sport and recreation?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No transformation projects have been implemented Conversion of brownfields, former industrial zones, or quarries into outdoor recreation areas (e.g. trails, climbing, mountain biking) Creation of green or blue corridors connecting urban areas with nature for active mobility (walking, cycling, trail running) River or waterfront restoration supporting outdoor recreation (e.g. paddling, open-water swimming, fishing, nature trails) Transformation of vacant or underused urban land into accessible natural parks or multi-activity outdoor areas 	<p>Project documentation, land-use and regeneration plans, before/after photos, GIS data, municipal reports.</p>

Re-greening or ecological rehabilitation of former transport or utility areas (e.g. rail corridors, landfill sites, flood basins) for outdoor use

Other (please specify)

1. Natural conditions and Nature Protection

1.6 Climate considerations and climate adaptation measures

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality or city considers climate change risks and implements climate adaptation measures that affect outdoor sport infrastructure, nature access, or recreational areas.</p> <p>Examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood-resilient trails or green corridors - Shading or cooling in outdoor recreation areas - Water management in sport/nature zones - Use of nature-based solutions to increase resilience of outdoor spaces 	<p>Outdoor sports depend on climate-sensitive environments.</p> <p>Integrating adaptation measures ensure long-term usability and safety of natural sport areas, supports public health, and aligns with EU sustainability goals.</p>	<p>Any formal or informal measure that demonstrates planning for climate impacts (e.g. heat, flooding, drought) in areas used for outdoor sport or nature access.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. To what extent has your municipality assessed, planned, and implemented climate adaptation measures affecting outdoor sport and recreation areas?</p> <p>Consider risks and long-term climate impacts such as heat, flooding, drought, storms, changing seasonal conditions, shorter winters, reduced snow reliability, and other climate-related changes affecting outdoor sport and recreation.</p>	<p>No climate-risk assessment.</p> <p>Risks assessed but no adaptation measures implemented.</p> <p>Risks assessed and measures planned but not yet implemented</p> <p>Risks assessed, measures implemented, and the adaptation plan is monitored and updated periodically.</p>	<p>Climate adaptation plans, NbS project reports, municipal strategies, infrastructure upgrades.</p> <p>Project documentation, GIS data, design guidelines, monitoring reports.</p>

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.1. Welcoming and safe trailheads and gateways to nature areas for outdoor sports

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether trailheads and gateways are welcoming, safe, and appropriately equipped - providing a reasonable level of infrastructure where contextually appropriate, without over-developing natural settings.</p> <p>Examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information boards, signage, trail maps - Basic facilities: seating, bike racks, bins, changing rooms, storage - Club houses or community hubs for outdoor sport users - Design that minimizes unnecessary physical barriers (e.g., fences) - Flexible opening hours where infrastructure exists 	<p>A clear, safe, and friendly entrance encourages broader use of outdoor sport spaces. It ensures accessibility, improves user orientation, and supports inclusivity, especially for newcomers.</p>	<p>Any public access point to nature areas where outdoor sport begins (e.g., trailheads, lake entries, forest gateways).</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. To what extent does your municipality provide welcoming, safe, and appropriately equipped trailheads or gateways to nature areas for outdoor sport activities?</p> <p>Please assess the overall situation in the municipality, considering the majority of trailheads/gateways and the typical level of provision</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u></p> <p>A trailhead or gateway is defined as a public access point to nature areas where outdoor sport activities typically begin (e.g. forest entrances, lake access points, trail starts).</p>	<p>No formal or designated public trailheads or gateways to nature areas are provided.</p> <p>Our Trailheads have basic infrastructure, such as signage, trail maps, and seating. We have no trailheads that offer more specialised facilities or extensive services.</p> <p>Our Trailheads mainly have basic infrastructure. A few Trailheads have more specialised facilities or extensive services such as toilets, showers, changing rooms, storage spaces and indoor/covered community areas.</p> <p>Our municipality provides a network of trailheads covering most nature areas and outdoor sports. There are specialized facilities or</p>	<p>Photos, infrastructure inventories, municipal reports, site audits.</p>

extensive services in the most popular areas including facilities such as toilets, showers, changing rooms, storage spaces and indoor/covered community areas.

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.2. Quantity, quality and variety of trails

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates the extent, diversity, and quality of trails available for outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and length of trails - Trail types (e.g., walking, MTB, trail running, skiing) - Surface condition and maintenance - Waymarking and signage along the route - Use of national or regional signage systems (e.g., DGI for MTB in Denmark) - Supporting features: resting points, info boards, start/finish signs 	<p>A well-developed, diverse trail system increases participation, safety, and inclusivity.</p> <p>Standardized signage and route clarity ensure positive user experience and reduce environmental impact.</p>	<p>Officially recognised trails and routes accessible to the public for outdoor sport and recreational use, including those maintained by public, private, or community actors.</p> <p>This includes trails and routes that are signposted, way-marked, mapped, or otherwise publicly communicated as official and legal routes for outdoor sport and recreation. General roads, cycle paths, and gravel roads should only be included where they form part of an officially recognised recreational route.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have officially recognized outdoor sport trails or routes (e.g. walking, cycling, mountain biking, horse riding, paddling, skiing)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Officially recognized trails and routes accessible to the public for sports and recreational use.</p> <p>Only trails and routes that are waymarked or communicated as official and legal routes on for example maps, signs, websites or apps</p> <p>Only trails and routes build, designed or communicated with outdoor sports and recreation purposes. Bike paths and gravel roads are only included if there are official routes or waymarking.</p>	<p>Trail maps, GIS data, photos of waymarking/signage, infrastructure inventories, national/regional certificate.</p>
	<p>Walking / Hiking</p>	

2. Which types of recognised outdoor sport trails or routes are available in your municipality, and what is their approximate total length?	Cycling / Road Cycling
	Mountain Biking (MTB)
<u>Guidance note:</u>	Horse Riding
Include only formally recognised, signposted, waymarked, or mapped recreational and sport routes or networks used for outdoor sport activities. General roads, cycle paths, and gravel roads should only be included where they form part of an official recreational route.	Skiing / Snow Sports
	Other (please specify)
	No supporting features provided.
3. To what extent are outdoor sport trails equipped with supporting features such as resting points, information boards, or start/finish signage?	Limited supporting features (available at some locations only).
	Multiple or systematically provided supporting features across the trail network.

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.3. Hotspots for outdoor activities

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality or city provides and maintains dedicated outdoor sport hotspots, highly used or uniquely suited sites for specific activities.</p> <p>Hotspots are not trails or trailheads.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climbing walls or natural rock faces - Designated areas for open water swimming, kayaking, or sailing - Simple camping sites in nature areas - Natural or developed locations with consistent outdoor sport use and infrastructure support 	<p>Hotspots are key sites for outdoor sport engagement, visibility, and tourism. Their presence shows a strategic investment in outdoor culture and can serve as entry points or hubs for community building.</p>	<p>High-priority, visible outdoor sport areas with clear community or visitor relevance, supported by some level of access, safety, or maintenance infrastructure.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Has your municipality created, designated, or maintains areas for designated outdoor sports that are not done on trails (uniquely suited sites for specific activities)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Photos, municipal infrastructure plans, visitor maps, tourism/sport promotion materials, maintenance records.</p>
<p>2. Which types of outdoor activities sites are present?</p> <p>How well are these outdoor activities sites supported with infrastructure and management?</p>	<p>Orienteering, Geocaching</p> <p>Rock climbing, bouldering at outdoor venues, via ferrata</p> <p>Sailing, Surfing, Kitesurfing, Windsurfing</p> <p>Canoeing, kayaking, SUP, Rowing, kayak polo</p> <p>Scuba diving, Snorkelling, bathing, open water swimming in natural blue spaces</p> <p>Non-motorized air sports like Paragliding</p>	<p>Photos, municipal infrastructure plans, visitor maps, tourism/sport promotion materials, maintenance records.</p>

Educational trails/routes accessible on foot or by bike (with information about natural, historical or cultural sights on the way)

Canyoning, Rafting

Fishing, bird or animal watching

Camp sites, shelters

Obstacle courses, Outdoor gyms

Yoga, meditation, mindfulness

Roller-skating/-skiing

Other activities (please specify)

No support or infrastructure

Our hot spots have basic support (e.g. signage, access, safety info) but no supporting facilities such as toilets.

Our hot spots are in general well-developed and maintained. And supported with facilities such as toilets, seating areas as well as signage, safety measures and good accessibility.

Our hot spots are a combination of well-developed and high-quality sites with extensive services and facilities. High-quality hot spots have supporting infrastructure such as toilets, changing rooms, showers and storage facilities. All our hot spots are well maintained.

3. Does your municipality have areas specifically developed for multiple OS activities, with a variety of high-quality supporting facilities and many users (e.g outdoor arenas, outdoor centers, urban park areas, trailcenters)?

Few areas placed and developed ad hoc

Some areas strategically developed and placed in selected key areas

Systematically and strategically placed areas
covering most of the municipality.

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.4. Visitor monitoring

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the municipality systematically monitors the use of outdoor sport areas.</p> <p>Monitoring can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of users - Popularity of specific trails or hotspots - Time-based usage patterns (season, time of day) - Data on local population vs. visitors - Tools may include counters, surveys, apps, or manual counts 	<p>Knowing who is using outdoor spaces, how often, and where, smart development of outdoor sports facilities, manage pressure, protect nature, and guide planning and investment. It also supports balanced infrastructure development and equity of access.</p>	<p>Data about user presence and behavior in outdoor sport areas, including both residents and visitors. Scope should reflect capacity to monitor relevant areas, not total coverage.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How is the use of outdoor sport areas (e.g. trails, outdoor sites, access points) monitored in your municipality?</p>	<p>Outdoor sport areas are not monitored.</p> <p>Visitor monitoring is carried out occasionally or on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. one-off surveys or temporary counts)</p> <p>Visitor monitoring is carried out regularly in selected areas or important sites.</p> <p>Visitor monitoring is comprehensive and results are used in planning and management decisions</p> <p>Other ecological restoration measures (please specify)</p>	<p>Visitor statistics, monitoring reports, counter/app datasets, municipal planning documents.</p>

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.5. Management and organization for regular maintenance of outdoor sport infrastructure

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether there is an established system or process for ensuring the regular maintenance of outdoor sport infrastructure.</p> <p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail surface upkeep, boardwalks, staircases - Repairs to signage, barriers, rest areas - Maintenance of features like MTB tracks, climbing points, water access areas - Coordination with clubs, volunteers, or contractors - Cleaning 	<p>Infrastructure degrades over time, especially in natural environments. Regular maintenance ensures safety, usability, and protects environmental integrity. It's a sign of strategic commitment and long-term planning.</p>	<p>A formal system (for example a written agreement) ensuring outdoor sport facilities are maintained at appropriate intervals, responsive to use, climate, and monitoring data.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How is the regular maintenance of supporting outdoor sport facilities (e.g. toilets, sanitation, changing rooms, showers, parking, lighting, water points, waste management) organised in your municipality?</p>	<p>There is no established system or process for regular maintenance of outdoor sport infrastructure.</p> <p>Maintenance is mainly ad hoc or reactive, with maintenance carried out only when problems arise.</p> <p>Some regular maintenance is carried out, but they rely largely on informal arrangements, volunteers, or clubs.</p> <p>Maintenance is with few exceptions, organised through a formal and systematic process, with clear responsibilities, scheduled inspections, and allocated resources.</p>	<p>Cleaning/maintenance contracts, municipal facility management plans, inspection/cleaning schedules, budget allocations.</p>

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.6 Management and organization for regular maintenance of supporting facilities

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether there is a system in place to ensure regular maintenance of supporting facilities related to outdoor sports, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toilets and sanitation - Changing rooms and showers - Parking areas - Lighting, water points, waste management infrastructure 	<p>Supporting facilities such as toilets, showers, and parking are essential for ensuring that outdoor sports are accessible, safe, and inclusive. When these facilities are well maintained, they improve user experience, encourage participation across all age groups, and support dignity, especially for families, women, elderly people, and newcomers. Poor maintenance can lead to health risks, social exclusion, and reduced usage, undermining the long-term sustainability of outdoor spaces</p>	<p>Facilities that support outdoor sports activity but are not part of the core physical infrastructure (e.g., trails or climbing routes).</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How is the regular maintenance of supporting outdoor sport facilities (e.g. toilets, sanitation, changing rooms, showers, parking, lighting, water points, waste management) organised in your municipality?</p>	<p>There is no established system or process for regular maintenance of outdoor sport infrastructure.</p> <p>Maintenance is mainly ad hoc or reactive, with maintenance carried out only when problems arise.</p> <p>Some regular maintenance is carried out, but they rely largely on informal arrangements, volunteers, or clubs.</p> <p>Maintenance is with few exceptions, organised through a formal and systematic process, with clear responsibilities, scheduled inspections, and allocated resources.</p>	<p>Cleaning/maintenance contracts, municipal facility management plans, inspection/cleaning schedules, budget allocations.</p>

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.7 Sustainable operation of outdoor sports infrastructure

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether outdoor sports infrastructure is operated and maintained in a sustainable way, with a focus on reducing environmental impacts during daily operation.</p> <p>This includes energy use, water consumption, material choices, waste management, and maintenance practices.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of energy-efficient lighting or renewable energy sources - Water-saving solutions for maintenance (e.g. irrigation, cleaning) - Sustainable materials and low-impact maintenance methods - Waste reduction, sorting, and recycling practices linked to facilities - Operational guidelines or routines addressing sustainability 	<p>Outdoor sports infrastructure can have significant environmental impacts over its lifetime, particularly through energy use, water consumption, and maintenance activities. Sustainable operation reduces resource use, lowers emissions, minimises environmental pressure, and supports long-term viability of facilities while aligning outdoor sports development with broader environmental and climate goals.</p>	<p>Outdoor sports infrastructure is operated with defined sustainability considerations.</p> <p>Measures are in place to improve energy and resource efficiency</p> <p>Operational practices aim to minimise environmental impacts.</p> <p>Sustainability criteria are applied in maintenance and daily operation</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. To what extent are outdoor sports infrastructure planned and operated according to energy efficiency and sustainability criteria?</p> <p>Please assess the overall level of organisation and maintenance across most publicly accessible supporting facilities, regardless of operator.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency and sustainability criteria are not applied.</p> <p>Energy efficiency and sustainability criteria are applied occasionally or on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Energy efficiency and sustainability criteria are applied in most key outdoor sport infrastructure.</p> <p>Energy efficiency and sustainability criteria are systematically applied across outdoor sport infrastructure, in line with recognised standards or certifications.</p>	<p>Cleaning/maintenance contracts, municipal facility management plans, inspection/cleaning schedules, budget allocations.</p>

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.8. Sustainable operation of outdoor sports infrastructure

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality or area has implemented measures to guide sustainable use of land and minimize environmental impact from outdoor sports.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting visitor limits in sensitive areas - Marked access zones to reduce erosion/disturbance - Educational signage on carrying capacity, waste, and local rules - Formal codes of conduct or respect for traditional rights (e.g., Allemansrätten in Nordic countries) 	<p>As outdoor sport grows in popularity, so does pressure on natural areas. Managing use through education, signage, or regulation protects ecosystems, prevents conflicts, and ensures long-term access. This also reflects core principles of responsible sport and nature protection.</p>	<p>The measures and management practices in place to support the sustainable use of outdoor sports infrastructure and natural areas. This includes visitor management, environmental protection measures, responsible use guidelines, educational initiatives, monitoring of impacts and actions aimed at reducing pressure on sensitive environments while maintaining opportunities for outdoor sports and recreation.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>What measures has your municipality implemented to promote and regulate sustainable visitor use in outdoor sport and recreation areas?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u> Sustainable visitor use refers to making areas more robust so they can accommodate visitors without environmental degradation.</p>	<p>No implemented measures to promote or regulate sustainable visitor use</p> <p>Visitor limits in sensitive areas</p> <p>Marked access zones to reduce erosion or disturbance</p> <p>Educational signage on carrying capacity, waste, or local rules</p> <p>Formal codes of conduct (e.g. inspired by Allemansrätten or local traditions)</p> <p>Channeling or distributing visitors across multiple sites, routes, or activity areas to reduce pressure on sensitive locations through trail design, facilities, zoning, or visitor management measures.</p>	<p>Municipal regulations, visitor management plans, signage/photos, educational campaigns, codes of conduct, land-use zoning maps.</p>

Other (please specify)

2. Outdoor Infrastructure and Management

2.9. Creating possibilities for sustainable outdoor sports and recreation in protected areas

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the municipality or area has taken steps to balance access and protection in protected or sensitive natural areas by planning or adapting outdoor sport opportunities in sustainable ways. Examples include: - Designing trails or zones to divert users from ecologically vulnerable spots - Improving infrastructure to concentrate activity in resilient areas - Offering education and guidance in protected zones - Coordinating with conservation agencies on user access and zoning</p>	<p>Protected areas are often rich in natural value but fragile. Outdoor sport can coexist with conservation if managed carefully. This indicator promotes sustainable access, user education, and pressure management, ensuring that protected areas are enjoyed responsibly.</p>	<p>Measures within or near protected areas (e.g., nature reserves, Natura 2000 sites) that enable sport use while reducing environmental impact or redirecting use appropriately.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>What measures has your municipality implemented in protected areas to support outdoor sport and recreation while safeguarding sensitive natural areas? Tick all that apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No implemented measures to manage outdoor sport and recreation in protected areas Designing trails/zones to divert users from ecologically vulnerable areas Infrastructure improvements to concentrate activity in resilient sites Educational/signage efforts in protected zones (nature interpretation with guiding) Coordination with conservation agencies on zoning/access Using construction methods of trails or facilities that have little impact or supports nature Training or awareness-raising for planning, management, and maintenance staff regarding sustainable outdoor recreation in protected areas. 	<p>Management plans, cooperation agreements with conservation agencies, trail design documents, educational/signage materials, protected area zoning maps.</p>

Other (please specify)

3. Safety Procedures and Risk Prevention

3.1. Safety and rescue plans

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has basic procedures in place to promote user safety and respond to emergencies in outdoor sport areas.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety signage and warning systems - Emergency contact info and first aid points - Coordination with rescue services (where applicable) - Public communication of safe behavior in nature - Area-specific risk information (e.g. water conditions, cliff zones) 	<p>Safety is a prerequisite for participation in outdoor sports. Clear procedures and communication reduce risk and increase user trust, especially for beginners, families, or tourists unfamiliar with the area.</p>	<p>Formal for promoting safety, responding to incidents, and providing risk-relevant information at outdoor sport sites.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What safety and rescue measures has your municipality implemented for outdoor sport areas?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No implemented safety or rescue measures for outdoor sport areas Safety or warning signage (e.g. hazards, restricted areas) Emergency contact information and/or first aid points at outdoor sport sites Coordination or cooperation with rescue or emergency services Public communication on safe behaviour in nature (e.g. campaigns, guidance) Area-specific risk information (e.g. weather, water conditions, cliffs, avalanche risk) 	<p>Safety plans, photos of signage, emergency protocols, cooperation agreements with rescue services, and communication campaigns.</p>

Structured risk assessments and safety management plans for outdoor sport and recreation areas

Training or education of municipal staff or partners in safety and rescue procedures

3. Safety Procedures and Risk Prevention

3.2. Quantity, quality and variety of trails

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has procedures for collecting and learning from safety-related incidents in outdoor sport areas.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting of accidents and near misses - Feedback systems from outdoor sport users about perceived safety - Collaboration with emergency services or insurance for data - Using data to improve infrastructure, signage, or planning 	<p>A learning culture around safety supports better infrastructure, planning, and user confidence. So, it's important to understand what goes wrong, even if occasionally, to prevent future harm.</p>	<p>Any process for monitoring safety incidents and responding to user experience or feedback related to outdoor sports risks.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How does your municipality collect, analyse, and use information on safety-related incidents and user feedback in outdoor sport areas?</p>	<p>No process is in place for reporting or collecting safety-related incidents or feedback</p> <p>Occasional/ad-hoc reporting, not systematic</p> <p>Some regular collection of data/feedback, but limited analysis or follow-up</p> <p>Systematic reporting and feedback process, with results used to improve infrastructure, signage, or planning</p>	<p>Incident logs, user surveys, cooperation protocols with emergency services/insurance, municipal safety audits</p>

3. Safety Procedures and Risk Prevention

3.3. Hotspots for outdoor activities

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether there are clear procedures for temporarily closing, limiting access to, or repairing damaged or unsafe infrastructure.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical barriers or warning signs for trail damage or collapsed bridges - Temporary closures of climbing areas or water access due to safety risks - Formal repair protocols or urgent maintenance escalation systems - Emergency contact and communication in case of closure 	<p>Quick and transparent response to dysfunctional infrastructure is critical to prevent accidents and preserve public trust. Even well-maintained facilities can become unsafe due to weather, wear, or vandalism.</p>	<p>Any official or informal process to identify, restrict access to, and fix damaged or malfunctioning outdoor sport infrastructure.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How are closures or access restrictions handled when outdoor sport infrastructure becomes unsafe or damaged?</p>	<p>No routines are in place for closing or restricting access to unsafe or damaged outdoor sport infrastructure</p> <p>Basic routines in place for most used sites (closures handled informally, no set procedures)</p> <p>Set procedures and routines in place on most sites and OS (clear responsibilities, closure + repair protocols)</p> <p>Systematic and formalized routines for the majority of OS and facilities (municipality-wide, clear responsibilities, closure + repair protocols, user communication)</p>	<p>Closure protocols, repair procedures, emergency contact systems, communication records (websites, signage, alerts).</p>

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.1. Distance to nature and outdoor sport facilities

Description and examples

Why?

What?

This indicator measures the proximity of outdoor sport and nature access points to where people live, study, or work.

It focuses on:

- Walking distance to trails, parks, or natural spaces
- Access to green or blue infrastructure near homes or schools
- Proximity of low-barrier outdoor sport facilities for daily use
- Alignment with public health and equity goals

Accessibility is key to participation. The closer outdoor areas are to everyday locations, the more likely people are to use them regularly. This is especially important for children, elderly people, and individuals without cars.

The presence of natural or sport-friendly areas within 300 meters of homes, schools, or workplaces, ideally green spaces > 0.5 hectares, as per WHO guidance.

Assessment question

Answer options

Suggested evidence

1. Are natural or sport-friendly areas generally present within walking distance (approximately 300 m) of homes, schools, or workplaces?

- No
- Yes, for some residents
- Yes, for most of residents

2. Does your municipality consider accessibility to nature and outdoor recreation areas when planning residential, industrial, and commercial areas?

- No, accessibility is not considered in planning.
- Yes, accessibility is considered occasionally or informally.
- Yes, accessibility is considered systematically as part of planning processes.

Municipal plans, accessibility/equity maps, health strategy documents, school/neighborhood facility maps, GIS analysis (if available).

3. If accessibility is considered systematically, how is it integrated into municipal planning and policies?

Integrated into the municipal master plan or overarching strategic planning documents (long-term vision for the municipality's development)

Tick all that apply

Explicitly integrated into local or detailed planning instruments (e.g. zoning plans, site-specific development rules for outdoor sport or nature areas)

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.2. Quantity, quality and variety of trails

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether national and/or local policies and regulations ensure access to natural areas for outdoor sports while minimizing spatial conflicts and balancing competing land uses.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public right of way across natural land (free access to the countryside) - Local support for national access traditions (e.g. Allemansrätten) - Clear zoning rules to protect outdoor access near urban zones - Inclusion of access rights in development or conservation planning 	<p>Ensuring equitable access to nature often requires active regulation or protection of routes, zones, and rights (especially where land ownership, conservation, or urban development pose barriers).</p>	<p>Regulations or policies that support access to outdoor sport environments, manage land-use conflicts, or guarantee continued rights of entry.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What policies or regulations are in place in your municipality to ensure access to natural areas for outdoor sports while managing land-use conflicts?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No national or local policies/regulations ensuring access to natural areas for outdoor sports National right of access traditions (e.g. Allemansrätten, freedom to roam, every person's right) Public rights of way across natural or semi-natural land Local zoning or land-use rules that protect outdoor access near urban areas Access rights explicitly integrated into development or conservation planning Other relevant access regulations or policies (please specify) 	<p>National/local legal texts, municipal zoning plans, access regulations, conservation plans, policy statements.</p>

4.3. Easy access to outdoor sports equipment for all		
Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality provides or supports low-barrier access to outdoor sports equipment, especially for those who may not own it.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment libraries (e.g. borrow-a-bike, kayak, snowshoes) - Community lending services or social sport initiatives - Equipment made available at schools, youth centers, or public hubs - Reduced-cost or free access to basic gear through NGOs or clubs 	<p>Access to nature is not just spatial, it depends on having the tools to participate. Many groups (youth, migrants, low-income households) may lack the gear needed to try outdoor sports.</p> <p>Equipment sharing fosters inclusion and encourages first-time users.</p>	<p>Systems or partnerships that provide non-commercial, inclusive access to outdoor sports equipment, especially for underserved groups.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What types of non-commercial or inclusive initiatives for access to outdoor sports equipment are supported or facilitated in your municipality?</p> <p>Tick all that apply. If none apply, select “No initiatives in place”.</p>	<p>No initiatives in place to provide inclusive access to outdoor sports equipment</p> <p>Equipment libraries (e.g. borrow-a-bike, kayaks, snowshoes)</p> <p>Community lending services or social sport initiatives</p> <p>Equipment made available at schools, youth centres, or public hubs</p> <p>Reduced cost or free access to basic equipment through NGOs, clubs, or partnerships</p> <p>Other initiatives (please specify)</p>	<p>Municipal partnership agreements, program descriptions, NGO collaboration reports, school/youth center offers, photos or websites of lending initiatives.</p>
<p>2. How systematically are these equipment access initiatives provided across the municipality?</p>	<p>Limited or pilot-scale initiatives</p> <p>Available in some parts of the municipality, and for some OS</p>	

Available for most parts of the municipality,
and for most OS

Systematic, municipality-wide or integrated in
public service offers

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.4. Understanding and addressing other barriers to participation (in accordance with Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps Inclusion and Diversity Strategy)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the city or municipality actively works to identify and reduce barriers to outdoor sport participation, both physical and psychological.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys or focus groups on barriers (fear, equipment, transport, cultural unfamiliarity) - Workshops with underrepresented groups (women, migrants, disabled users) - Co-creation of inclusive programs - Addressing accessibility beyond infrastructure (e.g., feeling safe, welcome, or confident in nature) 	<p>Physical access alone does not ensure participation. Social, cultural, and psychological factors often prevent people from engaging in outdoor sport. Understanding these barriers is essential for building inclusive outdoor cultures and effective strategies.</p>	<p>Any effort to identify and respond to barriers to participation, especially among marginalized or low-participation groups.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What types of barriers to participation in outdoor sport has your municipality actively worked to understand and address?</p> <p>Tick all that apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions taken to identify or address barriers to participation in outdoor sport Barriers related to disabilities (physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments) Barriers related to health conditions (e.g. chronic illness, long-term health limitations) Barriers linked to education or training systems (e.g. low confidence, lack of skills, exclusion from formal systems) Cultural barriers (e.g. limited tradition of outdoor sport, unfamiliarity with nature-based activities) 	<p>Survey/focus group reports, records of workshops with target groups, municipal inclusion strategies, program descriptions, partnerships with NGOs.</p>

Social barriers (e.g. social exclusion, limited social networks, high-risk behaviours, reintegration challenges)

Economic barriers (e.g. low income, material deprivation, dependence on social welfare)

Barriers linked to discrimination or inequality (e.g. gender identity, age, beliefs, sexual orientation, disability, intersectional factors)

Geographical barriers (e.g. urban peripheries, poor transport access)

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.5. Good public transportation to outdoor sport infrastructure (e.g. Access to green and blue spaces via public transport)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether there is public transportation options that allow access to green and blue spaces used for outdoor sports.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus/train stops near trailheads, parks, riversides - Seasonal shuttles to popular natural areas - Cycle+train schemes or last-mile mobility solutions - Information on how to reach outdoor spots without a car 	<p>Public transport increases equitable access to outdoor areas, especially for youth, elderly people, and low-income groups. It also reduces car dependency and contributes to climate-smart mobility.</p>	<p>Availability of regular, affordable public transport to at least some significant outdoor recreation areas (not necessarily all).</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Is there public transportation access that allows people to reach outdoor sport or nature areas in your municipality?</p>	<p>No or very limited (single/seasonal route, low frequency)</p> <p>Some access to at least one significant outdoor site</p> <p>Regular, affordable access to several significant outdoor sites</p> <p>Systematic integration (multiple modes, year-round service, affordable, includes cycle+train or other multimodal solutions)</p>	<p>Public transport timetables, maps showing stops near trailheads/parks, municipal mobility plans, seasonal shuttle services, multimodal transport programs.</p>

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.6. Infrastructure for active commuting to outdoor sports facilities and nature areas

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether there is infrastructure that supports walking or cycling access to outdoor sport and recreation areas.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicated bike lanes leading to trailheads or parks - Walking paths from neighborhoods to nature areas - Safe and continuous active travel corridors (e.g., greenways) - Integration with public transport (e.g., bike-train connections) 	<p>Active commuting to outdoor sport areas enhances daily accessibility, supports low-carbon transport, and reduces dependence on private cars, particularly for residents without vehicle access.</p>	<p>Formal infrastructure enabling walking or cycling access to nature areas, especially if it reduces transport barriers for residents.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>What qualities does walking or cycling infrastructure in your municipality have in providing access to outdoor sport and recreation areas?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dedicated walking or cycling infrastructure providing access to outdoor sport and recreation areas Safe and continuous routes (not fragmented) Direct connections to trailheads, parks, or water access points Inclusive design for all ages and abilities (e.g. separation from motor traffic, safe crossings) Integration with public transport (e.g. bike-on-train, bike parking at stops or stations) Other relevant qualities (please specify) 	<p>Municipal mobility maps, cycling/walking network plans, photos, greenway projects, public transport integration schemes</p>

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.7. Parking areas near outdoor sport facilities and nature areas

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether there is appropriate parking infrastructure near outdoor sport areas, especially for users who need to transport gear or have reduced mobility.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designated parking lots near trailheads, water access, climbing sites - Spaces for vehicles transporting equipment (e.g. canoes, bikes) - Accessible parking for people with disabilities - Park-and-ride options to reduce vehicle impact - Use of pricing or location to nudge more sustainable behavior 	<p>While active and public transport should be promoted, parking remains necessary in many contexts, particularly in rural or gear-intensive activities.</p> <p>Balanced, inclusive access includes practical options for all users.</p>	<p>Functional parking spaces located to support outdoor sport access, especially where no realistic alternatives exist.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What qualities do designated parking areas near outdoor sport facilities and nature areas have in your municipality?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p> <p>Unless otherwise specified, assess the typical situation across the municipality rather than individual exemplary sites.</p>	<p>No designated parking areas serving outdoor sport facilities or nature areas, or parking is clearly inadequate for safe and practical use.</p> <p>Located close to trailheads/water access/climbing sites</p> <p>Adapted for vehicles transporting gear (canoe racks, bike trailers, etc.)</p> <p>Accessible parking spaces for people with disabilities</p> <p>Integration with public transport and/or sustainable parking measures (e.g. park-and-ride, pricing mechanisms, location planning, capacity management, or size limits)</p>	<p>Maps of parking facilities, municipal mobility plans, accessibility audits, photos, infrastructure inventories.</p>

Other (please specify)

4. Access to nature and facilities

4.8. Possibility of equipment transportation on public busses, trains and trams

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether public transportation systems allow for carriage of outdoor sport equipment, especially for users who depend on public mobility.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buses or trains that allow bikes, skis, or kayaks - Seasonal services with extra capacity for sport users - Clear rules, signage, and infrastructure (bike racks, luggage space) - Integration of “bike+ride” or “paddle+transit” options 	<p>Many people rely on public transport but need to carry gear. If equipment is allowed and supported, public mobility becomes a real alternative to private car use, enhancing accessibility and sustainability.</p>	<p>Transit systems that enable users to bring recreational or sports equipment relevant to outdoor activities.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do public buses, trains, or trams in your municipality allow the transport of outdoor sport equipment (e.g. bikes, skis, boards)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes, on some services and/or with significant restrictions</p> <p>Yes, on most services with few restrictions</p>	
<p>1. Which forms of provision for transporting outdoor sport equipment are available on public transport?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p>	<p>Equipment is explicitly allowed (e.g. bikes, skis, boards)</p> <p>Extra capacity or seasonal services for outdoor sport users</p> <p>Infrastructure support (e.g. bike racks, luggage space, designated areas)</p> <p>Clear rules, signage, or user information on transporting equipment</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>Public transport regulations, timetables, operator policies, photos of racks/luggage areas, information materials for passengers.</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.1. Outdoor sports and recreation strategy and planning decided in policies, strategies, masterplans or other relevant governing papers

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether outdoor sports and recreation are explicitly included in official municipal or regional policy frameworks, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masterplans or general development plans - Green infrastructure or recreation strategies - Mobility or land-use policies with outdoor sport components - Dedicated outdoor sports strategies or policies 	<p>When outdoor sports are embedded in official planning, it signals political commitment, ensures funding opportunities, and helps integrate outdoor recreation into broader land-use, health, and sustainability goals.</p>	<p>Any formal governing document that references, plans for, or supports outdoor sport infrastructure, participation, access, or sustainability.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Are natural or sport-friendly areas generally present within walking distance (approximately 300 m) of homes, schools, or workplaces?</p>	<p>Outdoor sport and recreation is not included in municipal or regional policies, strategies, or masterplans</p> <p>Outdoor sport mentioned indirectly in general strategies</p> <p>Explicit references in multiple official documents (e.g. land-use, health, mobility, green infrastructure)</p> <p>Dedicated outdoor sport/recreation strategy or masterplan</p>	<p>Masterplans, municipal development plans, green infrastructure/recreation strategies, health/mobility plans, dedicated outdoor sport policies</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.2. Permanent employed and dedicated staff for outdoor sports and recreation

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality or city has permanently employed and dedicated staff responsible for coordinating outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>Their role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translating strategies and plans into actions - Coordinating with departments, partners, and user groups - Ensuring continuity, implementation, and accountability - Monitoring activities and supporting project delivery 	<p>Without dedicated staff, policies and strategies often remain on paper.</p> <p>A responsible person or unit ensures continuity, alignment with goals, and active communication with stakeholders.</p> <p>This is critical for real impact and long-term development.</p>	<p>A named person or team with an official role in outdoor sports, whose job includes coordination, planning, implementation, or stakeholder engagement.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have permanent, dedicated staff responsible for outdoor sports and recreation?</p>	<p>There is no permanent staff with responsibility for outdoor sports and recreation</p> <p>One person with partial or limited responsibility</p> <p>One or more full-time dedicated staff with defined responsibilities</p> <p>One or more full-time dedicated staff with defined responsibilities, and a full-time outdoor coordinator (strategist)</p> <p>Dedicated outdoor team or department for outdoor sports and recreation</p>	<p>Municipal organizational charts, job descriptions, staff directories, budgets or HR records.</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.3. Integration of outdoor sports into spatial planning

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether outdoor sports and recreation are explicitly integrated into spatial and urban planning processes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legally binding zoning plans or land-use regulations - Urban development frameworks (e.g., new residential or mixed-use areas) - Nature and green infrastructure plans - Environmental impact assessments or strategic planning documents 	<p>Long-term opportunities for outdoor sport depend on planning decisions made today. Integration into spatial and territorial planning ensures access to land, protection of activity areas, and balanced development that reflects recreational and environmental needs.</p>	<p>Legal or strategic planning tools that explicitly recognize outdoor sports as part of land use, development, or green space systems.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. In which spatial or urban planning instruments are outdoor sports and recreation explicitly integrated in your municipality?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor sports and recreation are not explicitly integrated into spatial or urban planning instruments Municipal masterplan and/or zoning for the entire municipality or city Green infrastructure or landscape planning documents Local (detailed) plans for urban development (e.g. residential or mixed-use areas) Local (detailed) plans for commercial or industrial development Local (detailed) plans for public institutions (e.g. schools, hospitals, campuses) Other planning instruments (please specify) 	<p>Zoning or land-use regulations, municipal spatial plans, EIAs, green infrastructure frameworks, urban development strategies</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.4. Permanent and dedicated inter-departmental stakeholder forum

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether there is a permanent, internal structure or forum that brings together relevant departments to coordinate and co-create policies, planning, projects and actions related to outdoor sports.</p> <p>This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parks and Recreation, Urban Planning, Environment, Health, Mobility - Regular working group or steering team meetings - Shared objectives, planning calendars, or integrated project delivery - Coordination across decentralized institutions (e.g., schools, visitor centers) 	<p>Outdoor sport development is cross-cutting, as it touches nature, health, infrastructure, youth, and tourism and more.</p> <p>A dedicated, ongoing coordination mechanism helps break down silos, avoid duplicated efforts, and align outdoor sport with other city priorities.</p>	<p>Any formal internal forum or mechanism that enables structured coordination across municipal units for outdoor sport planning and implementation.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have a permanent inter-departmental forum for outdoor sports and recreation (involving departments like sports, parks, planning, health, mobility, environment, etc)?</p>	<p>No, there is no inter-departmental forum or coordination structure.</p> <p>Ad-hoc or occasional meetings about specific projects or initiatives, no continuity</p> <p>A working group exists but irregular or with limited scope</p> <p>Permanent and structured forum with regular meetings, shared objectives, and coordination mechanisms</p>	<p>Terms of reference, meeting agendas/minutes, municipal governance documents, project coordination frameworks</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.5. Permanent organization of stakeholders (Cities, municipalities, citizens, sport clubs, event organizers, tourism etc.) to promote participation, development, communication, management etc.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has a formal mechanism that brings together external stakeholders to support and influence the development of outdoor sports.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citizens and community groups - Local outdoor sport clubs and federations - Tourism bodies, environmental NGOs, health sector, event organizers - Advisory boards, networks, working groups or participatory planning platforms 	<p>Active stakeholder involvement improves projects and actions, strengthens legitimacy, ensures diverse needs are addressed, and increases community buy-in. It improves communication, co-ownership, and long-term commitment to outdoor sport development.</p>	<p>A recognized, ongoing stakeholder platform that facilitates participation, dialogue, and coordination between the public sector and civil society or private actors related to outdoor sports.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have a permanent organization or platform that brings together external stakeholders (citizens, clubs, NGOs, tourism bodies, event organizers, etc.) for outdoor sports?</p>	<p>No, there is no organisation, platform, or structured stakeholder engagement for outdoor sports.</p> <p>Ad-hoc consultations about specific projects and initiatives</p> <p>A stakeholder platform/network exists, but irregular or limited in scope (few groups represented)</p> <p>Permanent, structured platform with regular meetings and diverse stakeholders, influencing planning and development</p>	<p>Terms of reference, meeting agendas/minutes, partnership agreements, advisory board membership lists, records of participatory planning processes.</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.6. Involvement of outdoor sport stakeholders in the development of specific projects, initiatives and programs (for example new facilities and strategies).

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether outdoor sport stakeholders (e.g., clubs, user groups, NGOs) are actively involved in the design and implementation of specific initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New outdoor sport facilities or infrastructure - Development of new outdoor programs or clubs - Co-design of strategies or pilot projects - Local consultations for site planning or service improvements 	<p>Stakeholder involvement in specific projects increases ownership, relevance, and success. It ensures that investments reflect actual user needs and helps build stronger relationships between authorities and the outdoor sport community.</p>	<p>Evidence of collaborative planning or development of outdoor sport initiatives involving community or stakeholder input.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. At which stages are outdoor sport stakeholders (e.g. clubs, user groups, NGOs, citizens) involved in the development of projects, initiatives, or programmes in your municipality? tick all that apply</p>	<p>Stakeholders are not involved in the development of outdoor sport projects or initiatives</p> <p>Planning/design</p> <p>Implementation/delivery</p> <p>Evaluation/follow-up</p>	<p>Consultation reports, workshop minutes, project co-design records, partnership agreements, public participation processes.</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.7. Outdoor sports in self-organized communities outside sport clubs

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality or city maintains dialogue and engagement with informal or self-organized outdoor sport communities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail runners, swimmers, or climbers who are not club-affiliated - Online-based outdoor groups or meetups - Community initiatives that organize without formal structure - Peer-led activities or sport movements 	<p>A large share of outdoor sport participation happens outside formal clubs. These groups contribute local knowledge, stewardship, and activation of space. Recognizing and involving them improves responsiveness and inclusivity.</p>	<p>Any ongoing or purposeful dialogue with non-institutionalized outdoor sport communities, especially those organizing outside of clubs or associations.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Does your municipality engage with self-organized outdoor sport communities (e.g. unaffiliated runners, swimmers, climbers, online groups)?</p>	<p>There is no engagement or dialogue with self-organised outdoor sport communities.</p> <p>Yes, we have identified the most important self/non-organised OS groups</p> <p>Yes, we have identified the most important self/non-organised OS groups and have occasional/informal dialog</p> <p>Yes, we have occasional or regular dialog with self/non-organised OS groups</p>	<p>Records of consultations, participation processes, invitations to informal groups, municipal reports mentioning engagement with community initiatives</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.8. Cooperation and networking across municipalities, regions, nation and within the European union

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the municipality participates in inter-municipal, national, or international networks related to outdoor sports, policy exchange, or collaborative development.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership on national or EU-level outdoor sport platforms - Cross-regional projects or funding initiatives - Exchange programs, study visits, or common strategy development - Active participation in ENOS or other EU outdoor networks 	<p>Cooperation beyond local borders helps cities learn, innovate, and advocate together. Networking enables access to knowledge, funding, policy alignment, and shared challenges, especially relevant for smaller municipalities or rural areas.</p>	<p>Active membership or participation in formal or informal outdoor sport cooperation initiatives at the regional, national, or European level.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality participate in cooperation or networking on outdoor sports beyond the local level?</p>	<p>No cooperation or networking beyond the local level</p> <p>Regional cooperation</p> <p>National cooperation</p> <p>EU/international cooperation</p>	<p>Membership lists, project documentation, funding applications, records of EU or inter-municipal cooperation, minutes from network meetings</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.9. Cooperation and networking across municipalities, regions, nation and within the European union

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether there is dedicated budget allocation for outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>Funding may cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades - New projects or facilities - Strategic development and planning - Communication, tourism, and promotion - Nature protection or outdoor welfare initiatives - Support for clubs, events, or community-led actions 	<p>Long-term and inclusive development of outdoor sports requires reliable and strategic funding. A dedicated budget demonstrates political will, ensures project continuity, and enables quality management across infrastructure, programming, and communication.</p>	<p>Financial resources are specifically allocated to outdoor sport and recreation development, either in direct budget lines or integrated through related sectors.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Does your municipality allocate budget to outdoor sports and recreation?</p>	<p>No budget is allocated to outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>Funding is ad-hoc or project-based only, with no recurring budget.</p> <p>Some recurring budget exists, but it is limited in scope (e.g. maintenance or individual projects only).</p> <p>A dedicated and recurring budget is allocated, covering multiple aspects such as maintenance, development projects, communication, protection, or inclusion.</p>	<p>Municipal budgets, financial statements, annual plans, project funding records, cross-departmental funding allocations</p>

5. Strategy, Planning and Investment

5.10. Funding from different stakeholders (both public and private) for outdoor sports, for example tourist tax, lump sum contribution to infrastructure, event sponsors.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality receives or coordinates additional funding from sources beyond its core municipal budget, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourist tax allocations for outdoor sport infrastructure - Private sponsorships of trails, events, or equipment - Partnerships with regional, national, or EU funds - In-kind or financial contributions from private businesses, NGOs, or community-led initiatives 	<p>Diversified funding ensures a more resilient and long-term financing base for outdoor sports. It also demonstrates local commitment, supports innovation, and reduces reliance on limited public funds.</p>	<p>Any active financial contribution or support (in-kind or direct) from outside the municipal core budget, including both public (e.g., regional/EU) and private stakeholders.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality receive or coordinate funding for outdoor sports from stakeholders beyond its own municipal budget?</p> <p>Tick all that apply</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u> Approximate or qualitative estimations are acceptable for community-based, volunteer, or in-kind contributions where precise financial data are not available.</p>	<p>No external funding sources beyond the municipal budget</p> <p>Tourist tax allocations</p> <p>Private sponsorship (e.g. events, infrastructure)</p> <p>Regional/national public funding</p> <p>EU or international project funding</p> <p>NGO or community-led contributions (financial or in-kind)</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>Agreements/contracts with sponsors, tax allocations, grant documentation, NGO support records, partnership agreements.</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.1. Decision makers are aware of the benefits of outdoor sports and recreation to society (health and wellbeing, learning, business, tourism etc.)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether local or regional decision-makers (e.g. politicians, senior civil servants) are aware of and engaged with the societal value of outdoor sports and recreation.</p> <p>Key benefit areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and mental health - Social inclusion and youth engagement - Environmental stewardship and nature connection - Local economic development (tourism, events, gear industries) - Education, life skills, and active citizenship 	<p>Policy support depends on leadership awareness. When decision-makers understand outdoor sport's wider value, they are more likely to allocate resources, support infrastructure, and integrate it into policy.</p>	<p>Political and administrative recognition of the cross-sectoral value of outdoor sport, demonstrated through communication, policy inclusion, or expressed support.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Is there evidence that local or regional decision-makers (politicians or senior civil servants) are aware of the societal benefits of outdoor sports and recreation?</p>	<p>No clear evidence of awareness among decision-makers</p> <p>Public communication by leaders (e.g. speeches, public statements)</p> <p>Organisation of or participation in events, debates, or initiatives highlighting societal benefits</p> <p>Explicit references to societal benefits of outdoor sports and recreation in official documents, strategies, or policy priorities</p> <p>Other forms of demonstrated awareness (please specify)</p>	<p>Council minutes, policy texts, press releases, speeches, planning documents, event programs.</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.2. Raising awareness of benefits of outdoor sports to citizens

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality actively works to inform and educate the public about the benefits of outdoor sports.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health and well-being - Social inclusion and youth development - Environmental values and sustainable use - Economic, tourism, or local identity benefits - Educational or lifelong learning outcomes 	<p>Awareness drives participation. When citizens understand the value of outdoor sports, they are more likely to support, engage in, and advocate for its development, especially in underrepresented groups or new audiences.</p>	<p>Outreach or education initiatives that raise public awareness of the multiple benefits of outdoor sports.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Does your municipality work actively to raise public awareness about the benefits of outdoor sports?</p>	<p>The municipality does not carry out activities to raise public awareness about the benefits of outdoor sports.</p> <p>Awareness activities are occasional or ad hoc (e.g. one-off events, isolated campaigns).</p> <p>Awareness activities are carried out regularly, but mainly target specific audiences (e.g. schools, youth groups, or social media followers).</p> <p>Awareness-raising is structured and integrated, with a clear strategy addressing multiple audiences and sectors (e.g. health, education, environment).</p>	<p>Campaign materials, event records, school programs, partnerships, municipal communication strategies.</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.3. Evaluation of outdoor sports facilities, projects, initiatives etc.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality evaluates its outdoor sport-related work to collect knowledge, reflect, and improve.</p> <p>Evaluation types may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal reviews of facility use, access, or impact - External evaluations by consultants, universities, or stakeholders - Citizen feedback or surveys - Research collaboration or outcome monitoring 	<p>Evaluation supports accountability, learning, and improvement. It allows cities to understand the effectiveness of their investments and adapt based on real usage, feedback, or emerging needs.</p>	<p>Any organized process to reflect on outcomes or performance of outdoor sport infrastructure or programming.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality evaluate outdoor sport facilities, projects, or initiatives?</p>	<p>The municipality does not carry out evaluations of outdoor sport facilities, projects, or initiatives.</p> <p>Evaluation is occasional or ad hoc (e.g. one-off surveys, informal reviews).</p> <p>Evaluation is carried out regularly for projects or facilities, but results are only partly used in developing new initiatives.</p> <p>Evaluation is systematic and comprehensive, and results are actively used to inform improvements and the development of new projects.</p>	<p>Evaluation reports, citizen survey results, consultant studies, university research, monitoring data, municipal review documents</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.4. Permanent and dedicated inter-departmental stakeholder forum

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality systematically identifies the needs, preferences, and priorities of citizens and stakeholders related to outdoor sports.</p> <p>This may be done through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local, regional or national mapping initiatives - User surveys, interviews, or focus groups - Stakeholder roundtables or forums - Regular review cycles vs. ad hoc input 	<p>Understanding actual needs supports more targeted, inclusive, and accepted interventions. It strengthens democratic planning and helps avoid mismatches between investment and user interest.</p>	<p>Any structured process to gather and interpret needs for outdoor sport and recreation among residents and key actors.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Does your municipality engage more broadly with citizens on topic related to outdoor sports and recreation (e.g. surveys on needs and experiences, mapping reports, citizens initiatives, etc.) ?</p>	<p>No engagement</p> <p>Occasional or ad hoc engagement only</p> <p>Systematic and recurring engagement</p>	<p>Survey results, mapping reports, stakeholder forum minutes, municipal planning documents, review cycle documentation.</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.5. Sharing knowledge, experiences and ideas

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality actively participates in sharing knowledge and learning with others in the field of outdoor sports.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending or hosting conferences and workshops - Contributing to newsletters or case study platforms - Participating in peer-to-peer learning exchanges - Sharing project results or best practices with other cities or partners 	<p>Sharing knowledge accelerates innovation, helps avoid mistakes, and builds a stronger professional community. It also contributes to the visibility and credibility of outdoor sport within policy and planning fields.</p>	<p>Any form of active knowledge dissemination or exchange related to outdoor sport planning, delivery, or evaluation.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality actively share knowledge, experiences, or ideas on outdoor sports with other municipalities, networks, or partners?</p>	<p>The municipality does not actively share knowledge or experiences on outdoor sports</p> <p>Attending or presenting at conferences/workshops</p> <p>Publishing in newsletters, case study platforms, or reports</p> <p>Participation in knowledge-sharing, learning, or exchange activities with other municipalities, networks, or organisations</p> <p>Hosting events, visits, or exchanges</p> <p>Sharing project results publicly (e.g. online, media)</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>Conference programs, newsletters, case study publications, exchange records, municipal reports, online platforms.</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.6. Trained instructors and other professional providers

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or local ecosystem includes or supports qualified professionals contributing to safe, inclusive, and sustainable outdoor sport.</p> <p>These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trained instructors or guides - Safety/rescue personnel or technical staff - Professionals introducing newcomers, migrants, or people with disabilities - Accommodation providers trained in outdoor recreation and nature protection - Providers with knowledge of sustainability and environmental stewardship 	<p>Professional actors enhance safety, quality, and access. They support newcomers, increase the capacity of the outdoor sector, and ensure alignment with sustainability and inclusion goals.</p>	<p>The presence and/or support of trained professionals in outdoor sport services, especially where relevant to safety, accessibility, or environmental responsibility.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Are there trained professionals supporting outdoor sports in your municipality (e.g. instructors, guides, safety staff, inclusion providers, accommodation or tourism providers trained in outdoor recreation and sustainability)?</p>	<p>No or very limited coverage of trained professionals</p> <p>Some professionals on the most practiced outdoor sports</p> <p>Comprehensive coverage of trained professionals on most of outdoor sports</p>	<p>Registers of certified instructors/guides, municipal partnerships, training certificates, provider lists</p>

6. Knowledge, education and training

6.7. Formal education in civil society (for volunteers)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the local outdoor sports ecosystem includes or supports volunteer education and training programs, especially in clubs and associations.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Certified or semi-formal training for ski instructors, mountain guides, or E-MTB coaches - Courses delivered by clubs, national federations, or partner institutions - Municipal or regional support for access to training - Training for volunteers working with children, migrants, or people with special needs 	<p>Volunteers are the backbone of many outdoor sport communities. Providing access to quality training helps ensure safety, inclusion, and sustainable practices, even where activity is informal or club led.</p>	<p>The existence or support of formal or semi-formal education opportunities for outdoor sport volunteers, especially in club-based settings.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Are there education or training opportunities for outdoor sport volunteers (delivered by clubs, federations, or supported by the municipality/region)?</p> <p>Guidance note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This may include, for example: certified or semi-formal training for instructors, coaches or guides; courses delivered by clubs or federations; municipal or regional support for volunteer training (e.g. funding, facilities, trainers); or training focused on inclusion (children, migrants, people with disabilities). 	<p>No or very limited coverage of education or training opportunities</p> <p>Some education or training opportunities for the most practiced outdoor sports</p> <p>Comprehensive coverage of education or training opportunities on most of outdoor sports</p>	<p>Training program records, certification documents, club/federation training schedules, municipal support agreements</p>

7. Communication and Events

7.1. A communication strategy for promoting the city or area as an outdoor area to the public with different partners and stakeholders

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has a formal communication strategy aimed at branding the city or area as an outdoor sports destination, developed in cooperation with public, private, and civil society partners.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multi-partner branding or destination campaigns - Communication plans aligning outdoor sport with city identity - Use of logos, narratives, or visual identities promoting outdoor recreation - Cross-sector communication efforts tied to tourism, health, or sustainability 	<p>A clear and shared communication strategy strengthens public awareness, aligns stakeholders, and supports long-term commitment to outdoor sports. It enhances the visibility of opportunities and builds the area's identity as an "outdoor city."</p>	<p>A formal or semi-formal strategy (written or coordinated) that actively promotes outdoor sport identity in the city/area, with a partnership-based approach.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do you have a communication strategy to promote an outdoor city identity both for citizens and visitors?</p>	<p>No communication strategy</p> <p>Ad hoc campaigns only, no formal strategy</p> <p>Formal communication strategy exists, mainly municipal-driven</p> <p>Shared, partnership-based communication strategy, integrated across sectors (sport clubs, tourism, health, sustainability, etc.)</p>	<p>Council minutes, policy texts, press releases, speeches, planning documents, event programs.</p>

7. Communication and Events

7.2. Analog material, web and social media communication to promote the area, outdoor activities, services, conditions, regulations for appropriate behavior in nature etc.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality uses a range of communication channels to promote outdoor sports, access, and behavior in natural areas.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Printed materials (flyers, posters, brochures) - Website content with maps, activities, or updates - Social media platforms sharing real-time information - Public information about appropriate behavior in nature (e.g., signage, codes of conduct) - Centralized or coordinated information systems 	<p>Diverse communication channels ensure that all residents and visitors receive relevant information. This helps encourage participation, prevent conflict in nature areas, and support responsible and inclusive use of outdoor infrastructure.</p>	<p>A combination of communication tools and platforms that promote outdoor activities, infrastructure, and sustainable use, supported by clear and accessible messaging.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality work actively to raise public awareness about the benefits of outdoor sports?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No communication tools are used for this purpose Printed materials (flyers, posters, brochures) Website with maps/activities/facilities provided by either municipalities, cities, private providers or other Social media platforms with regular updates Signage or codes of conduct in nature areas Online maps of outdoor sport infrastructure 	

	<p>Digital updates on status/conditions (e.g., open/closed trails)</p> <p>Digital system for reporting maintenance needs by users (participatory)</p> <p>Other</p>
2. Does your municipality have one central platform dedicated to communication about outdoor sports and recreation - one entrance to relevant information about facilities, activities, nature areas etc. where cities, municipalities, clubs, business etc. can share information?	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>

7. Communication and Events

7.3. Digital services online, maps and digital system for maintenance and status of outdoor sports infrastructure and facilities.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>Digital services, online platforms and digital tools that support access to information about outdoor sports and recreation opportunities, infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital maps of outdoor sports infrastructure, routes and facilities; - Online information portals for outdoor sports and recreation; - Digital systems showing maintenance status, closures or disruptions; - Mobile applications supporting navigation and activity planning; - Platforms allowing users to report maintenance needs or issues; - Open data services and digital information sharing between providers; - Integrated systems combining mapping, communication and facility management. <p>These services may be provided by municipalities, destination management organisations, outdoor sports organisations, private operators or through partnerships between multiple stakeholders.</p>	<p>Participatory monitoring of maintenance needs on outdoor sports infrastructure. Is it possible for users to report maintenance needs digitally?</p>	<p>A system where users can report maintenance needs to a specific organization responsible for maintaining the outdoor sports infrastructure.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. How does your municipality or city work with quality assurance and ownership of data and communication platforms?</p>	<p>No specific approach to data ownership or quality assurance is in place</p> <p>The municipality owns and quality-assures data and communication platforms</p> <p>Quality assurance is ensured through partnerships between the municipality and private providers</p>	

Clear routines are in place for correcting, updating, or removing inaccurate data or information

The municipality shares data with other providers (e.g. open data, APIs, shared platforms)

7. Communication and Events

7.4. Information accessible to all

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality ensures that communication about outdoor sports is accessible to all population groups, including people with disabilities, language barriers, or cognitive limitations.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multilingual content - Disability-standard-compliant web pages (e.g., WCAG) - Audio guides or easy-to-read formats - Materials for people with intellectual disabilities - Services or signage adapted for visual or hearing impairments 	<p>Equitable access to outdoor sports starts with equitable access to information. When communication is inclusive, more people can safely and confidently engage with outdoor opportunities.</p>	<p>The presence of inclusive and accessible communication practices, supported by established standards</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality ensure that information on outdoor sports is accessible to all groups (e.g., multilingual, disability-friendly, easy-to-read)?</p>	<p>No inclusivity measures</p> <p>One-off or limited inclusivity (e.g., some multilingual content only)</p> <p>Several inclusivity measures addressing different needs (languages, disability, cognitive accessibility)</p> <p>Comprehensive efforts to improve accessibility and inclusivity of information, including digital accessibility standards (e.g., WCAG) and adapted communication formats where relevant.</p>	

7. Communication and Events

7.5. Outdoor sports events

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the municipality actively participates in sharing knowledge and learning with others in the field of outdoor sports.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending or hosting conferences and workshops - Contributing to newsletters or case study platforms - Participating in peer-to-peer learning exchanges - Sharing project results or best practices with other cities or partners 	<p>Sharing knowledge accelerates innovation, helps avoid mistakes, and builds a stronger professional community. It also contributes to the visibility and credibility of outdoor sport within policy and planning fields.</p>	<p>Any form of active knowledge dissemination or exchange related to outdoor sport planning, delivery, or evaluation.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality host, support, or facilitate outdoor sports events?</p>	<p>No outdoor sports events</p> <p>Occasional/ad hoc events only</p> <p>Regular events with some diversity (competitive/recreational, inclusive age groups)</p> <p>Regular, inclusive events with sustainability principles integrated (e.g., waste reduction, impact limits)</p>	
<p>2. Does your municipality work strategically before and after the event with added value for local communities? For example, using an event to promote physical activity, engage with and support local sports clubs, creating new permanent facilities)</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	

8. Outdoor sports and recreation for all

8.1. Clearly formulated ambition or goals of promoting opportunities for all citizens (children, young people, old people, migrants, people with special needs etc.) to participate in outdoor sports and recreation in a strategy, masterplan or other policy paper.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether the city or municipality has explicitly stated goals or ambitions to promote inclusive access to outdoor sports for all population groups.</p> <p>These ambitions should be embedded in official documents such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Masterplans or general strategies - Sector-specific plans (e.g. youth, sport, health, equity) - Inclusion or accessibility policies - Outdoor sport or recreation development frameworks 	<p>Making inclusion a formal goal gives it institutional visibility and accountability. It ensures outdoor sport planning addresses barriers faced by groups such as children, older adults, migrants, and people with disabilities.</p>	<p>A clear, formal ambition in policy or planning documents to enable participation for all citizens, especially those with fewer opportunities.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality have clearly formulated goals to ensure all citizens (children, older adults, migrants, people with special needs, etc.) can participate in outdoor sports and recreation?</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u> Clearly formulated goals may include broad strategic objectives related to inclusion, accessibility, participation, health, or equality. Detailed action plans or quantitative targets are not required.</p>	<p>No inclusion goals</p> <p>Vague or ad hoc goals, not formally embedded in policies or strategies</p> <p>Inclusion goals in sector-specific policies or strategies (e.g. youth, health, equity)</p> <p>Explicit inclusion goals in outdoor specific policies or strategies</p>	<p>Excerpts from strategies, masterplans, inclusion policies, or municipal council documents.</p>

8. Outdoor sports and recreation for all

8.2. Provision of inclusive outdoor sports initiatives to support participation for all

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the city or municipality offers, supports, or facilitates specific initiatives aimed at increasing participation in outdoor sports among underrepresented or marginalized groups.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialized instructors and anti-discrimination training for staff - Programs incorporating culturally relevant activities (e.g., for migrants) - Adaptive equipment or aids for people with disabilities - Free or low-cost access to activities - Taster courses or “try-it” programs - Awareness campaigns to attract newcomers - Lending systems for adaptive gear or public outdoor equipment - Dedicated outdoor sport facilities designed for special needs of access <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Printed materials (flyers, posters, brochures) - Website content with maps, activities, or updates - Social media platforms sharing real-time information - Public information about appropriate behavior in nature (e.g., signage, codes of conduct) - Centralized or coordinated information systems 	<p>A general strategy is not enough. Targeted initiatives are needed to actively remove barriers and make outdoor sport accessible, safe, and attractive to all residents.</p>	<p>Concrete, inclusive outdoor sport programs or actions addressing specific groups with lower participation or greater needs.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
	No	

<p>1. Does your municipality provide or support inclusive outdoor sport initiatives targeting underrepresented groups (children, elderly, migrants, people with disabilities, low-income groups, etc.)?</p>	<p>Staff training (specialized instructors, anti-discrimination)</p> <p>Programs tailored to specific groups (migrants, disabled users, seniors)</p> <p>Adaptive equipment or aids (gear, lending systems)</p> <p>Free or low-cost access options for specific groups of users or citizens</p> <p>Awareness campaigns or taster programs for newcomers</p> <p>Dedicated inclusive facilities or adapted infrastructure</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>Program descriptions, municipal reports, staff training records, photos of adaptive equipment/facilities, partnerships with NGOs or federations.</p>
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8. Outdoor sports and recreation for all

8.3. Outdoor infrastructure and facilities for all levels of experience

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether outdoor sport areas offer infrastructure suited to different skill and confidence levels, ensuring broad access and inclusive participation.</p> <p>Examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short, accessible trails for beginners and children - Green, blue, red and black trails to match all skill levels - Gradual progression options (e.g., climbing boulders before full routes) - Training zones or safe practice areas - Low-barrier water access for novice swimmers or paddlers - Clear safety features and signage 	<p>Outdoor sports should be inclusive and inviting, not only for skilled users but for beginners, youth, and underrepresented groups.</p> <p>Providing options for different ability levels lowers barriers to participation and supports lifelong sport engagement.</p>	<p>Outdoor sport infrastructure that includes features explicitly designed for entry-level, low-risk, or progressively challenging use, including age-friendly and beginner-friendly options.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. What types of outdoor sport infrastructure are available in your municipality to accommodate different levels of skill and experience? tick all that apply</p>	<p>No outdoor sport infrastructure is specifically designed to accommodate different skill or experience levels.</p> <p>Short, accessible trails or beginner loops</p> <p>Trail grading system (green, blue, red, black)</p> <p>Training or practice zones with the possibility of gradual progression (safe areas to learn)</p> <p>Low-barrier water access (ramps, shallow entries for swimmers/paddlers)</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>Trail maps showing grading, photos of practice areas or low-barrier access points, municipal design guidelines, and inclusive sport strategies.</p>

<p>2. How systematically are these features implemented?</p>	<p>Scattered or ad-hoc (single location)</p> <p>Some infrastructure designed inclusively in key areas</p> <p>Systematic integration across the outdoor sport network</p>
<p>3. How does your municipality accommodate different types of disability in outdoor sport infrastructure?</p> <p>Tick all that apply.</p> <p>If none applies, leave it unchecked.</p>	<p>Accessibility audits or assessments of outdoor sport sites and facilities</p> <p>Adapted paths and surfaces for reduced mobility</p> <p>Adapted wayfinding or signage for people with visual impairment</p> <p>Adaptations for people with sensory or cognitive disabilities</p> <p>Adapted outdoor sport equipment or facilities</p> <p>Other accessibility measures (please specify)</p>
<p>4. How systematically are accessibility features integrated into outdoor sport infrastructure in your municipality?</p>	<p>Scattered or ad-hoc (single location)</p> <p>Some infrastructure designed inclusively in key areas</p> <p>Systematic integration across the outdoor sport network</p>

9. Professional services

9.1. Professional providers in a city or area

Description and examples

Why?

What?

This indicator assesses whether the city or area includes professional actors supporting the outdoor sports ecosystem. These providers are not always directly managed or influenced by the municipality but contribute to:

- Local outdoor sport economy
- Service accessibility
- Visibility and identity of the city as an outdoor destination

Examples include:

- Rental services (all or selected outdoor sports)
- Outdoor sports shops and gear providers
- Accommodation providers tailored to outdoor users (e.g. bike hotels, hiker hostels)
- Outdoor brands or gear manufacturers
- Tourism agencies specialized in outdoor experiences

The presence of a professional support ecosystem reflects the maturity and viability of outdoor sports in the area. It also supports visitors, newcomers, and economic development.

A mapping of the professional outdoor sport service landscape in the area, regardless of direct city control.

Assessment question

Answer options

Suggested evidence

1. Are there professional outdoor sport providers in your city/area (e.g., rental services, shops, accommodation, agencies)?

- No
- Rental services covering a variety of outdoor sports
- Outdoor sports shops and gear providers
- Accommodation tailored to outdoor users (bike hotels, hiker hostels, etc.)
- Outdoor brands or gear manufacturers

Tourism agencies specialized in outdoor experiences

Professional guides or instructors in a variety of outdoor sports

Other

9. Professional services

9.2. Professional providers contribute to OS locally, for example infrastructure and local sports clubs

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether professional outdoor sport providers (private businesses, tour operators, schools, gear shops, etc.) actively contribute to the local outdoor sport community beyond commercial activity.</p> <p>Contributions may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-maintaining or sponsoring infrastructure (e.g., trail work, signage) - Supporting or partnering with local outdoor clubs - Offering discounted or free services for schools or vulnerable groups - Collaborating in public campaigns, events, or strategic planning - Promoting shared use or community access alongside commercial services - Centralized or coordinated information systems 	<p>When professional providers integrate into the community, they add value beyond profit, strengthening local identity, extending reach, and promoting sustainability. Their role can complement municipal and non-profit efforts.</p>	<p>The social and strategic engagement of private providers in advancing outdoor sport beyond commercial services.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Do professional outdoor sport providers in your area actively contribute to the local outdoor sport community (beyond their commercial services)?</p>	<p>No contribution beyond commercial activity</p> <p>Occasional/symbolic contributions (e.g., small sponsorships, isolated events)</p> <p>Regular contributions (e.g., partnerships with clubs, co-maintenance of infrastructure)</p> <p>Proactive and systematic contributions, including for example long term partnerships and collaboration in planning and maintaining facilities, community programs or sustainability initiatives</p>	

Some infrastructure designed inclusively in key areas

Systematic integration across the outdoor sport network

10. Civil society, communities and voluntary sports clubs

10.1. Sport clubs providing different types of outdoor sports and recreation.

Description and examples

Why?

What?

This indicator assesses whether local sport clubs or civil society associations provide structured outdoor sport opportunities.

These groups are typically:

- Democratically organized and membership-based
- Engaged in long-term activity
- Eligible for public support or funding

Examples of relevant actors include:

- Outdoor sport clubs (hiking, climbing, paddling, skiing, etc.)
- Youth and scouting associations with outdoor activity programs
- Nature and environmental groups offering outdoor recreation
- NGOs running programs for youth, families, or marginalized groups

Clubs and associations are key for continuity, community, and access. They often provide low-cost, inclusive outdoor sport and strengthen local engagement and identity.

The breadth and presence of outdoor sport-oriented clubs, including sport federations, youth groups, and NGOs with regular activities.

Assessment question

Answer options

Suggested evidence

1. Are there outdoor sport clubs, associations, or NGOs in your municipality that provide structured outdoor sport and recreation opportunities?

No

Outdoor sport clubs (hiking, climbing, paddling, skiing, etc.)

Youth/scouting associations with outdoor programs

Nature/environmental groups with recreation offers

NGOs or community associations running outdoor programs and/or providing support to

Club registries, NGO directories, municipal sport office records, federation membership lists, public funding records.

outdoor sport clubs (e.g. youth, families, marginalized groups)

Other (please specify)

10. Civil society, communities and voluntary sports clubs

10.2. Outdoor sports in local clubs for all levels of experience and all parts of society

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether outdoor sport activities offered by local clubs or associations are accessible to a diverse range of people, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different skill levels (beginners to advanced) - Age diversity (children, youth, adults, seniors) - Social diversity (e.g., migrants, low-income groups, people with disabilities) - Recreational and non-competitive options <p>Clubs don't have to serve all groups at once, but collectively there should be broad coverage.</p>	<p>Clubs are central to outdoor sport culture. Ensuring that they reach all parts of society and support various experience levels is critical for accessibility, inclusion, and long-term engagement.</p>	<p>Whether local outdoor sport clubs offer inclusive, non-elite, multilevel programming that supports broad access.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Do outdoor sport clubs in your municipality provide opportunities for a broad range of participants (across skills, ages, and social groups)?</p> <p>2. Do outdoor sport clubs in your municipality provide opportunities for a broad range of outdoor sports?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Different skill levels (beginners as well as advanced)</p> <p>Different age groups (children, youth, adults, seniors)</p> <p>Social diversity (e.g., migrants, low-income groups, people with disabilities)</p> <p>Recreational and non-competitive option</p> <p>New citizens in the municipality or city</p> <p>Limited covered - only a few outdoor sports opportunities in sport clubs</p>	<p>Club activity schedules, inclusion policies, adapted programs, municipal sport directories, reports from federations.</p>

Some coverage - most practiced outdoor sports
in our area are covered

Comprehensive coverage - opportunities pro-
vided for most outdoor sports across the whole
municipality

10. Civil society, communities and voluntary sports clubs

10.3. Outdoor sports in self-organized communities outside sport clubs

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses the presence and variety of informal or self-organized outdoor sport communities, which are not affiliated with formal clubs or institutions but regularly engage in outdoor activities.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal trail running or cycling groups - Online communities that arrange hikes, swims, or climbs - Self-led walking, fitness, or open water groups - Volunteer-based local stewardship collectives - Independent outdoor challenges with recurring local participation 	<p>Self-organized groups represent a large part of outdoor sport participation, especially in urban and peri-urban areas. Recognizing them helps understand local culture and unstructured participation trends.</p>	<p>Recognition of non-club-based outdoor sport communities, and their role in the local outdoor sport ecosystem.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Which types of other outdoor sports communities are active? (communities other than clubs and associations)</p> <p><u>Guidance note:</u> Examples may include known informal groups, online communities, recurring grassroots initiatives, or self-organised activity communities. Municipalities are not expected to identify every informal group operating within their territory</p>	<p>Informal groups (e.g., trail running, cycling)</p> <p>Online-based communities organizing outdoor activities</p> <p>Volunteer groups involved in maintaining, protecting, or supporting outdoor areas and activities</p> <p>Independent outdoor challenges/events</p> <p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>Social media groups, meetup/event listings, NGO/volunteer group records, informal community announcements, evidence of recurring activities.</p>

10. Civil society, communities and voluntary sports clubs

10.4. Volunteers to help with creation and maintenance of outdoor sport infrastructure

Description and examples	Description and examples	Description and examples
<p>This indicator evaluates whether volunteers or community groups are involved in supporting outdoor sport infrastructure through creation, improvement, or maintenance.</p> <p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trail building or upkeep - Installing or cleaning signage and facilities - Maintaining climbing areas, pump tracks, or fitness zones - Supporting outdoor event logistics (e.g., route marking, setup) - Community-driven stewardship of local natural areas with sport relevance 	<p>Volunteer engagement promotes ownership, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. It builds stronger ties between citizens and outdoor spaces, while also supporting high-quality infrastructure through shared responsibility.</p>	<p>Organized or semi-organized volunteer participation in the physical upkeep or enhancement of outdoor sport spaces or events.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Are volunteers involved in creating, maintaining, or supporting outdoor sport infrastructure in your municipality?</p>	<p>No volunteer involvement</p> <p>Occasional/ad hoc volunteer activities (e.g., clean-up or trail days)</p> <p>Regular volunteer engagement organized through clubs/NGOs</p> <p>Systematic volunteer engagement supported (for example economic compensation) and organized by the municipality</p> <p>No volunteer involvement</p>	<p>Records of volunteer days, agreements with clubs/NGOs, photos of trail-building or signage work, municipal frameworks supporting volunteer stewardship.</p>

11. Public sector providers

11.1. Learning in nature and nature pedagogy in kindergartens (app. 3 to 5 years)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether kindergartens (approx. ages 3–5) in the city or area incorporate outdoor learning and nature-based pedagogy as part of their curriculum or regular activities.</p> <p>Examples of relevant practices include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly or daily outdoor sessions in parks or forests - Nature-based learning themes (seasons, animals, plants) - Guided exploration to foster early outdoor play and nature bonding - Local partnerships with environmental educators 	<p>Early experiences in nature lay the foundation for lifelong connection to outdoor activities, health, and sustainability. Nature pedagogy also enhances curiosity, attention, and emotional well-being in young children.</p>	<p>The integration of nature-based learning in kindergartens, as a structured or regular practice, not just occasional outdoor play.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do kindergartens (ages 3–5) in your municipality integrate outdoor learning and nature pedagogy?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Curriculum documents, activity schedules, partnership agreements.</p>
	<p>Few kindergartens work with outdoor learning and nature pedagogy</p> <p>Some kindergartens work with outdoor learning and nature pedagogy</p> <p>Most kindergartens work with outdoor learning and nature pedagogy</p>	
<p>If yes, how is outdoor learning and nature pedagogy implemented in the majority of kindergartens?</p>	<p>Occasional activities (e.g. seasonal outdoor days)</p> <p>Regular sessions (e.g. weekly outdoor classes)</p> <p>Systematic integration (in curriculum, regular outdoor sessions at least once a week, outdoor embedded in pedagogy themes)</p>	

11. Public sector providers

11.2. Learning in nature and nature pedagogy in schools (app. 6 to 15 years)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether primary and lower secondary schools in the city or region integrate outdoor and nature-based learning into their teaching.</p> <p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular outdoor science, geography, or physical education classes - Outdoor days, camps, or project-based nature learning - Use of natural areas as “extended classrooms” - Activities linked to local environment, sustainability, or place-based education 	<p>Nature-based learning enhances cognitive, emotional, and social development, and promotes active lifestyles and environmental literacy. It also fosters stronger connection to local nature and prepares young people for lifelong outdoor engagement.</p>	<p>The systematic or regular use of nature and outdoor spaces as a learning environment in schools.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do schools (ages 6–15) in your municipality integrate outdoor and nature-based learning into their teaching?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Few schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p> <p>Some schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p> <p>Most schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p>	<p>Campaign materials, event records, school programs, partnerships, municipal communication strategies.</p>
<p>If yes, how is nature-based learning and teaching implemented in the majority of schools?</p>	<p>Occasional outdoor activities (e.g. annual outdoor days, isolated excursions).</p> <p>Regular outdoor learning in some subjects or schools (e.g. weekly PE/science outdoors).</p>	<p>School curricula, project documentation, outdoor camp schedules, municipal education strategies, teacher training materials.</p>

Systematic integration across subjects and schools, embedded in curricula, supported by municipal/educational frameworks.

11. Public sector providers

11.3. Learning in nature and nature pedagogy in high schools (app. 15 to 19 years)

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether upper secondary schools integrate nature-based learning or outdoor pedagogy in a meaningful way.</p> <p>This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Field-based science or environmental studies - Outdoor physical education or sport modules - Multiday nature excursions or place-based education - Outdoor leadership or sustainability learning - Cross-disciplinary projects involving outdoor methods 	<p>Adolescents benefit from real-world, experience-based learning, especially during a period of increasing screen time and academic pressure. Outdoor education at this level supports health, agency, and environmental awareness.</p>	<p>Outdoor learning opportunities integrated into high school curricula, not just occasional trips.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do high schools (ages 15–19) in your municipality integrate outdoor or nature-based learning into their teaching?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Few schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p> <p>Some schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p> <p>Most schools work with nature-based learning and teaching</p>	<p>High school curricula, project or program documentation, evidence of outdoor camps/excursions, municipal or regional education policies, sustainability/leadership modules.</p>
<p>If yes, how is nature-based learning and teaching implemented in the majority of schools?</p>	<p>Occasional outdoor activities (e.g. isolated field trips, PE classes outdoors a few times a year).</p> <p>Regular outdoor learning in selected subjects or programs (e.g. environmental studies, outdoor sport/PE modules).</p>	

Systematic integration across curricula, including cross-disciplinary projects, multiday excursions, or sustainability/leadership programs.

11. Public sector providers

11.4. Use of nature and outdoor activities in elderly care in retirement homes or centers.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether elderly care institutions, retirement homes, or day centers in the city or area actively integrate outdoor activities or nature-based programming.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular walks or movement sessions in nearby green spaces - Gardening, sensory nature interaction, or animal-assisted activities - Use of outdoor courtyards for physical or social engagement - Nature-based reminiscence or therapy programs 	<p>Interaction with nature supports physical, cognitive, and emotional well-being in older adults. Outdoor activities can reduce isolation, maintain mobility, and improve mood, especially when integrated into care settings.</p>	<p>The intentional use of outdoor spaces and activities in elderly care to promote health, engagement, and quality of life.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do elderly care institutions (retirement homes, day centers, etc.) in your municipality integrate outdoor or nature-based activities into their care practices?</p> <p>If yes, how is nature-based activities implemented in the majority of institutions?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Few institutions work with nature-based activities</p> <p>Some institutions work with nature-based activities</p> <p>Most institutions work with nature-based activities</p> <p>Occasional outdoor/nature activities (e.g. irregular walks, seasonal gardening, one-off outings).</p> <p>Regular outdoor/nature activities in some institutions or programs (e.g. weekly walks, gardening, social use of courtyards).</p>	<p>Activity schedules from retirement homes, program descriptions, photos of outdoor courtyards in use, documentation of therapy or movement programs, partnerships with NGOs/therapists.</p>

Systematic integration of outdoor/nature-based activities across elderly care settings, including therapeutic or programmatic approaches (gardens, sensory programs, animal-assisted activities).

11. Public sector providers

11.5. Use of nature and outdoor activities in public health care.

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator assesses whether public health programs or services in the city or region include nature-based approaches for prevention, rehabilitation, or health promotion.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walking programs prescribed by doctors or health services - Outdoor group activities for stress reduction, chronic pain, or mental health - Green rehabilitation (gardening, forest therapy, nature-based physiotherapy) - Partnerships between healthcare providers and outdoor organizations 	<p>Evidence shows that exposure to nature improves physical and mental health, reduces stress, and can lower health system costs. While not always a municipal responsibility, promoting and facilitating such programs strengthens the public health system.</p>	<p>Health-related programs using outdoor spaces or nature interaction as part of treatment, recovery, or prevention.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Do public health programs or services in your municipality/region include nature-based approaches for prevention, rehabilitation, or health promotion?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Occasional initiatives or pilots (e.g. one-off walking program, small-scale partnership).</p> <p>Regular nature-based health programs in certain areas or clinics (e.g. ongoing walking prescriptions, outdoor therapy groups).</p> <p>Systematic integration of nature-based health approaches into public health services, with partnerships, protocols, or funding (e.g. green prescriptions, rehabilitation, stress-reduction programs embedded in healthcare practice).</p>	<p>Program descriptions from healthcare providers, municipal/regional health strategies, agreements with NGOs or outdoor providers, medical prescription records for outdoor activities, documentation of therapeutic programs.</p>

11. Public sector providers		
11.6. Continuous capacity building, education and knowledge to support public welfare in nature		
Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether there are ongoing efforts to train and support professionals who bring people into nature for health, education, or physical activity.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Courses for teachers or instructors on outdoor methods - Local or national certifications for leading groups outdoors - Toolkits or guidelines for integrating nature into welfare, education, or sport settings - Municipal facilitation of access to such resources 	<p>Long-term impact depends not only on infrastructure but also on knowledge and capacity. Equipping staff with the skills to confidently use nature settings supports both quality and sustainability of outdoor programming across sectors.</p>	<p>The presence of ongoing or structured training programs that build local capacity to support nature-based welfare and learning.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Are there ongoing efforts in your municipality or city to build capacity, educate, or train professionals who support public welfare through nature (e.g. teachers, health staff, instructors)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Occasional or ad hoc training opportunities supported or facilitated by the municipality or city (e.g. one-off workshops, irregular initiatives).</p> <p>Regular training programs supported or facilitated by the municipality or city (e.g. annual courses for professionals, certifications for instructors).</p> <p>Systematic and continuous capacity-building embedded in local/national frameworks, with municipal facilitation of access (e.g. toolkits, guidelines, partnerships with universities or federations)</p>	<p>Course descriptions, certification programs, teacher training curricula, municipal facilitation of workshops, national guidelines/toolkits distributed locally, records of partnerships</p>

11. Public sector providers		
11.7. Facilities to support public welfare in nature		
Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator evaluates whether the city or area has dedicated facilities or infrastructure designed to support the use of nature and outdoor environments for health, inclusion, or education purposes.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature therapy gardens - Outdoor classrooms or learning shelters - Accessible nature zones for elderly or disabled users - Facilities in parks or natural areas designed for physical or social rehabilitation - Multi-use spaces adapted for both public and welfare-related programs 	<p>Public welfare through nature requires more than programs. It also depends on the availability of suitable spaces.</p> <p>Facilities designed with welfare integration in mind improve access, safety, and usability for vulnerable or priority groups.</p>	<p>Purpose-built or adapted outdoor or semi-outdoor facilities that help integrate welfare, education, or inclusion into nature-based settings.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>Are there dedicated facilities in your municipality/area that support the use of nature for welfare, health, inclusion, or education (e.g. outdoor classrooms, therapy gardens, adapted spaces for elderly/disabled users)?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>A few isolated facilities (e.g. one outdoor school classroom, one therapy garden).</p> <p>Several facilities serving different groups or purposes but not coordinated as a system.</p> <p>A network or systematic provision of welfare-supporting nature facilities across the municipality/region, designed for broad access (elderly, disabled, schools, rehabilitation, etc.)</p>	<p>Maps or lists of facilities, municipal infrastructure plans, photos of outdoor classrooms/ therapy gardens, accessibility audits, welfare or education project documentation.</p>

12. Other support

12.1. Any other support given by the city, municipality or area to stakeholders in regard to outdoor sports

Description and examples	Why?	What?
<p>This indicator provides an open space for cities or municipalities to highlight additional initiatives, programs, or forms of support for outdoor sports that are not already covered in previous indicators.</p> <p>Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unique outdoor sports programs or festivals - Experimental planning or zoning tools - Innovative inclusion projects - Community co-design of outdoor infrastructure - Digital tools, policy pilots, or nature-based economic development projects 	<p>Not all valuable practices fit neatly into indicator frameworks. This entry ensures flexibility and enables municipalities to share creative solutions, contributing to a growing library of good practices across Europe.</p>	<p>Documented good practices or unique support actions demonstrating local innovation or leadership in outdoor sports.</p>
Assessment question	Answer options	Suggested evidence
<p>1. Does your municipality provide any additional form of support for outdoor sports not covered in previous indicators?</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Descriptions, municipal reports, project documentation, media coverage, evidence of implementation</p>