



Spain

2020 INCLUSIVE GAMES

In 2021 more than 170 Olympic and Paralympic athletes competed together through inclusive adapted regulations



The Initiative

Inclusion is a cross-sectional social phenomenon in the area of rights recognition, yet sports are seemingly incompatible with inclusion as they include competition based on winning over the rest. However, in reality inclusion and sports can happen at the same time since sport can provide enjoyment and participation for everyone, as a tool for promoting equal access to sport for all including people with disabilities. Also, embedding inclusive sport can help to normalise the situation of people with disabilities in physical activities and in life in general.

Since its first edition took place in 2021 (delayed due to COVID restrictions in 2020), these games have aimed at making inclusion of people with disabilities visible in sports, as something possible and desirable. This is complemented by pushing athletes towards self-improvement by adapting to new sport regulations in order to compete alongside athletes that had not done so before.

The target group of this initiative was athletes with and without disabilities. More specifically, practitioners of athletics, badminton, judo, rugby, taekwondo, basketball, table tennis, swimming and triathlon since these sports' federations took part in the adaption and agreement of competition rules. The event was also a recognised event through CERMI; the Spanish main disability representative in Spain, together with several disability service providers and many sport bodies at national level.

Case Study Provided By:



Fundación Sanitas



Chair for Inclusive Sport Studies (CEDI)



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Targeted Objectives

The Inclusive Games have the following objectives:

- Educate through sports in the values of inclusion.
- To inspire inclusion in sports.
- To draw up inclusive regulations in government sanctioned Spanish sports federations.
- To transfer this knowledge to all areas of society.
- To encourage the development of fair and egalitarian sports.

Stakeholders involved

Collaboration of the Higher Sports Council (the highest sports body in Spain) the Spanish Olympic Committee, the Spanish Paralympic Committee and several sports federations, all with the leadership of Fundación Sanitas and the Technical University of Madrid (UPM). Fundación Sanitas (the foundation of Sanitas enterprise) aims to promote inclusion and diversity in sport to enhance health and social participation, making health, quality of life and leisure more accessible to all people.

Impact

The best legacy from these Inclusive Games is a technical dossier that details exactly how high-level inclusive competitions can be organised with regulations adapted for this purpose. It is a unique document produced by high-level technical professionals from every organisation in which their commitment and dedication along the two year period for game's preparation was registered.

The Inclusive Games have provided inspiration that caused several sports, such as badminton, triathlon and table tennis, to develop inclusive sports championships in the 2021-2022 season for the first time. The Spanish School Age Championships continue to be held with inclusive finals in the nine aforementioned sports.

Dissemination

The 2020 Inclusive Games got excellent coverage in terms of visibility in the Spanish media. 320 news items were published about the event, which made it possible to reach an audience of almost 225 million people. This improved the visibility of inclusive sports significantly, as they were shown on local and national media outlets, thus generating awareness on the possibilities for people with disabilities and able-bodied people to team up and compete with each other.

Inclusive Games website: <https://juegosinclusivos.sanitas.es/>

Inclusive Games videos on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/EcAo1iW0BSY>

Inclusive Games technical dossier (Pérez-Tejero et al. 2022): [Dossier Tecnico](#)



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