

Legacy of Paris 2024

D1.8 – Output 1

Good Practices



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Introduction

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games marked a historic milestone in integrating social responsibility values at the heart of organizing a mega sporting event. Far from being limited to athletic performance, Paris 2024 demonstrated that a global event could serve as a catalyst for inclusion, equality, and solidarity. The initiatives implemented represent a set of best practices that can inspire other federations, clubs, or organizers around the world.

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games also aimed to take a decisive step forward in terms of sustainability and environmental protection. From the bidding phase, the organizers committed to halving the carbon footprint of the Games compared to previous editions. The event thus became a true laboratory of ecological innovations, proving that a mega-event can be compatible with an ambitious ecological transition strategy.

The content will be divided in 11 areas of 2 main pillars. The 1st pillar is of “Games and Human Rights” and the 2nd pillar “Games and Environment”.

The 1st pillar is divided in 7 areas;

Anti-racism: Prevent and fight all forms of racial discrimination in the sport from grassroots to the elite professional level.

- Measures across regulation, policies, guidelines and communications.
- Plans and collaborative actions to identify, investigate and sanction racism in sports
- Minorities support
- BIPOC representation (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)
- Availability and access to organized activities, initiatives and events

Child and Youth Protection:

- Preventive and educational plans and actions with a particular focus on children and youth with disabilities
- Transparent reporting systems and access to remedy Child and Youth Protection Network and training of child and youth protection officers
- Event-specific child and youth safeguarding arrangements and protocols.
- Youth-focused awareness-raising campaigns

Women’s sport: Apply principles of equal rights and opportunities to all levels of European football to ensure that everyone feels respected and empowered to express themselves, enjoy and contribute to the game.

- Equality and inclusion measures across regulations, policies, guidelines and communications
- Advocating equal opportunities for females

All abilities: Ensure that the football environment and its infrastructure are accessible for everyone who wants to take part, welcoming players and fans of all abilities.

- Awareness campaigns on equality and inclusion
- Sports for all abilities
- Increased access to playing opportunities as well as vocational training, employment and volunteering
- Improved accessibility for disabled people to televised matches focused on audio description for the VI
- Improved accessibility for the disabled to stadiums, sports facilities focused on VI, infrastructure accessibility

Older people: Safeguard health and well-being through sports activities across all age groups and through awareness-raising activities around non-communicable diseases.

- Dedicated sports for all abilities units
- Health and well-being programs targeting sports for older people
- Guidance and recommendations to improve competences on health and well-being topics and promoting prevention

LGBTQIA+

- LGBTQIA+ freedom of expression.

Solidarity and Rights: Afford dignity, respect and equal rights to everyone involved in sports and the opportunity to play the game in a spirit of freedom and solidarity.

- Promotion and application of human rights across the organization's regulations, policies, guidelines and relationships.
- Measures against discrimination based on gender/ age/ sexual orientation/ religion or abilities

The 2nd pillar is divided in 4 areas:

Circular Economy: Optimize the consumption and life cycle of products, most notably food, packaging and branded items throughout events.

- 4R processes and tools embedded in sports infrastructure regulations
- 4R approach for operations and events
- Knowledge transfer around 4R pilot projects

Carbon emissions' reduction

- Reduction in direct and indirect carbon emissions related to operations and events
- Prevention and monitoring of environmental impacts

Event Sustainability

- Development of management systems related to events' impacts
- Guidelines for sustainable sports infrastructure
- Awareness-raising and advocacy of climate action and environmental protection

1. Anti-racism

Paris 2024 made the prevention of racism and all forms of discrimination a key pillar of its social and educational policy.

Since 2018, Paris 2024 and SOLIDEO have signed the first Social Charter in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, together with all social partners. This Charter aimed to ensure the social exemplarity of both the construction sites and the overall organization of the Games. It included sixteen commitments, notably the fight against all forms of discrimination and the respect for working conditions. A Monitoring Committee was established to oversee its implementation, reflecting Paris 2024's strong commitment to preventing and combating racism and discrimination.

In addition, Paris 2024 implemented UMay, a prevention and reporting mechanism designed for volunteers, employees, contractors, medical teams, and media representatives. This platform offered awareness-raising modules on discrimination, harassment, and gender-based and sexual violence. It also ensured clear procedures for reporting and sanctioning misconduct. By fostering an inclusive environment, UMay contributed to the fight against racism and the promotion of minority representation within the Games.

2. Child and Youth Protection

To increase engagement among children and young people, Paris 2024 launched the Olympic and Paralympic Week (Semaine Olympique et Paralympique – SOP) in partnership with the Ministries of National Education, Higher Education, and Sports. Its main objective is to raise awareness among children and young people about the values of sport, Olympism, and Paralympism, while encouraging them to engage in regular physical activity and to reflect on issues of inclusion, equality, and respect.

Each year, for one week, schools, secondary schools, and universities are invited to organize sports and educational activities around a national theme (for example: gender equality, inclusion, environment, health...). Institutions register their projects on the dedicated Paris 2024 platform, which provides an educational toolkit for teachers, including videos, activity sheets, resources on Olympic and Paralympic values, and materials to engage students.

- Between 2017 and 2024, the SOP engaged nearly 5 million pupils and students.
- 11,000 educational projects were submitted.
- 12,000 schools actively participated in at least one edition.
- During the 2023 edition, focused on “inclusion and parasport,” 95% of projects included disability awareness activities.
- More than 250,000 teachers and educators took part in organizing sports or educational activities.

To address sedentary lifestyles and physical inactivity among children, the “30 Minutes of Daily Physical Activity” programme was launched in 2020 and rolled out nationwide in 2022. This initiative encourages every primary school to organize half an hour of physical or motor activity each day, outside of physical education classes.

The goal is to make movement a daily habit accessible to all children, without requiring specific infrastructure. The programme supports both physical and mental health, while improving the overall school climate. It contributes to preventing obesity, reducing stress, and enhancing focus in the classroom. It also promotes equal access to sport, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds who may not have access to sports clubs or extracurricular activities.

- In 2023, 91.5% of primary schools had implemented the programme, at least partially.
- 94% of teachers believe this daily activity improves students’ well-being, concentration, and cohesion.
- The short-term goal is to make the practice systematic in 100% of schools by 2026.

Finally, the “1, 2, 3 Swim!” (1, 2, 3 Nagez!) initiative was launched in 2019 as part of the Paris 2024 legacy strategy. Its aim is to ensure that all children, particularly those from disadvantaged neighbourhoods, can learn to swim free of charge and in safe conditions.

The programme addresses two key challenges: water safety (preventing drowning, which affects over 1,000 people each year in France) and equal access to sports participation.

The programme is jointly led by Paris 2024, the French Swimming Federation (FFN), the National Sports Agency, and local authorities. It is delivered through free swimming courses organized during school holidays, held in temporary pools or municipal swimming facilities. Children are referred through schools, community centres, social centres, or local associations.

- Since 2019, the programme has grown from 2,200 to over 26,000 child beneficiaries in just three summers.
- Evaluations show that more than 70% of participating children achieved water autonomy by the end of the course.
- The initiative was extended to around 50 territories in 2023, with the ambition of becoming a permanent national programme.

3. Women's sport

Paris 2024 made history by organizing the first-ever Olympic Games to achieve full gender parity, with an equal number of male and female athletes. Of the 10,500 qualified Olympic athletes, 5,250 were women—exactly 50%—compared with 48% in Tokyo 2020 and only 26% in Los Angeles 1984. This both symbolic and concrete milestone embodied the ambition to promote true equality in sport.

Beyond participation, parity was also reflected in the composition of delegations, technical staff, and officiating teams, with women representing 46% of all official support personnel.

Specific women's and mixed-gender events were added to the competition programme, enhancing the visibility of female athletes:

- Mixed 35 km race walk
- Mixed double-handed sailing
- Mixed rifle and mixed pistol shooting events
- Mixed team event in judo

This evolution brought the total number of mixed events to 20 (compared with 18 in Tokyo 2020 and 9 in London 2012).

Paris 2024 also sought to rethink the visibility of female athletes. The competition schedule and media coverage were designed to provide equal prominence to women's events.

- The women's marathon concluded the athletics programme, a first since 1984.
- Women's finals in team sports (football, handball, table tennis) were scheduled during prime viewing hours.
- Major broadcasters devoted more than 48% of sports airtime to women's events—an increase of nearly 20% compared with Tokyo 2020.

The *Sport and Parity* programme encouraged local authorities to feminize the naming of sports venues. Nearly 100 cities committed to renaming their facilities in honour of female sporting figures. This tangible legacy ensures lasting recognition of women's contributions to sporting history.

The legacy of Paris 2024 extended well beyond the event itself through the *Sport and Parity* programme, supported by the Impact 2024 endowment fund. This initiative encourages local governments to rename sports infrastructures—gyms, stadiums, swimming pools, and more—after prominent but often under-recognized female athletes.

Nearly 100 cities have joined the initiative. Examples include the Saint-Denis gymnasium renamed “Clarisse Agbégénou Gymnasium” after the double Olympic judo champion, the

Elbeuf basketball court renamed “Diandra Tchatchouang-Djado,” and a multi-sport hall in Rennes renamed “Christine Arron.”

4. Sport for all abilities

Paris 2024 made inclusion and accessibility a central pillar of its organizational strategy. From the very start of the bid phase, its ambition was clear: to deliver the most accessible Games in history. This commitment applied equally to athletes, spectators, and volunteers.

First, all new infrastructures built for the Games were designed from the outset according to the principles of universal accessibility. Three venues in particular embody this vision:

- The Olympic Aquatics Centre (CAO) in Saint-Denis: equipped with multisensory signage (visual, auditory, and tactile), innovative LED flooring to assist orientation, accessible changing rooms, and modular seating systems.
- The Arena Porte de la Chapelle in Paris: the first large indoor venue in France to receive ISO 20121 certification for sustainable event management. It includes an induction loop for hearing-impaired spectators, full tactile floor guidance, and accessible rest areas.
- The PRISME in Bobigny, a centre of excellence for parasport: inaugurated before the Games, it was designed as a training, education, and hosting hub for athletes with disabilities.

These accessible infrastructures were complemented by several innovations enhancing the spectator experience for people with disabilities. Notably, the introduction of the Vision Pad, a vibrating tablet that allows blind spectators to follow matches through tactile signals, live audio description in both French and English, and French Sign Language (LSF) interpretation for ceremonies and official events.

One of the main challenges for Paris 2024 was to ensure full accessibility to competition venues. Major investments were made to achieve this: 1,000 accessible taxis were deployed across the Île-de-France region, and all Paris bus stops were made accessible before the Games. In addition, elevators, ramps, and hearing loops were installed across all Olympic sites.

The Paralympic Days, held in 2022 and 2023 at Place de la République in Paris, served as major public awareness events for parasport. These free events allowed tens of thousands of visitors to discover more than 25 Paralympic disciplines, meet athletes, and try sports in real conditions. The Paris Université Club also took part in the 2025 Paralympic Days, held on the forecourt of Paris City Hall.

The Games also helped shift societal perceptions: according to a post-Games Ipsos survey, 82% of French citizens believe that the Paralympic Games improved the image of disability in society, and 70% think they will have a lasting impact on accessibility policies in France.

The initiatives implemented at Paris 2024 now stand as a benchmark for any major sporting event aiming to become more inclusive. Key lessons include:

- integrating universal accessibility principles from the design stage of venues;
- developing a national network of inclusive clubs trained to welcome athletes with disabilities;
- involving transport operators in an accessible mobility strategy;
- providing innovative technological and sensory tools for spectators;
- creating public awareness events, such as the Paralympic Days.

5. Older people

Paris 2024 placed active ageing at the heart of its social strategy and territorial legacy, with the goal of promoting sport and physical activity throughout life. Through the Impact 2024 endowment fund, the Organising Committee supported more than 250 projects dedicated to seniors, representing around 15% of all funded initiatives. These actions reached over 80,000 older adults across France, particularly in rural areas and priority neighbourhoods.

The supported programmes included mobility workshops, outdoor fitness trails, yoga and Nordic walking sessions, as well as *Senior Games* events organised in several regions, enabling more than 12,000 participants to enjoy tailored activities in a friendly, intergenerational setting.

In the healthcare and social care sector, nearly 300 nursing homes (*EHPAD*) and “Sport-Health Houses” received support to establish regular adapted physical activity (APA) sessions, often led by certified “Sport-Health” instructors.

Inclusion of seniors went beyond sport participation: Paris 2024 also opened its volunteer programme to people over 60, bringing together nearly 3,500 senior volunteers across Olympic and Paralympic venues.

6. LGBTQIA+

Paris 2024 made the promotion of equality and diversity a cornerstone of its social responsibility strategy. As part of this commitment, the organisation pledged to ensure an inclusive and respectful environment for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

This commitment was notably reflected in the official support for Pride House Paris 2024, a space dedicated to raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and creating connections within the LGBTQIA+ community. In partnership with several specialised associations and the City of Paris, Pride House served as an open and welcoming venue celebrating the values of respect, solidarity, and diversity.

Beyond Pride House, Paris 2024 ensured that an anti-discrimination charter addressing sexual orientation and gender identity was integrated into all procurement processes, contracts, and volunteer training programmes. More than 45,000 volunteers were trained on diversity and inclusion through mandatory preparation sessions.

7. Solidarity and rights

Paris 2024 aimed to demonstrate that a major sporting event could generate lasting social and economic opportunities, reduce inequalities, and promote a model grounded in dignity.

This vision took shape in 2018 with the signing of the first Social Charter in the history of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Charter included 16 specific commitments structured around three main pillars:

- quality employment and working conditions,
- professional integration of people distant from the labour market,
- and fair access to opportunities for micro and small businesses as well as social and solidarity economy (SSE) organisations.

The economic model of Paris 2024 was designed to promote access for local and socially responsible actors to both public and private contracts linked to the Games. Out of a total of €5 billion in awarded contracts, a significant share benefited SMEs and SSE organisations.

Two dedicated platforms were created to guarantee this openness. These mechanisms ensured visibility and equitable access to the Games' economic opportunities while promoting responsible public procurement practices.

Social inclusion was another strong driver of the Games' solidarity policy. Targeted initiatives were implemented to foster the employment of people far from the labour market through various programmes.

The first involved reserving certain contracts for Work Integration Social Enterprises (SIAE) and adapted companies employing people with disabilities — for example, the management of laundry services for the Athletes' Village. Another initiative was the organisation of *"From Stadium to Employment"* job-dating events — CV-free meetings connecting companies, sports clubs, and job seekers, in which the Paris Université Club also took part.

These programmes had a direct impact, supporting several thousand people in securing long-term employment.

The "Entreprises 2024" and "ESS 2024" platforms will continue to operate for future major sporting events in France (such as the Rugby World Cup and European Athletics Championships), ensuring the long-term legacy of the inclusive economic model developed for the Games.

In terms of governance, Paris 2024's approach was also guided by an ethics and compliance charter, ensuring transparency, the prevention of conflicts of interest, and the protection of human rights throughout all phases of the project. Independent committees monitored safety, health, and social compliance across contracts and worksites, particularly in construction and service sectors.

Finally, the Impact 2024 endowment fund supported more than 1,100 projects focused on inclusion, education, and health, with a total budget of €50 million and 4.5 million direct beneficiaries — extending the social impact well beyond the Games themselves.

8. Circular Economy

Paris 2024 was the first Organizing Committee to implement a comprehensive circular economy strategy, integrated into every stage of the project — from design to operations and legacy. This strategy was based on the 4R principle – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose – applied across all purchases, equipment, infrastructure, and operations.

As early as 2019, Paris 2024 developed a Circular Economy Master Plan, in collaboration with ADEME, the Greater Paris Metropolis, and the Ministry for Ecological Transition. The plan aimed to halve material resource consumption compared to London 2012 and to reuse 100% of furniture and temporary structures after the Games.

To achieve this ambition, Paris 2024 created a “Second Life Commission”, responsible for identifying new uses for equipment after the Games. This initiative took shape through the creation of a dedicated digital platform, where local authorities, associations, and sports clubs could acquire items from the Games. In total, over 100,000 items (furniture, sports equipment, signage, textiles, modular structures, etc.) were catalogued for redistribution, resale, or recycling.

The Paris 2024 approach helped divert around 90% of materials from landfill on temporary sites — a record for an international event of this scale. By comparison, London 2012 reached 62%, and Tokyo 2020 around 70%.

On the food side, Paris 2024 made sustainable catering a central pillar of its circular commitment. The dual objective was to reduce food waste and lower the carbon footprint of the supply chain.

In addition, 700 water fountains were installed across competition venues, and the use of reusable bottles was encouraged among spectators, athletes, and volunteers. These measures halved single-use plastic consumption compared to London 2012.

At the same time, Paris 2024 partnered with the French Food Bank Network and Le Chaînon Manquant to redistribute surplus food. Thanks to this system, nearly 300 tonnes of unused food were recovered — the equivalent of over 600,000 meals redistributed to local charities.

9. Carbon emissions' reduction

Paris 2024 was the first Organizing Committee to establish a comprehensive carbon budget, set as early as the bidding phase in 2017, and to monitor its implementation throughout the project. This approach aimed to halve greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to the previous editions in London 2012 and Rio 2016.

The target was 1.58 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent, compared to 3.5 million tonnes for previous Games. This budget covered the entire lifecycle of the event — construction, logistics, transportation, food services, energy use, and spectator activities.

At the end of the Games, preliminary estimates confirmed a 54.6% reduction in total emissions compared to the average of the two previous Olympic editions — a historic first for an event of this scale.

The key to this achievement lay in a strategy based on the maximum reuse of existing infrastructure. In fact, 95% of competition venues were either existing or temporary, significantly reducing the need for concrete, steel, and energy. Only three new permanent venues were built — the Athletes' Village, the Olympic Aquatics Centre, and the Arena Porte de la Chapelle — all certified as low-carbon buildings.

The Athletes' Village alone reduced construction-related emissions by 30% through the use of bio-based materials such as wood, low-carbon concrete, and recycled insulation.

Temporary structures were designed to be modular, demountable, and reusable. Around 80% of the materials used for temporary installations (stands, seating, platforms, stage structures) will be reused in other events or repurposed for local communities.

Since transportation typically accounts for nearly 30% of total emissions during major events, Paris 2024 made sustainable mobility a top priority:

- All competition sites in the Paris region were accessible via public transport, with increased frequency and new connections (including the extension of Metro Line 14 to Saint-Denis and Orly).
- 415 km of new or improved cycling paths were built or secured, along with 20,000 new bicycle parking spaces.
- Over 200 fully electric buses were deployed for accredited transport, and 1,000 low-emission taxis operated across Île-de-France.

These measures led to a 40% reduction in transport-related emissions compared to London 2012.

Paris 2024 also innovated in the energy sector. 98% of electricity needs were met through the national grid, powered 100% by renewable energy produced in France (hydropower, solar, and

wind). In addition, lighting, air conditioning, and sound systems were optimized to reduce average energy consumption by 25% compared to Tokyo 2020.

Finally, all Paris 2024 suppliers and contractors were subject to strict environmental clauses, including requirements for carbon reduction, eco-design, and sustainable mobility management.

10. Prevention and monitoring environmental impacts

Paris 2024 placed the prevention of environmental impacts at the heart of its sustainability strategy. As early as 2019, the Organizing Committee established a cross-functional environmental governance structure, integrating the Sustainable Development Department, SOLIDEO (the infrastructure project management authority), and the host local authorities.

This governance relied on an environmental management system inspired by the ISO 20121 standard, which provides a framework for sustainable events. All major project departments — logistics, energy, construction, catering, mobility — were required to define measurable objectives and publish semi-annual progress reports.

This system enabled full traceability of impacts, from the design phase to the conclusion of the Games.

All procurement carried out by Paris 2024 (over €2.4 billion in public and private contracts) was subject to strict environmental criteria. The Committee obtained the AFAQ Responsible Procurement certification at the “Exemplary” level, the highest distinction awarded by AFNOR.

In practice, every contract included an “environmental impact” component, service providers had to demonstrate concrete actions to reduce their carbon footprint, and suppliers were encouraged to use recycled, bio-based, or reused materials.

In total, more than 60% of contracts were awarded to French companies committed to sustainability, including over 6,000 social and solidarity economy (SSE) organizations.

All of these actions were consolidated into a comprehensive environmental report, included in Paris 2024’s closing report. Monitoring indicators allow for long-term performance evaluation: emissions avoided, recycling rates, energy consumption, water management, and biodiversity. This reporting system is intended to be transferred to other event organizers, ensuring the continuity of best practices.

11. Awareness-raising and advocacy of climate action and environmental protection

Paris 2024's environmental strategy was not limited to reducing impacts; it also aimed to engage the public on climate and ecological issues. A public awareness campaign was deployed across all sites, in fan zones, and online, encouraging spectators to adopt responsible behaviors. Educational panels, interactive kiosks, and digital content conveyed these messages to over 10 million visitors and viewers during the Games.

In addition, all 45,000 volunteers, as well as partners, service providers, and committee employees, underwent mandatory "Sustainable Event" training, which included modules on climate, resource management, waste reduction, and the circular economy.

Finally, Paris 2024 sought to turn its learnings into transferable tools. The Responsible Events Guide, co-published with ADEME, CNOSF, and SOLIDEO, summarizes best practices in mobility, energy, catering, and sustainable infrastructure. This guide is now made available to all organizers of sporting or cultural events, both in France and internationally.

Conclusion

The Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games demonstrated that a major event can be both sustainable, inclusive, and exemplary. Their organization allowed the development of reusable best practices in the areas of environment, inclusion, and governance.

By integrating gender equality, the fight against discrimination, child protection, universal accessibility, recognition of minorities, and sustainable social impact, Paris 2024 laid the foundations for a new generation of responsible and inclusive events.

Paris 2024 thus leaves a concrete and shareable legacy that will serve as a reference for future sporting and societal projects.