

# **The 'Heerenveen Statement' on the recognition of Traditional Sports and Games as Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**1<sup>st</sup> TAFISA European Sport for All Games**

**7 August 2018, Heerenveen, Netherlands**

We, the organisers and participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> TAFISA European Sport for All Games, call for the far-reaching recognition of Traditional Sports and Games as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Many European Traditional Sports and Games have disappeared or are under threat, putting at stake the cultural diversity of our societies. Traditional Sports and Games reflect our respective and European heritage; it is our common and shared responsibility to ensure their safeguarding and revitalisation.

We, the regional and local governments, the sport movement, the stakeholders from the cultural sector and the civil society organisations pledge to work together and take action. We will develop a strategy, plans and initiatives to align Traditional Sports and Games to the future and reintroduce them into the daily lives of European citizens, serving our future generation's human right to play. We will strengthen the connection with our national knowledge centres for intangible cultural heritage, our national UNESCO Commissions, governments and the European Union, to strengthen the position of our Traditional Sports and Games in society.

This statement, in accordance with the 'TAFISA Mission 2030: For a Better World for Sport for All', European Physical Activity Guidelines 2008, UNESCO's International Charter of Physical Education and Sport 1978, UNESCO's Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003, UNESCO's Berlin Declaration 2013, UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006 and Designed to Move Physical Activity Action Agenda, confirms and reinforces the importance of Traditional Sports and Games as a vehicle for European unity, integration, cultural diversity, peace and physical activity.

Whilst Traditional Sports and Games as a whole have been recognised by UNESCO as World Intangible Cultural Heritage, only 12 sports and 9 games spanning 32 countries - mostly non-European - have received specific recognition. This is not enough. Together, and starting with Frysian Sports and Games, we endeavor to work towards the recognition of European Traditional Sports and Games as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

*TAFISA*

*Sport Fryslân*

*NOC\*NSF*

*Leeuwarden-Fryslân Capital of Culture 2018*

*Knowledge Centre for Sport Netherlands*

*LKCA (National Centre of Expertise for Cultural Education and Amateur Arts)*

*Province of Fryslân*

*City of Heerenveen*

*And the participants of Traditional Sports and Games at the 1<sup>st</sup> TAFISA European Sport for All Games*