GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NATIONAL SPORT ORGANISATIONS: CASE OF LITHUANIA

*Play the Game 2019, Colorado Springs*
• **Research** on the good governance principles in Lithuanian sports federations applying the standardized set of indicators National Sport Governance Observer (NSGO) project (Geeraert, 2018).

• **Sport organizations** – seven Lithuanian sports federations covering boxing, cycling, hockey, kyokushin karate, basketball, rugby, modern pentathlon, and NOC of Lithuania.

• The data collection began in **October 2018** and interviews with a majority of sport organizations took place in **November and December 2018**.
Lithuanian NSGO index score

- Transparency: 57%
- Democratic processes: 49%
- Internal accountability: 38%
- Societal responsibility: 27%

Overall score: 43%
Comparison with other countries

- Cyprus: 27%
- Poland: 30%
- Germany: 37%
- Lithuania: 43%
- Romania: 44%
- Belgium: 54%
- Netherlands: 60%
- Denmark: 65%
- Norway: 78%
## Comparison with other countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Legal and political documents are on websites</td>
<td>• Ignored conflicts of interest</td>
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<td>• Clear and democratic electoral procedures for the members of the Executive Committee</td>
<td>• Athletes are not included in policy and decision making processes</td>
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<td>• Representation of all members in the General Assembly.</td>
<td>• Lack of self-assessment procedures and practices</td>
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<td>• Anti-Doping Policy implementation</td>
<td>• Non-implementation of gender equality policy</td>
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<td>• Unsecured fair treatment of professional athletes</td>
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Results

• The combined average NSGO index of the Lithuanian sport federations is 43%, which constitutes a “moderate” score.

• **Transparency and democratic processes** scored moderate, while **internal accountability and societal responsibility** dimensions were evaluated as weak.

• Organizations received particularly **higher scores** in areas where have been implemented **regulatory policies**.

• Generally, majority of the Lithuanian sport organizations have **similar strengths and weaknesses** related to good governance principles implementation.

• Though sport organizations are aware of the term of good governance, there is a **lack of profound knowledge and practical skills on how to implement good governance principles**.
Next steps

• **Standartization** using NSGO instrument

• **Benchmark** of Good Governance
  – Sports organizations in Lithuania
  – Good Governance overall level in Lithuania and in Europe
  – Follow the progress in time

• **Education and assistance** promoting good governance principles to sports organizations

• **Establishing a quality brand** of sports research in Lithuania