



Developing Orienteering, Health-Enhancing Physical Activity, and Performance Pathways in Georgia

Erasmus+ Sport – Capacity Building in the Field of Sport

Call: ERASMUS-SPORT-2025-CB

Granting authority: European Education and Culture Executive Agency

Project title: ORIENTEERING-GEO (101246080)

Project duration: 2026–2027 (24 months)

Participating countries: Georgia · Sweden · Türkiye

A sport that combines movement, thinking, and adventure — from school playgrounds and recreational activities to international competitions.

About the Project

ORIENTEERING-GEO is an Erasmus+ Sport Capacity Building project developing orienteering as a tool for health-enhancing physical activity (HEPA), education, grassroots sport, and long-term athlete development in Georgia.

Orienteering is an outdoor sport that combines physical activity with navigation and decision-making. Participants use a detailed map (and, where relevant, a compass) to find control points in natural or urban environments, choosing their own routes and pace. This makes orienteering accessible to children, youth, adults, and older people, while also offering structured pathways towards competitive sport.

The project also promotes maze orienteering—a simplified and safe navigation format using corridors and barriers—particularly suitable for schools, indoor spaces, and school-yard

environments. Maze orienteering enables pupils to develop basic navigation skills in a controlled setting and serves as an effective entry point into regular orienteering activities.

Orienteering is governed by the International Orienteering Federation and recognised by the International Olympic Committee, confirming its international status and long-term development potential.

New to Orienteering?

You don't need experience, special fitness, or expensive equipment. Start at school, try maze orienteering, or join a local activity — everyone can participate.

Why Orienteering?

Orienteering directly supports health-enhancing physical activity by combining:

- Aerobic movement (walking, jogging, running)
- Cognitive engagement (navigation, spatial thinking, decision-making)
- Outdoor participation, supporting mental well-being
- Flexible formats adaptable to different ages, abilities, and fitness levels

At the same time, orienteering offers clear opportunities for sporting excellence. There are international competitions at school and university levels, as well as European and World Championships. The sport includes several disciplines, such as ski orienteering and mountain bike orienteering, which broaden participation and performance pathways.

Every course is different, every decision matters, and participants actively explore their environment—making orienteering engaging, playful, and motivating for beginners, while remaining technically demanding for high-level athletes.

Georgian Context and Rationale

In Georgia, orienteering has strong potential but remains under-developed due to limited access to modern coaching systems, insufficient educational resources, and a lack of mapped areas suitable for regular training and competitions (specialised orienteering maps are essential for safe and high-quality events).

ORIENTEERING-GEO addresses these gaps by strengthening institutional and human capacity, improving coach education, and expanding infrastructure for future development. The project also contributes to local economic development, recognising that hosting training camps and national and international competitions generates activity for local services, tourism, and municipalities.

Project Objectives

The project aims to:

1. Develop orienteering as an inclusive and sustainable HEPA activity in Georgia
2. Establish development pathways from schools to clubs and competitive sport
3. Improve competences of coaches, physical education teachers, and volunteers
4. Integrate orienteering and maze orienteering into school and community settings
5. Support long-term athlete development for international competition
6. Strengthen local economies through sport events and competitions

What the Project Will Deliver

By the end of the project, ORIENTEERING-GEO will deliver:

1. Adapted coaching and training frameworks for grassroots and performance-oriented orienteering
2. Educational materials and equipment for schools, including maze orienteering sets
3. Engagement of at least 3 municipalities and over 10 schools in Georgia
4. Participation of schools and pupils from Georgia and Türkiye
5. Organisation of national and international orienteering competitions
6. Development of new orienteering maps, enabling Georgia to host future national and international events
7. Establishment of at least two new orienteering clubs in Georgia
8. Learning mobility opportunities in Sweden for successful coaches, focused on coaching systems and competition organisation
9. Long-term use of developed maps, equipment, and trained human resources beyond the project period
10. Stronger foundations for both HEPA participation and elite performance pathways

European Added Value

By working with experienced European partners, the project transfers proven coaching systems, training methodologies, and competition models to Georgia, strengthening local capacities while embedding Georgian orienteering within the wider European sport community.

Who Is the Project For?

Primary target groups

- Pupils and young adults
- Physical education teachers and coaches
- Grassroots sport clubs and volunteers

HEPA & community focus

- Adults and older population (30+, 50+)
- Inactive or low-activity individuals
- Families and recreational participants

Institutional & European level

- Schools and municipalities
- Universities and sport education institutions
- National sport federations and associations
- European orienteering and Erasmus+ networks

Key Project Activities

Key activities include:

- Review of international orienteering coaching and athlete-development practices
- Adaptation of methodologies to Georgian schools and clubs
- Training activities for coaches, teachers, and volunteers

- School-based and community-based activities, including maze orienteering
- National and international competitions involving Georgian and Turkish participants
- Development of new orienteering maps
- Study visits and learning mobility for coaches to Sweden
- Awareness-raising on health, educational, and sporting benefits of orienteering

Activities are implemented progressively—from school-based entry formats to national and international competition levels.

Meet the Partners

Each partner contributes complementary expertise, ensuring quality implementation, knowledge transfer, and sustainability.

SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT - GEORGIA (Coordinator, Georgia)

Non-profit organisation using sport for education, health, and community development. Leads project coordination, implementation, and communication.

Contact: Mr. Anatoli Korepanov

Email: sd@georgia.ge

STATE SPORT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA (Georgia)

Provides academic expertise in sport education, coach training, and capacity development, supporting training delivery and quality assurance.

Contact: Ms. Mariam Maisuradze

Email: ir@sportuni.ge

GEORGIAN ASSOCIATION OF ORIENTEERING AND ROGAINING (Georgia)

Leads grassroots development, mapping, club formation, and competitions, working closely with schools and municipalities.

Contact: Mr. Ian Sundqvist

Email: soclub2023@gmail.com

IDREFJALLEN'S ORIENTATION CLUB (Sweden)

Contributes expertise in coaching systems, athlete development, and competition organisation, and hosts learning mobility activities.

Contact: Håkan Carlsson

Email: hakan.carlsson@orientering.se

PIKOLO SPORTS CLUB (Türkiye)

Supports school engagement, youth participation, and international cooperation, including joint competitions with Georgian schools.

Contact: Cem Gundogdu

Email: pikolosk@pikolo.org

Get Involved

- >> Schools & teachers: introduce orienteering activities
- >> Youth & families: try a new outdoor sport
- >> Coaches & volunteers: join training and capacity-building activities
- >> Institutions & municipalities: cooperate on events and development

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