

# 7<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT FORUM

“  
REVIVING  
TRADITIONAL  
SPORTS

## CONCEPT NOTE

 19-20 APRIL 2025

 ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA



## Background

The Ethnosport Forum is annually organized by the World Ethnosport to provide participants with a platform for developing new strategies, proposing alternative approaches, and offering solutions to those challenges Traditional Sports and Games encounter around the globe.

By identifying the obstacles to the development of the ethnosport field in light of personal and corporate experiences, the purpose of the Ethnosport Forum is to ensure the exchange of ideas and expertise among representatives from different geographies, institutions, and NGOs. High-level Ministerial Panel and Round Table Discussions are held in order to stimulate inspiration, motivation, and suggestions.

## Previous Forums

The 1st Ethnosport Forum was held in Antalya, Türkiye in 2018 under the title “Reviving Traditional Sports” with the participation of ministers, government officials, associations/federations representatives, and academicians from 56 different countries. The role of ethnosports in intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and in local administrations was one of the themes the Forum sessions were focused on.

Over 200 field experts from 30 different countries attended the 2nd Ethnosport Forum organized and held in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April 2019 and hosted by the Kazakhstan Ethnosport Association, an esteemed World Ethnosport member. Among the main topics of the sessions the importance of government supports for Traditional Sports and Games and the ideas for attracting state institutions into these fields have been discussed.

The 3rd Ethnosport Forum, held in Antalya, Türkiye on February 2020 ended with the publication of the Final Declaration following a 2-day intense program. The Forum was attended by 200 participants from 49 countries, including ministers, government officials, association/federation representatives, and academicians.

Vast emphasis has been placed on the importance of the government's support for ethnosports. Accordingly, a Joint Statement expressing an intention of commitment to reviving traditional sports has been signed by Youth and Sports Ministers from eight different countries.

The 4th Ethnosport Forum was held in a hybrid format with the combination of an in-person High-Level Ministerial Panel organized in Istanbul and two online sessions. More than 200 participants from 66 countries registered and participated online in the Forum through a special digital platform. Esteemed panelists, by kindly sharing their ideas and experiences, addressed special focus on the ways for making ethnosports accessible, especially for young people, during and after these unprecedented times of COVID-19.

The 5th Ethnosport Forum was held on March 5-6, 2022, in Baku, Azerbaijan with the combination of a High-Level Ministerial Panel and three round-table sessions. The Forum, which more than 120 participants from 40 countries attended, was hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan. During the High-Level Ministerial Panel, the esteemed ministers shared their ideas regarding Traditional Sports and Games and potential ways of creating or increasing international partnerships among different countries or institutions. The sessions were attended by representatives of government institutions, international organizations, NGOs, associations, and federations representatives including World Ethnosport corporate members, athletes, and academicians from different countries.

The 6th Ethnosport Forum has been held on February 16-18, 2024 in Antalya, Türkiye, with a record-breaking total of over 200 participants and 60 participant-countries. Honorable sports ministers from 10 different countries attended the High-Level Ministerial Panel dedicated to ethnosports in national educational curricula and discussed proposals, experiences, and challenges. A collaboration agreement was signed between the World Ethnosport and the 5th World Nomad Games Directorate to coordinate joint efforts between the parties for the successful organization of the event to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2024

A massive step towards the codification of TSG was taken with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Common Regulations for International TSG Competitions between the World Ethnosport and 52 federations and associations from 34 countries.

## Forum Objectives

The main objective of the Ethnosport Forum is to offer to participants an opportunity for:

**Sharing expertise:** distinguished and experienced participants from all over the world have the chance to interact during round table discussions and contribute to the elaboration of the Forum Declaration;

**Discover new approaches:** new stimuli and ideas emerging from various fields of expertise may contribute to finding new offers and strategies;

**Broaden networks:** by forging new connections and consolidating the existing ones, participants prepare fertile soil for joint action and encourage the popularization of ethnosports.

## Program Structure

The 7th Ethnosport Forum will be held over two days, on April 19-20, 2025, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Forum will commence with a presentation about Ethnosports, the newly established multi-sport international event dedicated to ethnosports and cultural heritage of every country. After the presentation, the Opening Speeches of the World Ethnosport President H.E. Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan and the Sport Minister of the Russian Federation H.E. Michael Degtyarev will be delivered.

Afterward, a High-level Ministerial Panel will be held with the in-person participation of honourable high representatives and sports ministers, followed by the signing of the High-Level Ministerial Joint-Statement.

After the break, the Round Table Discussions will be held. The first day will conclude with the World Ethnosport Members' 9th Meeting and Gala Dinner.

The second day will begin with the Communication Panel, followed by the 5th World Nomad Games Final Report and the "Announcement of the Forum Declaration".

One of the key highlights of the Forum will be the 6th Traditional Sports Award Ceremony, where individuals and organizations who have significantly contributed to the field of ethnosports will be honored under seven categories: Supporting Academician, Junior Traditional Sport Player, Senior Traditional Sport Player, Traditional Sports Organization, International Sponsor, Leadership, and Communication.

The Forum will conclude with Closing Remarks, followed by a lunch break and a city tour. Departures will commence in the evening.

## Ethnosports

The newly established multi-sport international event "Ethnosports" is a premier global gathering dedicated to TSG and cultural heritage, planned to be held for the first time in 2027. Operated under an inclusive international governance framework, Ethnosports ensures broad and diverse global participation. Its core objectives include preserving and promoting TSG as vital elements of cultural heritage, advancing cultural diplomacy, and strengthening intercultural relations.

Ethnosports will be governed by the Ethnosports Organizing Committee, comprising representatives from the World Ethnosport, relevant governmental authorities, and legal advisors. This committee is tasked with overseeing the event, establishing regulations, and ensuring adherence to fair play and ethical standards. The founding institutions of Ethnosports will be committed to promoting traditional sports, facilitating knowledge exchange, and upholding the principles of cultural integrity, fair competition, and sustainability.

The founding countries, signatories of the founding agreement, will hold this event every four years in different countries to ensure international involvement and cultural diversity.

## High-Level Ministerial Panel

During the Forum, the High-Level Ministerial Panel titled "Traditional Sports as a Tool for Cultural Diplomacy and Their Role in International Events" will be chaired by the World Ethnosport President Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan and held with the in-person participation of honorable Sports Ministers and high representatives from various countries.

Esteemed panelists will share their insights on how Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) can serve as a powerful instrument for cultural diplomacy, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and strengthening international relations. The discussion will highlight successful case studies, governmental strategies, and international collaborations that leverage traditional sports to build bridges between nations.

Special focus will be given to the role of traditional sports in global events, bilateral and multilateral partnerships, and their contribution to peace-building and mutual understanding. Panelists will also address the challenges of integrating TSG into international diplomatic initiatives and explore opportunities for greater recognition and institutional support.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Session

**Adapting Traditional Sports and Games for Urban Environments:** Strategies for Promoting Traditional Sports in Densely Populated Cities

The first round-table session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of integrating Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) into urban environments, where space limitations and modern lifestyles often pose barriers to participation. The discussion will explore innovative approaches to adapting traditional sports for densely populated cities, ensuring their accessibility, sustainability, and continued relevance in contemporary society.

Participants will be invited to share strategies, policy recommendations, and best practices for incorporating traditional sports into urban infrastructure, community programs, and educational settings. Special emphasis will be placed on how governments, municipalities, and private stakeholders can collaborate to create spaces and initiatives that support the growth of TSG in urban areas.

**Subtopics that might be discussed in this session include:**

**Urban Adaptation of Traditional Sports:** Modifying sports for small spaces and modern city life.

**Public Infrastructure and Accessibility:** Integrating traditional sports into parks, schools, and community centers.

**Engaging Youth and Communities:** Strategies for increasing urban participation in traditional sports.

**Policy and Government Support:** Municipal initiatives to preserve and promote TSG in cities.

**Successful Case Studies:** Examples of urban areas successfully implementing traditional sports programs.

**Partnerships for Growth:** Collaboration between local governments, sports federations, and private sector stakeholders to support TSG in urban settings.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Session

### **Becoming a National Athlete in Traditional Sports:** Challenges and Contributions

The second round-table session will explore the pathway to becoming a national athlete in Traditional Sports and Games (TSG) and the challenges faced by individuals pursuing excellence in these disciplines. Unlike mainstream sports, many traditional sports lack structured career paths, institutional recognition, and financial support, making it difficult for athletes to achieve professional status.

This session will highlight the barriers and opportunities for traditional sports athletes, focusing on training systems, financial support, federation development, and international recognition. Session participants will discuss how governments, sports organizations, and stakeholders can create sustainable structures that support athletes in their journey, from grassroots participation to national and international competition.

**Subtopics that might be discussed in this session include:**

**Institutional Recognition of Traditional Sports Athletes:** National policies and federations supporting TSG athletes.

**Training and Development Pathways:** Creating structured systems for athlete training and progression.

**Financial and Sponsorship Challenges:** Securing funding, sponsorships, and government support for athletes.

**International Competitions and Recognition:** Expanding opportunities for TSG athletes on the global stage.

**Role of Traditional Sports Federations and Clubs:** Strengthening governance and athlete support mechanisms.

**Women and Youth Participation:** Encouraging inclusivity and talent development in traditional sports.

**Case Studies of Successful Traditional Sports Athletes:** Learning from those who have achieved national and international recognition.

APRIL 2025

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

THE AGENDA OF THE  
**7<sup>TH</sup> ETHNOSPORT  
FORUM**

REVIVING TRADITIONAL SPORTS  
19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

**1<sup>st</sup> DAY** (Saturday)

- 11.00-11.45 Ethnosports (Presentation and Signing of the Founding Agreement)**
- 11.45-12.00 Coffee Break**
- 12.00-12.30 Opening Speeches**
- 12.30-13.30 High-Level Ministerial Panel**  
*Title:* Traditional Sports as a Tool for Cultural Diplomacy and Their Role in International Events  
*Panelists:* to be determined  
*Chair:* Necmeddin Bilal ERDOĞAN, WEC President
- 13.30-14.30 Lunch Break**
- 14.30-15.45 1<sup>st</sup> Session** (Round Table Discussion)  
*Title:* Adapting Traditional Sports and Games for Urban Environments: Strategies for promoting traditional sports in densely populated cities
- 15.45-16.00 Coffee Break**
- 16.00-17.15 2<sup>nd</sup> Session** (Round Table Discussion)  
*Title:* Becoming a National Athlete in Traditional Sports: Challenges and Contributions
- 17.15-17.30 Coffee Break**
- 17.30-19.00 WEC Members' 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**
- 19.00 Gala-Dinner**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> DAY** (Sunday)

**10.00-11.00** **Communication Panel**

*Panelists:* to be determined

**11.00-11.15** **Coffee Break**

**11.15-11.45** **5<sup>th</sup> World Nomad Games Final Report**

**11.45-12.00** **Announcement of the Forum Declaration**

**12.00-12.30** **6<sup>th</sup> Traditional Sports Award Ceremony**

- 1- Leadership
- 2- International Sponsorship
- 3- Academician
- 4- Junior Traditional Sport Player
- 5- Senior Traditional Sport Player
- 6- Traditional Sport Organization
- 7- Communication

**12:30-13:00** **Closing Remarks**

**13:00-14:00** **Lunch Break**

**15:00-19:00** **City Tour and Dinner**

**19:00** **Departures**