

# SRSINTERNATIONAL

IN SPORT. FOR PEOPLE. WITH GOD.

# 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT



TO BUILD THE KINGDOM  
OF GOD IN AND THROUGH  
SPORTS AND FITNESS.

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# TITLE

**Introduction words by Denise**



# HOW WE SERVE

**WE SEEK TO FOSTER AND DEVELOP LOCAL TEAMS THAT ARE STRONG, RELEVANT, SUSTAINABLE AND ARE REPRODUCING IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR SPORT AND COMMUNITY**

## PURPOSE

SRS International exists to envision, launch, build, and develop ministry in and through sport in countries that have little or no sports ministry. We do this in partnership with different sports agencies, local teams, churches, and individuals in the context of the ECSU and the global sports movement.

## VISION

Disciple makers connected to every sports team & community intentionally sharing their lives and faith with everyone around them.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

We come alongside local leaders and partners in over 20 countries by helping them in developing their vision, train staff and volunteers, fundraising and administrative support.

## DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- **Athletes & Coaches** - engage and equip more sport mentors & coaches serving all people of sport.
- **Health & Fitness** - connect and train health & fitness specialists across Europe forming local & regional teams.
- **Action Sports** - camps & seminars as well as holistic support for elite athletes in competition and beyond.
- **Sports for Integration** - marginalized people groups reached and integrated through sport & games.
- **Major Sports Events** - convene and facilitate partnerships with sport-events for increased community impact.
- **Para Sport Development** - start-up support, equipment and growth of para sports where it is least developed.

## CATALYTIC SERVICES

We serve various local & regional sport ministry initiatives, networks & partnerships by offering consulting, practical support and hosting & facilitating trainings and conferences. We also share resources and expertise with our partners to help them achieve their objectives in making disciples in and through sport. We help start and facilitate various communities of practice and connect young local leaders to grow and serve together.

# OUR GOALS & PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Sports specific networks collaborating across Europe  
Monthly online gatherings connecting H&F professionals from across Europe  
IPG 26 bringing together agencies & churches in Northern Italy  
Connect different Roma Sports Projects  
Bringing together Para Sport Associations in Africa  
Strengthen the network of European Action Sports ministries

Encourage more partnerships in winter action sports  
Study Resources for Athletes, Coaches & their families  
Adapted Sports awareness programs in schools & communities  
National vision casting & training conferences  
Supporting City Team Networks in countries hosting Major Sports Events  
Equipping and empowering local churches in Latin America



All Ability sports camps & clinics  
Support churches in developing local sports ministries for families  
Facilitate communities of practice & develop resources for collaboration around sports events

Sports Mentoring in different women's sports  
Come alongside and assist fitness professionals across Europe  
Mountain bike pro tour support team

# SPORTS RELATIONS AND SERVICES

## NAME CHANGE: A NEW MEANING, THE SAME MISSION

In 2025, we took an important step to clarify our identity and strengthen our communication: while we continue to be called SRS International, the meaning behind the acronym has changed.

What once stood for *Sportler ruft Sportler* (eng: Sportsman calls Sportsman) now stands for **Sports Relations & Services**.

This change is more than cosmetic—it's about making our purpose clearer to those we serve. In many international contexts, the old name often led to confusion. People assumed we were expanding the German organization SRS e.V. globally. In reality, our role has always been different: we exist to support, not to replicate.

The new meaning—**Sports Relations & Services**—better reflects what we actually do. We build relationships and provide catalytic services in and through sport. Whether it's mentoring leaders, consulting on strategy, supporting para-sport initiatives, or helping churches engage their communities through sport, our posture is one of service and partnership.

This redefinition helps our partners, donors, and stakeholders understand our unique contribution. It also strengthens our identity as a nimble, relational hub within the global sports movement—focused on enabling others rather than promoting ourselves.

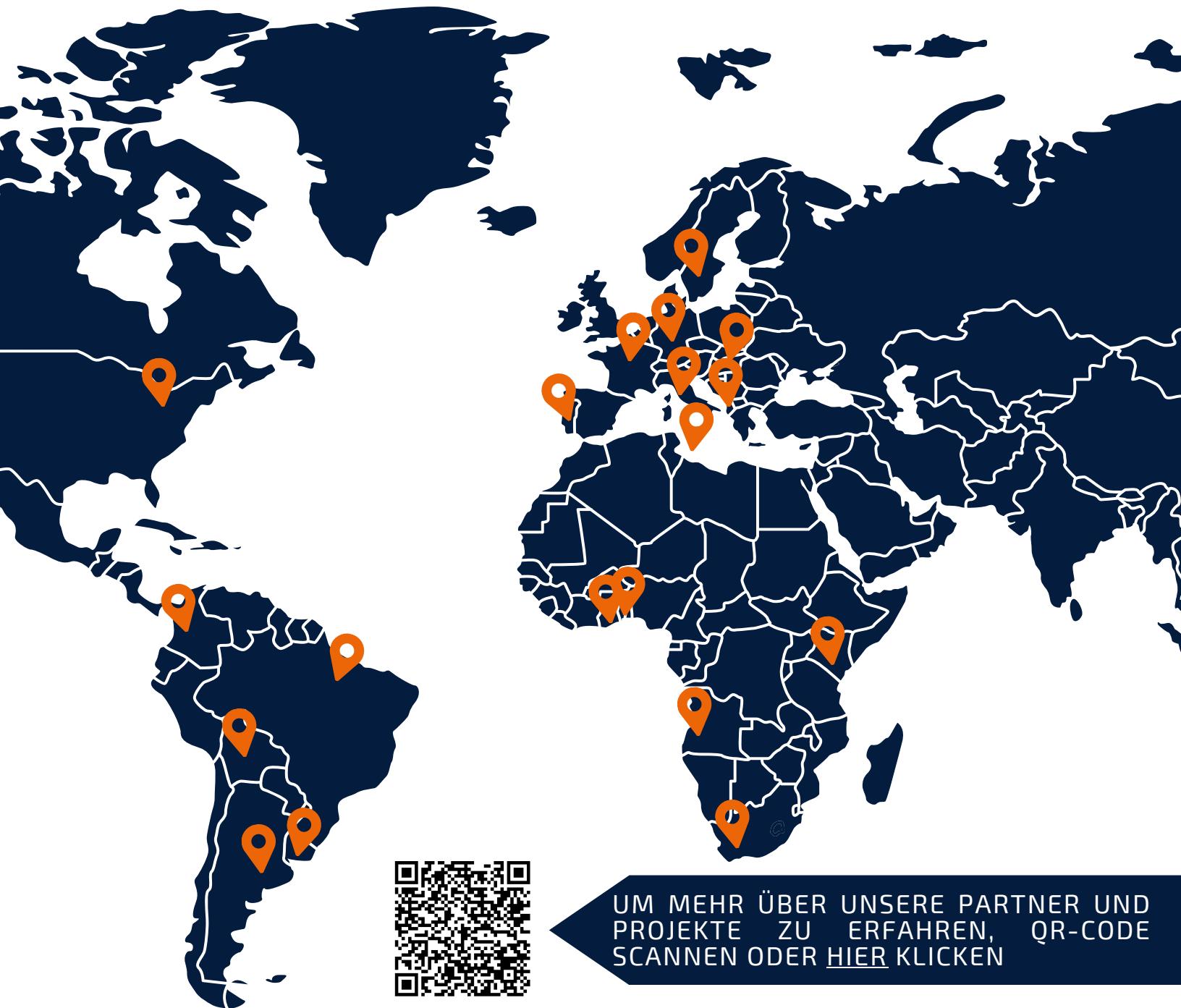
We remain deeply connected to our roots in SRS e.V. Germany, sharing the same heart and values. But our context and role are international, and our name now reflects that more clearly.

Thank you for journeying with us. Your support allows us to continue serving people in sport, for God, with lasting impact.



# WO WIR TÄTIG SIND

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# ATHLETES & COACHES

## ENGAGE AND EQUIP MORE SPORT MENTORS & COACHES SERVING ALL PEOPLE OF SPORT

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL IN GERMANY

The purpose of the coach's ministry is **to come alongside youth coaches in Germany** and help them understand, learn and embrace **holistic coaching**. The focus is with Germans coaching youth American football in the Baden Wurttemberg area.

Presently, time has been spent attending practices and building relationships with the head coaches of the youth teams. This has been effective with one team but hopefully others in the near future. Being able to coach all of the positions on both offense and defense has been a big asset as many times that allows to fill in for a position coach who is missing that practice. The process of helping coaches think about the whole game including offensive/defensive play calling, film breakdown, situation football, and especially player relationships is very helpful to **build relationships with the clubs**.



### SUPPORTING FEMALE ATHLETES

Since February 2024, a dedicated **Community of Practice** (COP) has been meeting monthly to support women serving female athletes across Europe. Sports mentors, chaplains, and psychologists gather online to share, pray, and grow in their calling.

Led by a team of four women from different countries, the COP follows a consistent format: **sharing monthly highlights, discussing relevant topics, and praying in breakout groups**. Tools like Padlet and Google Drive help keep resources and connections organized.

In October 2025, the COP held its **first in-person retreat** in Switzerland—a meaningful time to connect, rest, and brainstorm how to better serve female athletes. The retreat deepened relationships and sparked new ideas for future collaboration.

With regular Zoom calls, shared leadership, and growing participation, this COP is becoming a vital space for women in sports ministry across Europe—**offering encouragement, insight, and community**.



# ATHLETES BIBLE STUDIES

## ATHLETES READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER AND BUILDING COMMUNITY



Across Italy, Malta, and Albania, Bible studies for athletes are creating spaces **where faith and sport meet** in powerful ways. These gatherings—both online and in person—are helping athletes grow spiritually, build community, and live out their faith in their teams and clubs.

In **Malta**, a consistent Bible study has formed around the Gospel of Mark, with growing participation and a desire to reach teammates beyond the group. New connections, including with a national team player, are opening doors for expansion.

**"THE BIBLE STUDY HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND MY ROLE IN THE LOCKER ROOM AND GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO SHARE MY FAITH."**

—SOCCER PLAYER FROM MALTA

In **Italy**, despite the challenges of player transfers, Bible study groups have remained active. A young athlete in Milan recently gave his life to Christ and is preparing for baptism. Another basketball player has also been baptized, showing the deep impact of **ongoing discipleship**. A new 12-part study series is being developed to help athletes grow in leadership and spiritual maturity.

In **Albania**, local leaders are beginning to explore similar initiatives, with support from SRS International and regional partners. The goal is to build a network of athlete-led Bible studies that are rooted in Scripture and relevant to the realities of competitive sport.

These studies are more than meetings—they're places of transformation, where athletes discover who they are in Christ and how to live that out in the world of sport.



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# ROWING PROJECTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

## DEVELOPING ROWING AND PARA-ROWING IN BOLIVIA AND URUGUAY

The Bolivia & Uruguay Rowing Project is a long-standing initiative that continues to **make rowing accessible to both able-bodied and para athletes across South America**. In a region where rowing is still a relatively unknown sport and opportunities for para athletes to compete are limited, this project plays a vital role in developing the sport and promoting inclusion.

In Uruguay, a dedicated **rowing academy** serves as a training and mentoring hub for athletes of all ages and abilities. It supports both recreational and competitive rowers, including members of the national team, offering a space where everyone can train, grow and thrive.

In Bolivia, the project is helping to **introduce rowing in regions where the sport is still emerging**. Working alongside a local sports school, the initiative supports:

- Training of **grassroots coaches**,
- **Development pathways** for young athletes with Olympic and Paralympic potential,
- **Community rowing programs** at Christian centers and a Bible school,
- **Holistic mentoring** for athletes, coaches, and sports leaders.

Over the years, SRSinternational has regularly sent containers filled with **rowing boats and essential equipment** to South America. These shipments have significantly strengthened the infrastructure and expanded opportunities for athletes in both countries.

Active in Cochabamba, Tarija, and La Paz, the project collaborates with local and international partners to **build a sustainable foundation for rowing in South America**. It's more than a sports program—it's a movement that fosters inclusion, leadership, and hope through sport.



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# HEALTH & FITNESS MINISTRY

CONNECT AND TRAIN HEALTH & FITNESS SPECIALISTS  
ACROSS EUROPE FORMING LOCAL & REGIONAL TEAMS



## WHY FITNESS MINISTRY MATTERS

In today's fast-paced and performance-driven culture, people are searching for spaces where they can experience wholeness—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fitness ministry offers a **unique opportunity to meet people where they are**, using movement as a doorway to deeper conversations about faith, identity, and purpose.

Whether through group workouts, mindfulness practices, or community events, fitness ministry creates environments where relationships grow and discipleship happens naturally. It's not just about physical health—it's about cultivating a lifestyle of worship, connection, and transformation. Across Europe, churches and leaders are discovering that **fitness can be a powerful tool for outreach, healing, and spiritual growth**.

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MOVEMENT

In 2025, the Health & Fitness ministry across Europe has seen significant growth, thanks in part to the strategic support of SRS International. By connecting leaders, offering training, and facilitating gatherings, SRS international is helping shape a **movement that integrates discipleship with physical wellness**.

The vision remains clear: to see spiritually, mentally, and physically strong believers impacting their communities through everyday movement and intentional relationships.



## CONTINENTAL COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP

A facilitation team of four, supported by SRS International, has hosted regular Zoom calls with 8-15 fitness leaders from countries including Romania, France, Sweden, Spain, the UK, Germany, and Italy. These calls foster collaboration, share best practices, and encourage leaders in their local contexts.

At the ECSU Gathering in Altenkirchen, 25 participants identified **fitness as their primary ministry space**—highlighting its growing relevance and the fruit of intentional investment.



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# HEALTH & FITNESS MINISTRY



## FRANCE: BUILDING A NETWORK OF FITNESS MINISTERS

In France, fitness ministry is gaining momentum. A significant milestone was the **first national gathering** in Toulouse, where 16 leaders from various cities came together to explore how fitness can be used as a tool for discipleship and outreach. The gathering included practical workshops, vision sharing, and mutual encouragement—laying the groundwork for a growing network of fitness ministers across the country.

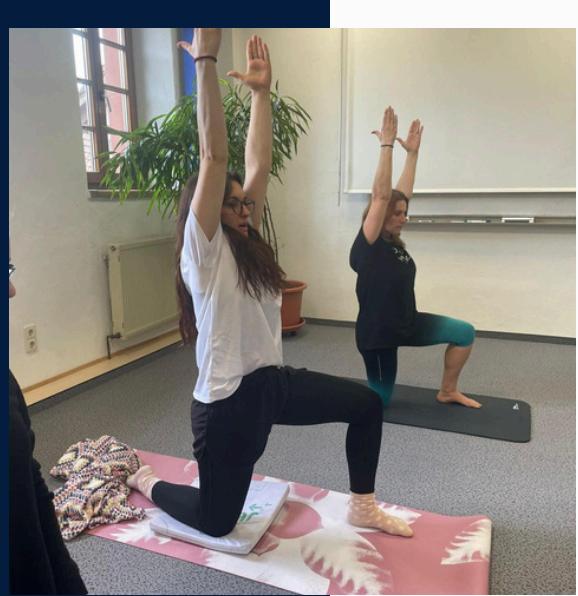
**Local leaders** are now initiating fitness-based small groups, integrating movement into church life, and using fitness to build bridges in their communities. The momentum from Toulouse is sparking new initiatives in cities like Lyon, Paris, and Marseille, with a strong emphasis on relational discipleship through movement.

## GERMANY: FUNCTIONAL FITNESS IN CHURCH CONTEXTS

In Germany, the use of Functional Fitness is becoming a powerful tool for **ministry within church settings**. Leaders are integrating fitness into youth groups, women's ministries, and outreach events—creating spaces where physical activity opens doors to conversations about faith, identity, and purpose.

Churches are discovering that **fitness can be more than just a health initiative—it can be a discipleship strategy**. Whether through small group workouts, community events, or themed weekends, movement is being used to foster deeper relationships and spiritual growth.

While Tikva, a worship-based movement practice, continues to expand nationally, the broader emphasis is on **equipping churches to use fitness as a means of holistic ministry**—addressing body, mind, and spirit.



# MOUNTAIN BIKE MINISTRY

## SUPPORTING ATHLETES ON AND OFF THE TRAIL

The Mountain Bike Team is filling a critical gap in Germany's cycling landscape by **supporting young mountain bike athletes**—physically, mentally, and spiritually. Unlike road cycling or BMX, Enduro MTB lacks formal structures, training camps, and financial support. This initiative steps in to provide holistic care and discipleship.

In 2025, the team was present at major events like the MTB World Cup in Leogang, **offering chapel services and spiritual conversations**, and the Enduro World Championships in Fiesch, where 32 athletes received logistical, medical, and mentoring support. At the XC World Championships in Crans-Montana, young riders joined a Zoom call and received **on-site hospitality and guidance**.

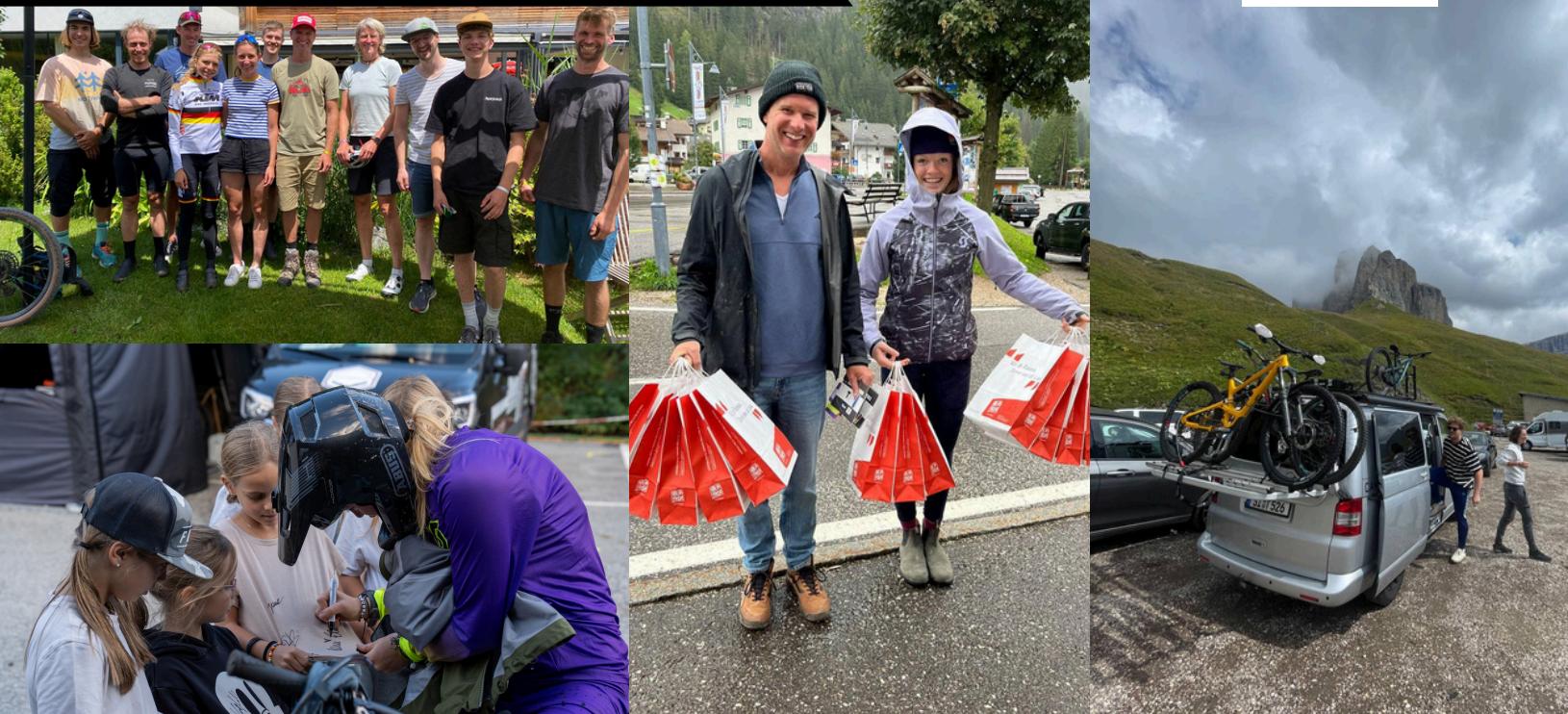
Looking ahead to 2026, the team plans to expand its presence at World Cup events, connect athletes with local ministry leaders, and continue offering chapel services. **Strategic partnerships** with AIA Cycling, the German Cycling Federation, and industry leaders are helping grow the impact.

With travel, training materials, and chapel space still needing funding, this ministry is a vital expression of faith in action—**empowering athletes to live out their calling both on and off the bike**.

**"IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT RACING—IT'S ABOUT BEING SEEN, SUPPORTED, AND REMINDED THAT FAITH CAN BE PART OF EVERY RIDE."**

— ATHLETE AT THE MTB COMPETITION

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# YOUNG RIDERS, STRONG ROOTS

## GROWING FAITH ON THE TRAIL

In 2025, the Mountain Bike Team deepened its commitment to investing in the next generation of riders—focusing on **holistic development that goes far beyond athletic performance**.

**Four young athletes** received focused mentoring and training, gaining not only technical biking skills but also tools for mental resilience and spiritual growth. Through specialized camps and one-on-one discipleship, they were empowered to pursue personal breakthroughs both on the trail and in life.

Across **12 races throughout the year**, the team created intentional spaces for spiritual conversations—sharing devotions and offering encouragement to both believers and seekers through their presence and authenticity. A major highlight was their support of 20 German athletes at the Enduro World Championships, where they provided mentoring and logistical assistance, embodying servant leadership in a competitive setting.

To broaden their impact, the team produced **five professional athlete testimonials**—powerful stories of faith, perseverance, and purpose—that were shared over 70,000 times, inspiring countless young people across digital platforms.

Looking ahead, the team is excited to expand its outreach to younger riders, launch new digital storytelling projects, and **create more opportunities for youth to grow in character and faith through the transformative journey of mountain biking**.



# SPORTS FOR INTEGRATION

## MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS REACHED AND INTEGRATED THROUGH SPORT & GAMES

### TRANSFORMING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN BRAZIL THROUGH SPORT

In Brazil, sports are becoming a **powerful tool for social change and spiritual growth** among indigenous communities. The initiative, supported by SRS International and local partners like ATE (Associação Transcultural Evangélica) and CBE (Coalizão Brasileira de Esporte), focuses on equipping leaders—teachers, pastors, and trainers—to use **sport as a means of teaching values and building community**.

#### Key Areas of Impact:

- **Training & Conferences:** Workshops for educators and youth leaders on value-based sports ministry, including requests from the Brazilian government.
- **Football Schools & Tournaments:** Engaging children and youth from indigenous communities, including events in youth prisons and social projects.
- **Community Outreach:** Sermons and participation in indigenous and Brazilian churches, strengthening spiritual and social ties.
- **Floorball Development:** Training coaches in Pernambuco, with ongoing support from "Floorball for All."

The project was initiated at the **invitation of indigenous leaders** from the Pirajuí Reserve and Paranhos region in Mato Grosso do Sul, where communities face challenges like drug trafficking, lack of prospects, early marriages, and suicide. **Sports are used to reinforce values such as respect and collectivism, offering hope and direction to young people.**

Despite setbacks like a dengue epidemic postponing a major youth leader conference, the ministry continues to grow. A **new sports ministry base** was inaugurated in Pedras de Fogo, marking a milestone in outreach efforts.

**"WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO GOD AND TO THE KINDHEARTED PEOPLE WHO ARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS WORK. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR SUPPORT TO DO MORE FOR OUR COMMUNITY."**

—INDIGENOUS LEADER

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# ARLÓ PARTNERSHIP

## BUILDING HOPE AND CONNECTION THROUGH FOOTBALL, ENGLISH, AND FRIENDSHIP

In partnership with the Elfogadlak Alapítvány ("I Accept You – Foundation"), the Arló Sport and English Camps continue to **serve disadvantaged Roma children and youth in northeastern Hungary**. Led by Franciscan Sisters and supported by Hungarian and international volunteers—including staff from SRS International—the camps welcomed around 50 participants each week.

Week one focused on teenagers; week two on younger children. Mornings included football training, fitness, English lessons, and games. Afternoons offered free-choice of workshops in the "play zone," fostering creativity, friendship, and rest. Each camper received a soccer ball, shoes, socks, and school supplies to support their year-round development.

The camps remain **a place of hope, growth, and transformation**, where young people are encouraged to discover their potential and experience the joy of being part of a caring community.

**Throughout the year our local partners support families and children from the local community and have an open house and regular activities for the children and young people.** To continue those projects and serve the local community, we support the Elfogadlak Foundation in raising funds for the following needs:

- Heating, fruit & yoghurt for the community center
- Sports Equipment & resources for the camps
- Fire wood to support the families during the winter months
- Pencil cases & other school supplies
- Shoes & socks for the children

Beyond the camps, we are increasingly working to **connect Roma communities across Europe** and strengthen relationships between leaders and volunteers who serve Roma children and families. Through shared learning, collaboration, and mutual encouragement, we aim to see Roma communities empowered and supported not only locally, but within a wider European network.

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# THE GAMES IN PARIS AND BEYOND

## HOW THE LEGACY OF THE GAMES IS SHAPING SPORTS MINISTRY ACROSS FRENCH CITIES

The Games in France were a unique moment—not just for sport, but for planting seeds of long-term impact. Over the past year, those seeds have begun to grow in cities across France, where sport is becoming a meaningful way to build community, serve others, and share hope.

In **Grenoble**, what started with football and volleyball has grown into a diverse mix of weekly activities—basketball, hiking, futsal—and this fall, new programs in badminton and junior football are launching. The team there reflects: "Festivals, tournaments, and regular weekly sessions are helping to grow visibility and deepen relationships in the city."

**Saint-Étienne** continues to build through consistent football training and a local tournament that drew new interest.



The team is small but committed, with a desire to grow into other sports and areas of service.

In **Toulouse**, a new focus on Health & Fitness is emerging. A team is forming to serve not just the city, but the wider country, with a training event planned to equip volunteers in holistic health—body, mind, and spirit.

In **Paris**, pastors are meeting regularly, collaborations have emerged between different churches and ministries, a church is building a multisport stadium including activities for para sports, and a team of ten is preparing to launch sport-based outreach. They're currently in a "look and listen" phase, discerning needs and opportunities before moving forward.

Nationally, a small group is working behind the scenes to support city teams, share vision, and help leaders grow.

The legacy of the Games is becoming visible—not just in events, but in relationships, local leadership, and long-term vision. **The hope is to continue building teams that combine sport, service, and faith in ways that are simple, reproducible, and deeply rooted in local communities.**



# THE WINTER GAMES IN ITALY

## PREPARING HEARTS AND COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN ITALY

As the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games approach, a quiet but meaningful movement is unfolding across northern Italy. Churches, volunteers, and ministry teams are coming together to prepare—not just for the events themselves, but for **the opportunity to serve, connect, and share hope**.

Over the past year, the SRS International team, alongside local partners, has hosted multiple in-person meetings in Arco, Trento, Treviso, and Milan, with more gatherings planned in the coming months. These meetings have helped cast vision, build relationships, and mobilize churches—especially in the valley regions, where much of the Games activity will take place.

A **weekly prayer meeting** has become a steady rhythm, bringing together believers to intercede for the venues, communities, and opportunities ahead. Earlier this year, a prayer journey through all competition sites helped deepen understanding of the geography and spiritual landscape, while also connecting with churches near key locations like Bolzano and Val di Fiemme.

A dedicated disability ministry team is also active, working to raise awareness and support inclusion.

To support communication and mobilization, tools like informational flyers, toolkits and podcasts are being developed. **The goal is to equip churches and individuals to engage meaningfully—before, during, and after the Games.**

The Winter Games initiative is more than a project. It's a growing network of prayer, partnership, and purpose. **And it's a reminder that sport can open doors—not just to competition, but to community, compassion, and Christ.**

**"PRAYING TOGETHER AT THE VENUES REMINDED US THAT THE CHURCH HAS A ROLE—NOT JUST TO OBSERVE, BUT TO WELCOME AND WITNESS."**

— LOCAL PASTOR FROM ITALY

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# DEVELOPING PARA SPORTS

## FROM PARIS TO WEST AFRICA—BUILDING INCLUSION THROUGH SPORT

The Paralympic Games in Paris 2024 were more than a celebration of athletic excellence—they were a wake-up call. They highlighted the need to raise awareness, improve access, and invest in para sports, **especially in regions where athletes with disabilities face significant barriers.**

In response, the SRS International team, together with local partners, hosted **three outreach events in Parisian parks to promote para sports.** These events created space for children, families, and fans to experience adapted sports firsthand—through blind soccer, goalball, sitting volleyball, and inclusive games. The goal was simple: **to make para sports visible, relatable, and celebrated.**

But the work didn't stop in Paris. SRS International continues to support the **development of para sports in Togo, Ghana, and other West African countries.**

**"WE MAY NOT HAVE EVERYTHING, BUT WE HAVE EACH OTHER AND WE HAVE THE WILL TO KEEP GOING."**

— AMÉLÉ, A PARA TABLE TENNIS PLAYER FROM TOGO



INTRODUCTION TO BLIND SOCCER IN PARIS

GOALBALL PRACTICE IN TOGO



In Togo and Ghana, athletes train in disciplines like wheelchair tennis, para table tennis, goalball, amputee football, and para athletics—**often with minimal equipment and volunteer coaches.** Despite challenges, their motivation is strong.

A strategic plan for para sports in Togo (2025–2029) is being developed, aiming to improve governance, visibility, and inclusion. International partnerships are forming, and local clubs are growing. Yet, the need remains: for classification systems, youth engagement, gender inclusion, and adapted facilities.

From Paris to West Africa, the vision is clear: **to build inclusive, locally-led para sports communities that reflect dignity, opportunity, and joy.** With continued support, collaboration, and prayer, para sports can become a powerful tool for transformation—on and off the field.

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# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## WALKING WITH LOCAL LEADERS TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE, REPRODUCING SPORTS MINISTRY

We walk alongside trusted local leaders and ministries in more than 20 countries, investing in long-term relationships that strengthen vision, leadership, and organizational health. Our goal is to empower locally led, sustainable sports ministry that multiplies disciples and impacts communities. Together, we clarify direction, develop strong ministry teams, and build systems that support long-term growth. We also provide practical help in areas like fundraising, administration, and operational support — always with the aim of equipping leaders to flourish in their context and lead with confidence. Ultimately, we journey with our partners not only as coaches and collaborators, but as friends in ministry, praying, discerning, and learning together.

### HOW WE SERVE IN DETAIL:

- **Vision and Strategic Development:** Co-creating long-term ministry plans, mission structures, and expansion roadmaps
- **Leadership Development Pipelines:** Coaching leaders to build systems that identify, equip, and empower future leaders
- **Staff & Volunteer Training:** Tailored capacity-building for ministry teams and emerging workers
- **Organizational Strengthening:** Supporting governance, financial stewardship, planning, and operational systems
- **Fundraising & Partnership Growth:** Helping partners build sustainable support, donor relations, and local resource mobilization
- **Administrative & Back-Office Support:** Providing guidance and tools for reporting, communication, project management, and compliance
- **Long-Term Relational Accompaniment:** Offering encouragement, accountability, prayer support, and shared discernment



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## OVERVIEW OF PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

### FAITH ON THE FIELD: NEW PARTNER PROJECT IN COLOMBIA

In 2025, a dynamic sports ministry in Colombia joined the SRS International network, led by seasoned leaders Jairo and Doris. With over 30 years of experience, they have harnessed the power of sport—especially soccer—as a **transformative tool for evangelism, discipleship, and community development**. Their ministry reaches across diverse sectors, including at-risk youth, local churches, and professional athletes.

Key initiatives include:

- **Church-Based Sports Outreach:** Collaborating with 15 churches in northern Colombia to integrate sports into spiritual growth and outreach.
- **Football Academies:** Providing mentorship and training to youth in marginalized communities, offering alternatives to crime and violence.
- **Disaster Relief Through Sport:** Rebuilding hope and community spirit in areas affected by natural disasters.
- **Professional Chaplaincy:** Supporting athletes and coaches in Colombia's professional football leagues.

SRS International supports the ministry administratively, allowing Jairo and Doris to focus on mentoring, leadership development, and sharing the Gospel through sport. **Their work exemplifies the mission to bring Christian identity into the world of sport and fitness, offering hope and transformation.**

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# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



## DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH SPORTS IN KENYA

SRS International, in collaboration with four local and international partners, continues to see transformative impact through its **Discipleship Training Program** in Ukunda, Kwale County. This initiative uniquely combines theological education with sports ministry, equipping young Kenyan leaders to **live out and share their faith in practical, community-based ways**.

Since its launch in 2023, the program has empowered graduates to serve in churches and ministries across Kenya and even into Burundi, using sports as a relational bridge to reach youth and model Christlike leadership.

A major milestone in 2025 was the **launch of a new outreach in a village** previously resistant to Christianity. Through respectful engagement with local elders, the team was granted permission to run Saturday sports sessions for children and youth—offering games, meals, and spiritual encouragement in a context marked by poverty and skepticism.

This ongoing work, led by former students and supported by Mission 20:19, demonstrates the power of holistic discipleship to break barriers and bring hope across borders.

  
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## ITALIAN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Over the past year, the Italian sports ministry has been steadily **growing its presence in local churches**, fostering relationships among leaders across different ministry areas. While social media engagement has been limited, meaningful connections have emerged through personal interactions and **shared vision**.

The **Fitness Ministry** has seen the most activity, particularly through the Tikva course, which has helped believers recognize the deep link between faith and fitness. This initiative has opened doors for ministry opportunities and raised awareness in several congregations.

In anticipation of the **Winter Games**, the Action Sports Ministry—including snowboarding, parkour, and skateboarding—has begun expanding across Italy. After years of work abroad, the team is now focusing on growing this area locally, building on existing activities and momentum.

The ECSU conference played a pivotal role in shaping the team's understanding and experience of sports ministry, providing inspiration and clarity for future steps. Monthly calls continue to serve as a vital space for learning, encouragement, and prayer.

The team is especially grateful for the addition of two young members who are eager to grow in their calling and contribute to the ministry's development.



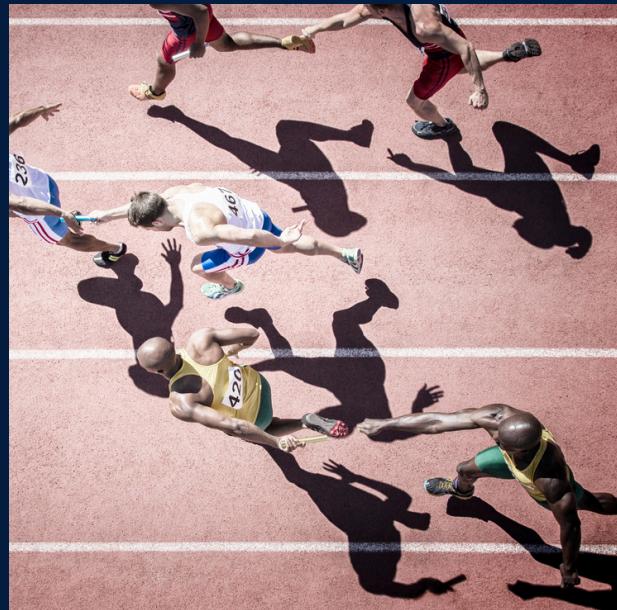
# SERVICES

## EQUIPPING AND ACTIVATING LEADERS TO LAUNCH AND GROW SPORTS MINISTRY MOVEMENTS

We provide catalytic services that spark, strengthen, and accelerate sports ministry movements. Rather than running every program ourselves, we equip and empower local leaders, churches, and organizations to develop sustainable ministry where they are. We believe long-term transformation happens when local believers are envisioned, trained, and released to serve their communities — not when outside programs take center stage. Through training, coaching, shared learning environments, and practical startup support, we help leaders grow in confidence, clarity, and capability so that new ministry can take root and multiply.

### HOW WE SERVE IN DETAIL:

- **Vision Casting & Missional Clarity:** Helping leaders and churches understand the biblical foundation of sports ministry and identify their mission and strategy
- **Leadership Training & Coaching:** Delivering workshops, mentoring, and learning journeys to build confident, capable, spiritually grounded leaders
- **Conference & Event Facilitation:** Hosting and supporting gatherings that inspire, equip, and connect people across regions
- **Movement Education & Resource Sharing:** Providing tools, guides, curriculum, and best practices to accelerate learning and implementation
- **Network Development:** Initiating and supporting communities of practice, learning cohorts, and regional ministry networks
- **Project Launch Support:** Helping leaders begin new sports outreach, discipleship initiatives, camps, leagues, or community service programs



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## OVERVIEW OF PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

### SOCER SCHOOLS IN ANGOLA

In Lubango, Angola, Graciano is leading a soccer-based sports ministry with a bold vision: **to use sports as a bridge to faith and community transformation**. His work currently reaches over 250 youth from underprivileged backgrounds, offering mentorship, discipleship, and a sense of belonging through soccer. Operating in **five locations** on the outskirts of Lubango, the ministry goes beyond the game—**focusing on character development, leadership, and spiritual growth**. Since its founding, the JVG Academy has made remarkable progress, even winning the U13 provincial championship in 2024.

#### Goals for 2026 include:

- Empowering and connecting sports ministries across Angola.
- Providing holistic support for vulnerable youth.
- Developing sustainable infrastructure and resources for long-term impact.

Immediate needs include sports equipment, financial support for travel and nutrition, and infrastructure improvements such as a proper soccer field and changing rooms.

Through these efforts, **Graciano aims to create a nationwide movement that fosters leadership and transformation**—one game at a time.

SRS International supports Graciano and his soccer academies by providing administrative assistance and strategic backing, ensuring the ministry can focus on its mission while growing sustainably.

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## SOCER SCHOOL IN ARGENTINA

In Rosario, Argentina, Leandro and his team are launching a soccer academy with a clear mission: **to use the sport not for talent scouting, but as a tool for holistic child development and sharing the Gospel**. The academy offers mentoring, training, and spiritual guidance in a safe, inspiring environment for children from diverse backgrounds.

Rosario is passionate about football but marked by **poverty and violence**. Many children lack secure spaces and positive role models. This project provides stability and hope, starting with a **pilot phase in late 2025** in partnership with a local Christian school. **The vision is to grow into a locally led, sustainable sports ministry that shapes responsible, value-driven young people.**

Immediate needs include committed helpers, financial resources, and sports equipment. Every session is an opportunity to bring hope and transform lives—one child at a time.

Our team supports Leandro by providing strategic guidance, training resources, and fundraising assistance to ensure the academy can launch well and expand sustainably. We also help connect local leaders with global partners for long-term impact.

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## THE EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN SPORTS UNION

SRS International serves the European Christian Sports Union (ECSU) through both **practical and strategic support**. As part of the Convening Team and the Process Team, we help shape direction and strengthen collaboration across the movement. Our contribution includes **financial and administrative support, communication and coordination, and the organization and facilitation of strategy team meetings, conferences, and gatherings**. This includes supporting key events such as the last European gathering in Germany in May 2025, helping ensure leaders from across Europe are equipped, connected, and mobilized to develop sports ministry in their local contexts.

# THE ECSU GATHERING

MAY 23–26, ALtenkirchen, Germany

180 participants from across Europe gathered to explore how sport can be a space for discipleship and mission. The theme "Europe – Bible – Sport – Together" shaped a program of devotionals, workshops, and collaboration. Scripture anchored the event through reflections on Jesus' "I Am" statements. National and continental sessions addressed local challenges and fostered cross-border partnerships. Workshops explored coaching, movement building, family engagement, and elite athlete discipleship, while "Go" initiatives offered practical outreach models. Prayer remained central with a dedicated room, evening worship, and ongoing ECSU Prayer Channel connection. The Gathering affirmed sport's power to build community and share Christ—from gyms to playgrounds to stadiums.



## COUNTRY TABLES

A key highlight of the ECSU Gathering 2025 was the introduction of country tables—spaces for national teams to meet, reflect, and plan. Delegates assessed sports ministry in their context, identified challenges, and set goals—often for the first time around a shared vision. Since then, countries have launched working groups, follow-up meetings, and new partnerships. These tables sparked ownership and momentum, marking a shift for the ECSU from a continental network to a catalyst for locally-led movements rooted in prayer, collaboration, and strategy.



## MALTA: A COUNTRY TABLE STORY THAT INSPIRES OTHERS

Even before country tables were introduced at the ECSU Gathering 2025, Malta had begun strategic work with early support from SRS International. This partnership laid the foundation for a national sports ministry rooted in prayer, inclusion, and local leadership. Since then, Malta has launched a prayer group among professional athletes, appointed two part-time sports ministers, and started para sport initiatives in schools. **Their progress—driven by intentional planning and local ownership—now serves as a model for other nations, showing how vision can become action and spark lasting impact.**

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# PRAYER REQUESTS AND THANKSGIVING

## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR



- **Clearer Identity:** Praise God for the new name Sports Relations & Services, which better reflects the mission to serve and empower others.
- **Para Sports Growth:** Thank God for progress in para sports in West Africa and the resilience of athletes like Amélé.
- **Athlete Discipleship:** Celebrate the impact of Bible studies among athletes in Italy, Malta, and Albania.
- **Fitness Ministry Momentum:** Give thanks for the growth of fitness ministry across Europe, especially in France, Italy and Germany.
- **Mountain Bike Outreach:** Praise God for the holistic support and spiritual impact among young riders in Germany.
- **ECSU Gathering:** Rejoice in the unity and strategic planning that emerged from the Gathering.
- **New Partnerships:** Thank God for the ministries in Colombia, Angola, Argentina and Kenya, bringing hope through sport.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

- **Winter Games Prep:** Pray for unity and readiness among churches in Italy ahead of the Winter Games.
- **Para Sports Development:** Ask for resources and leadership to grow inclusive sports in under-resourced areas.
- **Roma Community Support:** Pray for provision for the Arló camps and community center in Hungary.
- **Local Leadership Growth:** Intercede for strong, sustainable sports ministry teams in over 20 countries.
- **Support for Women in Sport:** Pray for the Community of Practice and more mentors for female athletes.
- **Fitness Ministry in France:** Ask for continued growth and discipleship through fitness in French cities.
- **Indigenous Outreach in Brazil:** Pray for lasting impact through sports among indigenous youth and leaders



# BE PART OF OUR TEAM

## THERE ARE 4 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Thank you for your faithful prayers! **Your ongoing support is the foundation of everything we do.** Each prayer strengthens the work, encourages the team, and opens doors for God's transforming power in sport and beyond. We couldn't do this without you—thank you for standing with us!

Champions are people who are a **local point of contact**. They help, welcome, find host homes, set up appointments and are a basic support unit for when our staff and other travel to the US.

PRAY

SERVE

BECOME A  
CHAMPION

GIVE

CONTACT  
US

Whatever your skills—coaching, organizing, media, mentoring, or simply encouraging others—**you can serve in meaningful ways.** Opportunities range from:

- **Short-term:** A summer project, a couple of weeks or months
- **Long-term:** A one-year internship or even a few hours each month

**There are many projects to explore—locally and internationally.** Every role matters, and every gift can help build community and share Christ through sport.

Partner with us through giving! Your generosity fuels the mission of SRS International—supporting staff, funding projects, and strengthening our general fund to keep ministry moving forward. **Every gift helps build communities and share Christ through sport.**

Willst du mehr erfahren oder mitmachen? Scha auf unserer Website vorbei oder schreib uns eine E-Mail an [info@srsinternational.de](mailto:info@srsinternational.de). Wir freuen uns darauf, mit dir gemeinsam zu entdecken, wie wir durch Sport Jünger machen können!

