

EUROPEAN
ATHLETICS

U18

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rieti 2026

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



Guidobaldi Stadium

16-19 JULY

#rieti2026

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1. Executive Summary

This Sustainability Plan sets out the sustainability vision, strategy, and ambitions of the European Athletics U18 Championships in Rieti, 2026 (“Rieti 2026” or “the event”). The Sustainability Plan aims to accelerate World Athletics’ sustainability objectives by being aligned with the four pillars of the [European Athletics Sustainability Roadmap](#) (environmental, social, human, and economic), and the six sustainability principles of World Athletics:

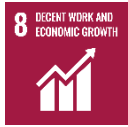
- Leadership in sustainability
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Climate change and carbon
- Local environment and air quality
- Global equality
- Diversity, accessibility, and wellbeing

The core [sustainability objectives of Rieti 2026](#) fall under environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, which together aim to deliver a climate-conscious, inclusive, and legacy-driven event.

Rieti 2026 is the first U18 Championship to measure and report on environmental and social impact and therefore sets the baseline from which future editions of the event can report. The targets set out in this Sustainability Plan are time-bound to Rieti 2026 only and aim to allow future U18 Championships to set reduction targets and track continuous improvement. The event sustainability report will detail progress and achievement of these targets and further progress is reported at each following edition of the Championships. The targets are as follows:

	Topic	SDG Alignment	Targets
Environmental	Carbon Management		• Measure scope 1 and 2 emissions from the event • Capture more than 30% of scope 3 categories from the event
	Waste Management		• Collect waste data from 100% of competition and training venues in Rieti • Target a minimum of 30% waste diversion from landfill • At least 30% of menu options available at food outlets will be vegetarian or vegan • Eliminate single-use plastics where possible

			Zero edible food waste sent to landfill
	Water Management		Limit single-use water bottles
	Smart Mobility and Transportation		- Calculate emissions from 100% of Rieti 2026 shuttles 100% of athletes and coaches on organised, shared transportation or active transportation - Capture the proportion of spectators using public transport
Social	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	 	Inform staff and volunteers about DEI and anti-discrimination
	Accessibility		Complete a venue accessibility audit
	Children and Youth		100% of volunteers receive sustainability training - Deliver a youth engagement programme - Deliver Athletics for All programme
	Health and Wellbeing		100% compliance with health and safety standards 100% smoke-free venue - Healthy food options at 100% of vendors
	Charity, Social Impact, and Community Engagement	  	Donate edible surplus food to Federazione Italiana Cuochi or other local community organisations

Governance	Procurement		At least 30% of suppliers are within 100km of Rieti
	Communications and Reporting		- Publish a sustainability report - Achieve a World Athletics 'Athletics for a Better World' (ABW) certification standard

2. Vision, Objectives, and Principles

2.1 Sustainability Vision

The sustainability vision of Rieti 2026 is to “Deliver a climate-conscious, inclusive, and legacy-driven event”.

2.2 Core Objectives

The ESG framework below presents the core sustainability objectives of Rieti 2026: environmental, social, and governance. These are aligned with European Athletics' Sustainability Roadmap which includes four pillars: environmental, social, human, and economic. Under each of Rieti 2026's objectives are the following:

- Environmental: Carbon Management, Waste Management, Water Management, and Smart Mobility and Transportation.
- Social: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Accessibility, Children and Youth, Health and Wellbeing, Charity and Philanthropy, Fair Play, Community Engagement, and Digital Engagement.
- Governance: Ethics and Procurement, Training and Awareness, Stakeholder Engagement, Good Governance, Safety, Communications and Reporting, Policy, and Certification.

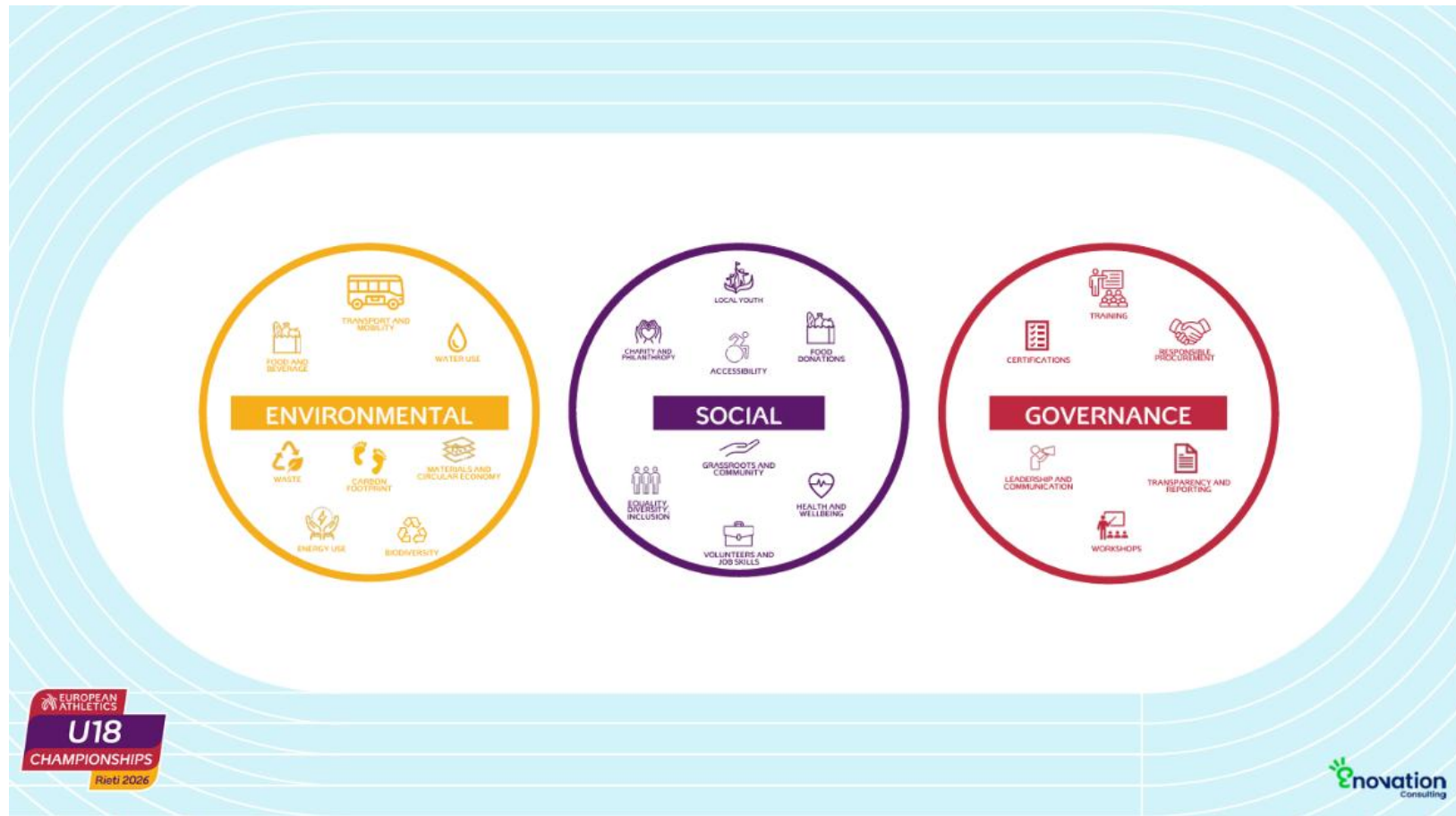


Figure 1: Rieti 2026 ESG Framework

3. Governance and Delivery Structure

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The implementation of the Sustainability Strategy at Rieti 2026 is overseen by the European Athletics Media and Sustainability Consultant. Functional leads in each department each have a role to play in integrating relevant parts of the strategy into their own decision making and operations.

3.2 Policies Framework

As well as complying with all local legislation, Rieti 2026 adheres to the following European Athletics (EA) and World Athletics (WA) policies:

- [EA Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [EA Governance Overview](#)
- [EA Event Organisational Manual](#)
- [EA Commitment to Human Rights](#)
- [WA Anti-Doping Rules](#)
- [WA Safeguarding Rules](#)

4. Materiality Matrix

To determine the key objectives and priorities for the event's sustainability strategy, a materiality assessment was undertaken. Priorities were defined based on the severity of negative impacts and magnitude of positive opportunities offered by each topic. The topics with the highest potential negative impacts received a 10, and the topics with the highest opportunities for positive impacts received a 10. The matrix below shows the outcome of the assessment, with high priority topics in the top right quadrant.

The highest priority topics receive more attention in this Sustainability Plan, and have targets set against them. These targets are time-bound to Rieti 2026 only and aim to establish a baseline for future editions of the European Athletics U18 Championships, allowing them to set reduction targets and track continuous improvement. The event Sustainability Report will detail progress and achievement of these targets. Future editions of the Championships are able to use this Plan and Sustainability Report as guidelines should they wish to monitor, reduce, and report on progress.

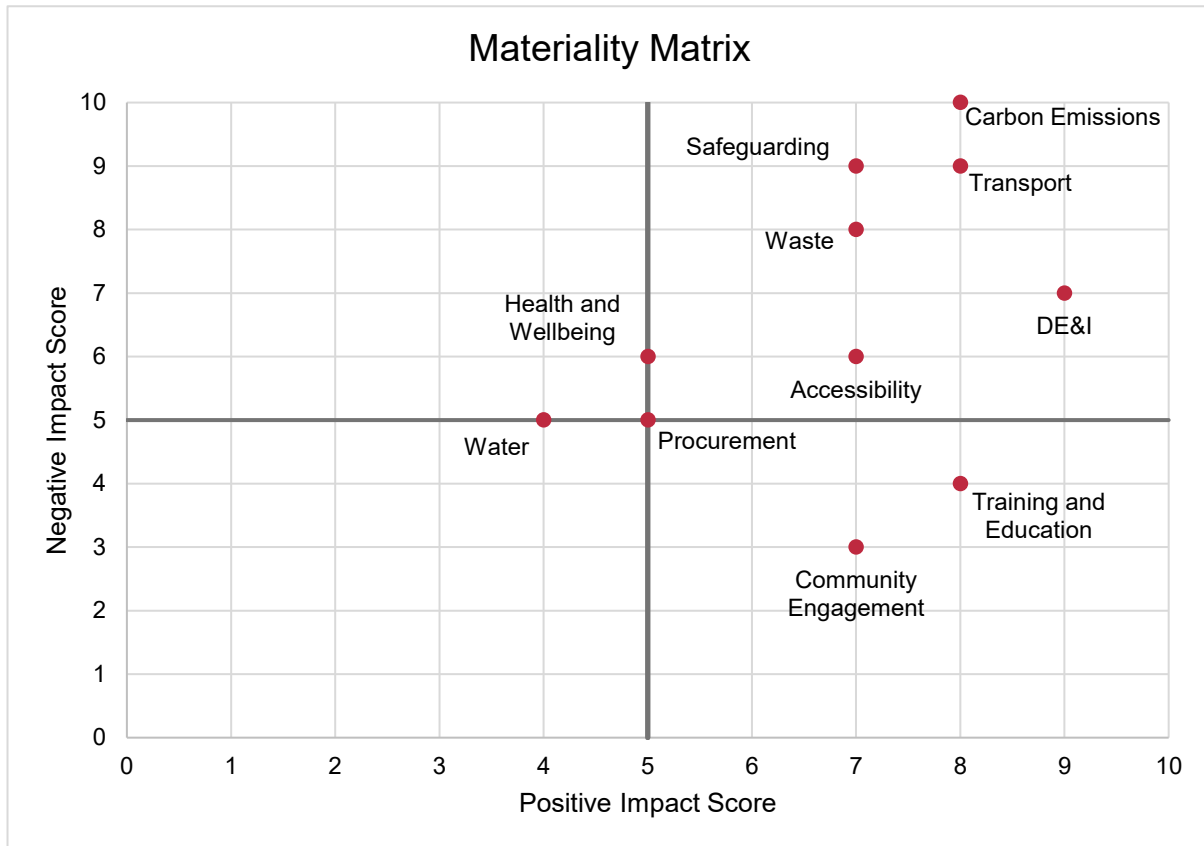


Figure 2: Materiality Assessment Matrix

5. Stakeholder Engagement

The key stakeholders at Rieti 2026 include European Athletics, the Local Organising Committee (LOC), local authorities, local communities, partners and sponsors, volunteers, suppliers, spectators, and athletes and their teams. Groups of stakeholders are engaged and consulted on sustainability before, during, and after the event through workshops, surveys, and calls. For example, local school groups were trained on sustainability through a series of workshops before the event and spectators will be given a post-event sustainability survey.

6. Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Environmental Sustainability is the responsible management and use of natural resources to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

6.1 Carbon Management

Rieti 2026 recognises that sporting events of all sizes have a carbon footprint. The event will be the first U18 Championship to calculate and report a carbon footprint (scopes 1-3) publicly and therefore will set a baseline from which all future U18

Championships can reduce their emissions. To this end, there are no carbon reduction targets for Rieti 2026, but instead the event aims to limit carbon emissions by implementing the following strategies:

- Provide public transportation to the event (see 6.4 Smart Mobility and Transportation for more)
- Consider vegan and vegetarian options across the event
- Implement effective waste management practices
- Reducing single use plastic where possible

Targets for carbon management:

- Measure scope 1 and 2 emissions from the event
- Capture more than 30% of scope 3 categories from the event

6.2 Waste Management

Rieti 2026 is implementing a hierarchy approach to managing waste, prioritising reduction, reuse where possible, recycling, and landfill and incineration as a last resort. Bins on site will be labelled with multilingual labels and icons to allow spectators, athletes, and other stakeholders to separate their waste into recycling streams. As with carbon, Rieti 2026 is the first U18 Championship to measure the waste generated at the event.

To reduce waste generation, the following actions will be implemented: ticketing for the event will be fully digital, all handbooks and event information will be accessible online, and items distributed to athletes and teams will be reusable. The event has a preference for suppliers with recycled content in their products, limited packaging, and packaging made from recyclable or compostable materials. Additional food will be donated to the local community to reduce food waste.

Targets for waste management:

- Collect waste data from 100% of competition and training venues in Rieti
- Target a minimum of 30% waste diversion from landfill
- At least 30% of menu options available at all food outlets will be vegetarian or vegan
- Eliminate single-use plastics where possible
- Zero edible food waste sent to landfill

6.3 Water Management

Rieti 2026 aims to minimise water consumption in the venue and throughout the event. It is the first U18 Championship to measure and report water use. Priorities are to optimise water use efficiency, offer water refill stations, and ensure all volunteers and athletes have reusable water bottles. This also contributes to waste management.

Targets for water management:

- Limit single-use water bottles

6.4 Smart Mobility & Transportation

Mobility and transportation will form a significant part of Rieti's carbon footprint, and so the event is implementing several strategies to limit these emissions. Due to the wide geographic distribution of team hotels across Rieti and the Lazio region, Rieti 2026 will be offering free shuttles to the event for teams and athletes, promoting active travel where possible. There will be no spectator parking available on site as the venue is accessible by public transport.

Targets for smart mobility and transportation:

- Calculate emissions from 100% of Rieti 2026 shuttles
- 100% of athletes and coaches on organised or shared transportation
- Capture the proportion of spectators using public transport

7. Social Sustainability Strategy

Social sustainability refers to the ability of a community or society to maintain social wellbeing over the long-term. It emphasises social equity, cultural diversity, and community wellbeing, focusing on human rights, fair labour practices, and quality of life.

7.1 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Rieti 2026 believes that sport should be accessible to all and therefore embeds principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) across the event. This includes promoting DEI during recruitment and amongst volunteers, holding anti-discrimination training sessions and promoting inclusivity within athletics.

Targets for DEI:

- Inform staff and volunteers trained about DEI and anti-discrimination

7.2 Accessibility

Ensuring the venues and facilities at Rieti 2026 are accessible is very important, and all staff will be trained to support those with accessibility requirements. The event will also offer an appropriate number of accessible seats and make all online content accessible to all. Tickets will be offered at an affordable price to spectators to ensure financial barriers to attending the event are lowered.

Targets for accessibility:

- Complete a venue accessibility audit

7.3 Children and Youth

As Rieti 2026 is an U18 event, both education and safeguarding are fundamental. World Athletics' Safeguarding Rules will be implemented fully. Education and development will also be in focus before and during the event, with modules on sustainability given to local schools, volunteers, and LOC departments. Volunteers will be selected from the local community and will be given training opportunities throughout the event.

Targets for children and youth:

- 100% of volunteers receive sustainability training
- Deliver a youth engagement programme
- Deliver Athletics for All programme

7.4 Health and Wellbeing

Ensuring good health and wellbeing at Rieti 2026 is multifaceted and includes ensuring good and safe working conditions for all staff and volunteers, creating a smoke-free event, promoting physical activity and exercise, and offering healthy and sustainable food choices.

Targets for health and wellbeing:

- 100% compliance with health and safety standards
- 100% smoke-free venue
- Healthy food options at 100% of vendors

7.5 Charity, Social Impact, and Community Engagement

Rieti 2026 recognises its impact on the local community and aims to leave a positive legacy after the event. Local athletics clubs will be engaged throughout the event through the volunteer programme and will benefit from the donation of used sports equipment following the event's conclusion. Surplus food will be redistributed to those who need it in the local area. The Market Square and Athlete Zone will both have sustainability-focused activations to engage all stakeholders on sustainability and contribute to education on this complex topic.

Rieti 2026 is also engaging with European Athletics' Athletics For All initiative, whose mission is to make health and wellbeing activities accessible to everyone, regardless of age, background, physical, or social ability. The aim is to bridge the gap between elite performance and everyday wellness by making active living a priority for every age group, breaking down barriers to sport in disadvantaged communities, and highlighting the powerful connection between athletics and mental health.

Targets for charity, social impact, and community engagement:

- Donate edible surplus food to Federazione Italiana Cuochi or other local community organisations

8. Governance

Governance in sustainability refers to the systems, structures, and decision-making processes that ensure an organisation operates responsibly, ethically, and with long-term environmental, social, and economic considerations.

8.1 Procurement

Rieti 2026 will prioritise suppliers with relevant sustainability certifications, local suppliers, and those who limit single-use materials in their products and packaging.

Targets for procurement:

- At least 30% of suppliers are within 100km of Rieti

8.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Rieti 2026 will be conducting workshops for staff and volunteers on compliance and sustainability, including an overview of key topics in sustainability and how the event itself is implementing sustainability initiatives. As a result of the training, volunteers will be in the position to advise spectators and athletes on waste segregation and other sustainability-focused practices on-site.

Stakeholders will be engaged as outlined in section 5. A post-event survey will be distributed to all relevant stakeholders to gain feedback on sustainability performance at the event.

8.3 Ethics and Compliance

Rieti 2026 aims to follow principles of good governance, ensuring ethical leadership, accountability, and transparency. A risk assessment will be carried out, and mitigating actions and safety inspections undertaken to ensure the safety of all those at the event. All national regulations for working conditions and other relevant legislation will be complied with.

Principles of fair play are crucial to competition. Rieti 2026 will promote fair play and good sportsmanship and will have anti-doping measures in place to enforce this.

8.4 Communications and Reporting

A sustainable communications plan will be developed and implemented for Rieti 2026 with the aim of raising awareness on the topic of sustainability and on the event's

sustainability initiatives. Sustainability messaging will be disseminated on social media platforms and on the website, and athletes will also be nominated as Sustainability Ambassadors. A post-event sustainability report, including a summary of areas of success and improvement, will be published and disseminated.

Rieti 2026 will strive to achieve a World Athletics “Athletics for a Better World” (ABW) certification to reinforce the event’s actions on sustainability.

Targets for communication and reporting:

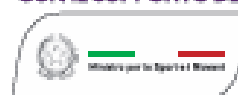
- Publish a sustainability report
- Achieve an ABW certification standard

9. Legacy and Continuous Improvement

Through the implementation of this Sustainability Plan, Rieti 2026 aims to set the standard for sustainability at European Athletics U18 Championships and create a positive legacy for the town of Rieti, region of Lazio, and beyond. This plan will provide a framework for future editions of the event, allowing increasing ambition and continuous improvement.

Read more about sustainability at Rieti 2026 on the dedicated website [here](#).

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