

Video games - a force for good





Foreword

From Olaf Coenen, Chair of ISFE and Hendrik Lesser, President of EGDF

The joint ISFE-EGDF Key Facts report is published during yet another global crisis. Whilst we continue to navigate the challenges and impact of the COV-ID-19 pandemic, the world is now also reeling from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The pandemic paved the way for a broader understanding and acceptance of the positive role video games play. There is an increasing body of research on player behaviour and well-being, such as that recently conducted by the Oxford Internet Institute (OII), which found that time spent playing video games is unlikely to impact well-being, whereas a survey conducted by Ipsos found that video gameplay had a positive effect on mental health during the lockdowns. We are proud that video games are not only a driver of Europe's digital economy but that they are also being recognised as a force for good. Video games play a role in developing and enhancing digital skills and education, providing teachers with useful tools and helping them engage with hard-to-reach students. In addition, they enable connections across the world, positively impacting mental wellbeing.

In 2020, the EU had 4,600 game developer studios and publishers. Together, these companies employed 74,000 people (98,219 people in Europe) and had a combined turnover of €16.6bn in the EU1. In 2021, the market value for the whole of Europe remained stable at €23.3 bn, following the exceptional increase from 2019-2020 due to the role video games played in helping millions of people connect whilst being apart during the strictest of the Covid-19 lockdowns. The number of players has increased by 6%. Playing games has gained popularity across all age groups, with the 45-64 age group being the fastest growing. Actual playtime, however, went down to 9 hours per week, showing that playing video games regained its pre-pandemic place in players' routines.

With 52% of Europe's population playing video games, including children, the industry continues to take our responsibility towards our players very seriously, particularly with regard to minors. Children express themselves through play: they learn, create, collaborate, and connect. Our members dedicate considerable resources in terms of time and investment to ensure parents have the tools, support and confidence they need to guide their children's video gameplay. The PEGI age and content label is one click away to help parents select the right games for their children in consultation with them. The parental control tools are intended to be utilised in a way that works for each family and to encourage a dialogue between the child and the parent in order to define the rules together.

At the end of 2021, we launched our #SeizeTheControls campaign to empower parents and guardians about the parental control tools, settings, reporting tools and the PEGI age labelling of games that are available to help them make educated decisions regarding their children's gameplay. By being aware of the tools available, parents will be able to have conversations with their children about playtime, spending and interaction with confidence. The campaign also showcases the incredible work carried out by our trade association members across Europe, who work tirelessly to inform and educate consumers about the many tools and resources available. We have also partnered with the European network of Safer Internet Centres to ensure that they have access to dedicated information and education sources about responsible gameplay. Co-funded by the European Commission in Member States, and also operating in Iceland, Norway, Russia and the United Kingdom, Safer Internet Centres strive to keep children and young people safe online through a range of actions and initiatives.

It has been a busy year as we have also published a comprehensive Guide to Esports, which contains all

you need to know about a sector that, according to games and esports analytics firm Newzoo, had 205 million enthusiasts worldwide in 2021 and is expected to increase to 286 million by 2024. Esports boast a total audience of 436 million, expected to reach 577 million in 2024. This is a guide produced by the video game companies that make esports possible and tells the story of the whole ecosystem: its economic impact, jobs and skills, demographics and how video game IP leads to innovative licensing.

Our members continue to work hard on improving our industry's diversity and inclusivity, reflecting our players and making this a great sector to work in for everyone. As corporate ambassadors of Women in Games, we are delighted to support the second edition of their guide, "Building a Fairer Playing Field". The guide provides practical recommendations for the industry as well as first-hand reflections from those working in the field. We look forward to sharing this important work through our European network.

Last but not least, we were delighted to support the Green Games Summit and be part of a global initiative engaging with players worldwide to communicate on climate change – yet another fantastic example of how video games can positively influence society. ISFE is proud that, as an associate member of the UN-facilitated Playing for the Planet Alliance, our office has achieved CO2-neutral status. This is a one-of-a-kind collaboration in which video game companies work together to address climate change.

In the year ahead, we look forward to continuing our dialogue with policy makers across Europe, to better their understanding of how this creative and innovative sector can support Europe's digital and cultural growth. We are here to provide facts, figures and the realities of running companies from the smallest start-up developers to the largest multi-national video game publishers. We are here to champion our members' commitment to Europe's video game players, creating skilled digital citizens, supporting responsible gameplay and making video games brilliant fun for everyone.

Data used in this publication is provided by Ipsos and commissioned by ISFE. It is extracted from GameTrack, GSD and the EGDF-ISFE Video Games Industry Insights report.

GameTrack collects data on the behaviours of game players based on three metrics: volume, value, and playtime. Data outlined in this report is gathered from five key video game markets in Europe: France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the U.K. These countries represent a diverse population and a large share of video games in the region.

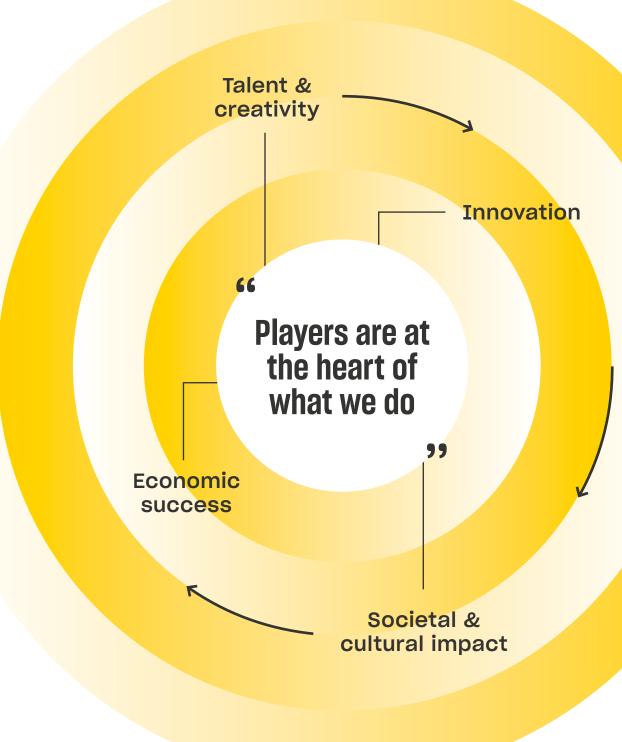
Games Sales Data (GSD) is the first video games industry chart to include data on both retail and digital sales. Data outlined in this report is gathered from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The EGDF-ISFE European Video Games Industry Insights report includes useful insights for the video games industry as well as European industry data.

1 EGDF-ISFE's industry insights report for the year 2020

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EUROPE'S VIDEO GAME PLAYERS

Who we are

Playing video games is an activity a majority of people integrate into their leisure time in some form or another.



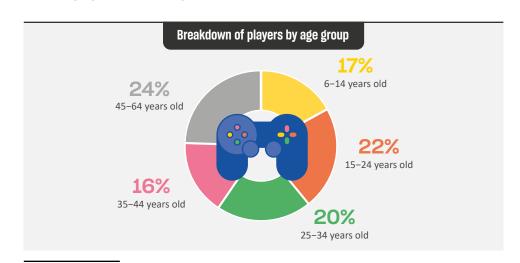
2021

2020



of the population between the ages of 6 and 64 plays





Video games aren't just for kids

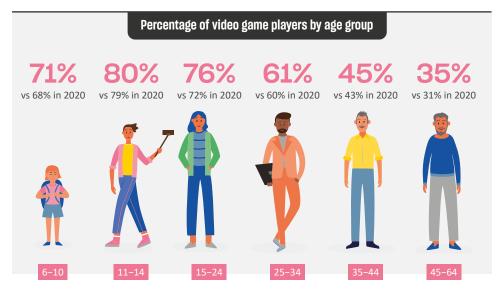
31.3

is the average age of a video game player in Europe



76%

of video game players are 18 years or older (up to 64)



Among video game players



63%

play on smartphones or tablets



54% play on consoles



52% play on PC

Unless stated otherwise, all data presented on this page is extracted from GameTrack, GSD and/or the EGDF-ISFE European Video Games Industry Insight Report. See page 3.



Almost as many women as men are playing video games.

47.8%

of European game players are women

32

is the average age of women who play video games

Women make up



52.8%

of all smartphone and tablet players



41.4%

of all console players



43.4%

of all PC players

Games are a way to introduce girls to ${\sf STEM}$

48%

of video game players are girls (6-15 years old)

Girls who play video games are

3x

more likely to pursue a STEM career than girls who don't.*

9

*HOSEIN Anesa, "Girls' gaming behaviour and undergraduate degree selection: A secondary data analysis approach", Computers in Human Behaviour, vol. 91, February 2019, pp. 226-235, University of Surrey.

Did you know?

Benefits of video gameplay, as part of a wellbalanced lifestyle for players of all ages, include:

KEY FACTS FROM 2021

PLAYING VIDEO GAMES: ONE OF EUROPE'S FAVOURITE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES



Improving mental health

Video games provided an important source of comfort and positively impacted mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ Some of the latest academic studies show a positive relationship between video game playtime and well-being.²



Supplementing health treatment options

Video games are used as supplemental treatment options for health conditions, such as alleviating anxiety³, ADHD⁴ and Alzheimer's, and can help manage side effects from cancer treatment⁵.



Bringing People Together

Video games offer players a sense of community⁶ in which they can work together to investigate, compete, and solve problems. When other forms of shared entertainment were scarce, video games provided virtual socialisation⁷ and engagement in gameplay became a means of preventing feelings of loneliness⁸.

- 1 COVID-19 as 'Game Changer' for the Physical Activity and Mental Well-Being of Augmented Reality Game Players During the Pandemic: Mixed Methods Survey Study. Louise A. Ellis et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research. 2020.
- 2 Video Game Play is Positively Correlated with Well-Being. Niklas Johannes, Matti Vuorre, Andrew K. Przybylski. Royal Society Open Science. 2021.
- 3 Zombies vs. Anxiety: An Augmentation Study of Prescribed Video Game Play Compared to Medication in Reducing Anxiety Symptoms. Matthew T. Fish, Carmen V. Russoniello, Kevin O'Brien. Simulation & Gaming. 2018.
- 4 Akili Announces FDA Clearance of EndeavorRXTM for Children with ADHD, the First Prescription Treatment Delivered Through a Video Game. Alkili. 2020,
- 5 The Association Between Pain Relief Using Video Games and an Increase in Vagal Tone in Children With Cancer: Analytic Observational Study With a Quasi-Experimental Pre/Post-test Methodology. Mario Alonso Puig et al. Journal of Medical Internet Research. 2020. 6 The role of social identity and online social capital on psychosocial outcomes in MMO players. Linda K. Kaye, Rachel Kowert, Sally Quinn. Computers in Human Behavior. 2017.
- 7 Online-only friends, real-life friends or strangers? Differential associations with passion and social capital in video game play. Ryan Perry et al. Computers in Human Behavior. 2018.
- 8 Online Gaming and Prolonged Self-Isolation: Evidence from Italian gamers during the COVID-19 outbreak.

 Alessandro Giardina et al. Clinical Neuropsychiatry

 Journal of Treatment Evaluation, 2021.

Playtime

Playing video games offers a lot more than entertainment.

Among European video game players

78%

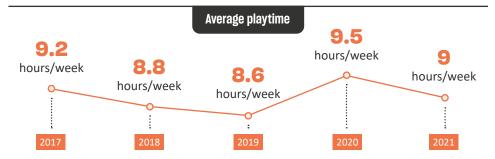
play at least one hour per week

15%

play at least one hour per month

7%

play at least once a year



Average playtime has remained at consistent levels over the years, with a slight jump in 2020 due to the pandemic.

On average, people in Europe spend



9 hours/week

playing video games*



on social media ** 23.5 hours/week

on watching TV***

***GlobalWebIndex GWI Core Q3 2019-Q3 2021, Average time Europe's online consumers spend using social media on a typical day.

Base respondents: 1,606,432 internet users aged 16-64

***EU audiovisual observatory, Yearbook 2021/2022

14.2 hours/week

Video game genres

Video game experiences are as diverse as the billions of people who play them. The creative power of games is shown through the different genres.



Action

Fast-paced, full-throttle games that get your heart pumping.



Role-playing

Story-driven games that put you in charge of your own destiny.



Racing

Where you can drive without speed limits - or even a license.



Strategy

Outsmart the competition and strategise your way to victory.



Sports

rart the From golf to etition basketball, and everything in way to between.



Casual

For those who want a simple game they can play, win and enjoy in a shorter period of time.



Fighting

Selfexplanatory, and with far fewer consequences vs. IRL fighting.



Adventure

For the thrillseekers that want to explore new (and familiar) worlds.



Shooting

Defeat your enemies with your quick thinking and an even quicker trigger finger.



Family

Games designed for the whole family to play together.

Unless stated otherwise, all data presented on this page is extracted from GameTrack, GSD and/or the EGDF-ISFE European Video Games Industry Insight Report. See page 3.

Top played video game genres by device~

Men



Women

- **1. Strategy** 26%
- 2. Adventure 24%
- **3. Racing** 22%

- 1. Strategy 20%
- 2. Adventure 19%
- **3. Racing** 15%



- 1. Sport Games 26%
- **2. Racing** 24%
- 3. Adventure 22%

- **1. Racing** 27%
- 2. Adventure 27%
- 3. Sport Games 15%



- **1. Brain / Puzzle** 20%
- **2. Trivia** 12%
- 3. Word 11%

- 1. Brain / Puzzle 26%
- **2. Trivia** 16%
- 3. Word 16%

Top selling games



Electronic Arts
Sports



Nintendo Racing



Nintendo Strategy



Nintendo Role-playing



Rockstar Games
Action



Electronic Arts
Sports



Nintendo Action



Activision Blizzard Shooting



Activision Blizzard
Shooting



Rockstar Games
Action

15

Full game sales by unit tracked by Global Sales Data (GSD), sorted by rank for 2020, Retail and Network combined.
This listing does not include Nintendo digital sales data.



RESPONSIBLE GAMEPLAY

PEGI is the pan-European video game age rating system. PEGI's goal is to educate, advise and empower players, parents and guardians on content in video games.

PEGI also ensures that games are sold and advertised responsibly, that consumer redress is available, and that companies pay attention to online game playing environments.

PEGI age ratings are established under the supervision of independent experts and classification bodies. PEGI is recognised by the European institutions and EU Member States as a model of European harmonisation in the field of minor protection and consumer transparency.

Visit <u>www.pegi.info</u> for more information and download the PEGI app for iOS/Android.



European countries





35,000+

games and millions of apps classified

PEGI's features and services to empower parents

PEGI app





In-game purchase transparency

PEGI's enhanced in-game purchase descriptor informs consumers if an in-game purchase includes paid random items.





16 Province of the Control of the Co

Age labels



Suitable for all age groups, no unsuitable content



May contain some non-realistic or implied violence, and scenes that might be frightening to younger children



Can feature realistic violence against fantasy characters, non-realistic violence against humanlike characters, mild bad language, or sexual innuendo



May depict realistic violence against humanlike characters, bad language, use of drugs, or erotic nudity



Games that contain gross violence against defenceless characters, glamorisation of drugs, or explicit sexual activity







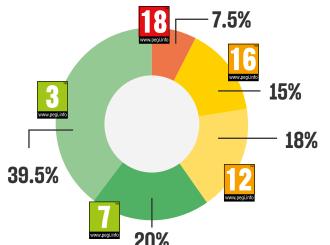












8,000+ games rated in 2021

These stats include age ratings on the following platforms: Microsoft Xbox and Windows, Nintendo, Sony PlayStation, PC and Google Stadia.

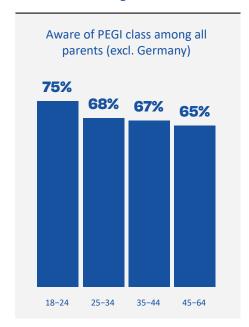
Awareness of PEGI age labels



Parents



of **parents** are aware of PEGI age labels

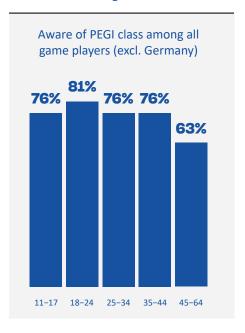




Video game players



of **video game players** are aware of PEGI age labels



PEGI age labels are equally clear for both video game players and parents; however, they are slightly more useful, trustworthy and influential for parents

Clear Useful Trustworthy Influential 87% 87% 78% 74% ^{71%} 69% 57% 51% (\$-3) (\$-3) (j-8) (\$-8)





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Player and parental control tools

Parental control tools or family settings help parents and guardians decide with their children what works best for them, from time spent playing video games to communication with other players and much more. On every device, it is possible to discuss:



Age rating

Which games they can play based on PEGI age rating and descriptors



Time limit

Agree on playtime limits, allowing for better playtime management



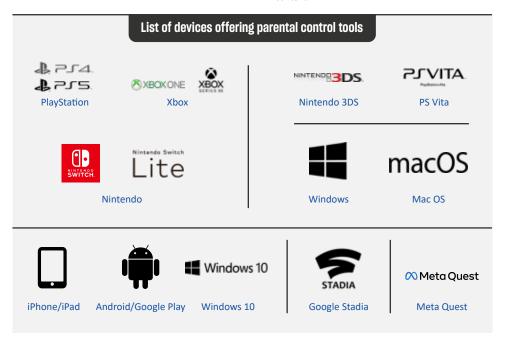
Online spending

Discuss with their children how much can be spent when purchasing games and other downloadable content



Online interaction

Agree on communications in games: friends only, friends of friends, anyone, or no one.



Visit ISFE's website to access information on player and parental control tools for various devices and platforms.

www.isfe.eu/responsible-gameplay/parental-controls

Parental supervision

Children's in-game spending,





Parental suprervison remains high



of surveyed parents whose children spend money in-game **have an agreement** of some kind with their children about their level of spending.



Large decrease in children spending in game

19%

of children who play video games engage in purchasing in-game extras (down from 42% in 2018)



Decorative and cosmetic items that don't impact gameplay are the most popular in-game extras.

1. Children's in-game spending for 2020, by Ipsos, commissioned by ISFE

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Guidance across Europe

The video games industry wants people to enjoy this popular pastime. To that end, the industry empowers parents so that they can engage with their children and agree on appropriate rules around video game play, and encourages parents to learn about the games their children love. Find support in your local language below:

SEIZETHECONTROLS.EU



Austria

GemeinsamSpielen www.gemeinsamspielen.at

Belgium

Jouezmalin / Speelhetslim www.jouezmalin.be www.speelhetslim.be

Finland Peliviikolla

www.peliviikko.fi

France

PédaGoJeux www.pedagojeux.fr

Germany

Respektvoll in Online-Games https://bit.ly/3gE2vUo

Italy

Tutto sui videogiochi www.tuttosuivideogiochi.it

Netherlands RuleTheGame

www.rulethegame.nl

Poland

Zapytaj o Gry www.zapytajogry.pl

Portugal #SaberJoger

Coming soon

Romania

Despre desprejocurivideo.ro

Spain

The Good Gamer www.thegoodgamer.es

Sweden

Fråga, Prata, Spela www.fragaprataspela.se

Switzerland

PlaySmart play-smart.ch



Ask about games www.askaboutgames.com

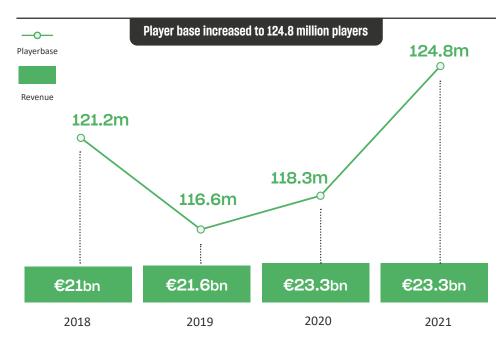


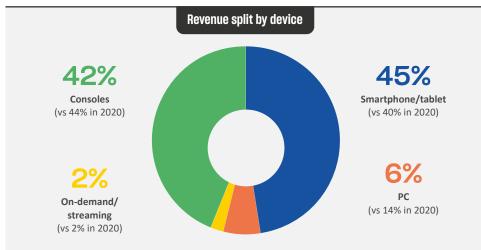
23

curopean video Games industry insignt keport. See page 3.

EUROPEAN VIDEO GAMES INDUSTRY

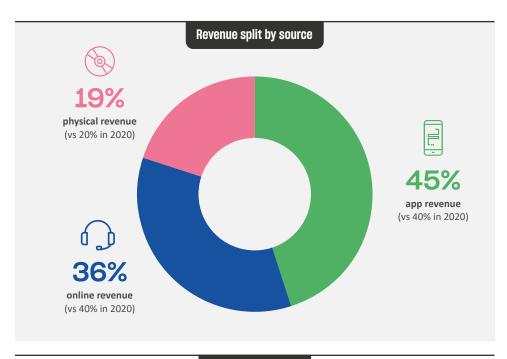
Revenue remained stable at €23.3bn* in key European markets compared to 2020 with more people playing video games.



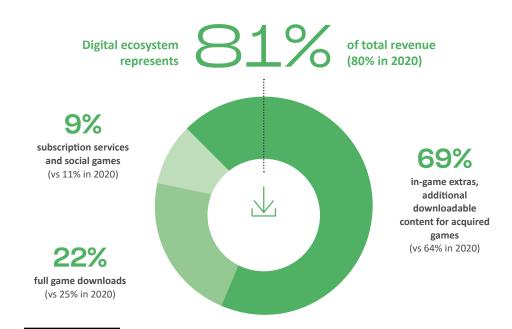


Source: * Market size data is extrapolated from GameTrack 2021 report and Newzoo 2021 Global Data Report

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Workforce and employment

Largest employee bases in the EU

98,219

employees in 2020 in Europe (74,000 are in the EU)

22%

of estimated employees are **women** (compared to 17% of Europe's ICT specialists)*



Whilst this percentage compares favourably to the figure of 17% in the European IT sector as a whole, it is clear that we have much more to do to make our sector a welcoming place to work for women and indeed for all genders. Steps we are taking:

- Corporate ambassadorship of Women in Games
- Supporting Women in Games Guide
- Diversity pledges across Europe (see page 31)

Source: * European Institute for Gender Equality report

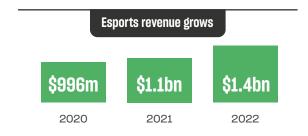
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Esports

What esports are worth

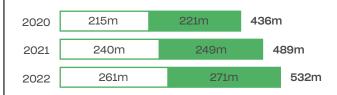
In 2021, global esports revenues exceeded \$1 billion for the first time.



Viewers in 2021

Occasional viewers
Esports enthusiasts (Defn)

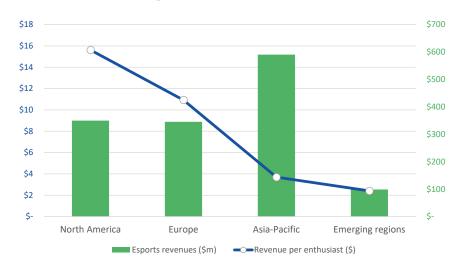
Audience growth will continue at a more moderate pace.



(Defn) Esports enthusiasts: People who watch professional esports content more than once a month

Annual revenue per enthusiast per market

Europe ranks 2nd, globally, in esports revenue per enthusiast





Without video games, there are no esports

Esports are revolutionising the way consumers watch, follow, and engage with video games. While everyone wants to be part of the esports ecosystem, many overlook that esports are an important part of the video games industry. That is why we created a guide that outlines the current state of esports, including their impact on economic growth, demographics, job creation, educational and social opportunities, and the often-overlooked nature of video games as creative works, as well as the copyright and intellectual property rights protection that they enjoy.

The Guide is available in English, French, Italian, Polish and Portuguese.







Supported by











OUR **ENGAGEMENTS**

Diversity pledges across Europe

In early 2021, ISFE and EGDF established a Diversity Working Group with the goals of committing to advancing gender equality and diversity in the industry, promoting ongoing efforts of our members, and serving as a resource for information on diversityrelated policy and legislative issues. Below are a few of our member initiatives:



SELL and SNJV, representing the French video games sector signed a Diversity Charter alongside Women in Games France to promote diversity within the French games industry.

womeningamesfrance.org



Over 400 companies and more than 1.000 individuals have already signed game's (German video games association) declaration to actively support diversity and inclusion in the video games industry and became part of #TeamDiversity in Germany.



On 1 March, coinciding with Zero Discrimination Day, AEVI, representing the Spanish video games industry launched their #PlayEquall initiative, created to materialise the video game industry's commitment to the values of equality, diversity and inclusion. More than 120 video games companies (including AEVI's members) and more than 40 industry professionals have signed on to the effort.

hier-spielt-vielfalt.de/en





Dataspelsbranschen, representing the Swedish games industry, engages in a number of initiatives aimed at improving diversity in the local video games industry. Dataspelsbranchen hosts networking events at Nordic Games, scholarships for female game students to attend the Game Developers Conference, job fairs, the Kvarvaro study, and much more with the goal of encouraging more women to study game development and of creating an industry where women want to stay and make a career.

diversi.nu



#RaiseTheGame is a collaborative, high-impact and industry-wide pledge initiative, managed and facilitated by Ukie, representing the UK's games and interactive entertainment industry. With more than 200 organisations involved, #RaiseTheGame strives to inspire meaningful, cultural and behavioural change in all games businesses, companies and organisations, regardless of size or stage of their equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) journey.

raisethegame.com



ISFE became a corporate ambassador of Women in Games, a not-for-profit looking for equity and parity for all women and girls in the video games industry and esports.



For the seventh year in a row, European Schoolnet, the network of 34 Ministries of Education across Europe, and ISFE are continuing their Games in Schools project designed to train teachers and educators across Europe on how to use video games as pedagogical support in the classroom.

The project's outputs include a 6-week long Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) (see below) about Games in Schools, a selection of teacher-created lesson plans, and a handbook for teachers on using video games for educational purposes.

4,282

96%

said they will use learnings in everyday work

73

countries

Modules of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)



Why use computer games in the classroom?



Using games for thematic learning



Learning games



What can we learn from games?



Designing games

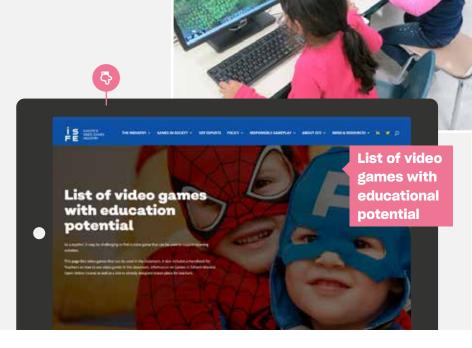


Why is it important to teach about games?





In 2020, the governments of Poland and of Belgium's Flanders region became the first in Europe to integrate video games into mainstream education.









Climate commitment

The video game industry shares the European Union's belief that addressing climate change is one of the most critical challenges of the 21st century. As a result, it has taken numerous initiatives to protect the environment and is striving to improve the energy efficiency of its devices and services.



Green Game Jam

How video games are influencing societal change

In 2021, 30 mobile and console studios decided to integrate content in their respective games on the theme of restoring forests and oceans

\$800,000

in donations to charities

130 million

players globally engaged with the content (80% positively welcomed the activation)

266,000

trees planted

60,000+

individual pledges



Source: Playing for the Planet Alliance 2021 Annual Impact Report, page 13

Member initiatives - sharing best practices



game (the German video games association) Umwelt-Guide

game, has developed a free environmental guide aimed at assisting those in the video games industry looking for practical tips and best practices for games companies to become more climate-friendly, 76% of German companies are already involved in initiatives.

game.de/guides/game-umwelt-guide/



A Climate Handbook for **Game Companies**

PlayCreateGreen was founded in 2019 by a group of leading Nordic game companies to assist video game companies in effecting real change by sharing knowledge essential to achieve climate neutrality.

playcreategreen.org



Green Games Guide

In early 2021, Ukie collaborated with Games London and the UN's Playing for the Planet Alliance to develop a Green Games Guide to assist businesses in thinking about how they can improve their approach to sustainability.

ukie.org.uk/greengamesguide

Enhancing the sustainability of video game consoles

In 2015, Nintendo, Sony Interactive Entertainment and Microsoft launched the Games Consoles Voluntary Agreement (GCVA) together with the European Commission, to improve energy and resource efficiency of current and future games consoles.



GCVA saved over the lifetime of **PS4** and Xbox One series consoles

(equivalent to Portugal's annual consumption)

Encouraging industry discussion

- The Green Games Summit, delivered by Ukie in collaboration with ISFE and the Playing for the Planet Alliance, took place in October 2021
- The event encouraged the international games sector to share knowledge and discuss the industry's approach to the climate crisis ahead of COP26
- Hundreds of games businesses from over 20 different countries participated
- The Summit also received additional support from the global games community, with trade bodies from across the world signing up as global partners:



















SPIDOR



















ISFE Secretariat's commitments

During the 2021 EU Green Week, ISFE became an Associate Member of the UN-facilitated Playing for the Planet Alliance.

With the help of ClimatePartner, the ISFE Secretariat measured and offset its environmental impact for 2020, estimated at 17,570 tco2 eq. The calculation follows the GHG Protocol and includes Scope 3 emissions. We are committed to repeating this exercise each year in order to achieve continuous climate neutrality.

Video game companies

- Activision Blizzard (1)
- Bandai Namco (1)
- Electronic Arts (1)
- Embracer Group (1)
- Epic Games ①
- Microsoft (1)

- Niantic (1)
- Nintendo ①
- Riot Games
- Roblox ①Sega ①
- Sony Interactive

- Entertainment (1)
- Square Enix ①
- Supercell (1)
- Take 2 Interactive ①
- Ubisoft (1)
- Warner Bros Interactive (1)

National Trade Associations

- Austria: OVUS (1) PGDA (2)
- Belgium: VGFB (1) FLEGA (3)
- Czechia: GDACZ 😵
- Denmark: Producentforeningen 🚱
- Finland: Suomen pelinkehittäjät &
- Germany: game ① game ❖
- Italy: IIDEA 🕕 IIDEA 😵
- Lithuania: LZKA
- Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden):
 ANGI (1)

- Norway: Produsentforeningen 🚱
- Poland: SPIDOR ① PGA, Indie Game Poland Foundation ❖
- Portugal: AEPDV (1) AVPV (3)
- Romania: RGDA 😵
- Serbia: SGA 🚱
- Slovakia: SGDA 🚱
- Sweden: Spelplan-ASGD **⊗**
- Switzerland: SIEA ① SGDA 🚱
- Turkey: TOGED 😵
- United Kingdom: Ukie ① TIGA 😵

ABOUT ISFE

ISFE represents the video games industry in Europe and is based in Brussels, Belgium. Our membership comprises national trade associations in 18 countries across Europe which represent in turn thousands of developers and publishers at national level. ISFE also has as direct members the leading European and international video game companies.

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ABOUT EGDF

EGDF represents European game developers on a European level, helping to build up policies that support the growth of the European game developer studios and foster the development of the entire digital ecosystem in Europe.

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