Trends in Higher Education and Employment in Sport in Europe

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ENSSEE

☑ ENSSEE is an international non-profit organisation

☑ The network consists of institutions and organisations

  No individual membership!

☑ It provides the ideal meeting place for debating and proposing ideas as well as common initiatives to promote education, training and employment in sport
The AEHESIS project

Aligning a European Higher Education Structure in Sport Science
Sport Management

Physical Education

Sport

Sport Coaching

Health & Fitness
Current Topics of the European Union related to Education:

(1) The ERASMUS + program was launched by the European Commission and the socio-political role that sport plays at the European level is more and more acknowledged.

(2) The White Paper on Sport as well as the Lisbon Treaty determined the agendas. The new context presents the challenge of ensuring effective education and training for potential and existing employees and volunteers within the sector.

(3) The education and qualifications of the sport sector need to be aligned with the competences required in the workplace and to meet the objectives of each country in Europe.
Trends in Higher Education in Sport

**Flexibility:** BA/MA/PhD; Lifelong Learning, different pathways, recognition of competencies

**Transparency:** Europass (CV, Mobility, Diploma Supplement, European Credit Transfer System/ ECTS)

**Reliability:** National Quality Assurance Systems

**Consistency:** European Qualification Framework (EQF)
Landscape of institutions of the Vocational Education and Training in Sport

1) Higher Education institutions or universities (public and private)
   - Scientific approach: Focus on research
   - Practical approach: Focus on vocational preparation

2) Training systems of sport federations (Coaching)

3) Training systems connected to „sporting corporate bodies“ (i.e. ski instructors, lifeguards)
European Qualifications Framework

- Eight certification levels regarding the learning outcome of a scheme
- To compare national qualifications systems/ increase mobility
- Readable and transparent translation device
- Implemented by countries: NQF

### European Qualification Framework Level 5
The descriptor for the higher education short cycle (within or linked to the first cycle), developed by the Joint Quality Initiative as part of the Bologna process, corresponds to the learning outcomes for EQF level 5.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Skills</th>
<th>Competences</th>
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<td>In the context of EQF, knowledge is described as theoretical and/or factual.</td>
<td>In the context of EQF, skills are described as cognitive (involving the use of logical, intuitive and creative thinking) and practical (involving manual dexterity and the use of methods, materials, tools and instruments).</td>
<td>In the context of EQF, competence is described in terms of responsibility and autonomy.</td>
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The learning outcomes relevant to EQF Level 5 are:

- Comprehensive, specialised, factual and theoretical knowledge within a field of work or study and an awareness of the boundaries of that knowledge.
- A comprehensive range of cognitive and practical skills required to develop creative solutions to abstract problems.
- Exercise management and supervision in contexts of work or study activities where there is unpredictable change review and develop performance of self and others.
Difficulties to understand the sport labour market

- Unclear boundaries: Which job has strictly to do with sports? (i.e. sports doctor, engineer)
- Wide divergence of activities
- No precise data of the sector
- High rate of volunteers
- Occasional or seasonal labour in sport
Professions

Professional sportspersons

Sports coaches

Sports activity leaders

Caretakers of sports facilities

PE teachers in schools

Sports officials

Sports physicians

Agents of sportspersons

Sellers of sport goods

Sports instructors

Promoters of events

Sports journalists

Physiotherapists specialising in sport

Sport Professions

Sport-Related professions
Concentration on sub-sectors as a possible solution

- **Sports goods and services** – Marketing of services
- **Sport labour market** – Marketing of workforce
- **Sports training** – Marketing of competencies needed to train the sports workforce

Attempt to define the whole sports sector by EOSE: „Sport and Leisure Activities Sector“
Satellite Accounts for Sport (SSA)

„A satellite account system is specifically aimed at subjects, themes or sectors of the economy, which are not observable in the traditional system of national accounts.“ (Sport and Citizenship)

- Robust statistical framework for measuring the economic importance of sport
- Identification of all sport related economic activities
- Spring 2012: Established Accounts in 4 EU countries (UK, Austria, Poland, Cyprus), in process in 3 EU countries (NL, Ger, Hungary)
Study on the Contribution of Sport to Economic Growth and Employment in the EU (Nov. 2012)

- Project leader: SportsEconAustria (SpEA)

- make use of the Vilnius Definition of Sport (2007):
  - statistical (NACE definition; classification of economic activities in the European Community)
  - narrow definition: statistical definition plus all goods and services which are necessary to practice sport
  - broad definition: narrow definition plus all activities which requires Sport as an input (goods and services which are related to a sport activity)
Study on the Contribution of Sport to Economic Growth and Employment in the EU (Nov. 2012)

Four sectors are most important:

(1) **Tourism**: Austria, Italy, Germany, Sweden

(2) **Health/ Fitness**: Sweden, NL

(3) **Media**: UK

(3) **Education**: in all countries, but Denmark, Estonia, Latvia are exceptional
Future Topics and Activities:

✓ To organise the sector (e.g. through the EQF)
✓ The building of a **conceptual framework for competencies and curriculum** in different areas (such as Sport Management, Health, Physical Education and Coaching, Outdoor Education, Tourism etc.).
✓ To link the worlds of education and employment and to facilitate the economic growth and social impact of the sector
Main Publications
