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LEVEL OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET FOR THE SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SECTOR

YEAR 2019
THE OVERALL NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET IN 2018

Source: Eurostat (2018)

TOTAL POPULATION
8 822 267

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*
4 241 000
73% of the population aged 15-64

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT*
220 000
4.9% of the active population

*persons aged between 15 to 64 years old

Total employment - Gender

53% Male
47% Female

Total employment - Age

15 - 24: 11.3%
25-49: 73.7%
50+: 15%

Total employment - Type of employment

Employed: 89.7%
Self-employed: 10.3%

Total employment - Type of contract

Part Time: 27.3%
Full Time: 72.7%

Total employment - Level of education*

Low: 12.5%
Medium: 52.7%
High: 34.8%

* The statistics on level of education collated from Eurostat refer to ISCED level:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ISCED 2011 (data from 2014 onwards)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels 0-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levels 3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levels 5-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRACTICE OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Source: Special Eurobarometer 472 on Sport and physical activity (Publication March 2018) - n=1021

**Level of practice of sport or physical activity**
- Regularly (at least 5 times a week) 4%
- With some regularity (1 to 4 times a week) 34%
- Seldom (3 times a month or less) 22%
- Never 40%

**Place of practice of those engaged in sport and physical activity**
- In a park, outdoors, etc. 54%
- At home 41%
- On the way between home and school, work or shops 26%
- At a health or fitness centre 21%
- At a sport club 13%
- At work 12%
- At a sport centre 9%
- At school or university 6%
- Elsewhere 5%
- Don’t know 3%

**Reasons for engaging in sport or physical activity**
- Improve health 56%
- Improve fitness 45%
- Relax 36%
- Have fun 44%
- Improve physical performance 35%
- Control weight 32%
- Be with friends 30%
- Improve physical appearance 26%
- Counteract the effects of ageing 24%
- Improve self-esteem 18%

**Membership of clubs where people participate in sport or recreational physical activity**
- Not a member of any club 67%
- Health or fitness centre 16%
- Sport club 13%
- Socio-cultural club that includes sport 5%
- Other 4%

**Level of engagement in voluntary work that supports sport and physical activity**
- Yes 6%
- No 94%
This section presents analysis from the official statistics collated at both national and European level through National Statistics Offices (NSO) and Eurostat. For the purpose of the fact sheet, data are provided for two different years to underline tendencies. These years can be different depending on the topic as we have not always been able to collate the same level of information/statistics for each year.

The collection of data has been a challenge and this analysis presents the best information available about the national sport labour market from the official statistics but is not necessarily the exact reality. Further discussion on the statistics can be found in the European report of the project.

Scope: the widest sport and physical activity sector defined by the Council of Europe (2001) as “all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels”. In this fact sheet we are using the term “sport sector” having the meaning of the broad sector of “sport and physical activity”.

3.1 SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NATIONAL SPORT LABOUR MARKET

Sources: Eurostat and National Statistics Offices

To summarise our statistical definition for the sport labour market, the work carried out in collaboration with National Statistics Offices (NSO) and Eurostat was to collate available statistics on the number of:

- Persons having a sport-specific occupation (ISCO 342*) in an organisation whose main business is the provision of sport (NACE 93.1**), e.g. professional athletes, coaches, instructors in a sport club
- Persons having a non-sport specific occupation (Other ISCO codes) in an organisation whose main business is the provision of sport (NACE 93.1), e.g. managers, receptionists in a sport federation
- Persons having a sport-specific occupation (ISCO 342) in an organisation whose main business is not the provision of sport (Other NACE codes), e.g. a fitness instructor working in a hotel

* ISCO - “The international standard classification of occupations”. ISCO divides jobs into 10 major groups of occupations and sport specific occupations are listed under ISCO 3 Technicians and associate professionals and more precisely under the sub-group ISCO 342 Sport and Fitness Workers (3421 - Athletes and Sports Players; 3422 - Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials; 3423 - Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Programme Leaders).

** NACE - “Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community”. NACE is basically a four-digit classification providing the framework for collecting and presenting a large range of reliable and comparable statistical data according to economic activity. The codes under NACE 93.1 (Sport activities) define the organisations whose main business is the provision of sport (93.11 Operation of sports facilities; 93.12 Activities of sport clubs; 93.13 Fitness facilities; 93.19 Other sports activities).

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### National sport labour market (=total sport employment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Sport Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>25 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>24 125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Top 4 countries representing 62% of the EU-28 sport labour market in 2018** (Total EU-28 sport employment = 1 765 728)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### National sport labour market Vs National total employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National Sport Employment Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>-0.06%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Top 3 countries in 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>1.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB</td>
<td>1.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Bottom 3 countries in 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RU</td>
<td>0.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO</td>
<td>0.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>0.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### National sport labour market - Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>53.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### National sport labour market - Age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50+</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50+</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Sport Labour Market - Type of Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Type</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>72.2%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### National Sport Labour Market - Level of Education*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low education</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium education</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High education</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The statistics on level of education collated from Eurostat refer to ISCED level:

- **ISCED 2011** (data from 2014 onwards)
  - Levels 0-2
  - Levels 3-4
  - Levels 5-8
- **ISCED 1997** (data up to 2013)
  - Levels 0-2
  - Levels 3-4
  - Levels 5-6

### 3.2 Focus on Sport Specific Occupations (ISCO 342)

(ISCO 3421 - Athletes and Sports Players; ISCO 3422 - Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials; ISCO 3423 - Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Programme Leaders)

#### Total Number of People Having a Sport Specific Occupation (ISCO 342)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>10 126</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>14 547</td>
<td>+43.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Engaged in a sport organisation (NACE 93.1)
  - 2011: 41.4%
  - 2018: 40.2%
- Engaged in an organisation whose main business is not the provision of sport (other NACE codes)
  - 2011: 58.6%
  - 2018: 59.8%

#### Variance from 2011 to 2018

- Athletes and Sports Players (ISCO 3421): -27.8%
- Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials (ISCO 3422): +44.1%
- Fitness and Recreation Instructors & Programme Leaders (ISCO 3423): +65.2%

#### Proportion of Sport Occupation in 2018

- Athletes and Sports Players (ISCO 3421): 7.3%
- Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials (ISCO 3422): 37.8%
- Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Programme Leaders (ISCO 3423): 54.9%
CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE HAVING A SPORT SPECIFIC OCCUPATION - ISCO 342

(ISCO 3421 - Athletes and Sports Players; ISCO 3422 - Sports Coaches, Instructors and Officials; ISCO 3423 - Fitness and Recreation Instructors and Programme Leaders)

**Total sport specific occupation - Gender**
- 2011: 51.9% Male, 48.1% Female
- 2018: 64.5% Male, 35.5% Female

**Total sport specific occupation - Age**
- 50+: 9.8% (2011), 17.9% (2017)

**Total sport specific occupation - Type of employment**
- 2011: 65.4% Employed, 34.6% Self-employed
- 2018: 57.5% Employed, 42.5% Self-employed

**Total sport specific occupation - Type of contract**
- 2011: 55.6% Full Time, 44.4% Part Time
- 2018: 61% Full Time, 39% Part Time

**Total sport specific occupation - Level of Education***
- 2011: 10.1% Low, 70.7% Medium, 19.2% High
- 2018: 6.3% Low, 56.5% Medium, 37.2% High

*The statistics on level of education collated from Eurostat refer to ISCED level:
- ISCED 2011 (data from 2014 onwards)
- ISCED 1997 (data up to 2013)

Levels 0-2
- Low education
- Levels 3-4
- Medium education
- Levels 5-6
- High education

10.1% Low education, 70.7% Medium education, 19.2% High education

1.9% Low education, 56.5% Medium education, 40.4% High education

**3.3 FOCUS ON SPORT ORGANISATIONS (NACE 93.1)**

NACE 93.1 (Sport activities) includes all organisations whose main business is the provision of sport (93.11 Operation of sports facilities; 93.12 Activities of sport clubs; 93.13 Fitness facilities; 93.19 Other sports activities)

**Total number of people working in a sport organisation (NACE 93.1)**
- 2011: 19,180
- 2018: 15,424

Employed:
- 2011: 65.4%
- 2018: 57.5%

Self-employed:
- 2011: 34.6%
- 2018: 42.5%

Part Time:
- 2011: 55.6%
- 2018: 44.4%

Full Time:
- 2011: 44.4%
- 2018: 55.6%

**Occupations engaged within sport organisations (NACE 93.1) - 2016**
- ISCO 1 – Managers (e.g. directors, CEO): 0.5%
- ISCO 2 – Professionals (Health professionals, communication professionals, journalists, lawyers): 3%
- ISCO 3 – Technicians and associate professionals (incl. sport and fitness workers): 40.4%
- ISCO 4 – Clerical Support Workers (e.g. secretaries, receptions, bookkeepers): 14.2%
- ISCO 5 – Service and sales workers (e.g. conductors, cooks, waiters, lifeguards, sales workers): 24.5%
- ISCO 6 – Skilled agricultural and fishery workers (e.g. animal producers, market gardeners): 1.9%
- ISCO 7 – Craft and related trades workers (e.g. building workers, painters, cleaners, bicycle repairers): 1%
- ISCO 8 – Plant and machine operators and assemblers (e.g. car, van, bus drivers, machine operators): 0%
- ISCO 9 – Elementary occupations (e.g. office cleaners, labourers, deliverers): 14.5%

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## Key Issues and Challenges for the Sport and Physical Activity Sector

This section presents the findings from the European Employer Skills Survey for the sport and physical activity sector carried out early 2019 and which gathered a total of 3,812 valid responses from sport employers across the whole European union.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Agreement (%)</th>
<th>Disagreement (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expectations and priorities from national governments on sport organisations are increasing</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport organisations have become more professional in recent years</td>
<td>77.6%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The sector is changing and evolving, as a result the skills needed by those working in the sector will change too</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the future there will be a demand for a better qualified workforce operating in sport organisations</td>
<td>66.8%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to find and recruit people with the right skills to work as paid staff</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to find and recruit people with the right skills to work as volunteers</td>
<td>60.8%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is important that staff have access to ongoing training to keep their skills up to date</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New training courses are required to meet the training needs of sport organisations</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universities/ training providers should work more closely with sport organisations</td>
<td>79.9%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to progress from a technical role (e.g. as a coach or instructor) to a management position</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The workforce of paid staff and volunteers in the sport and physical activity sector needs to be inclusive (reflecting gender, disability and minorities in society)</td>
<td>71.5%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff would benefit from learning experiences in other countries</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The missing percentages stand for the answer “I do not know” present in the initial survey. Respondents indicate their agreement/disagreement with the above statements.
The aim of the ESSA-Sport project, funded by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme, was to establish a European Sector Skills Alliance covering the full breadth of the sport and physical activity sector across the EU.

The 3-year project, which concluded in October 2019, aimed to create a debate within the sector on the key issues of skills and workforce development which are central to helping the sector grow, to equip those working or volunteering with the right skills and to enable the sector to fulfil its potential as a social, health and economic driver.

The overall ambition was to create an evidential basis for change and improvement, to create a major consultation on skills and to build a lasting consultation network at national and EU level to take forward the conclusions and recommendations made in national and EU Reports.

The consortium, composed of 20 national coordinators and 5 European networks, is proud to have generated new knowledge and statistics included within this National Fact Sheet.

Further information on the identified skill needs and future priorities for the sector can be found in the detailed European Report as well as National Reports.

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