

Coaches' education and employment in Italy

Authors: Angelo Altieri, Marcello Marchioni, Corrado Beccarini, Claudio Mantovani

Institution: Sims

E-mail: altieriangelo@me.com

Keywords: employment, coaches, education management, spliss

Aim

This paper aims to analyse coaches' education within NSFs in Italy and to relate them with labour market in sport sector. The study provides a brief overview of the data on coaches' employment in sport currently available in Italy. The purpose of these statistics is to analyse the trends in sports employment over the last few years, its contribution to total employment and the relationship with education.

Context

In recent years, sport has acquired a significant profile in a number of European strategies and programmes. Coaches' education and employment analysis need a systematic approach to research using an interdisciplinary methodology and comparable statistics on the economic and social significance of sport in the EU are therefore needed, to provide the foundation for evidence-based policies in the sector. The study shows that the National Sport Federations have considerable influence in competitive sport but no relationship with the big number of sport related jobs. The Italian NOC (CONI) is in charge to develop a VET (vocational education and training) system for coaches and collaborate in this field with organizations in and out of the Olympic Movement. CONI receives an annual amount of 411 millions (euro) and 750.000 of them are invested in VET.

Methodology

This paper aims to analyse coaches' education programs within NSFs in Italy and relate them with labour market in sport sector; we divided the research into 3 steps:

- Identification of international statistics in labour market (Eurostat);
- Cluster analysis of Coaches' education: data collection addressing an open ended questionnaire on 5 (total number of teaching hours, (divided in lectures/formal education, practical exercise/on field education, training/informal activities, specific/sport related contents) and total number of coaches;
- items to 21 Italian Olympic NSFs VET managers ;
- Comparison of the results with SPLISS 2.0 study (average of the results of the countries involved related to pillar 7 "coaching provision and coach development")

Employment in sport is measured using the central statistical definition from the 'Vilnius definition' of sport, covering the core sporting activities coded under NACE Rev.2 class 93.1 — Sports activities. The dimension of occupation has also been introduced within the scope of sports employment. Employment in sport may therefore be defined in terms of the intersection of NACE (activity-based, NACE Rev.2 code 93.) and ISCO (occupation-based) classifications. ISCO-08 code 342 includes sports and fitness workers (athletes, players, coaches, instructors and officials, fitness and recreation instructors and programme leaders).

Results

The cluster analysis give us 5 clusters, 3 of them 5 are one-federation cluster and include FIP (basketball federation), FIPAV (volleyball federation) and FIGC (soccer federation). These federations have a big number of coaches but different coach education systems related to their international federations and the "market", mainly TV rights and sponsors. The main result of cluster analysis are the cluster 1 and 2. In cluster 1 there are the "pure Olympic federations", in cluster 2 there are the "labour market related" federations. In conclusion we can say that NSFs influence the 14% of employment in national sport sector, the salaries (or often wages) have a very wide range and contract types are heterogeneous and not all regulated by specific laws. The economic impact of sport is very influenced by the industrial sector (relate to producing goods and manufacturing) and the organization of events. The employment of sport related jobs is low and most of it is included in the non-competitive sports. In many international analysis there is no difference between the managers (management) and directors (governance), often grouped. A nationwide sample study began in 2012 but the education providers do not seem to consider this data. Further systematic studies are needed, using clear definitions of sport, education and employment.

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