



Survey 2021 results – Athletic clubs Austria

Baudis Helmut, Rauch Bernhard and Methlagl Michael



Contact: office@oelv.at



Table of content

1	General Information.....	3
2	Data collection.....	4
3	Sample.....	4
4	Results.....	6
4.1	Financial issues: Source of income	6
4.2	Sports infrastructure	7
4.3	Training possibilities for different groups	8
4.4	Number of athletes.....	9
4.5	Trainings free of charge	12
4.6	Sport specific education level of the clubs' staff	12
4.7	Training hours	14
4.8	School cooperations.....	16
4.9	Participation in physical activity- and sport projects	17
4.10	Scientific Support	18
5	Appendix	20
5.1	Figures.....	20
5.2	Tables.....	20



1 General Information

1. Number of registered athletic clubs in Austria: 426 (from 1.1.2022)
2. Number of licensed athletic trainers and instructors: there are no data in Austria (a new database is under construction)
3. Number of registered athletes (by age groups): 32250 (from 1.1.2022)
4. What license system do you have for athletes?
The clubs pay an annual fee (license) for their athletes if they start in national championships.
5. What training system for trainers/instructors? (courses, length, fees):
"Übungsleiter" (you can call it "Instructor light"), 4 days, Federation is fully responsible not the Bundessportakademie
National education system through the BSPA (Bundessportakademie), which is an institution within the framework of the Ministry of Education with state certification
Instructor: 15 days
Trainer/Coach: 25 days
Costs to be covered just for rooming, beverage, and teaching material.
6. What is the age of admission to the athletics club? :
It depends on which training groups the clubs offer. Many of them start from the age of six.
7. What age categories are there in youth sports? :
(U18, U16, U14, U12, U10, U8)
8. What national competitions are organized for children and youth?
With the national competitions we start at the U14 age group with a pentathlon and cross-country-running.
U16: National combined events championships and championships with individual events, cross-country
U18: National combined events championships and championships with individual events, cross-country, mountain-running, road-running
U20: National combined events championships and championships with individual events, cross-country, mountain-running, road-running
9. Is there a scholarship system for children and youth? (If so, what?) : No
10. Is there a training system for children and youth provided by national or local association? (If so, what?) : We offer a Broschüre "Leichtathletik in der Schule" for this age group and we offer a special education called "Übungsleiter" (could be



named in English “Instructor light”) for people working with kids and youngsters. The length of the course is four days.

11. Is there a Ministry of Sport in the country? Yes
12. Does the National Athletic Federation/Association has any impact/influence on how the physical education classes in schools look like? (Are the educational program for physical education is consulted with them?) : No

2 Data collection

An online questionnaire was sent out to the registered Austrian athletics clubs in September 2021. The clubs could join the survey from September 2021 to December 2021. Clubs were also informed through the website of the Austrian Athletics Federation and reminders were sent out.

3 Sample

93 athletics clubs (22% of all registered athletics clubs in Austria¹) participated in the survey. Figure 1 shows a good regional distribution of the clubs which participated in the survey.

¹ Registered athletics club in Austria= 423

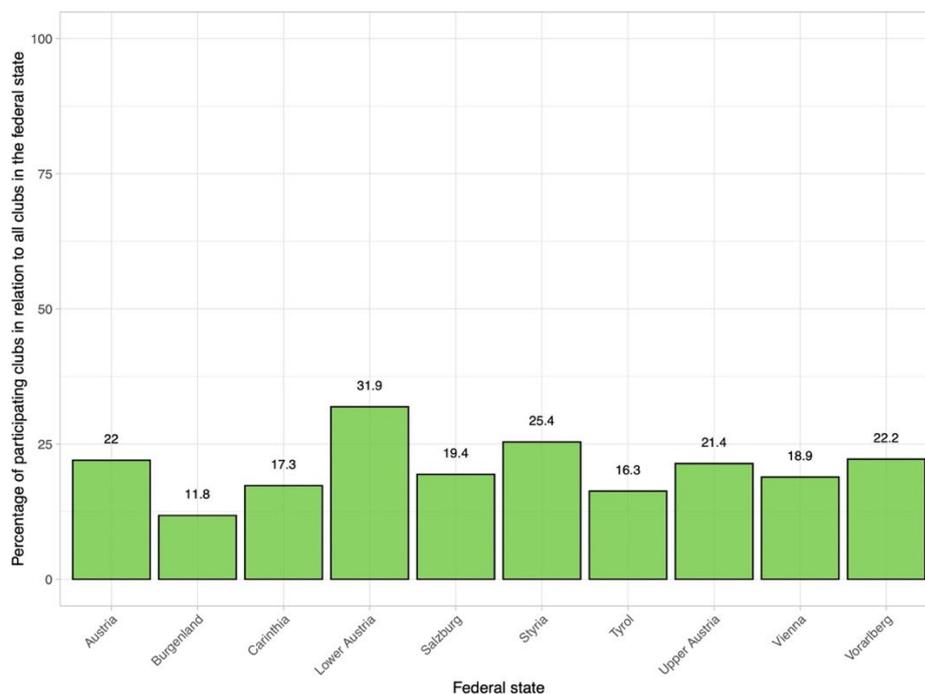


Figure 1: Percentage of clubs participating in the survey in relation to all clubs in the federal state; Austria and Austrian federal states/regions; Total number of registered clubs: Austria=423 clubs; Burgenland=17; Carinthia=52; Lower Austria=69; Upper Austria=70; Salzburg=36; Styria=63; Tyrol=43; Vorarlberg= 36; Vienna=37)

Table 1 displays the number of residents of the areas where the clubs are located.

Table 1: Residents of the area where the clubs are located n=93 clubs

Number of residents of the area where the clubs are located	number of participating clubs and percentage (n=93)
0-3000	14 (15.1%)
3001-15000	37 (39.8%)
15001-100000	16 (17.2%)
100001-1000000	19 (20.4%)
more than 1000000	7 (7.5%)
Total	93 (100%)

4 Results

4.1 Financial issues: Source of income

The most important sources of income for the clubs are membership fees (95.7% of the clubs), sponsors (71% of the clubs), local governments (75.3% of the clubs) and own events (72% of the clubs). 16.1% receive financial fundings from ministry of sport, 28% from regional athletics federations and 20.4% from the Austrian athletics federation. None of the clubs receive fundings from the European Union (see figure 2).

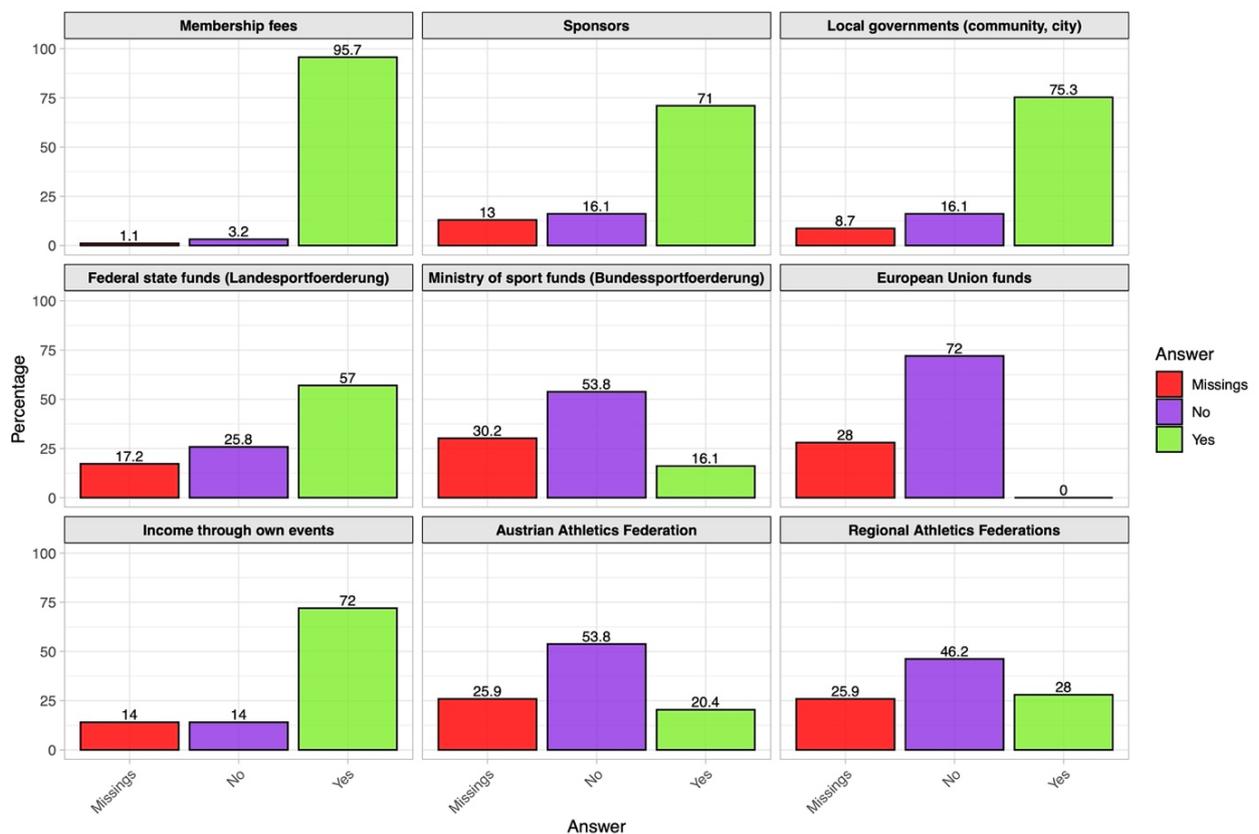


Figure 2: Clubs sources of income (n=93 clubs)

4.2 Sports infrastructure

The access possibilities of the clubs to sports infrastructure are presented in figure 3. 37.6 % have unlimited access, 25.8% limited access to athletic facilities including a 400m track and technical facilities. 23.7% have unlimited access, 11.8% limited access to athletics facilities without 400m track (but sprint lane, high and long jump facilities). 41.9% have the possibility to train in athletics facilities with a synthetic track without time restriction (23.7% have limited access). Most clubs do not have access to athletics facilities with a natural track. Also, the number of clubs which do not have limited or unlimited access to athletics facilities with a 400m track and technical facilities (35.5%) or facilities without 400m track but sprint lane and high and long jump facilities (38.7%) is relatively high.

Most of the clubs report that they do not have access to indoor facilities with a synthetic track (59.1%) or indoor facilities without a synthetic track (51.6%). 86% have access to public sports areas. Results also show that 55.9% have limited success to halls or big gyms (23.7% unlimited access). 29% of the participating clubs have unlimited access, 26.9% have limited access to small gym rooms. One club also mentioned the access to a lake, one club has access to a separate throwing facility and another club mentioned the access to university sport facilities (see figure 3). The results show that the access to indoor sport facilities is limited in Austria. This is a general problem because of a lack of indoor facilities. Beginning with the end of 2021 till approximately 2024 there will be only two indoor 200m tracks in Austria, both in Linz. The well-known Ferry-Dusika-Stadium in Vienna, two times location of European Athletics Indoor Championships (1979, 2002), is getting replaced by a new indoor track arena.

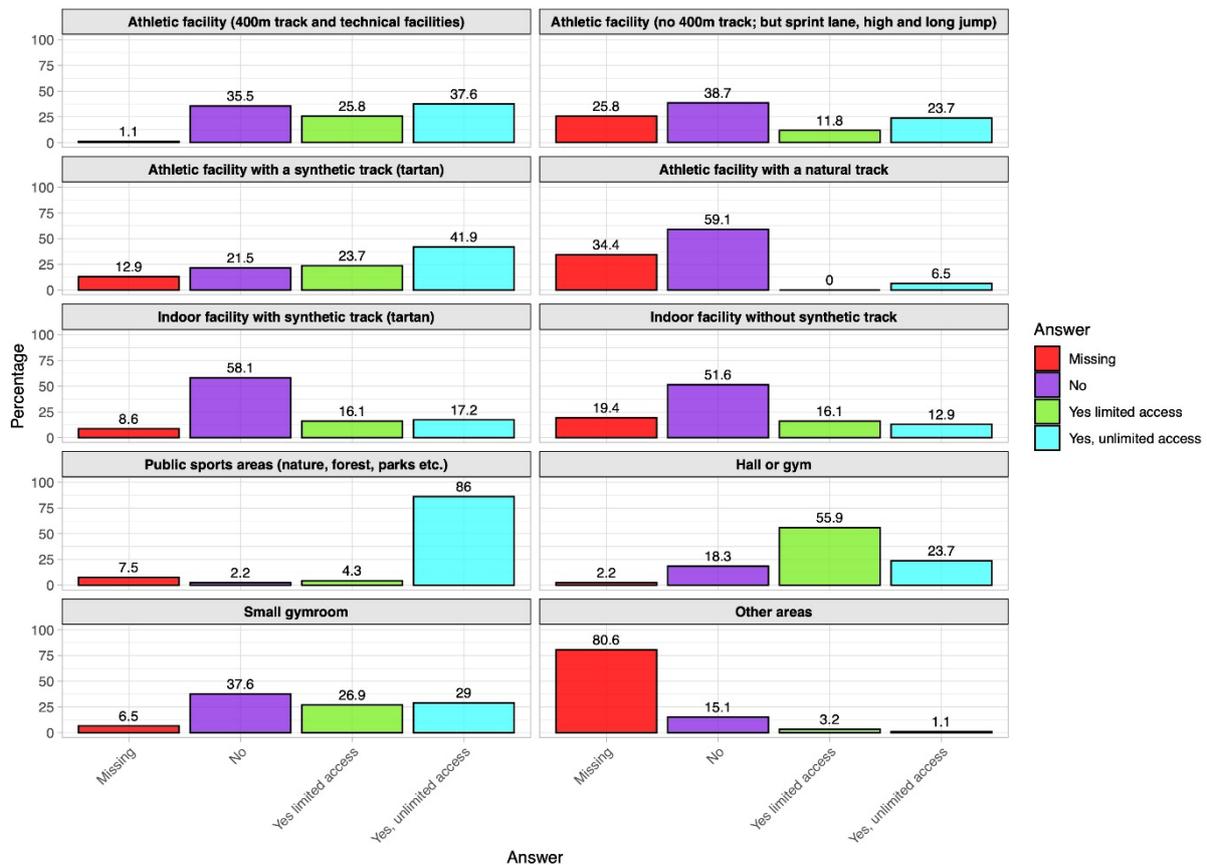


Figure 3: Access to sport facilities (n= 93 clubs)

4.3 Training possibilities for different groups

Figure 4 shows that a high number of the clubs provide trainings for different age groups of children and youngsters (U16, U18), adults (U20, elite and amateur level) as well as masters athletes. 24.7% of the clubs also provide trainings for athletes with disabilities. Further in the open question trainings for children with trisomy 31 (1 club), refugees (1 club), kindergarten children (1 club) and for different recreational sport groups (ÖSTA) were mentioned. These results show that there are trainings for a wide range of groups.

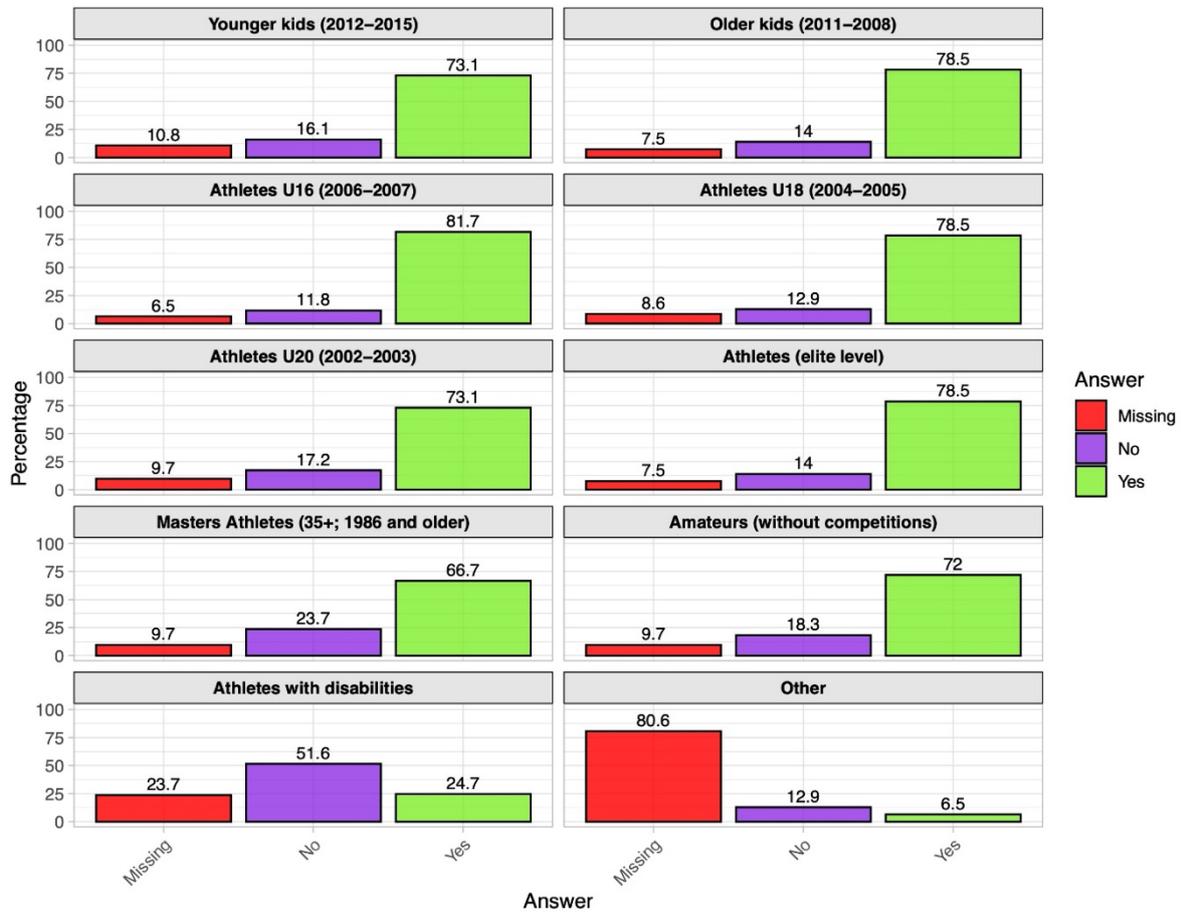


Figure 4: Do clubs provide trainings for different groups; percentage (n=93 clubs)

4.4 Number of athletes

Table 2 and 3 show the number of different groups of athletes in the clubs. Most clubs have amateur- (sport is not the main source of income) or master athlete members (table 3). 14% of the clubs have one or more professional athletes (sport as a main source of income) and 2.2% of the clubs have members who are professional athletes with disabilities (sport as a main source of income). 15.1% of the clubs have one or more amateur athletes with disabilities (sport is not the main source of income) (see table 2).

Table 2: Number of professional athletes with and without disabilities and amateur athletes with disabilities

	Number of athletes						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	missing
Clubs with professional athletes (sport as main source of income)	80 (86%)	5 (5.4%)	4 (4.3%)	3 (3.2%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Clubs with professional athletes with disabilities (sport as main source of income)	89 (95.7%)	2 (2.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (2.2%)
Clubs with amateur athletes with disabilities (sport is not the main source of income)	77 (82.8%)	11 (11.8%)	2 (2.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.1%)	2 (2.2%)

note: n=93 clubs



Table 3: Number of amateur- and master athletes

	Number of athletes									
	0	1-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-100	101-200	201-300	300+	missing
Clubs with Amateur Athletes (sport is not the main source of income)	8 (8.6%)	31 (33.3%)	12 (12.9%)	5 (5.3%)	6 (6.4%)	5 (5.3%)	12 (12.9%)	3 (3.2%)	3 (3.2%)	13 (14%)
Clubs with Master Athletes (1986 and older)	19 (20.4%)	51 (54.8%)	14 (15.1%)	3 (3.2%)	3 (3.2%)	0 (0%)	2 (2.1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1.1%)

note: n=93 clubs

4.5 Trainings free of charge

Most of the clubs do not provide trainings for free, because it's their main source of income as we have shown. About 18 to 25% of the clubs provide trainings free of charge (see table 4).

Table 4: Percentage of clubs who provide trainings free of charge for different groups

	Trainings are free of charge		
	Yes	No	missing
children (2012-2015)	18.30%	66.70%	15.10%
children (2011-2008)	18.30%	71%	10.80%
Athletes U16 (2006-2007)	17.20%	72%	10.80%
Athletes U18 (2004-2005)	16.10%	68.80%	15.10%
Athletes U20 (2002-2003)	19.40%	66.70%	14%
Athletes (elite)	21.50%	65.60%	12.90%
Master athletes (35+)	21.50%	62.40%	16.10%
recreation athletes without competition	25.80%	59.10%	15.10%
athletes with disabilities	9.70%	57%	33.30%
High performance athletes	18.30%	67.70%	14%

4.6 Sport specific education level of the clubs' staff

State certified coaches are working in 53.8% of the clubs (see figure 5). On average each of these clubs have 2 state certified coaches (see table 5). In 87.1% of the clubs instructors and in 51.6% sport teachers are working with athletes. Persons without a licence are working in 63.4% of the clubs (see figure 5).

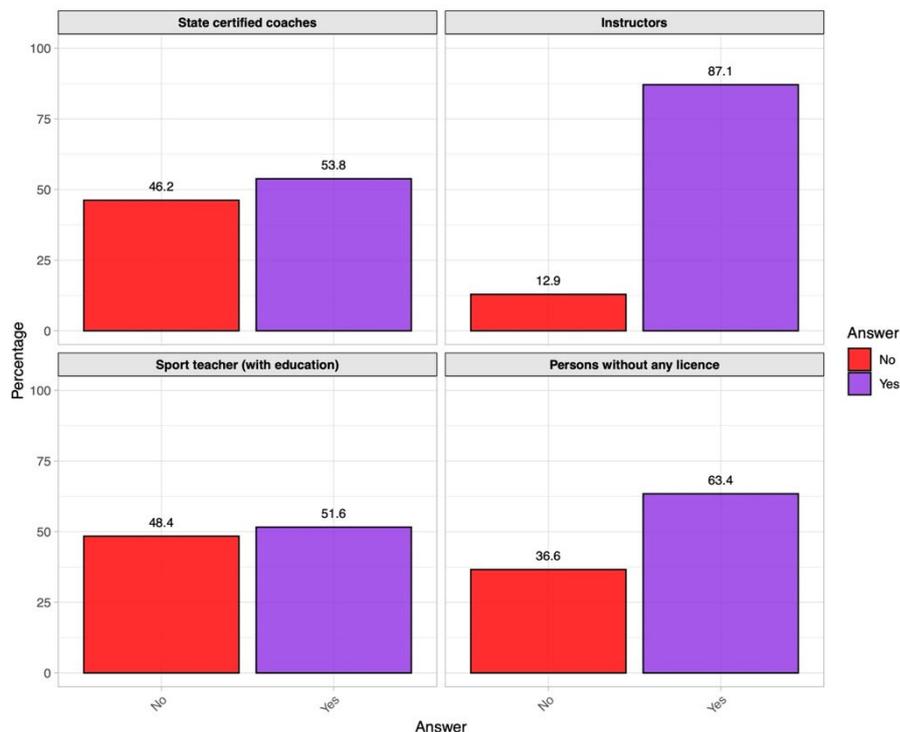


Figure 5: Clubs staff with different education level (n= 93 clubs)

Table 5: Average number of coaches Instructors, sport teachers and persons without any licence (n=93 clubs)

Do the following groups of people work in your club?		n	How many people from the following groups work in your club?				
			M	SD	Q1	Mdn	Q3
State certified coaches	Yes	50	2,1	1,74	1	2	3
	No	43					
Instructors	Yes	81	3,6	3,5	2	2,5	4
	No	12					
Sport teachers (with education)	Yes	48	2,2	1,33	1	2	3
	No	45					
Persons without any licence	Yes	59	3,5	2,66	2	3	5
	No	34					

notes: M=mean; SD=standard deviation; Q1=25 percentile; Mdn=median; Q3=75 percentile



4.7 Training hours

Most (67.6%) 6- to 9-year-old children train 1-2 hours per week (Median = 1 this means 1-2 hours per week). 21.3% of the 10–14-year-old children train 1-2 hours, 34.8% train 3 to 4 hours and 18% 5 to 6 hours per week (Median = 2 this means 3-4 hours per week). In the group of 15 years old and older children 25.8% train 5 to 6 hours, 11.8% train 7 to 8 hours, 6.5% 9-19 hours and 11.8% 11-12 hours per week (Median= 3 this means 5-6 hours per week) (see table 6).



Table 6: Hours of training of different age groups

age groups	hours of training per week								Missings
	1-2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10	11-12	13-14	more than 14	
6-9 years (2012-2015) n= 68	67.60%	23.50%	2.90%	1.50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.40%
10-14 years (2007-2011) n=89	21.30%	34.80%	18%	6.70%	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	16.90%
15 years and older (2006 and lower) n=92	10.80%	20.40%	25.80%	11.80%	6.50%	11.80%	1.10%	1.10%	10.80%

4.8 School cooperations

50.5% of the clubs cooperate with schools. 30.1% of the clubs organize competitions for schools. 18.3% of the clubs providing trainings after the end of the school day for the age group 6-9 years (15.1% for age group 10-14years). Most of the clubs do not make any tests with the children (see figure 6).

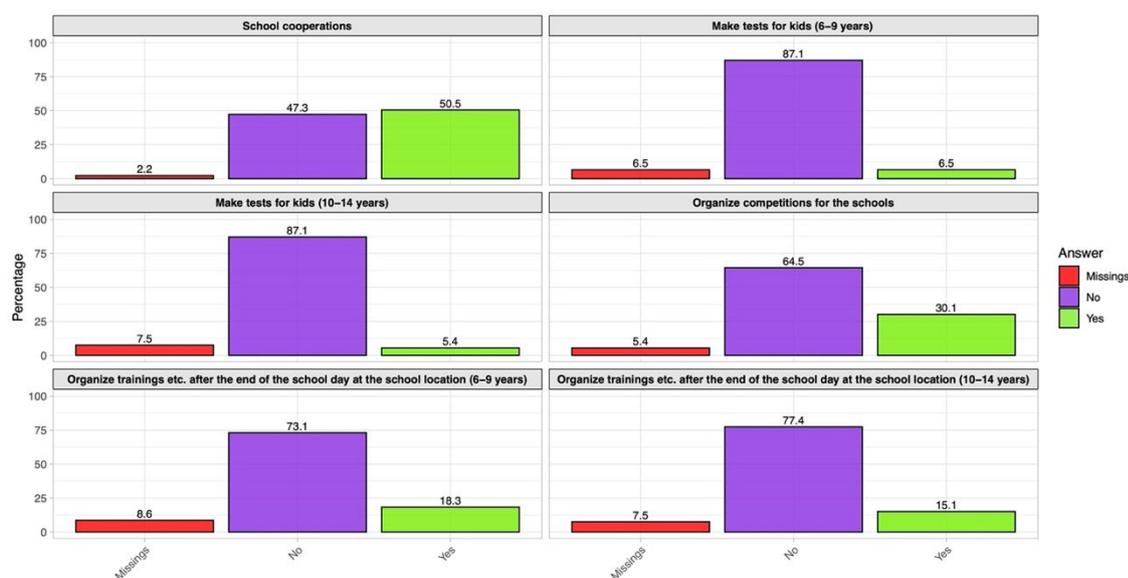


Figure 6: Cooperation with schools (n= 93 clubs)

The clubs were asked to describe their school cooperation (see table 7). For example, clubs share infrastructure, equipment, and facilities, are providing afternoon programs and free training sessions, organize running events, promote their club in schools and take part in physical activity projects. Further athletes have the possibility to train instead of participating in regular physical education lessons (see table 7).

Table 7: Description of the school cooperation

Description of the school cooperation	Number of responses
Present offers; Promotion of the club	3
Competitions	2
Afternoon programs; Trainings in all-day schools	3
Athletes are allowed to train instead of participating in the normal physical education class	3
Cooperation not possible because of Covid	1
Club involved in physical education lessons	1
Sport projects together with other clubs	1
Children can participate in competitions for free	1
“Kinder gesund bewegen” Project	3
Free training sessions once a week	1
“Jugend gesund bewegen” project	2
Running events	3
Regular contact to teacher	1
Cooperation with parents	2
Share infrastructure, facilities, and equipment	5
Support from the city	1
Cooperation barriers: no personal network to important stakeholders	1
“Ugotchi kids” project	1
Prepare children for competitions	1
Holiday program and trial day	1

4.9 Participation in physical activity- and sport projects

23.7% of the clubs are participating in the “Kinder gesund bewegen” project which is one of the most important physical activity projects in Austria. 18.3% are involved in the “ÖSTA” project and 15.1% participate in the “Ugotchi” project. Table 8 shows that the participation in the different projects is relatively low. A detailed description of these projects is provided in the document “Physical activity and sport projects in Austria”. Further projects which were mentioned in the open question are:

- participation TV broadcasts with the aim to foster children’s physical activity
- “fit im Park” (fitness program in parks)
- “Speedy Kids Cup OÖLV” (activity of Upper Austrian Athletics Federation)



- “Vorarlberg bewegt” (regional sport program)
- “Kids Cup”
- “athletic girls” NÖLV (activity of Lower Austrian Athletics Federation)
- “Tag des Sports” (sport day)
- “Talente Team” (funding program for children and youth sport)
- “Jugend gesund bewegen im Sportland NÖ” (regional sport program)
- “Bewegungsland Steiermark” (regional sport program)
- meetings and competitions
- “Alpen Cup” (regional cup)
- “Familiensporttag” (sport day for families)
- running events

Table 8: Clubs Participation in physical activity and sport projects

Project	Club participation in following projects		
	Yes	No	Missing
Check your Limitz (ASKÖ)	1.10%	86%	12.90%
Ugotchi (Sportunion)	15.10%	75.30%	9.70%
ASVÖ Leichtathletik Grand Prix	2.20%	83.90%	14%
Klug & Fit (Ministry)	0.00%	86%	14%
Kinder gesund bewegen (Fit Sport Austria)	23.70%	63.40%	12.90%
Österreichisches Sport- und Turnabzeichen (ÖSTA)	18.30%	71%	10.80%
other	19.40%	62.40%	18.30%

notes: n=93 clubs

4.10 Scientific Support

24.7% (23 clubs) of the clubs receive scientific support in following areas:

- Performance diagnostics (8 clubs)
- Sport medicine in general (6 clubs)
- Sport psychology (2 clubs)
- Nutrition issues (1 club)
- Training plans (4 clubs)



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



- Biomechanics (2 clubs)
- Support In different areas by a sport scientist (5 clubs)

5 Appendix

5.1 Figures

Figure 1: Percentage of clubs participating in the survey in relation to all clubs in the federal state; Austria and Austrian federal states/regions; Total number of registered clubs: Austria=423 clubs; Burgenland=17; Carinthia=52; Lower Austria=69; Upper Austria=70; Salzburg=36; Styria=63; Tyrol=43; Vorarlberg= 36; Vienna=37).....	5
Figure 2: Clubs sources of income (n=93 clubs).....	6
Figure 3: Access to sport facilities (n= 93 clubs).....	8
Figure 4: Do clubs provide trainings for different groups; percentage (n=93 clubs).....	9
Figure 5: Clubs staff with different education level (n= 93 clubs)	13
Figure 6: Cooperation with schools (n= 93 clubs).....	16

5.2 Tables

Table 1: Residents of the area where the clubs are located n=93 clubs	5
Table 2: Number of professional athletes with and without disabilities and amateur athletes with disabilities	10
Table 3: Number of amateur- and master athletes.....	11
Table 4: Percentage of clubs who provide trainings free of charge for different groups	12
Table 5: Average number of coaches Instructors, sport teachers and persons without any licence (n=93 clubs)	13
Table 6: Hours of training of different age groups	15
Table 7: Description of the school cooperation	17
Table 8: Clubs Participation in physical activity and sport projects	18