

SPORT CLUBS IN CATALONIA. CATALAN SPORTS OBSERVATORY

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INTRODUCTION

The **Catalan sports system** generates a large volume of information that is dispersed among organisations, communities, teams and individuals of the world of sport. In this sense, the main objective of the **Observatory** is to manage and structure all this knowledge and making it accessible to everyone.

One of the working lines in order to build this knowledge is through research studies. Here, we present the study results on the **situation of sport clubs in Catalonia** (General Secretariat of Sports. Catalan Sports Council, 2010). Due to the lack of previous studies at the state level, it was used as a model a research study that has been periodically carried out in Germany (Heinemann & Schubert, 1994).



Secretaria General de l'Esport. Consell Català de l'Esport (2010). *Els clubs esportius a Catalunya*. Esplugues de Llobregat: Consell Català de l'Esport.



METHODS

The method used for this research was based on a questionnaire and its application has been through a standardized interview (demoscopic interview). The questionnaire consisted of a total of **52 questions** of which only 2 were open and the rest were closed. The sample of **1,000 clubs** was considered to be of a high representativeness as the results were applicable to **95%** of the Catalan sport clubs with a margin of error of only + / - 3.0%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Catalonia there are **8,285** sport clubs. Half of them have no more than 100 individual members and only 5% exceed 1,000. More than one third (**36%**) of the clubs were founded after **1997**.

In relation to their members, **62.6%** are men and **37.4%** are women. This difference is even bigger in the presence of women (20.7%) on the boards where only **11.9%** hold the presidency. In the Catalan sport club 39% of the people involved in the daily running of the club are voluntary. This implies a valuation of more than **213 million** euros annually.

Catalonia has **69 sport federations** and 91% of the Catalan sport clubs are members of one or more of them. The three federations with more clubs are Football (17.7%), Hunting (9.4%) and Basketball (5.8%). Although, the majority of the sport clubs (**88%**) were constituted with the purpose of competing, **71%** of these offer complementary activities outside competition.

For the culture club

71.5% of cases states that "there is a strong sense of commitment".

77% of cases denied that the club looks more and more to a company.

81.6% of the clubs considered a very important asset of voluntary participation in the work of the club.

86% of cases states that "every effort is made for teams and/or athletes to participate regularly in competitions".

For the club members

86.6% of cases say that "they are always the same people who are willing to work at the club".

In **62%** of cases the procedure of selecting the board is through a direct proclamation.

Most important aspects for the success of the club

Financial support of public institutions	18.2%
Active participation of each member	16.5%
A board capable of initiative	15.4%
Having its own facilities	11.5%
Financial support of the sports federations	10.2%
Having many members	8.9%

The six types of clubs in Catalonia

Cluster 1: Federal small club

- Founded in **1964**.
- **126** people associated on average.
- **€ 25,968** annual income.
- **94.7%** was registered as a federated sport clubs.
- Initial goal: to offer competitive sports.
- **97.8%** of the clubs belonging to one or more federations.
- **51.7%** of the clubs do not include sports federation continued.

Cluster 2: Club size

- Founded in **1966**.
- **116** people associated on average.
- Low income **€ 7,000**.
- **17.5%** was registered as a leisure club.
- The number of people in the club is **low** and mainly voluntary.
- Uses **publicly owned** sports facilities and areas in the **natural environment and/or urban** places.

Cluster 3: Sport clubs and service

- Founded in **1969**.
- **295** people associated on average.
- **€ 153,937** annual income.
- **96.9%** up as a club competition.
- **82.3%** has a range of health and leisure sports.
- It has sports facilities like swimming pool (**32.2%**), summer swimming pool (**59.6%**) and/or racket courts (**77.8%**).
- Mainly **paid staff**.
- The staff has a high degree of **professionalism**.

Cluster 4: Club classic

- Founded in **1963**.
- **185** people associated on average.
- **€ 60,080** annual income.
- Club focused on **competitive sport**.
- **60.5%** has relations with the Catalan Council for Sport.
- **73.1%** offers not competitive continued activities.
- Important role of **volunteering**.
- Strong sense of **commitment** to the organization.

Cluster 5: Club pioneer

- Founded in **1937**.
- **243** people associated on average.
- **€ 74,870** annual income.
- Club focused on **traditional sport and competition**.
- It has evolved into a range of **sports and leisure**.
- It hasn't got own sports facilities and depends on subsidies given by the **administrations and federations**.

Cluster 6: Media club

- They are not part of the study, since they have very **unique characteristics** and have distorted the results.
- They are clubs such as **Futbol Club Barcelona, Reial Club Deportiu Espanyol and Club Natació Sabadell**.
- For its size and impact on Catalan society, the cluster has been called "**the media club**".

FUTURE CHALLENGES

REFERENCES

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