

# SPORT CLUBS IN CATALONIA. CATALAN SPORT OBSERVATORY

## INTRODUCTION

The Catalan sports system generates a large volume of information that is dispersed among organizations, 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 make it accessible to everyone.

One of the working lines in order to build this knowledge is through research studies. In this research we present a general picture about different sport clubs in Catalonia approach to 6 types of clubs. Furthermore, we classify those clubs into modern or traditional clubs in order to analyze how new developments affect to sport clubs in Catalonia.



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

In 2009 a research on sport clubs in Catalonia was performed by a demoscopic standardized interview (Secretaria General de l'Esport, 2010). 1000 clubs were surveyed, chosen from a representative sample per club's sizes and regional distribution. The margin of error was 3.00 %. Three clubs, F.C Barcelona, R.C.D Espanyol and C.N Sabadell were taken out of the sample due to their particular features that would have detracted the results.

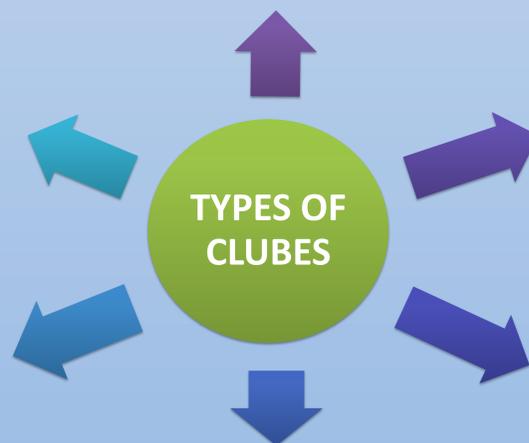
Taking the variables obtained from the questionnaires as a starting point, a cluster analysis was made to determine the typology of clubs in Catalonia. A Cluster analysis is a research's quantitative technique which is used for classifying the cases of study in conglomerate groups (clusters) from predetermined selection criterion. Therefore, a cluster is a group with cases of study that have common features between them and different features with the other clusters.

## RESULTS

**Type 6: Media club**  
They haven't taken part in the study because of their **unique characteristics** which would have disturbed 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"

**Cluster 5: Pioneer Club**  
Founded in 1937  
243 membership on average  
€ 60.080 annual income  
Club focused on **traditional sport** and **competition**  
The offer hasn't evolved into a range of **sports** and **leisure** open to a different kind of people  
It hasn't got own sports facilities and depends on subsidies given by **administrations** and **federations**

**Cluster 1: Federal small club**  
Founded in 1964  
126 membership on average  
€ 25.968 annual income  
94.7% were registered as a federated sport club  
97.8% belonging to one or more federations  
Offer enlargement to **non federated continued sports activities**  
Balance between voluntary and professional employees



**Cluster 2: Tailor made club**  
Founded in 1966  
116 membership on average  
€ 7.000 low income  
17.5% were registered as a leisure club  
Uses **public owned sports facilities** and areas in the **natural environment** and/or **urban places**  
Mainly **voluntary** people

**Cluster 3: Sport club and service**  
Founded in 1969  
295 membership on average  
€ 153.937 annual income  
96.9% up as a competition club  
Combines sport success with a range of **health and leisure sports**  
**Owned sport facilities**  
Mainly **paid staff** with high degree of **professionalism**

**Cluster 4: Classic club**  
Founded in 1963  
185 membership on average  
€ 60.080 annual income  
Club focused on **competitive sport**  
73.1% offers not competitive continued activities  
Important role of **volunteering**

## DISCUSSION

### TRADITIONAL CLUBS

Clubs: *federal small club, tailor made club and classic club*

These clubs were founded in order to offer federated competition. Nowadays, although in some cases they have extended a little bit their offer to not federated sport activities, they maintain the same aim that cause its foundation. These types of clubs are notable for having fewer membership and lower income than modern clubs and voluntary employees predominate in front of professional employees.

In summary, these clubs are at standstill because they focus on the tradition of the club.

### MODERN CLUBS

Clubs: *sport clubs and service, pioneer club and media club*

These sorts of clubs characterize by their large annual income and large number of membership, but there are some differences between them. Cluster 3 and type 6 are clubs that have adapted to new society demands, creating a new offer in leisure and health sports. These clubs expect to generate their own income and have their own sport facilities. Cluster 5, even though having similar characteristics to cluster 3, it hasn't still developed his offer, it is in a developing process towards modernity.

## REFERENCES

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