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Policies to support sports clubs; comparisons across Europe

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Apologies from Geoff

- Who is supporting the University and College Union's industrial action to support negotiations over staff pensions.
- Right now – he is on a cold picket line.
- Best wishes to you all – see you next meeting!



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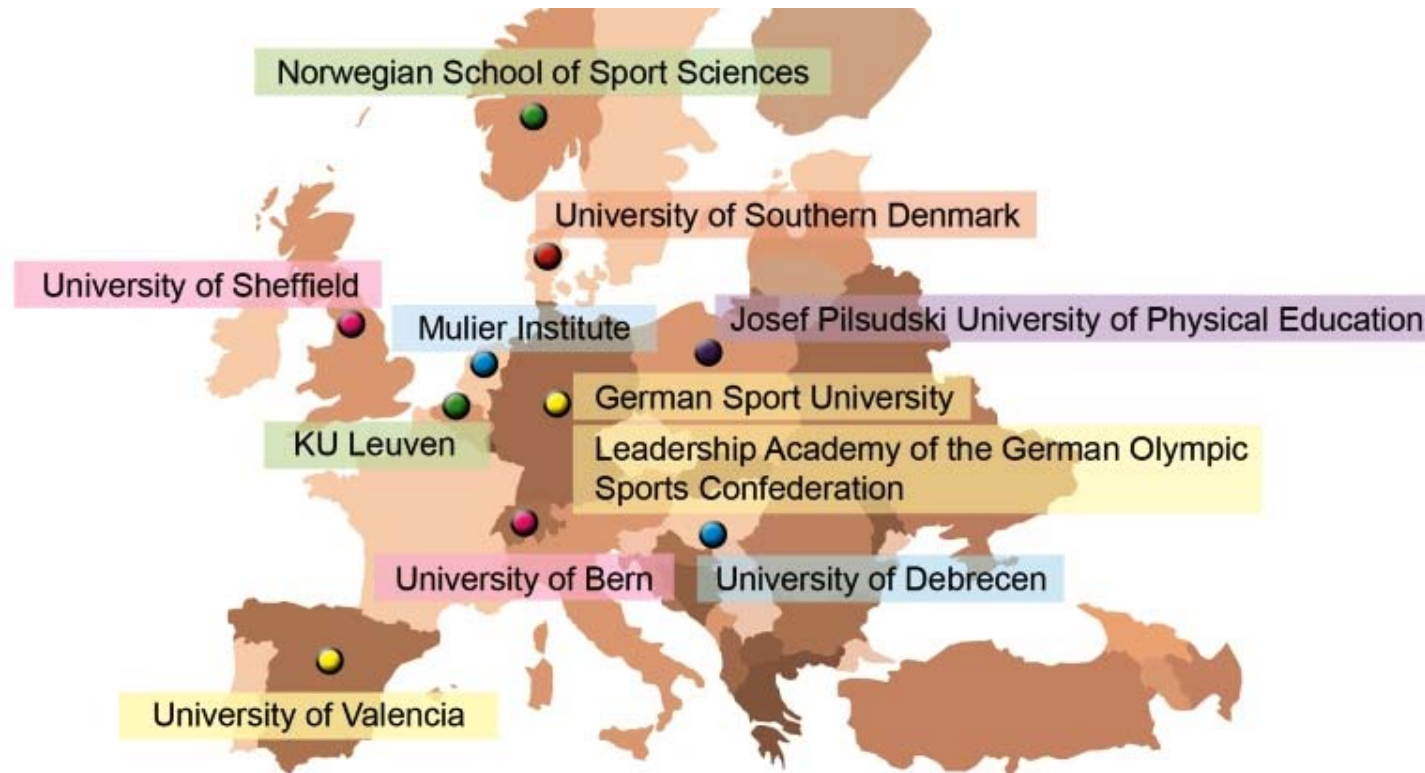
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- ✓ **Background to the European project: SIVSCE**
- ✓ **Examples of support to volunteers and clubs from Europe**
- ✓ **Discussion – what can we learn?**



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SIVSCE Partners



www.sdu.dk/SIVSCE

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Methods

WP1. Sports club policy analysis.

WP2. Sports club survey (35,790 clubs)

WP3. Member and volunteer survey (13,082)

WP4. Overall analysis of the results.

WP5. Examples of good practice (3 per country)

WP6. Handbook with suggestions for practice.

WP7. European and national conferences.

5 reports



+ 5 Quick Facts

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EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT 2015 – 2017
FINDINGS FOR POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sports Clubs in Europe

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England / Wales
report – with our
interpretations of
the EU project
results.

Free copies!!!

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Differences across Europe

	Sports club participation (%)	Participation in voluntary work that supports sport (%)
Netherlands (NL)	27	18
Switzerland (CH)	25	22
Denmark (DK)	25	18
Germany (DE)	24	10
Belgium	16	9
EU average	12	7
United Kingdom	11	10
Spain	7	4
Norway	7	25
Hungary	7	6
Poland	3	3

Source: Breuer et al. (2015).



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Policies to Support Volunteers & Clubs

1. Direct support to volunteers.
2. Youth sport participation programmes.
3. Other target groups e.g. migrants.
4. Tax concessions – clubs / companies.
5. Facilities support.
6. Direct payments to clubs.
7. Support for NGBs.



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1. Direct support to volunteers

- Payments for 'volunteering' is common.
- Tax concessions on these payments and on expenses.
- Paying volunteers' expenses accepted as a norm.



Specific examples:

1. DK: €650 p.a. to cover expenses tax free.
2. DE: Earn up to € 2,400 p.a. tax free.
3. DE: €720 p.a. for board members
4. NL: Earn up to € 1,500 p.a. tax free
5. CH: Surveys define vols. as receiving less than 2000 CHF (€1350) towards expenses.
6. HU: Tax free compensation up to 20% of the min. wage.



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Issues....discuss later.

- ‘Volunteering’ – but not as we know it...
- Would volunteering change from a moral responsibility to a ‘transaction’?
- No funds to pay for it anyway – and paid workers are being replaced by volunteers right now.
- Are our volunteers poor relations?



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2. Youth participation programmes

- Clubs paid per young member aged 5-20 (CH)
- Legal requirement to provide free / highly subsidised facility use (DK)
- High school students obliged to complete 50 hours of voluntary work (HU).



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Best Practice Example



- Largest federal sports programme.
- £364m funding – subsidise clubs for sessions and workforce development.
- 77k sessions & 70 sports to 700,000 young people aged 10-20yrs.
- Sole condition: licensed coaches.
- 120k licenced J&S coaches & managers.



3. Other target groups

- CH: Adults over 20 – no direct payment, but free coach training. Coaches overlap with J&S programme.
- Migrants – e.g. DE, CH, NL - a much bigger political issue in EU. [would clubs sign up for these here??]



4. Tax concessions for clubs

- NL: €50K VAT threshold for fundraising activities and an adapted rate for provision of sports facilities.
- DE: revenue from membership is tax free; & from facility income paid at 7%.
- UK: CASC status benefits



5. Facilities Support

- Subsidised / free use of local authority facilities – e.g. DK, CH, DE.
- DK's 'Leisure Act' obliges municipalities to provide clubs with access to facilities.
- Grants for building e.g. Norway, third of the cost from national govt. / third local government / third club



6. Direct payments from local government to clubs

- DK: A fee for each member aged 25 or under - varies from 3-4 euros per member to 10-15 euros.
- CH: clubs receive about 5-20 CHF per member annually or a flat rate sum of 100 or 1,000 CHF



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Greater devolution / subsidiarity in Europe

- More support is at the level of local government, allowing a match between local government policies and local clubs. In general this reflects a centralisation of power in England.
- E.g. Switzerland... legal obligations at canton level.



7. Support for NGBs

- NGBs generally receive state funding.
- Proportion that is conditional on meeting specified objectives varies.
- No other countries appear to measure performance using national surveys of participation, as in England.

Summary of European Support

- **Direct support to volunteers e.g. payments.**
- **Programmes to promote youth participation, and other target groups, especially migrants.**
- **Tax concessions for clubs & for private companies supporting clubs.**
- **Facility build / subsidised facility use**
- **Direct payments from local government to clubs, based on membership.**
- **Support for NGBs; some of which is conditional on supporting programmes.**



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Differences to Europe

- Support is more generous.
- More support is at the level of local government – more devolved
- Stronger consensus on both the general value of sport to social welfare, and the responsibility of clubs and NGBs to contribute to this.



Differences to Europe

- Support for NGBs and clubs in UK is more contingent on measured performance - 'managerialist' approach.
- In contrast to relying on a shared set of values to assure the alignment of funders' policy objectives with those of the organisation delivering the policy.

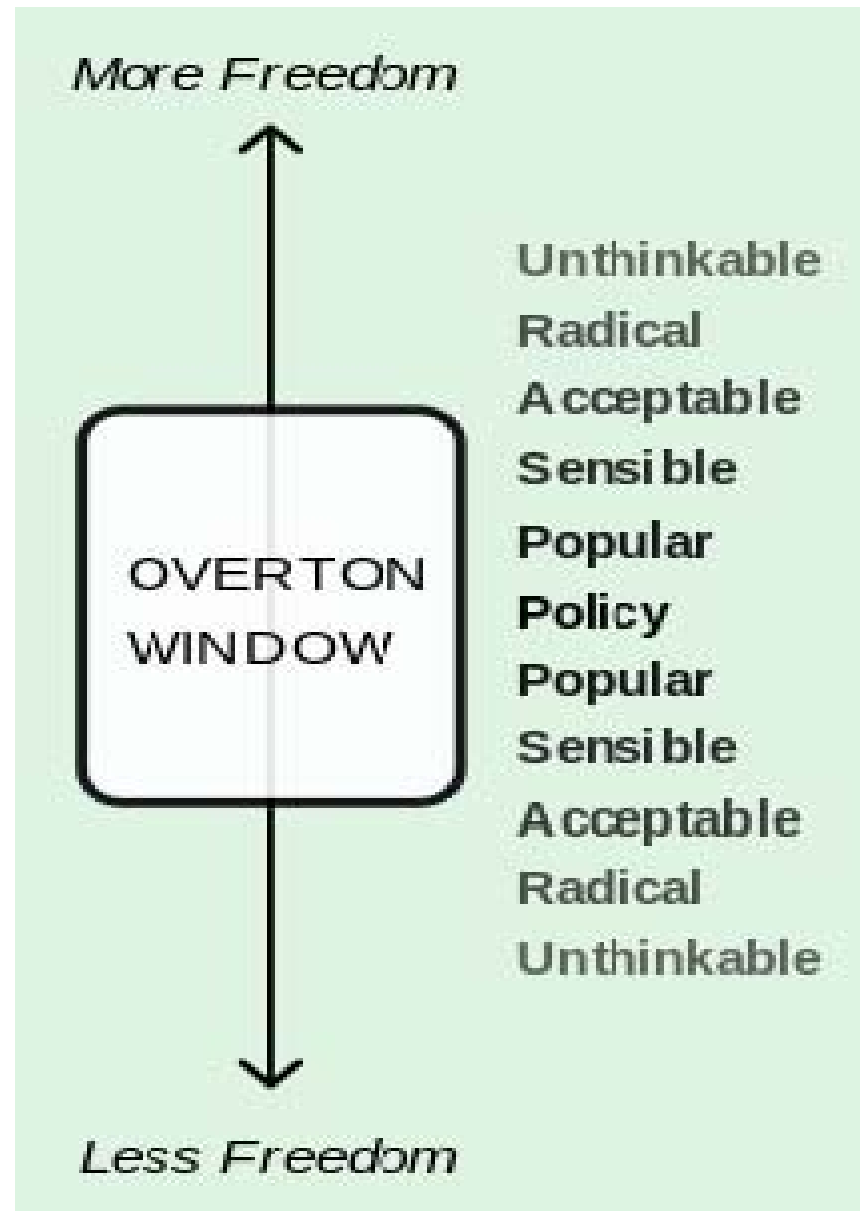


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What might the UK learn? Discuss!

- In the 'Overton window' of the possible - budget cuts, policy on sport, health and welfare; being squeezed out of the agenda by Brexit.
- If the realm of the 'possible' changes.

Overton Policy Window





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Thanks for listening

- See WP1 report for details of policies, English / Welsh report for examples.
- Hope you are warm
- My thoughts are with you....