

CHARLES UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT

**Comparison of sports systems in the Czech Republic and
Finland**

Diploma thesis

Thesis adviser:

Mgr. William Morea Crossan, Ph.D.

Submitted by:

Bc. Daniel Strnad

Prague, July 2022

I declare that I wrote my graduation dissertation independently, and that I have stated all the information sources and literature I used. Neither this thesis nor any substantial part of it have been submitted for the acquisition of another or the same academic degree.

In Prague, 5 July 2022

.....

Graduate's signature

Records

I consent to the lending of my dissertation for study purposes. By affixing his or her signature the user confirms using this dissertation for study purposes and declares that he or she has listed it among the sources used.

First name and surname: Faculty/Department: Date of loan: Signature:

Gratitude:

I would like to thank Mgr. William Morea Crossan, PhD. for supervising my diploma thesis, professional consultations, advice and support. Furthermore, I would like to thank the teachers and presenters from the University of Jyvaskyla, especially Jari Lämsä and Jaana Kari, for providing useful information about the Finnish sports system that helped me better understand the concept.

Abstract

- Title:** Comparison of sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland
- Objectives:** The main goal of the thesis is to compare sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland based on eight specified aspects.
- Methods:** Analysis of secondary documents, primarily documents issued by ministries and sports associations, and the comparative method were the two main methods used for the thesis.
- Results:** The thesis revealed significant differences between the sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland. The differences were found primarily in budget allocation, talent development and sports funding. The Finnish sports system is more advanced in most of the analysed aspects.
- Keywords:** European sports systems, funding of sport, sport and politics, sport and education, physical education, organisation of sport

Abstrakt

- Název:** Porovnání sportovních systémů v České republice a Finsku
- Cíl:** Hlavním úkolem práce je porovnat sportovní systémy v České republice a ve Finsku podle 8 osmi specifikovaných aspektů.
- Metody:** Analýza sekundárních dokumentů, zejména dokumentů vydaných ministerstvy a sportovními asociacemi, a komparativní analýza byly dvě hlavní metody použity pro tuto práci.
- Výsledky:** Práce odhalila významné rozdíly mezi sportovními systémy v České republice a ve Finsku. Rozdíly byly zjištěny především v alokaci rozpočtu, rozvoji talentů a financování sportu. Finský sportovní systém je pokročilejší ve většině analyzovaných aspektů.
- Klíčová slova:** Evropské sportovní systémy, financování sportu, sport a politika, sport a výchova, tělovýchova, organizace sportu

Contents

1	Introduction	10
	THEORETICAL SECTION	12
2	The significance of sport	12
2.1	The social impact	13
2.2	The health impact	16
2.3	The economic impact	18
2.4	Sport in education	19
2.5	State representation	19
3	Sports systems, policies and organisation	20
3.1	Sports systems in the European Union.....	21
3.1.1	Bottom-up and top-down systems	22
3.2	Sports facilities.....	25
3.3	Talent development.....	26
3.4	Volunteering.....	26
3.4.1	Volunteering in sport	27
4	Thesis objective	28
4.1	Subtasks.....	28
5	Methods	29
5.1	Analysis of texts and documents.....	29
5.2	The comparative method.....	30
	PRACTICAL SECTION	31
6	Sports system in the Czech Republic	31
6.1	Organisation of sport.....	31
6.2	Fundamentals of the sports system and sports policy	34
6.2.1	Sports policy	36
6.3	Sports facilities.....	38
6.4	Physical activity	40
6.5	Success in international competitions	43
6.6	Talent development.....	48
6.7	Government expenditure on sport.....	53
6.8	Sports funding in the Czech Republic.....	55
6.9	Volunteering.....	59
7	Sports system in Finland	60
7.1	Organisation of sport.....	60

7.2	Fundamentals of the sports system and sports policy	61
7.2.1	Sports policy	63
7.3	Sports facilities.....	65
7.4	Physical activity	67
7.5	Success in international competitions	70
7.6	Talent development.....	75
7.7	Government expenditure on sports	80
7.8	Sports funding	83
7.9	Volunteering.....	85
8	Comparison.....	87
8.1	Politics and economy	87
8.2	Fundamentals of the sports systems and policies.....	92
8.3	Sports facilities.....	94
8.4	Physical activity	96
8.5	Success in international competitions	100
8.6	Talent development.....	105
8.7	Government expenditures on sports.....	109
8.8	Sports funding	112
8.9	Volunteering.....	113
8.10	Conclusion on the comparison	116
9	Discussion.....	119
10	Conclusion	122
11	References.....	124
	List of tables.....	136
	List of images.....	136
	List of graphs	136

Abbreviations

COC – The Czech Olympic Committee

CSU – The Czech Union of Sports

ČSTV - The Czechoslovakian Association of Physical Education and Sport

EU – European Union

FIFA - International Federation of Association Football

IFF – International Floorball Federation

IIHF – International Ice Hockey Federation

NGO – Non-governmental organisation

NHL – National Hockey League

UEFA – The Union of European Football Associations

WHO – World Health Organization

YOG – Youth Olympic Games

1 Introduction

Sport is a significant phenomenon that has become a part of people's everyday life and has unquestionable impacts on individuals and society. It can serve as disease prevention and improve people's physical condition. While also playing a major role in economics, school systems, human development, and society. The significance of sports is constantly increasing, with governments being responsible for creating effective and sustainable sports systems and policies that support citizens to remain active and contribute to their well-being. However, creating and developing sports systems might be challenging, and governments can experience several limitations and boundaries that hamper their efforts. These boundaries are usually of a financial character as sport generally consumes a considerable part of state budgets.

Politics, economics, and markets are different in particular countries and are constantly evolving. The same applies to sports. Systems are constantly developing rather than remaining stable and reacting to changes in society and people's needs. Through sports, governments can reduce the occurrence of undesirable social phenomena and eliminate certain threats. The biggest examples of the positive effects of sports are physical and mental health, social intelligence, and children's development.

Sports systems can be based on different fundamentals, but ultimately, all of them aim to achieve the same goal, to improve the health and well-being of citizens. Nevertheless, comparing sports systems can generate surprising results and reveal several advantages and flaws within them. Although it might be complicated to implement many changes quickly, it can be beneficial to explore the effects of particular sports systems and improve the shortcomings over the long run. Even slight changes can sometimes bring significant results, and citizens would be the ones to benefit from them.

This thesis aims to compare the sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland, provide a closer look and more detailed analysis and reveal possible strengths and weaknesses related to sport in both countries. The Czech Republic and Finland are relatively developed countries that could be compared in several aspects. Although both countries are members of the European Union and must comply with certain rules, they can differ in certain aspects, and sports systems are not an exception.

The thesis is divided into three main parts. The first, theoretical part, discusses several impacts that sport has on individuals and society and provides a detailed explanation of

European sports systems, their fundamentals and core objectives. The second part of the thesis, the practical part, thoroughly analyses the sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland and reveals their advantages and disadvantages. A brief analysis is also dedicated to politics and economics in both countries as they establish the fundamentals for sports systems and significantly influence them. The final part of the thesis compares the sports systems and their impacts and evaluates the results.

The thesis should serve as an informational tool for governments, policy makers, schools, sports clubs, and people involved in sports and education. It should also provide them with value and insights that could help improve sports systems in the analysed countries and other European Union countries.

THEORETICAL SECTION

2 The significance of sport

The history of sport stretches far back to the times of the ancient world, and physical activity that developed into sports had early links with ritual, warfare and entertainment (Crowther, 2007). The beginnings of sport were related to military training, and team sports were supposed to prove the capability to fight in the military and work together as a team (National Army Museum, 2012).

The first recorded Olympic Games were organised at Olympia in 776 B.C., but it is generally accepted that the Olympics were at least 500 years old at that time (Onion, Sullivan, Mullen, 2019). In the beginning, Olympic competition was limited to foot races, and later other sports and events were added that served as a preparation for war or training as a hunter and other essential activities in the past. These activities included throwing spears, and rocks, horse and chariot racing or sparring one-on-one with opponents (Onion, Sullivan, Mullen, 2019).

However, sport later developed into the form we know today, and its main objectives were to bring joy, competitiveness, and improve peoples' physical and mental health. Most popular sports performed nowadays, such as football, tennis, volleyball or basketball, were invented from the 14th to the 19th century (Bellis, 2019).

Sport is an activity based on fundamental social, educational and cultural values and can enhance these values for individuals and society. Sport is accessible to all regardless of race, gender, age, status, religion, or sexual orientation, and its significance in society is unquestionable and it keeps increasing. In 2014, around 43% of the European Union population practised some physical activity at least once per week (Eurostat, 2020).

The most convincing evidence that sport is essential to society concerns their health benefits, which prevent or reduce physical and mental health problems and help people save on health care costs (Taylor et al., 2015). There are also some negative health effects from sports injuries, but the positive health benefits from sport are more substantial, population-wide and particularly important to older people (Taylor et al., 2015). The following subchapters will elaborate on sports impact and significance in particular areas.

2.1 The social impact

One of the most significant impacts of sport is the social impact. Sport helps integrate people into society and has the potential to overcome boundaries and associate people from different socio-economic spheres (Council of Europe, 2014). Thus, it creates opportunities, builds relationships, forms communities and helps create a more integrated society, including achieving an equal social status between men and women (Council of Europe, 2014).

According to Lundvall and Walseth (2019), sports policy makers assume that sport can act as an arena for integration, citizenship, democracy, exchange of intellectual knowledge, and formation and consolidation of social networks. However, their sports research often challenges these assumptions. According to the study, feelings of belonging do not automatically arise from participation in sports practice alone. Nonetheless, the study also states that team sports can potentially create strong feelings of belonging in accordance with the principle of reciprocity, and sport may either erase (or diminish) or evoke (or intensify) feelings of difference or belonging.

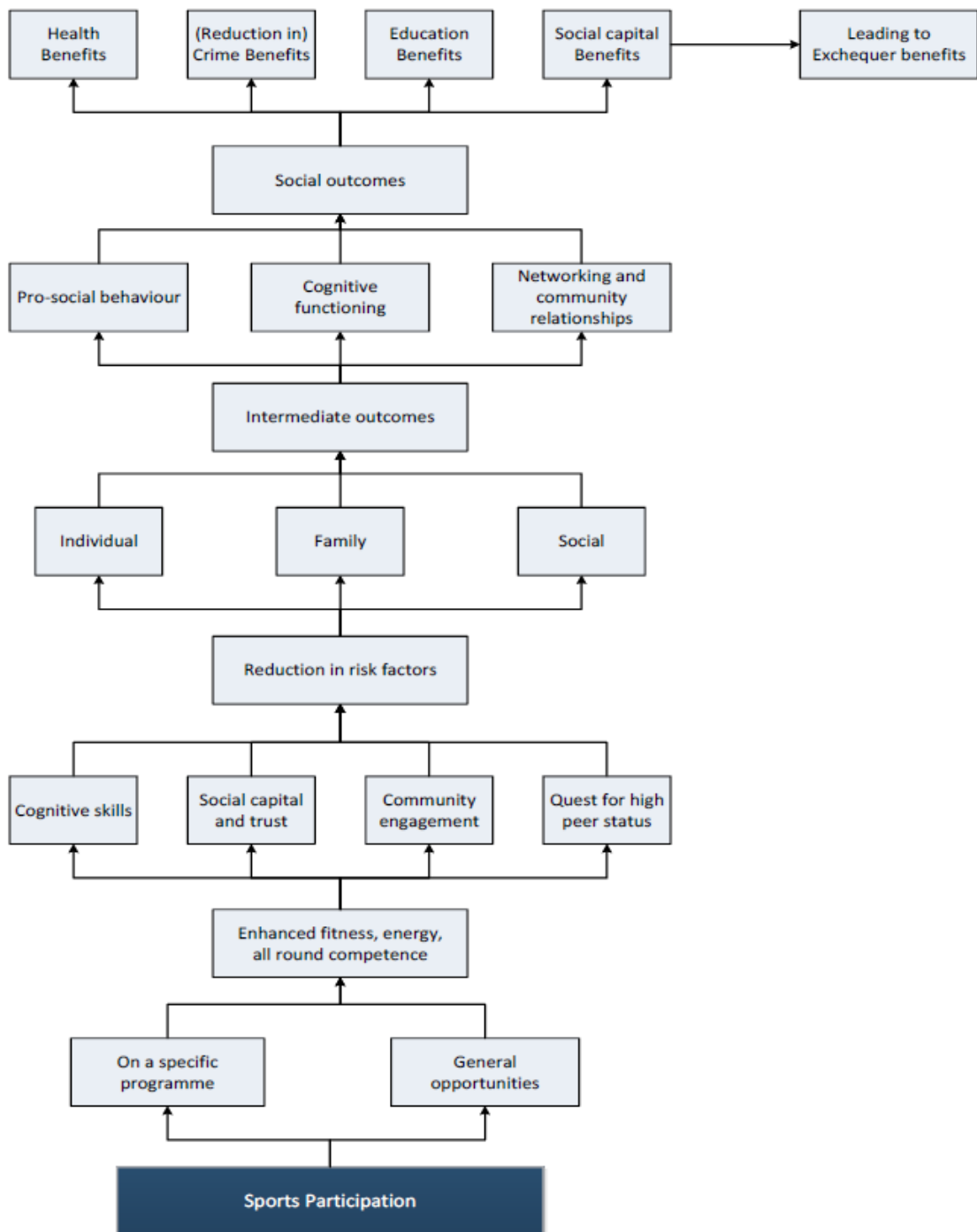
Taylor et al. (2015) state that there is also strong evidence of the positive impact that sports participation improves pro-social behaviour and reduces crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly for young men. This evidence includes lower levels of most crimes, use of illegal drugs, drunk driving, shoplifting and suspensions at school for sports participants compared with non-participants. Sport also supports more collective action and community involvement, particularly volunteering (Taylor et al., 2015).

Sport also improves people's well-being, and for many, sport can be a source of excitement, also serving as a stress reliever. Stress has become a common negative phenomenon in society. Exercise and other physical activity produce endorphins, which in turn reduce stress and improve the ability to sleep (Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 2022)

Especially for children, performing physical activities and participating in sports clubs can shape their personalities and play a significant role in their social development. Children in primary and secondary schools benefit from a range of personal and social skills such as peer relationship skills, pro-social behaviours, leadership skills, problem solving, and personal and social responsibility skills, which will help them to be more successful learners and transition to adult life (Wright and Craig, 2011). Evidence

suggests that youngsters can develop personal and social skills through their participation in physical education and sports (Holt et al., 2011). In sports clubs, they can expand their network and create new friendships beyond their everyday school life. Children can subsequently build on the values and friendships in the future and benefit from them in their personal and professional lives (University of Queensland, 2015). The scheme below illustrates the social impact of sports participation in detail.

Image 1: Summary of the social impacts of sport



Source: Taylor et al., 2015

There can also be some negative impacts of sports, such as the risk of failure, eating disorders and burnout. There are reports of physical and psychological abuse and bullying (Malm, Jakobsson, Isaksson, 2019). Other reasons cited for sports attrition are related to coaching behaviour, including favouritism, poor teaching skills, and increased pressure

to win, all of which create a negative atmosphere and decrease the fun of playing (Merkel, 2013).

2.2 The health impact

Sport has the most direct and immense impact on the health and daily life of citizens. Evidence suggests that performing physical activity regularly lowers the risk of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes and eliminates other negative health problems that lower the life quality, such as overweight or obesity (Manhattan Medical Arts, 2019). Positive effects from sports are achieved primarily through physical activity, but secondary effects also bring health benefits such as psychosocial and personal development or lowered alcohol consumption (Malm, Jakobsson, Isaksson, 2019).

Manhattan Medical Arts (2019) lists the following eight positive effects of sports on general health:

1) Weight control

The problem of overweight obesity is faced by millions across the globe and increases the risks of hypertension and heart diseases. Regular physical activity is one of the most effective ways to get rid of obesity and prevent related diseases. Obesity is caused by the extra fat present in the human body. This body fat can be effectively burned by working out.

2) Lower hypertension

Hypertension or high blood pressure is a major health risk experienced by many people, which can cause stroke or other heart diseases. Physical activity helps keep blood pressure normal. Most health experts and doctors recommend regular exercise for people suffering from hypertension. People taking part in sports generally maintain normal blood pressure compared to those who do not exercise.

3) Lower cholesterol levels

Playing sports and exercise help maintain a lower cholesterol level. According to multiple types of research, it was proven that people with high physical activity had lower cholesterol levels compared to those who maintain a sedentary lifestyle.

4) Better blood circulation

Blood circulation begins to improve by being physically active. Especially running and other aerobic exercises increase heart rate and raise oxygen and blood flow throughout the body. The extra load of blood strengthens heart muscles and makes the heart function better. The overall result is the ability to exercise harder under less stress.

5) Stronger immunity

Regular exercise strengthens immune systems as people sweat while playing sports, and toxins are removed from their bodies. The higher body temperature also lowers the chance of bacterial growth.

6) Muscle training

Playing sports builds muscles and burns fat at the same time. Having strong muscles also improves body posture and prevents bones and joints from injury.

7) Stronger bones

Taking part in sports apart from strengthening muscles also strengthens bones. Putting stress on bones with high power and strength movements increases bone density, resulting in stronger bones. In order to withstand the loaded stress, bones adapt and become denser. With advancing age, bone density keeps decreasing, and remaining active is one of the best ways to prevent bones.

8) Stronger mind

In addition to physical health, sport also improves mental health and, for many people, can symbolise an escape from everyday life. It helps reduce stress levels, improve mood, can help eliminate depression and build an overall more stable personality. When people are not able to perform sports, it can have a negative effect on their mental health and lead to more issues. According to WebMD (2021), 75% to 90% of doctor visits are for stress-related illnesses, and 20 to 30 minutes of exercise per day can make people feel calmer. These effects of sports are generally long-lasting.

Participation in sports and fitness activities offers potential health benefits for individuals of all ages. However, negative health effects might occur too. Negative consequences of musculoskeletal injuries sustained during sports participation in childhood and

adolescence may compromise function in later life, limiting the ability to experience pain-free mobility and engage in fitness-enhancing activity; Although constantly developing management of sports-related injuries has allowed athletes to recover and return to participation, it does not completely preclude the increased likelihood of developing subsequent osteoarthritis (Garrick, Requa, 2003).

2.3 The economic impact

Sport also has a significant impact on economies. Sport represents a dynamic and fast-growing industry and can work as a tool for developing cities and regions. In some European Union countries, sport can generate up to 3.7% of the GDP and employ up to 5.4% of the workforce (Eurostat, 2013).

However, the sports industry is not only a contributor to the economy but also consumes a considerable share of the state budget. This varies depending on particular countries. Sports expenditures can be up to 2.5% of the total budget (Eurostat, 2018).

According to Ding et al. (2017), sport also has several indirect effects on the economy. By practising sport, people, in addition to improving their physical condition and preventing their health, also protect the economy. Physical inactivity can lead to higher government expenses. One of the most significant indirect effects is the economic burden of physical inactivity. As mentioned previously, sport substantially impacts people's health and physical condition. Physical inactivity causes a number of health problems and generally weakens the immunity system. These adverse health effects of physical inactivity subsequently exceed into the economic field, and governments need to cover additional costs related to health problems (Ding et al., 2017).

These costs consist of two main categories, direct and indirect costs. Direct costs are medical expenses for health care utilisation and treatment of several diseases. Medical expenses represent one of the highest shares of state budgets and burden economies outstandingly. Deloitte (2019) estimates these costs to reach 10,059 billion USD globally. In general, the healthcare costs attributable to physical inactivity are estimated to range from 0.3% to 4.6% of the national healthcare expenditures (Ding et al., 2017).

Physical inactivity also causes non-medical expenses, which are indirect costs. The indirect cost can occur mostly due to a productivity loss caused by sickness absences, loss

of jobs and subsequently lower income. People who lack physical activity are more prone to diseases and several health issues, which leads to more frequent sickness absences and subsequently loss of productivity (Kari, 2019). Health issues can also increase transportation costs and the prices of health insurance (Syed et al., 2019)

2.4 Sport in education

Sport also plays an important role in formal and informal education, and it can help amplify human capital. In their study, Bailey et al. (2016) propose that the outcomes of physical activity can be framed as differential ‘capitals’ that represent investments in domain-specific assets; these are emotional, financial, individual, intellectual, physical and social assets. These investments, especially when made early in the life course, can yield significant rewards for years to come (Bailey et al. 2016)

There is significant evidence of the positive effects of sport and exercise on educational outcomes, including psychological and cognitive benefits (Taylor et al., 2015). In most countries, physical education is mandatory in curriculums as governments realise its unquestionable benefits for pupils and students. In some countries, sport is closely related to education and both together as they benefit each other and should contribute to the overall development of young people (Unicef, 2013).

The values that sport conveys contribute to the development of knowledge, skills, motivation, personality formation, resilience, character formation, responsibility, self-esteem, sense of duty, relationship with others, tenacity, analytical thinking, self-control, readiness for personal commitment and overcoming obstacles (Ghildiyal, 2015).

2.5 State representation

Major international sports competitions have become significant global, national or regional events. Athletes participating in international competitions are considered national representatives whose performances get consciously or unconsciously another dimension. A part of state representation is the presentation of sport, culture and level of development of countries. The same sports events are a source of national pride and arouse nationalism in citizens (Shibli, Ramchandani, Davies, 2021)

Some countries build their sports systems on state representations and successes in international competitions as the policymakers believe that success at these events would motivate children and young people to participate in sports (Lämsä, 2019). Success in international sports competitions can popularise sport for younger people. Therefore, some countries spend a large amount of money on elite sport and national sports representation support.

As mentioned previously, international sports competitions are events whose importance goes beyond the sports dimension. For millennia, there has been an association between sport and politics; when sport provides a function beyond the ‘game’, it is often embraced by ruling elites (Murray, Pigman, 2014). Sport can work as a tool to promote understanding, peace and tolerance between particular countries, nations, cultures and religions as it values respect, solidarity and social cohesion (Sofi, 2019). Sport thus can play a role in various aspects of external relations.

3 Sports systems, policies and organisation

Sports systems in each country consist of sports policies and several organisations that each play their own role in the system. They set the basic rules for the organisation of sports and form an approach governments follow to provide citizens with access to sport and help athletes succeed in competitions (Government of Canada, 2012).

Byers, Slack and Parent (2014) define a sports policy as an outline of the direction that sport should take according to policymakers. National governments and sports organisations develop policies to guide sport in desired directions. A policy is akin to strategy. While there is a tendency to talk about strategy in private sector organisations, in the public sector, we refer to policy (Byers, Slack, Parent, 2019).

While sports systems define what approach countries choose, how they achieve their goals and what aspects of sport they would focus on, sports organisation determines what entities would be involved in policy making and their hierarchy and responsibilities within a sports system. A sports organisation is an entity involved in the sports industry which is goal-oriented, with a consciously structured activity system and a relatively identifiable boundary (Eksteen, 2014). The main entities involved in organisation of sport

are national governments and their agencies, sports associations, Olympic committees, professional sports organisations and sports clubs.

Sports concepts worldwide might significantly vary in terms of funding, investing, talent development, sport for the public or even league systems. This thesis will discuss and elaborate on these topics as they are the main factors and play a critical role within sports systems. There can be noticed a major distinction between sports organisations in Europe and North America. These systems differ in virtually all areas, including politics, economics or financial markets. Sport is not an exception as governments establish sports systems and play a major role in sports development in every country. Sports systems are built on different fundamentals in Europe and North America, and there is little resemblance between them. Differences can be found in many areas related to sports, including school and amateur sport, league structure and drafts, financing or talent development (Van Bottenburg, 2013).

This thesis compares two European countries. Therefore, the differences are not as noticeable as in comparison with North American countries. Sports systems in Europe can also vary in certain areas. This chapter will reveal and explain these sports systems and their fundamentals.

3.1 Sports systems in the European Union

There are various sports systems in Europe. According to Lämsä (2019), they mostly differ in terms of centralisation and sustainability and can combine any level of centralisation with a focus on sustainability or innovation and competitiveness. There are two decentralised systems. The one focused on innovation and competitiveness is based on the voluntary sector used in Austria, Germany or Denmark. The other decentralised system focuses primarily on sustainability. Countries that use this system are called social actors. The only country in Europe using this model is the Netherlands. There are also two centralised systems. The one based on innovation and competitiveness is known for its private sector influence. It is used in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The last system of this scheme has a strong state sector influence and is also known as the bureaucratic system (Lämsä, 2019).

The bureaucratic system is the most common in Europe, and it combines sustainability with centralisation, and the state sphere plays an important role here. In this system, most sports, institutions and associations are controlled and influenced by ministries and the government (Lämsä, 2019). The sports policy systems only set up the basic rules for the organisation of sport, but even within the same system, there may still be considerable differences. In this case, a system with a strong focus on the voluntary sector would be the opposite of the bureaucratic system, as decentralisation and innovation are typical of this model.

3.1.1 Bottom-up and top-down systems

Sports systems are also characterised by the prioritisation of funding in elite sport. Countries can introduce a so-called “bottom-up” or “top-down” system, depending on how they plan to allocate their sports budgets. These two approaches are used in sports but also in politics or business.

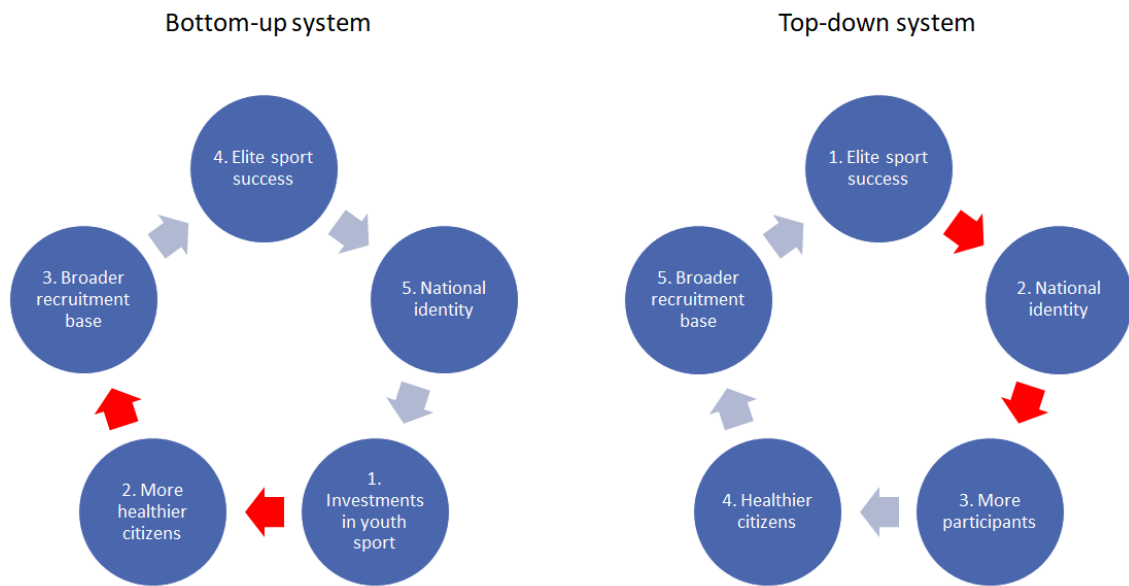
The rivalry between nations for success in international sports events has resulted in increased competition and investment in elite sport from public sources. Because the demand for success has risen and the supply of medals remains approximately fixed, there are diminishing returns on investment (Bosscher, Shibli, Weber, 2019). Consequently, nations must continue investing heavily in elite sport to maintain existing performance levels. There is evidence of countries that have almost doubled their elite sport expenditure over the past decade, yet subsequent success in elite sport has decreased markedly (Bosscher, Shibli, Weber, 2019).

There have been numerous discussions about which approach to allocating sports budget is more efficient. According to Bosscher et al. (2019), the top-down system focuses mainly on elite sport and distributes the majority or a considerable part of the budget to elite sports. This phenomenon has put increasing pressure on governments to optimise the return on their investments. However, this system might increase the gap between professional and leisure sports in particular countries as it neglects leisure sports and not particularly popular sports. Targeting the resources on only a relatively small number of sports might decrease the chance of succeeding in other sports at the world level and eventually lead to a decline in most non-professional sports.

The main idea of the system is that without elite success, there will be no new participants. Elite sports success is supposed to increase the citizens' national identity and subsequently lead to the growth of the participant base. More participants and more active people would improve the health of citizens and increase the number of talents. More talents would bring more quality to sport and help the nation improve elite sport and achieve international success. This model is supposed to get more participants and talent into sports. However, the opposite phenomenon might occur too. Suppose governments do not support sport for the public and do not even provide their citizens sports facilities. In that case, some households may not afford to pay for facilities, equipment or club membership. That would eventually lead to an overall decline in the number of sports talents and sport in general. This model could also hamper a transition to different sports. If a country focuses exclusively on professional sport, it could miss the opportunity to discover a talent for other sports that could be potentially successful.

The bottom-up model is the opposite of the top-down model. The main idea is that there is no elite sport without a large participant base. This model is to bring as many participants as possible into sports and grow a member base from the bottom by investing in youth sport. Achieving international success in elite sport is not necessarily the primary purpose of this model. However, it may be one of the possible outcomes. Investment in youth sport creates a healthier society and simultaneously a broader recruitment base, and it may result in success in elite sport and the strengthening of national identity (Grix, 2012).

Image 2: Bottom-up compared to the top-down system



Source: Grix, 2012 (modified)

Countries using the bottom-up model strive to make sport accessible to all and motivate people to engage in physical activity at any level. The budget is primarily allocated to youth sport as that is the stage of life when people learn and develop their physical abilities and build relationships with the sport. Nonetheless, even adults can benefit from it as sports facilities should be accessible to everyone. It is also typical for this model that sports facilities and memberships in sports organisations are commonly free of charge or very affordable. The system is ideal for flourishing wide-scale sports and could help develop the sport at all levels. Sports activities become more diverse, and citizens can choose from a variety of sports, discover their talents and succeed in the most suitable ones for them. Sports that require higher expenses on equipment or even participation, such as ice hockey or baseball, also have higher potential for growth within this model.

Although the bottom-up model seems to be supporting the development of sport, even within the system may occur some problems. According to McMillan (2020), a top-down approach is fast and volatile, and a bottom-up approach is slow but more sustainable. Governments using the bottom-up system invest mostly in youth. Therefore, their investments are based on long-term prosperity and do not necessarily bring immediate success. This could lead to a lack of role models for young athletes and, subsequently, a loss of motivation.

Both systems could work effectively in theory. However, there are a lot of factors that must be considered. Certain countries' economies and politics may be more suitable for one of these systems than for the other. Some countries may even choose a hybrid model that could work effectively when properly executed. Both systems certainly strive to keep society active and healthy, and at the same time to make sport positively contribute to the state economy. All the steps are related and ultimately lead to this goal. Sport has a lot of functions and could play an essential role in personal development and socialisation (Council of Europe, 2014). For some, the sport might be one of a few opportunities to socialise, build interpersonal connections, self-confidence and own personality. There is also a question of physical inactivity and its economic and social burden. Physical inactivity may also result in health issues and, subsequently, economic decline (Kari, 2019). Globally, approximately one-fourth of adults are physically inactive. The issue is associated with a range of chronic diseases and early deaths (Guthold, 2018). The medical costs keep gradually increasing every year. However, indirect, non-medical expenses could also have a fatal impact on the economy. Due to sickness absences, productivity may drop, which could lead to a lower income. In 2013, physical inactivity cost 67.5 billion USD globally in healthcare expenditure and lost productivity, revealing the enormous economic burden of an increasingly sedentary world (Ding, 2016).

3.2 Sports facilities

Sports facilities are enclosed or open areas such as sports pavilions, stadiums, spas, swimming pools and similar places where members of the general public assemble to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness sporting events (Law Insider, 2022). Sports facilities play an important role in sports systems, primarily because certain sports, such as ice hockey, tennis and many more, cannot be performed on a competitive level without a suitable facility. Sports facilities can be owned publicly or privately, more specifically, by the state, municipalities, sports clubs, or private owners, who run them to generate profits. Examples of privately owned sports facilities include gyms, wellness centres, indoor tennis courts or any other facility with high demand and people willing to pay higher prices that exceed owners' expenses. However, there's a need for publicly owned sports facilities as many of them cannot generate sufficient profits to be sustainable.

Some sports facilities are not able to generate sufficient revenues to cover expenses and be financially sustainable. Therefore, such facilities are commonly owned by governments or municipalities as they are still in demand. Governments strive to keep their citizens active and healthy by providing them opportunities to practice physical activities.

Countries can possess different approaches to this matter. These approaches can significantly impact the accessibility and affordability of these facilities. Typically, sport is more accessible and affordable in countries where public ownership prevails (Lämsä, 2019).

3.3 Talent development

Talent development is one of the vital parts of sports systems that governments often emphasise as a well-developed talent development system has the potential to improve sustainability, continuity and future sports success. According to Rongen et al. (2018), talent identification and development systems have globally proliferated and are commonly used in sports to convert youth athletes into sporting stars of the future; however, although the systems are aimed at sporting performance, they also impact physical health, education, and psycho-social development of young athletes. The authors further state that talent development systems can positively or negatively affect young athletes depending on the system's quality. The evidence suggests that positive health and well-being impacts emerge from higher-quality talent development systems and the overall concepts are not inherently good or bad (Rongen et al., 2018). This fact points out the importance of having a high-quality talent development system that can not only produce future sporting stars but also shape the personalities of young athletes in a certain way.

3.4 Volunteering

According to Novotný (2011), the term volunteer defines a person who performs work without being entitled to remuneration or receiving only a symbolic pay that is significantly lower than the price for the work performed in the usual place and time.

Volunteering is becoming increasingly popular worldwide, especially in economically developed countries. In Europe, the countries with the highest share of volunteers per 100 inhabitants are the Netherlands, France, Sweden and Finland (Eurostat, 2011).

3.4.1 Volunteering in sport

Sport is one of the industries where volunteering plays a crucial role, and the sports industry relies on it. The system of sports funding can be different in individual countries. Therefore the involvement of volunteers can vary as well.

Many sports clubs are non-profit organisations that do not pay their workers' salaries. Therefore, they rely on volunteers to perform the work in their clubs either free of charge, for symbolic pay or in exchange for other benefits, such as providing food or accommodation. Volunteers in sports clubs typically work as coaches, referees or organisers. Sports clubs without volunteers would have little chance of being financially self-sufficient or would have to rely solely on governmental support.

Volunteers are also needed to organise sports events that are becoming financially more demanding. Many organisations rely heavily on volunteer labour and believe that volunteers are integral to staging major and local sports events. Volunteers' work can vary from physical labour to managing and organisational positions; Volunteers offer event organisers a wide knowledge base and a range of skills to assist with various tasks such as liaising with visiting teams, working with media and security organisations or providing services for athletes, sponsors, spectators and other organisations associated with the sports event (Ringuet, 2012). The financial resources required for organising major sports events such as the Olympic Games or world championships, as well as smaller ones, keep constantly increasing; Volunteers help make them happen and thus lower financial expenses that would otherwise be associated with their preparation and organisation (Stará, 2013).

4 Thesis objective

The main goal of the thesis is to compare sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland based on the following aspects:

1. Sports organisation and policies
2. Sports facilities
3. Physical activity
4. Success in international competitions
5. Talent development
6. Government expenditure on sport
7. Sports funding
8. Volunteering

4.1 Subtasks

The topic was divided into the following subtasks:

1. Conducting literature research related to the topic
2. Collection of relevant documents issued by ministries and sports associations
3. Detailed analysis of collected data on the sports systems
4. Evaluation of results and comparison of the sports systems

5 Methods

In order to analyse and compare sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland, it was necessary to collect data that was further examined. For the thesis were used the following methods:

- Analysis of texts and documents
- The comparative method

5.1 Analysis of texts and documents

The primary method used in the thesis is an analysis of texts and documents. This method was used as there are already several publications discussing the topic of sports systems, policies and funding in both countries. According to Oxford Languages (2020), a document could be considered a piece of written, printed or electronic matter that provides information, evidence, or serves as an official record. Data could be divided into primary and secondary.

Mainly secondary data from external sources were used for the thesis. Secondary data are data that have been collected in the past for another study with a different purpose (Hendl, 2017). There is a sufficient amount of data and statistics about sports, health and talent development released by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland. The vital documents used for the thesis were Sports Concept 2015-2016 for information about the Czech sports policy and Sports Act and Report on Sports Policy for Finnish sports policy. These ministries are the governing institutions in both countries and are responsible for the organisation of physical education and sport.

External secondary data from other sources were also used for the thesis. These include printed and online documents issued by international sports organisations, the Olympic Committees of both countries, texts and presentations from the Charles University, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport and the University of Jyväskylä in Finland, and documents obtained from sports associations and other institutions such as the European Union, United Nations or World Health Organisation. These data are accurate and suitable for the purposes of the thesis.

The knowledge of the topic that the author gained during his studies at the Charles University and the University of Jyväskylä was also beneficial for the purposes of the thesis.

5.2 The comparative method

The comparative method is based on comparing two or more objects or phenomena. For comparison, it is necessary that the examined objects have the same content, quality, and goal or deal with the same problem. The comparative method can be used for the description of the studied phenomena, classification, searching for casual and functional connections, sequences or differences, and possibly also for prediction and prognosis (Nešpor, 2012).

This method was used in the thesis to identify and determine the differences between the sports systems and their funding and reveal their strengths and weaknesses. The common problem for these two objects (countries) is creating a solid and sustainable concept for sports organisations.

The comparative method was used for the following topics:

- Politics and economy
- Sports systems
- Funding of sport

Note

The currency exchange rate used for the thesis is: 1 EUR = 25CZK

PRACTICAL SECTION

6 Sports system in the Czech Republic

The following chapters will analyse and discuss eight comparative aspects impacting the sports system in the Czech Republic.

6.1 Organisation of sport

There are several institutions involved in organisation of sport in the Czech Republic. The main subjects are the government of the Czech Republic, regions, municipalities, sports associations and other non-governmental organisations.

The state sector in the field of sports is represented by four ministries:

- **The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**
 - the main ministry that is responsible for sports organisation and coordination
- **The Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Interior**
 - establish departmental sports centres and take care of the training of their athletes
- **The Ministry of Health**
 - manages health services for national athletes and sports talents

Source: (Sports Promotion Act, 2019)

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is responsible for public administration in education, developing educational youth and sport policies and international cooperation in these fields. The ministry was also responsible for the financing of sport for the public and leisure sport. However, this responsibility was taken over by the National Sports Agency in the middle of 2021.

According to the ministry, the main priority in the field of sport is to improve the quality of health and life of citizens and support sport for children, youth and their coaches, as well as support for the national teams and their members.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports is determined to innovate the system and address issues in the upcoming period revealed by the analyses. The main issues are scientific and methodological services, the professional level of coaches, the extent of implementation teams, the 19 - 23 age category and the transfer of athletes to universities, enhancing the system of multi-year grammar schools (The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 2020).

The National Sports Agency was established in 2019 as the central administrative authority in the matter of support for sport, tourism and sports representation in the state. The agency is subordinate to the ministry. The agency shall have financial, legal and executive power. It is mainly responsible for the creation of the state policy plan in sports and its organisation and coordination. Another responsibility of the agency is to coordinate and allocate the sports budget and decide which entities are eligible for government support and whether the subsidies have been allocated in accordance with the law and the conditions. The National Sports Agency also coordinates sport for disabled people and ensures and controls the implementation of the anti-doping program (The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 2021).

The environment of sports organisations in the Czech Republic is plural with a multilevel hierarchy. There are four main umbrella non-governmental organisations that play an important role in Czech sport:

The Czech Olympic Committee

The Czech Olympic Committee (COC) was established in 1899. Its primary responsibility is to share the Olympic idea, represent the Czech Republic at the Olympic Games and ensure its participation. Based on recognition by the International Olympic Committee, it is the only entity authorised to manage the Olympic movement in the Czech Republic. The COC collaborates with all sports associations and develops public activities for the benefit of the Czech sport and especially its members (The Czech Olympic Committee, 2022).

The mission of the Czech Olympic Committee is to arouse a desire for physical activity and sports in the Czech Republic in accordance with the Olympic values. The COC promotes physical activity on a regular basis and strives to make every Czech citizen

mentally healthy and proud of himself and the successes of the Czech Olympic athletes (The Czech Olympic Committee, 2022)

The Czech Union of Sport

The Czech Union of Sport (CSU) was established in 2013 in the form of a transformation and change of the name of the Czechoslovakian Association of Physical Education and Sport (ČSTV). The CSU is a civic open, democratic, independent and non-political organisation. It is the main and largest organisation with over 7000 sports clubs and 75 sports associations with nationwide competence that are voluntarily associated with the Czech Union of Sport. The primary mission of the CSU is to create optimal conditions for sports activities, which are implemented in its basic organisational entities, i.e. sports clubs, physical education units and sports associations (The Czech Union of Sport, 2022)

The Czech Union of Sports (2022) states the following tasks for the nearest period:

- 1) Strengthen the institutional representation of sport at the government level (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports).
- 2) Strive to double the total amount of funding for sport and participate in the preparation of an efficient system of sports funding in the Czech Republic.
- 3) Develop and deepen cooperation with regions and municipalities in the matter sports and physical activities for citizens and establish a central register of sports infrastructure (sports facilities).

The Union of Sports Associations of the Czech Republic

The Union of Sports Associations of the Czech Republic associates 21 sports associations and primarily focuses on developing amateur and junior sport, as well as on the daily activities of individual associations. The Union of Sports Associations of the Czech Republic is the second-largest association in the country, with over 547,000 members. It mainly associates minor sports associations and promotes less popular sports in the Czech Republic, such as karate, dancing, free running or firefighting, the largest of the associations with 358,897 members. The Czech e-sport association has also been accepted to the Union of Sports Associations, making it its newest admission. (The Union of Sports Associations of the Czech Republic, 2022).

The association also serves as a reliable organiser of regional, national and international sporting events and contests. Members of the association are also actively committed to social and community responsibility (The Union of Sports Associations of the Czech Republic, 2022).

.

The Czech Sokol Community

The Czech Sokol Community was founded in 1862, making it one of the oldest organisations in the Czech Republic. It also belongs among the sports the largest and most successful sports organisations and communities in the country. Sokol is a sports union with over 160,000 members in over 1,000 municipalities that strives to make sport accessible for all and share values of citizenship, community, personality and kindness. Sokol is a nationalist organisation that leads its members to love their homeland, respect the nation's traditions and spiritual heritage, and is open to everyone who respects such values (The Czech Sokol Community, 2022).

The Sokol program is an interconnected set of sports, physical, cultural and social activities that take place in physical education units. Officials, trainers and coaches of the Sokol community are not only the bearers of the physical education and sports program, but together with other members, they create a social environment for shaping the moral attitude of Sokol, an environment for preserving Sokol ideas (The Czech Sokol Community, 2022).

6.2 Fundamentals of the sports system and sports policy

The Czech sports system is considered bureaucratic as there is a strong influence from the state sphere. In the Czech Republic, most sports, institutions and associations are controlled and influenced by the ministry and the government. The system sets up the basic rules for the organisation of sport, but even within the same system, there may still be considerable differences. The sports system is centralised and mainly focuses on continuity (Lämsä, 2019).

The system in the Czech Republic can be considered between the top-down and bottom-up, as the country supports elite sport and allocates a considerable amount of money to it from the state budget. However, the expenditure on sport for all prevails. The system,

particularly in terms of budget allocation, is slowly changing as the Czech Republic started investing more in sport for all. The ratio changed considerably compared to the 2010 levels when elite sport consumed around 52% of the sports budget (Czech Statistical Office, 2021). More details on sports budget allocation will be provided in the chapter ‘Government expenditure on sport’.

Fully professionalised sports in the Czech Republic are football and ice hockey, which can support and maintain the first two leagues as professional. However, there are also many semi-professional leagues, teams, or individuals across several sports. A fully professional sport first emerged in the country after the fall of the communist regime.

During the socialist era, sport was conducted within a unified national umbrella sports organisation closely connected with party structures. In 1989, sport disconnected from the state and political power, and sports organisations became independent and introduced democratic principles into their functioning. The new arrangement of sport was also introduced, where the original organisations were transformed and divided into independent ones that were no longer subject to central management. Even organisations with a rich tradition, founded before the communist regime, were able to resume their activities. In response to the natural development of sport and its diversity, there were also established new sports organisations (Slepičková, 2011).

The transformation of society has created a space for professionalism in sport. A certain form of professionalism existed even during the socialist era. It was a kind of hidden professionalism where athletes were supported by the government (Novotný, 2000). Especially, big sports clubs have entirely transformed into commercial enterprises. The state has limited funding for elite sport as sports clubs became self-sufficient. Of course, there is still significant financial support from the government towards sports clubs, but it has considerably reduced since sports clubs were transformed into commercial enterprises and began to make profits. The entire system has been decentralised, and asset management has considerably changed. Although the system has been decentralised, there is still a strong influence from the state sphere. Therefore, the Czech sports system can still be considered centralised compared to other European countries, such as Germany or Austria. The possibility of free enterprise has led to the expansion of private services in sports.

Sporting goods were no longer in short supply as in the previous regime, and there was a wide range of quality and prices. However, society's growing socio-economic stratification often resulted in the exclusion of certain groups of people from the use of unnecessary goods, including sports. Sport has been commercialised and privatised and become a luxury product, especially those sports that require special equipment, such as ice hockey, golf or extreme sports (Slepičková, 2011). It also made it complicated for households to provide sports equipment or pay for membership in sports clubs for their children. Lack of funding for own sports activity could also eventually lead to a loss of interest in sport and ultimately to a decline in member base and the number of talents.

6.2.1 Sports policy

The key policy document of the National Sports Agency is the Sport Concept 2016 – 2025, which presents the directions of development, priorities, strategic goals and conditions for fulfilment in the period of 2016 – 2025 and builds on the previous strategic documents in the field of sport.

The fundamental goal of the conception of sports policy of the Czech Republic 2016 – 2025 is to improve the conditions for sports and national teams so that they would be aligned with the importance of sport for society and individuals and would respect the tradition and sports policy of the European Union.

The Sport Concept 2016 - 2025 defines the following horizontal priorities:

- 1) Stop the decline in physical fitness of children and youth
- 2) Stop the growth of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents
- 3) Increase the level of physical literacy
- 4) Decrease the economic participation of families in sport
- 5) Transparency, evidence and openness of information in sport
- 6) Active fight against negative phenomena in sport
- 7) Equal opportunities
- 8) The interdepartmental and intersectoral approach
- 9) Cooperation the state administration and regional and local governments

- 10) Involvement of sports experts and athletes in the local government decision-making process
- 11) Support of volunteering and coaching as hobby activities

The document also formulates strategic goals in the eight following priority areas:

- 1) Development of sport for all
- 2) Promotion of a wide base of competitive athletes
- 3) Development of school and university sport
- 4) Sports expertise
- 5) Modernising and building sports facilities
- 6) Sports for disabled people
- 7) Competitiveness of the Czech Republic's national teams
- 8) Commercial sport

Source: (The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 2014)

Some strategic goals and priorities will be elaborated on in the following chapters.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports also defines the conditions for fulfilling the concept. Basic conditions for sports development, the fulfilment of goals and the removal of barriers in sports cannot be created by sports associations or athletes; it is a task of sports policy. The solid foundation of systemic support for sport must be built on adequate institutional arrangements for sport, the legislative framework and the subsidy policy common in the European Union countries.

The conditions are, according to the Sports Concept 2015 - 2025 (2014), the following:

- 1) Strengthen the institutional background of sport in the Czech Republic**
 - Educate and methodologically support the state administration and self-governments
 - Ensure independent and objective data monitoring in sport

2) Legislative framework of sport

- It is necessary to revise and innovate the legal environment or adopt completely new legal regulations and define concepts, relationships and entities operating in sport

3) Subsidy policy

- Significantly increase the volume of funding for subsidy programs to the standard EU level
- Ensure higher stability of funding of sports organisations
- Create controlling mechanisms for the effective use of subsidies
- Use potential revenues from European funds to benefit sport
- Ensure financial fulfilment of the concept

6.3 Sports facilities

The sports policy is not that supportive of the country's citizens in terms of providing sports facilities for free. Although the state sphere considerably influences sport and physical education, the system is not so publicly oriented. The Czech political system is not a welfare system, although education in public institutions is free and health care is very affordable.

According to Bříza (2016), sports infrastructure has become a problem in the Czech Republic since the majority of sports facilities are in poor condition, obsolete or inadequate. It is usually caused by the ageing of the facilities and the lack of finances that are needed for repairs and innovations. The author states that sports clubs and other organisations own approximately 60% of all sports facilities. The remaining 40% are owned by schools, regions, municipalities or private entities. Some professional sports clubs also belong to the category of private entities, trading as joint-stock or limited liabilities companies.

There is also an absence of a central register of sports infrastructure in the Czech Republic, due to which the number of sports facilities can be only estimated. The main subject in the sports environment is the Czech Sports Union, which unites the largest number of sports associations, athletes, and sports venues. In 2011, the Czech Sports Union registered 11,091 sports venues out of the total number of 19,187 sports venues

owned by sports clubs or other organisations (Bříza, 2016). This number of sports facilities is 1.82 facilities per 1000 inhabitants.

This suggests that the Czech system is not entirely a bottom-up model, but rather a hybrid system as most sports facilities owned by sports clubs are or owned privately. Therefore, sport is not accessible to all citizens of the country, and some households cannot afford to financially support their own sports activities and activities of their children. This can result not only in a decrease in the number of talents but also an increase in inactivity in society and health problems of the citizens.

Municipalities often own some sports facilities such as gyms, tennis courts, ice rinks or swimming pools. Still, private ownership of the facilities with the potential of generating profits is also very common. Therefore, they cannot be free of charge. These facilities can be relatively expensive considering the purchasing power of citizens, and not everyone can afford them.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has admitted in the Sport Concept 2015 – 2025 that most sports facilities are in poor condition and is committed to developing and modernising them in close cooperation with local self-government units. However, the area is burdened by the past and is the hardest to change. It is also one of the areas that will require the biggest expenses from the state budget.

The ministry has determined five strategic objectives in this area:

- 1) Modernise and develop sports facilities of sports clubs and physical education unions
- 2) Modernise and develop school sports infrastructure
- 3) Develop university sports complexes
- 4) Build strategic sports infrastructure for national team members and regional training centres for the preparation of talented young people
- 5) Modernise the equipment used for preparing national team members and talents

Source: (Sports Concept 2016 - 2025, 2014)

Although modernising sports facilities in the Czech Republic is necessary, it will likely not solve the issue of accessibility and affordability of some sports, such as ice hockey or tennis. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports mostly focuses on modernising the

facilities of sports clubs, schools, universities and national teams. However, there's no plan to construct municipal facilities for the general public that would be accessible to citizens for free. The Czech government would have to invest heavily in the modernisation of the facilities, which may increase the prices or motivate private investors to build them for commercial purposes.

Despite what is written above and the fact that a significant part of sports facilities is privately owned, sport in the Czech Republic can generally be considered relatively affordable compared to some other European and especially North American countries. The accessibility of natural parks has undoubtedly a positive effect on the physical activity and condition of Czech citizens. Most natural parks in the Czech Republic are owned and maintained by the state or municipalities. These parks usually have no admission fees. Therefore, exercising in natural parks is one of the options to perform outdoor physical activities like cross-country skiing or hiking free of charge.

6.4 Physical activity

Although the Czech sports system is more of a hybrid system, its citizens are relatively active. However, they are still below the European Union average. According to the study conducted by Eurostat (2015), in 2014, 35% of Czechs performed physical activity at least once per week, which was below the European Union average of 44%.

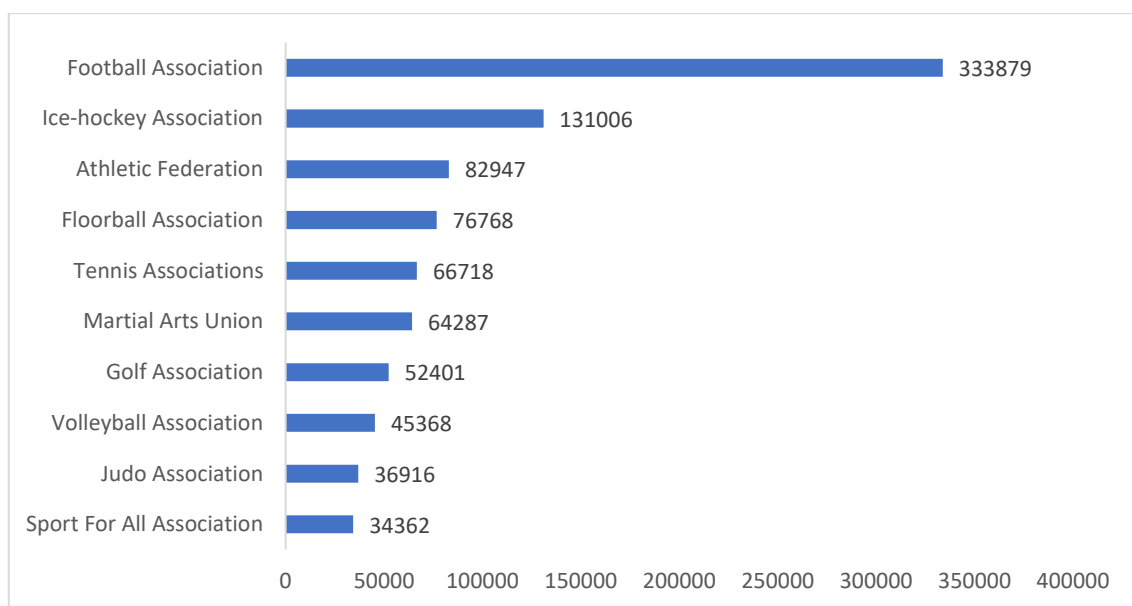
The same study shows that the most active groups are young adults and middle-aged people. On the contrary, seniors' physical activity in the Czech Republic was among the lowest in the European Union. Only 10% of people aged 65+ were physically active at least once a week. The European Union average was 32%. The most popular sport is unequivocally football, followed by ice hockey and athletics.

The target groups for the promotion of physical activity are almost all except people with disabilities and chronic diseases. The estimated prevalence of sufficient physical activity levels (between 150 and 300 minutes per week) is that 20% of children and adolescents between 6 and 17 years are physically active. Boys in the Czech Republic are generally more active than girls. For adults between 18 and 64 years, it is 66%. Schools in the Czech Republic also play a significant role in terms of sports promotion. Primary and secondary

schools have both 2 mandatory and 0 to 3 optional hours of physical education per week (World Health Organization, 2018).

In 2020, in the Czech Republic were total of 1,312,047 athletes were registered by sports associations, making it 12.26% of the total population. The football association registered the most players. Below are the ten associations with the most members in the Czech Republic, totalling 618,634 members.

Graph 1: Number of members of the ten largest associations in the Czech Republic in 2020



Source: Based on the data from the Czech Union of Sports (2021)

The eating habits and lifestyle of Czechs are generally relatively unhealthy. It could be one of the reasons why the Czech Republic is a country with one of the higher death rates of coronary heart disease and cancer in Europe. Life expectancy for men is 76.1 and 82.1 for women (World Health Organization, 2018).

The Czech Republic also belongs amongst the European Union countries experiencing high overweight and obesity levels. According to the World Health Organization, 67% of Czech adults and 28% of children are overweight, which is the 5th highest share in the European Union. 29% of adults and 10% of children are obese, making it the 4th highest (World Health Organization, 2018).

The combination of lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating habits can worsen Czech citizens' physical and health conditions, subsequently negatively impacting the health system and being a burden for the Czech economy due to increasing expenses on treatment.

The Czech government is concerned about the obesity levels, which is critical compared to the European Union countries, but it is not the only concern regarding physical activity. According to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, other problems are decreasing levels of physical literacy, a longitudinal decline in fitness of children and youth and low number membership numbers in organised sport compared to the EU average (Sports Concept 2016 – 2025, 2014).

Therefore, three of the horizontal priorities of the Sports Concept (2014) concern the problem of physical inactivity. These are stopping the decline in physical fitness and increasing levels of obesity in children and adolescents, and increasing physical literacy.

The ministry formulated the following six strategic goals in the area of 'sport for all' to address the issue:

- 1) Support development of sports clubs and physical education units
- 2) Strengthen the role of regional and local sports centres
- 3) Build a strategic sports infrastructure for the national team and regional training centres for the training of talented youth
- 4) Support mass promotional-motivational sports events
- 5) Create conditions for the use of integration potential of sport for all social groups of children and adolescents
- 6) Create conditions for the use of sport for the development of community life, especially at the local level

The goals in the area of sport for all point you the Czech Republic's shifting focus and prioritisation towards this area. However, increasing physical activity levels in the Czech Republic may take a long time. Another question is if the measures in place can significantly impact physical activity. The progress status will be likely available in the Sports Concept for the upcoming period.

6.5 Success in international competitions

The Czech Republic has a great sports tradition and has historically achieved much success. Therefore, continuous success in international competitions is one of the priorities for the Czech sports system. However, several problems should be resolved in national teams' preparation. These are scientific and methodological services, expertise in coaching, and breadth of implementation teams (Sports Concept 2015 – 2026, 2014)

The state's sports policy is comprehensive regarding success in international competitions and addresses several issues. The main strategic goals in the area of competitiveness of national sports teams are defined in the Sports Concept 2015 – 2026 (2014):

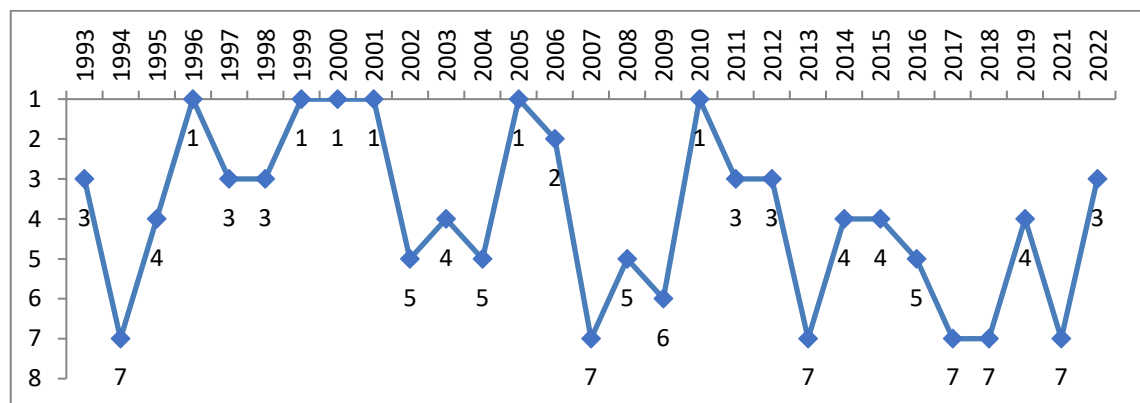
- 1) Ensure quality conditions for the preparation of Czech national team members in departmental sports centres
- 2) Continue programs to support talented youth in cooperation with sports associations
- 3) Intensify the connection between the education system and the training of talented youth and national team members
- 4) Support the success of the Czech sports representation at international competitions and the spread of the good name of the Czech Republic
- 5) Create a health care system for national team members and talented youth
- 6) Create a system of care for national team members after ending their careers
- 7) Further develop the professional competencies of coaches and strengthen the social prestige of the coaching profession
- 8) Support professional competitions and the position of professional athletes

Historically, the Czech Republic has been a very successful country with many exceptional athletes across several disciplines. Therefore, the country has high expectations in elite sport.

There has been a decline in international sports success in the most popular sports, football and ice hockey, that draw the largest attention of both the media and the public. The Czech sport flourished in the late 1990s and early 2000s, and national teams competed successfully in international tournaments and championships. In only 15 years, Czech most popular sports significantly dropped in the world rankings.

Between 1996 and 2010, the Czech national hockey team collected 13 medals from major international events, such as the World Championships and the Winter Olympic Games. Between 2011 and 2020, the Czech national team collected only two medals, and Czech hockey has been waiting for significant success for a relatively long time. The last Olympic Games in Beijing 2022 only proved the downtrend when the Czech national team ranked ninth, which is historically the worst result for the team. A slight improvement was seen at the World Hockey Championship 2022, where the Czech Republic ranked third. The average Czech national hockey team ranking from 1993 to 2022 is 3.93. From 1993 to 2006, it was 2.93, while from 2007 to 2022 was 4.87 (IIHF, 2022).

Graph 2: Czech Republic's ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993



Source: Based on data from IIHF (2022)

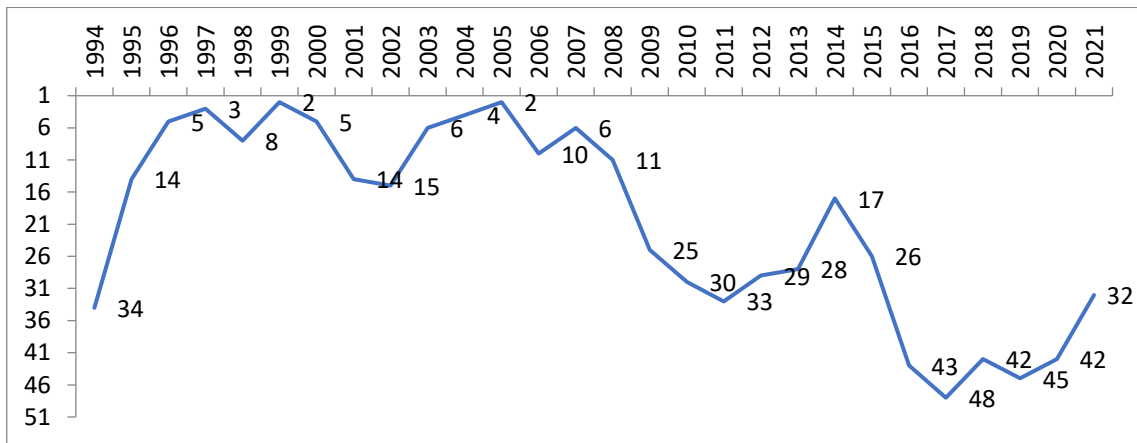
In 2021, ice hockey in the country had 129,595 members (95,163 male, 2,142 female and 30,290 junior players), making it the largest membership base in Europe. There are also 200 indoor ice rinks, giving 648 members per indoor ice rink (International Ice Hockey Federation, 2021). However, these numbers might not necessarily be completely accurate as there is a problem with the registration and monitoring of active players. Some registered players are no longer active. This fact might cause a discrepancy between the number of active and registered members. For comparison, Slovakia currently reports 10,970 players with 74 indoor rinks, giving 148 members per ice rink (International Ice Hockey Federation, 2021). It is 500 members per rink less than in the Czech Republic. According to the official numbers, the most prominent sports are growing in the Czech

Republic. It is also interesting that the official number of adult players significantly exceeds the number of junior players, unlike any other country with a registered national hockey association. Nonetheless, some statistics contradict the official member base numbers, such as the number of young players drafted to the American National Hockey League (NHL) or clubs in rural areas. Therefore, the first step to improving the quality of these sports is identifying the exact number of active and new players and talent development decisions based on actual and accurate data.

Czech football is currently facing a very similar problem. The Czech national football team used to be one of the most successful teams globally. Since the country's establishment in 1993, the Czech national has always participated in the European Championship. However, Czech football has been experiencing a similar deterioration to Czech hockey. The men's national team dominated the European scene in the early 2000s, achieved remarkable success at the European Championship in 2004, and qualified for the 2006 World Cup for the first time in history. At that time, the Czech Republic ranked 12th in the UEFA ranking and had several players in the most competitive European leagues. In 2020, the country ranked 19th, and the number of talents and players in the top leagues is also declining (UEFA, 2021).

The decline might be surprising considering the relatively recent success of national teams in the Czech most popular sports. Given an assumption that the top-down model, whose modification was still in place until 2010, works perfectly, the member base and the number of sports talents would constantly increase. It would ultimately lead to international success, an overall improvement in sport and, consequently, more active and healthier citizens. The official number of members is growing for both sports. In 2020, the Football Association of the Czech Republic recorded 333,879 members, the highest number since 2010, and it grows every year (The Czech Union of Sports, 2021).

Graph 3: Czech Republic in the FIFA ranking since 1994



Source: Based on data from FIFA Ranking (2022)

New and minor sports, such as cross-country skiing, biathlon or speed skating, have also recently achieved remarkable success in international competitions. Nonetheless, the Czech Republic is becoming successful in minor sports that are not too competitive and lags behind in the most popular and competitive sports.

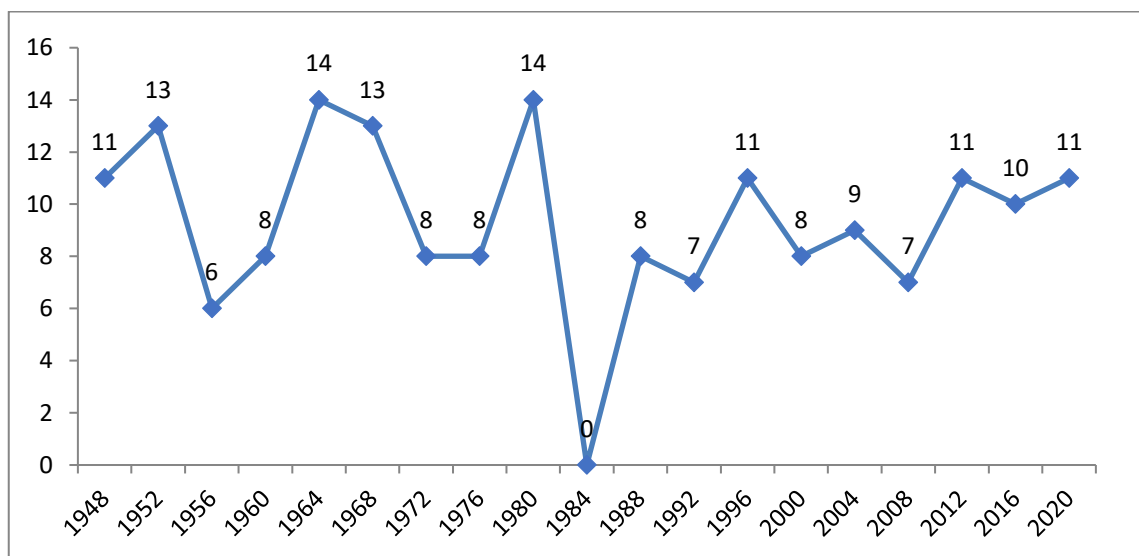
Biathlon is gaining popularity in the Czech Republic and, at the same time, is growing its member base. The Czech Republic also organised the World Championship in 2013. On the other hand, speed skating is a sport driven by a few athletes' success. It is mainly due to unsuitable conditions for the sport in the country. One of the first major speed skating successes dates to 2007, when Martina Sáblíková won the World Championship in Salt Lake City. Since then, Czech speed skaters led by Sáblíková collected a number of medals. However, with a massive potential to become one of the leading and most popular sports in the Czech Republic, this sport has never had a chance to reach its potential fully. There has never been built a speed skating stadium, and the athletes must travel abroad or rely on weather conditions to be able to train. Before this talent was discovered, speed skating was never a popular sport in the Czech Republic. The stadium will most likely be built at the end of this remarkable athlete's career. Thereby, young athletes are unlikely to be able to follow their idols and role models and may lose motivation. It could eventually lead to the decline of sport with considerable potential that has not seized the opportunity due to inefficient allocation of the sports budget. This is an example of the downsides of the top-down or hybrid models.

The overall success can be measured by the number of medals in major international competitions, while medals from the Olympic games would be probably the most accurate metric.

The Czech Republic (previously Czechoslovakia) has been gradually increasing the number of medals from the Olympic Games since 2008 without any substantial decline since 1984. The Czech Republic is experiencing a slight decline in summer sports. However, the country has been tremendously improving its rankings and the number of medals in the Winter Olympic Games.

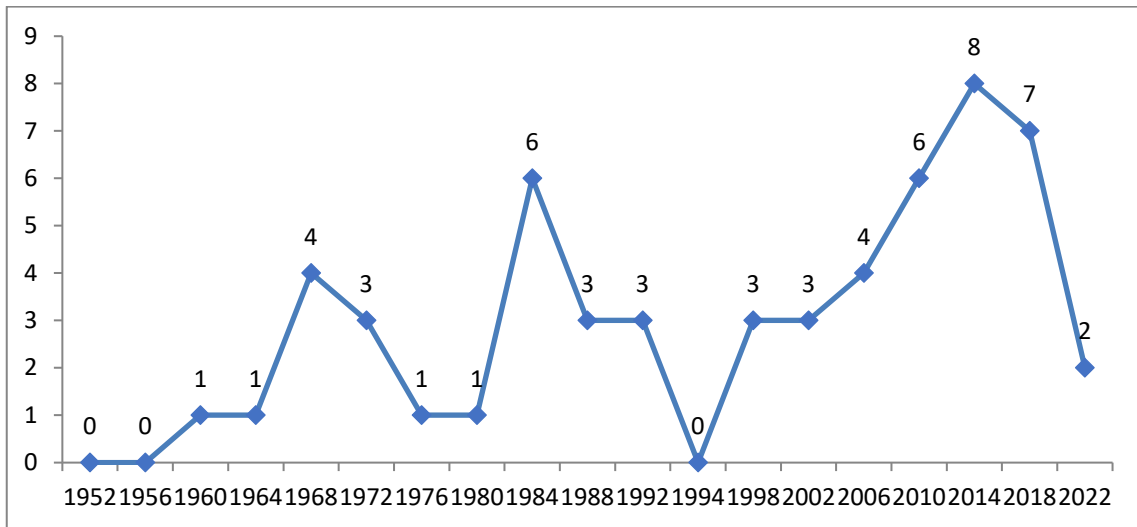
The most successful sports have become canoeing and athletics in summer and speed skating, cross-country skiing and biathlon in winter. Although the success in Olympic sports is impressive, it is worth mentioning that it is driven mainly by more minor, less competitive sports. Major sports are stagnating or not growing. Therefore, the success might not be sustainable as it relies on a small number of athletes, which was proven by the last Olympic Games in Beijing, where the Czech national team collected only two medals. Nevertheless, the Czech Republic is increasing the number of athletes at the Olympic Games and keeping a relatively high medal ranking position, which can be considered a success.

Graph 4: Czech Republic's (Czechoslovakia) medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948



Source: Based on data from Olympedia (2022)

Graph 5: Czech Republic's (Czechoslovakia) medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952



Source: Based on data from Olympedia (2022)

6.6 Talent development

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports set the development of school and university sport as one of the strategic objectives for 2016 – 2025 and started investing more in this area. However, the Czech junior and youth sport is experiencing a decline. Especially in major sports, football and ice hockey, the Czech Republic has been waiting for a long time for any significant achievement.

According to the Sports Concept 2015 – 2026 (2014), there is a close connection between the training of state representations and talented youth. It is necessary to innovate the system and resolve the problems pointed out by analyses. Those are the development of age categories 19-23, the transition of athletes to universities, innovation of the multi-years grammar school systems, etc.

The Czech sports policy addresses the issue of talent development and youth sport in five of the eight areas: development of sport for all, promotion of a wide base of competitive athletes, development of school and university sport, expertise in sport and competitiveness of national teams.

The concrete strategic goals according to Sports Concept 2015 – 2026 (2014) from particular areas are listed below:

1) **Sport for all**

- Create conditions to use the integration potential for all youth social groups

2) **Promotion of a wide base of competitive athletes**

- Raise awareness of children's sport
- Develop youth performance sports regardless of the perspective of representation

3) **Development of school and university sport**

- Increase the number of hours of physical activity in the school environment and development of a program of school sports clubs
- Innovate the system of school sports competitions
- Expand the organised offer of leisure sports activities for students
- Stabilise and expand the system of university sports competitions available to all students

4) **Expertise in sport**

- Strengthen children's professional guidance

5) **Competitiveness of national teams**

- Continue programs to support talented youth in cooperation with sports associations
- Intensify the connection between the education system and the training of talented youth and national team members
- Create a health care system for national team members and talented youth

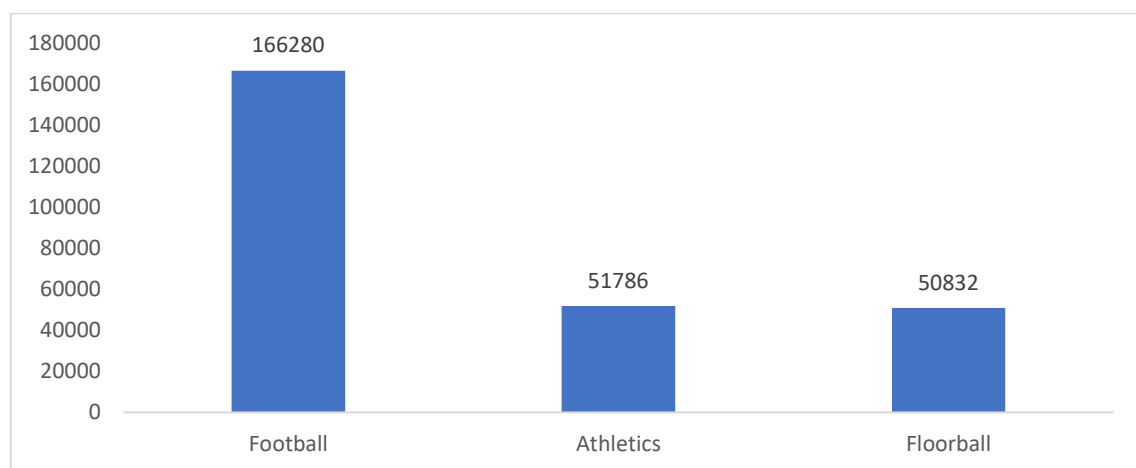
The fact that youth sport and talent development is addressed across five areas suggests the Czech Republic's increasing interest in this area and the desire to create a better and more sustainable talent development system.

There has also been established a relatively new project of university leagues. According to the Czech University League Association (2022), the project of university leagues is a system of year-round competitions for students, the aim of which is to support students' regular sports and link their sports activities with their study obligations. The project started in 2019 with the university hockey league, but currently, there are already six sports involved. Those are basketball, floorball, football, futsal, ice hockey and volleyball. The Czech University League Association collaborates with the National Sports Agency, sports associations, and universities (The Czech University League Association, 2022). In terms of talent development, we need to examine the number of

youths playing sports and their success. The number of football players under 18 years in the Czech Republic is 166,280, which is 49.8% of the total member base (333,879) (The Czech Union of Sports, 2021).

The sports associations with the most registered members in youth categories are the football, athletic and floorball associations. The member base of youth in these three associations is 268,898, accounting for 12.99% of the total youth population (0-19) of the Czech Republic, which is 2,070,400 (Czech Statistical Office, 2016).

Graph 6: Number of registered youth members in the three largest associations (youth) in the Czech Republic



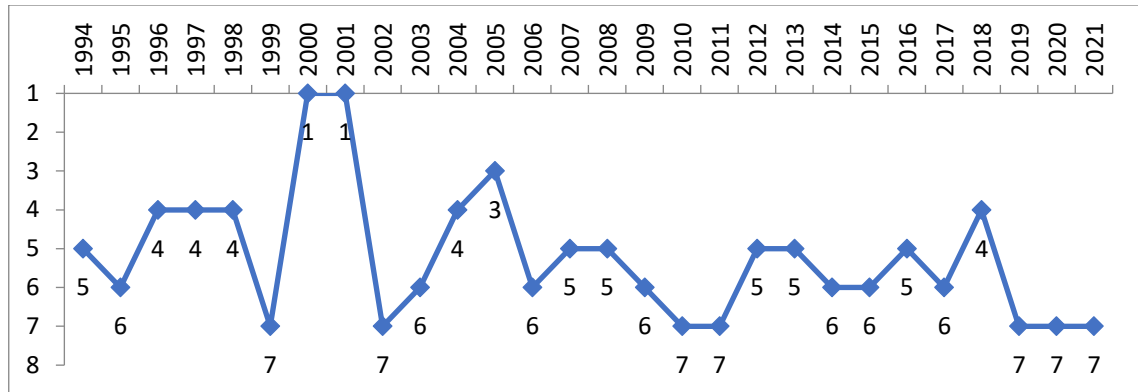
Source: Based on data from the Czech Union of Sports (2021)

Nevertheless, the results of youth teams are not at such a high level yet. The Czech football team under 21 years old won the European Championship in 2002 and ranked fourth in 2011. However, since then, all European Championship appearances finished in the group stage, or the team did not even qualify for the main tournament. The national team under 19 years old has been performing even worse in recent years. Besides reaching the semi-finals of the European Championship in 2018, most years since 2009, the team did not qualify for the tournament. Younger categories have been following a similar pattern.

The junior national hockey team has been waiting for a medal success since 2006. The gap between the elite national teams and the Czech national team is gradually increasing,

and the team is not as competitive as it used to be. Since 2006, the team has made the semi-finals at the World Championship only once, in 2018.

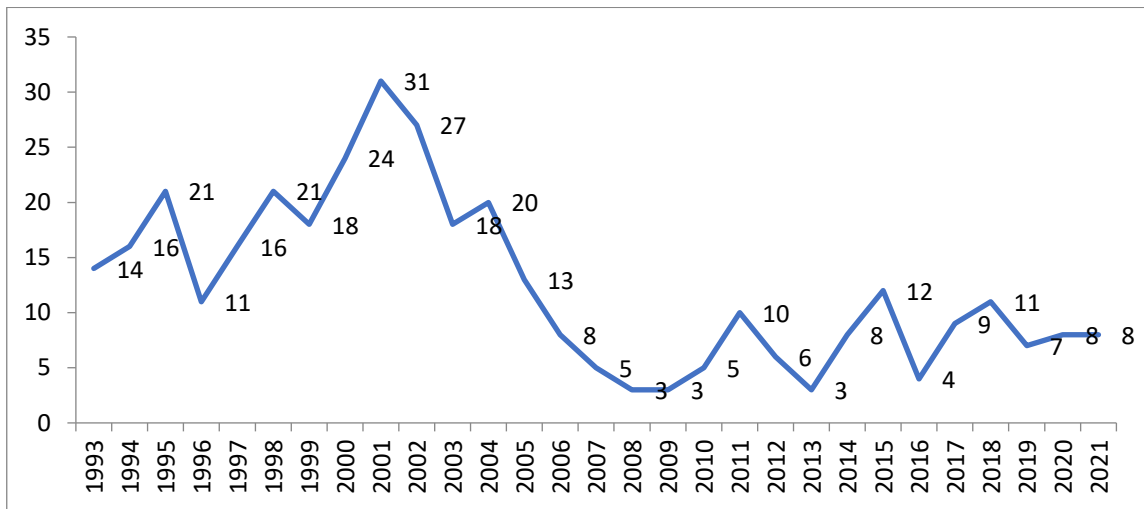
Graph 7: Czech Republic's ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship (U20) since 1993



Source: Based on data from IIHF (2022)

The decline in international success might be caused by a long-term decline in the number of talents, which has led to a shortage of young athletes and new talent in the sport. That is not proven only by years without any major success at the junior level but also by the total number of Czech players drafted into the NHL, which keeps gradually decreasing. Whereas between 1996 and 2005, 199 Czech players were drafted into the NHL, from 2011 to 2020, it was only 78 players (Elite Prospects, 2021). Such a decline is one of the most significant with regard to all the nations whose players compete in the world's most challenging league. This trend does not seem to be changing, and with the current talent development method, the probability of future success is low.

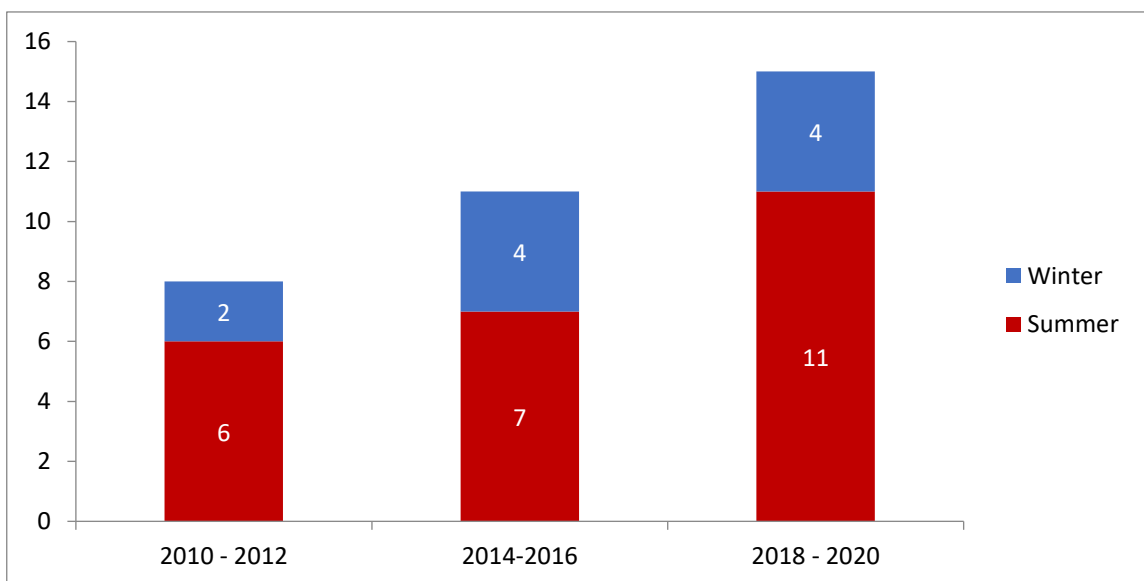
Graph 8: Czech ice hockey players drafted to the NHL since 1993



Source: Based on data from Elite Prospects (2022)

On the contrary, the performance of Czech young athletes has been solid at the Youth Olympic Games. The Czech Republic has more participants and has been steadily increasing the number of medals collected. The Czech youth team has been significantly more successful at the Summer Olympic Games, collecting 24 medals compared to 10 from the Winter Olympic Games.

Graph 9: Czech Republic's medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010



Source: Based on data from Youth Olympic Story (2022)

According to the statistics above, Czech junior sport is stagnating with some signs of a reversal based on the Youth Olympic Games' performance. However, the data from the Youth Olympic Games are only from 2010 on. Therefore, there is no comparison to previous years.

In general, Czech sport produces less talent, and the national teams' performances have declined compared to the 1990s and 2000s. The change of the political regime in 1989 gave people more opportunities and also changed the sports policy. Slepíčková mentions in the interview for *Aktuálně.cz* (2019) that the government neglected its role in sports support after the revolution in 1989. Czechs became less active than during the communist era when sport was, for many, the only activity. Privatisation, commercialisation and increasing competition in sports also played a role in this change. All these factors might have caused the decline of the Czech youth sport.

The Czech government started investing more in sport for all and thereby in youth sport too. Nevertheless, the recovery of the Czech junior sport from its current state might take years, possibly decades.

6.7 Government expenditure on sport

This chapter will primarily elaborate on how much the government spends on sport and what areas it invests in the most.

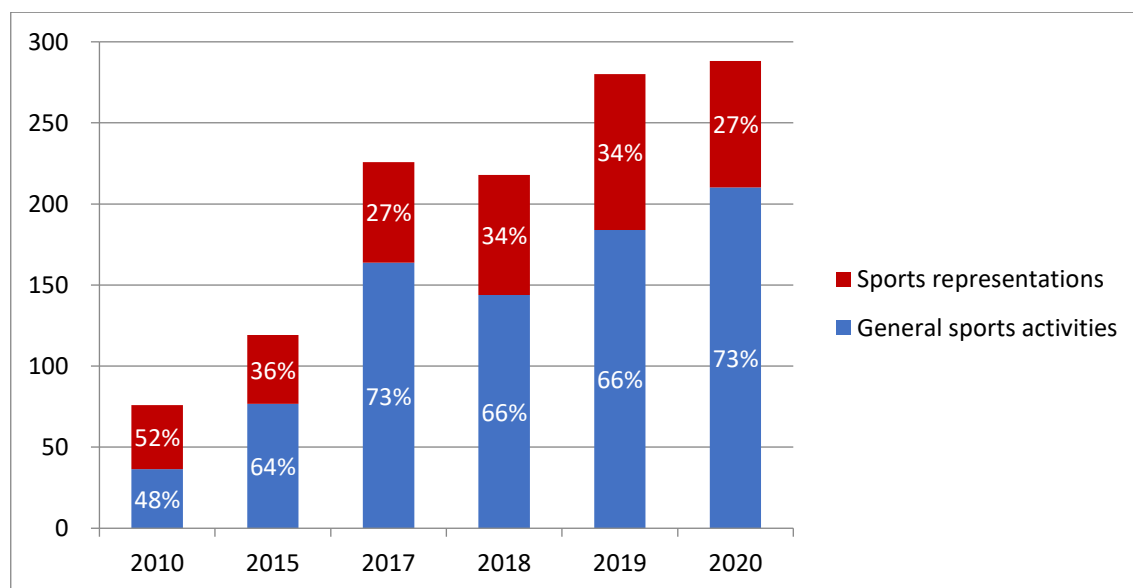
In 2017, the Czech Republic was 25 EUR below the average of the European Union, with 75 EUR per inhabitant (Eurostat, 2018). However, these data do not take into account the prices and purchasing power of citizens. In fact, the Czech Republic had one of the highest expenditures on sport and recreation out of the total expenditures in the European Union. The Czech government spent 1.1% on sport and recreation, while the average in the EU was 0.7%. Only three European countries spent more, Hungary 2.5%, Estonia 1.4% and Luxembourg 1.2% (Eurostat, 2018). The state allocates 7.4% of GDP for health, 4.5% to education and 0.4% to sports (World Health Organization, 2018). The Czech government intends to increase its budget allocation to sports to 1% in the upcoming period (Sports Concept 2016 – 2025, 2014)

The Czech Republic distributes its sports budget relatively fairly between elite sport and sport for all (also called 'sports representations' and 'general sports activities'). According

to the Czech Statistical Office (2021), since 2010, government expenditure on sports has been growing significantly. In 2010, the total government expenditure on sports was 1,899 mil CZK (76 mil EUR). This amount has notably increased throughout the years. In 2020, the total expenditure on sports was 7,205 mil CZK (288 mil EUR).

The share of sport for all has also increased compared to the 2010 levels. In 2010 sports for all represented 47.96% of the total sports budget. In 2020, the share was 72.96%. The average share of sport for all throughout the years since 2010 is 64.92% (Czech Statistical Office, 2021). It is a sign of the Czech Republic slowly inclining towards the bottom-up system. Nevertheless, the Czech sports system should not be considered the bottom-up system yet as its share of general sports activities expenditure is close to the European Union median.

Graph 10: Government expenditure on sports representations and general sports activities (in mil EUR)

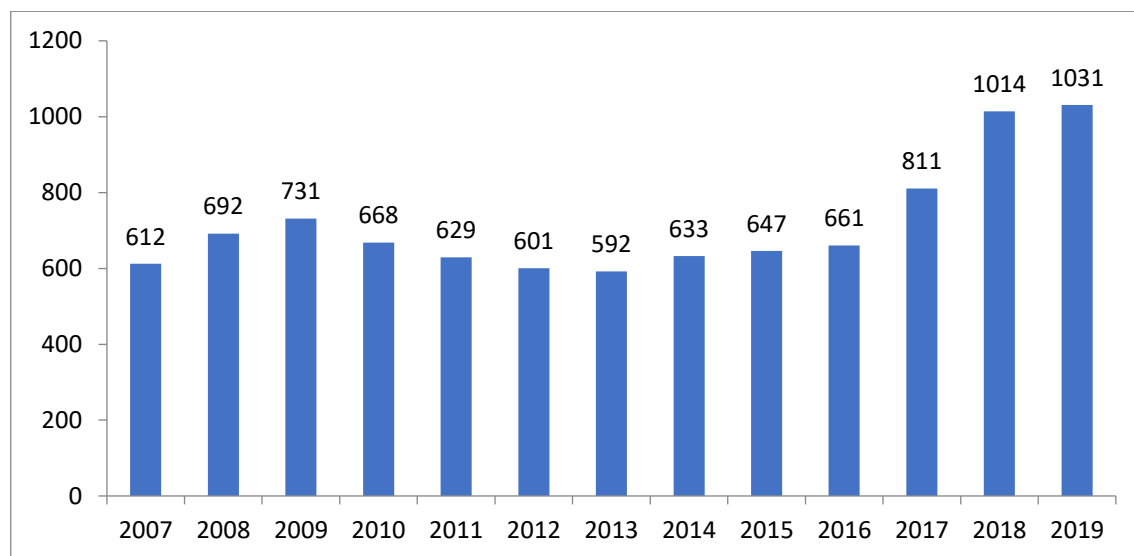


Source: Based on data from the Czech Statistical Office (2021)

The total governmental expenditure on recreational and sporting services in the Czech Republic has also been growing steadily since 2013, with significant increases in 2017 and 2018. The total expenses in 2019 reached 1,031 mil EUR. Approximately 25% to 30% of the budget is allocated solely to sports activities. In 2018, The Czech Republic allocated 1.2% of its state budget to recreational and sporting services, making it the

fourth-highest share in the European Union, after Hungary, Estonia and Luxembourg (Eurostat, 2018).

Graph 11: Government expenditure on recreational and sporting services in the Czech Republic (in mil EUR)



Source: Based on data from Eurostat (2022)

6.8 Sports funding in the Czech Republic

This chapter will explain from what sources and how the government receives money to fund the sports system.

The National Sports Agency is the primary organisation responsible for sports funding in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports held the responsibility until 2020, when the National Sports Agency entirely took over. The main objectives of the National Sports Agency in sports funding are providing financial support from the state budget and controlling the use of sports support by the recipients of the support.

The sports funding system in the Czech Republic is quite unique as it is financed from more sources, primarily the public and private sectors. The most important components of sports funding are from households, subsidies from the state budget, funds from disposable profits of lottery companies, grants to civic associations from municipal budgets and school physical funding education (Novotný, 2009).

According to the study on the funding of grassroots sports in the EU (2011), households traditionally provide the most funding for sports. Households primarily pay for membership fees, coaches' and entrance fees, transportation, sports equipment, and other fees (Brodák, 2016).

The betting industry also represents a major source of sports funding in the Czech Republic. However, there is no state monopoly in the betting industry, and private companies prevail in this kind of business. The betting industry in the Czech Republic is also significantly regulated by the state to prevent undesirable social and economic phenomena.

The private betting companies primarily support professional clubs, leagues and sports associations, more specifically their marketing subsidiaries. These companies are profit-oriented, and their main focus is on meeting business goals. Therefore, they sponsor sports organisations or individuals with high viewership and marketing value. This kind of sponsorship does not particularly aim for common good purposes and support of sport in general but to increase brand awareness and revenue.

The largest betting company in the Czech Republic is Sazka, which used to be a state-owned organisation. Sazka was originally founded in 1956 after all private betting companies were cancelled due to the political regime change, and it became the only organisation operating in the betting industry. In 1993 Sazka became a joint-stock company, and sports organisations became its shareholders. The biggest share of the stocks was possessed by the Czech Association of Physical Education (68% in 2010). However, the company got into debt due to the construction of the Sazka Arena multifunctional stadium (currently named O2 Arena). In 2011, the company went bankrupt and was subsequently sold to private owners. Currently, 100% of the company's shares are privately owned. The betting company still contributes to the state budget with around 40 million EUR annually, of which 25% is granted to youth sports support. In 2019, the lottery tax was raised from 23% to 35%, when the company filed a complaint against it with the European Commission. (Sazka, 2020)

Czech sport has lost a large amount of money due to the privatisation of Sazka. That should be replaced by grants from municipalities and private firms. The betting industry in the Czech Republic still generates a considerable amount of money.

Before 2012, companies in the betting industry were utterly exempt from the corporate income tax, but they were obliged to transfer part of the profits for beneficial purposes. These can be sport, cultural, health, social, ecological or other purposes. Sport received the highest share from all these sectors, around 50-60% of the profit transfers. The rate for mandatory payment was based on the amount of the company's profit for the accounting period. The rate was progressive and ranged from 6% for profits up to 50 mil CZK (2 mil EUR) to 20% for profits above 1 bil CZK (40 mil EUR) (Lenikusová, 2016). According to Lenikusová (2016), the system did not work properly as the betting companies in the Czech Republic discovered a way to circumvent the law and reduce the amount paid for beneficial purposes by establishing subsidiaries. It allowed them to divide the profits into smaller parts to keep profits below 50 mil CZK (2 mil EUR). Thus, they were able to pay 6% of the profit for beneficial purposes, which was the lowest possible share. However, there were more reasons for the system to change, including handling fees and new types of technical devices.

The lottery law and the funding system changed in 2012. The first important change was the obligation to pay the corporate income tax of 19%. Also, the profit transfers changed from progressive to linear. Hence, all companies in the betting industry had to transfer 20% of their profits for beneficial purposes regardless of their income. This change resolved the problem of the splitting of betting companies (Lenikusová, 2016).

According to the lottery law § 41, the profit share transfers are allocated as follows:

Profits from slot machines:

- a) 20% for the state budget
- b) 80% for municipal budgets

Profits from lotteries and other games:

- a) 70% for the state budget
- b) 30% for municipal budgets

Transfers from betting profits are also a financial source for the Czech Olympic Committee. Lottery and betting companies are obliged to pay 23 - 28% to the public

benefit area. However, they may reduce these levels by up to 25% by the amount they pay to the committee as a donation. (Herbríková, 2016)

Other important sources of sports funding in the Czech Republic are regions and municipalities, which support sports activities in specific regions and receive money from the national government and their own sources. However, it is impossible to precisely determine the amount of money allocated for physical recreation since, from an accounting and budgetary point of view, the expenditure on sports and physical recreation in the institutions of regions and municipalities is not differentiated (Hobza, Hodaň, 2010). The grant and non-grant policy approaches are implemented at the regional level. The grant policy includes support from non-governmental and non-profit organisations focused on sport. On the contrary, the non-grant policy aims to promote professional sport. The reason may be to increase the prestige or popularity of certain regions via professional sport.

Sports clubs are financed by sports associations that receive grants from the National Sports Agency. In 2019, the National Sports Agency established criteria for grant allocation to individual sports associations. The criteria are based on the number of children, size of membership base, coaches' education, and the number of sports clubs and organised competitions (National Sports Agency, 2021). Before, there was no concept for grant allocation, and sports associations received grants without any preference or prioritisation

Finally, professional sports clubs in the Czech Republic are primarily financed from private sources. Nonetheless, expenditures from municipal and regional budgets are also a significant source of revenue for Czech clubs and are commonly intended to develop youth sport in clubs. Professional sports clubs also rely on their own economic activity as they are private for-profit entities. Especially sponsorship contracts with private companies represent a major financial source for professional sports clubs and associations, which established marketing or business subsidiaries and are thus eligible to make profits. Private sponsorships are accountable for around 80% of the total revenue of Czech sports clubs. It is also less common for private companies to support sport within the public sphere, as it cannot offer the desired marketing value.

6.9 Volunteering

Volunteering has become an essential part of sport, and that also applies to the Czech Republic. The work of volunteers is crucial, especially for small sports clubs and sporting events. In the Czech Republic, volunteering is a widespread phenomenon. Sport is the area in which citizens are most involved as volunteers. According to estimates, more than 200,000 volunteers have worked in Czech sport for a long time, including coaches, trainers, organisers of sports events, etc. In 2007, more than 270,000 worked in Czech sport (Study on the funding of the grassroots sports in the EU, 2011).

Compared to the number of volunteers (full-time work equivalent) per 100 inhabitants in the European Union countries, the Czech Republic reached above-average values, more precisely 0.321 (Study on the funding of grassroots sports in the EU, 2011). However, the number of Czech citizens involved in volunteerism is gradually decreasing. One of the reasons for this decline is the fact that the Czech Republic, unlike other EU countries, has no systemic support, for example, in tax benefits (Bříza, 2016)

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports states in the Sports Concept 2016 – 2025 (2014) that supporting volunteering and coaching as hobby activity is one of the horizontal priorities. According to the study conducted by KPMG, volunteer work annually generates around 18 billion CZK (720 million EUR) (Ministry of Interior, 2018). According to the ministry, sport for all and major sporting events can be provided and organised only with many people willing to perform the work voluntarily without the right of remuneration. Volunteers are mainly needed for organisation of sporting events and for coaching in sports clubs. However, coaching requires professional knowledge and meeting qualification requirements.

The innovation of the educational system of professionals in sports is one of the strategic goals of the ministry, and it also concerns volunteer work. The concept states that it is necessary to provide volunteer coaches with accessible education. Education is provided in various forms, and it is vital to renew and strengthen the role of study centres and the Central Physical Education Library, and to build an educational and study centre for sports in cooperation with sports organisations and experts from the academic environment (Sports Concept 2016 – 2025, 2014)

7 Sports system in Finland

7.1 Organisation of sport

The Ministry of Education and Culture is the governing body for sport in Finland, responsible for the overall management, coordination, and development of the national sports policy. It is also responsible for creating favourable conditions for sports and physical activity as well as for the reconciliation and development of sports policy. Steering in the area is based on the principle of knowledge management and impact assessment (Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity, 2015).

Sports and physical activity organisations in Finland have over 1.1 million members. The Ministry of Education and Culture allocates government grants to national organisations that promote sport, and physical activity, while municipalities grant financial support to local sports clubs and actors (Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, 2018)

Responsibility for local administrative duties rests with the local governments and Regional State Administrative Agencies. The state shall engage in cooperation with municipalities, non-governmental organisations and other actors in the field of physical education and sports if needed. (Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity, 2015).

The local governments have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Create opportunities and facilities for engagement in physical activities at the local level by:
 - a) providing physical exercise services and organising physical activities that promote general health and wellbeing with due regard to the various target groups
 - b) supporting civic activity, including club activities
 - c) constructing and maintaining facilities for physical activity
- 2) Develop inter-municipal and regional cooperation to ensure the creation of opportunities and facilities as per section 1
- 3) In making key decisions on sports and physical activity-related issues, local authorities are required to consult with residents to provide them with the opportunity to participate and exert influence

- 4) Whenever a local government carries out the activities listed in subsection 1, it shall not engage in market competition unless such services are provided on a commercial basis with commercial goals

Source: (Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity, 2015)

Another body involved in the field of sport is the National Sports Council, which is a panel of experts assisting the Ministry of Culture and Education. The Council is called upon to address major issues of fundamental importance in sports and physical activity. It provides expertise, opinions, and evaluations and makes proposals for sports development.

The Regional Sports Council operates on the same principle as the National Sports Council but at the regional level. It is a panel of experts at the Regional State Administrative Agencies.

The key document for the organisation of sport is the Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity. This document defines the objectives and responsibilities of the state in the field of sports.

7.2 Fundamentals of the sports system and sports policy

The sports system in Finland is based on the so-called Nordic sports model that consists of models of five countries. The model is modified in each country and works slightly differently. However, the fundamentals are the same, and the sports systems experience more similarities than differences. These countries are Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The model combines elements of capitalism and socialism. It is also primarily based on volunteerism and a close connection to the state sphere (Lämsä, 2019). According to Andersen (2007), the Nordic model is frequently admired, both inside and outside the Nordic nations. It forms values structures and organisation of a number of areas in the societies, including sport for all and elite sport.

Another essential characteristic of the Finnish sports system is inter-municipal and regional collaboration. Municipalities are required to work together to identify issues and ensure the residents receive the best possible service. It does not only apply to collaboration between municipalities and regions. Local residents also have an important

role when it comes to the organisation of sport. According to the Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity, the local governments must consult all key decisions with the residents and give them the opportunity to express their opinions and influence local sports matters. That gives Finland an advantage as they can immediately identify and address any issues occurring in regional sports.

The sports concept fundamentally reflects politics in Nordic countries. These states combine high living standards and low disparity of income. The world is experiencing an increasing gap between high and low-income societies. It consequently leads to political and social instability and causes several problems like poverty, increasing criminality or economic stagnation. Nevertheless, that is not the case in Finland or any other Nordic country.

Social welfare goals are stronger in Nordic cultural policies than in the cultural policies of other countries. They focus more strongly on artist welfare; corporatist relations between public authorities and cultural life prevail, and cultural administrations and institutions are relatively decentralised (Mangset, 1995).

A specific Nordic social-democratic model is described as a model where cultural policy ‘guarantees access to national cultural treasures without the impediments of class, education, or place of habitation’; where ‘there is a broad interpretation of cultural activities that comprise popular entertainment, folk festivals, amateur sports, choral societies, and dancing schools – in effect a broad non-commercial cultural sector’; and where ‘cultural figures and institutions are recognised as symbols of historical significance (as in Denmark and Sweden) or serve as vehicles for creating a national identity (as in Norway and Finland) (Mulcahy, 2001).

This is the so-called bottom-up scheme. The characteristic features of the system are investments in youth sport and the construction of facilities for the public. Investments in youth and leisure sport should lead to healthier citizens, subsequently to elite sport success and strengthening of national identity. The model also combines high public commitment with low political governance. The ultimate goal is a reasonable balance between mass sport and elite sport. However, the Finnish sports budget is mainly allocated to mass and leisure sport, and there’s a significant difference between funds allocated to these areas. In 2015, Finland invested 86% of its sports budget in sport for all and only 14% in elite sport. That is one of the highest percentages in the world

allocated to mass sport. The opposite of this approach would be, for example, Canada, which in the same year invested 20% of its budget in sport for all and 80% in elite sport (Lämsä, 2019).

The Ministry of Education and Culture supports performance sports by financing coaching, coordination of performance sports and anti-doping activities, for instance. The ministry awards coaching and training grants to athletes, which are used to ensure that athletes can devote their full attention to training. The state does not provide financial assistance to profit-oriented professional sports (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2021).

7.2.1 Sports policy

The state's sports policy is almost as old as independent Finland. Over the decades, the state's sports policy responsibilities expanded. However, the strong position of civic activities and municipalities has remained a special feature of Finnish sports culture. Municipalities were the largest financier of physical activity for a long time, but today households have started contributing more, with an annual investment of over 2 billion EUR. (The report on sports policy, 2018).

The report on sports policy (2018) outlines the following main areas of interest in the Finnish sports policy:

- 1) Promoting well-being and health
- 2) Self-employed and guided exercise
- 3) Promoting the construction of sports facilities
- 4) Civic activities in sport
- 5) Elite sport
- 6) State funding for physical activity

The most important Finland's sports policy goal for the 2020s is to significantly increase citizens' physical activity of all age population groups so that the population engages in the widest possible range of activities to improve its health and well-being.

According to the report on sports policy (2018), the highlights of the decade's sports policy include the following points:

- Support the construction of sports facilities and sports conditions
- Promote equality, non-discrimination and the widest possible range of civic activities in the field of sport

Background:

- The state sports budget, currently financed from betting revenues, is about 155 million EUR per year; there is virtually no other funding from the budget
- Of all industries, the sports industry is the only wholly dependent on the income from betting activities

Proposed measures:

- The investment in increasing levels of physical activity will be agreed upon in the next government negotiations
- Budget for physical activity funding will be gradually increased in the 2020s

Cost implications:

- One-time investment of 120 million EUR in the early 2020s
- In addition, preparations for the establishment of the Olympic Fund outside the framework through state equity assets of up to 20 million EUR
- The lasting cost effects depend on the amount of increase in school exercise hours and the extent to which physical activity will be funded from the budget
- Increasing support for top sport, especially in the early stages of top athletes' careers, and for developing an internationally competitive operating environment (including sports academies and training centres) and training processes

7.3 Sports facilities

The Ministry of Education and Culture highlights the support of the construction of sports facilities and improving sports conditions as one of the highest priorities of the Finnish sports policy. Promoting the construction of sports facilities starts with community planning and zoning, and the primary responsibility here lies with municipalities. In addition to zoning, the promotion of physical activity in municipalities is supported by the fact that the issue is widely discussed as a part of the general development and well-being of the inhabitants. The promotion and expansion of sports would not be possible without municipalities continuing to build, renovate and maintain a wide range of sports facilities that serve a wide range of citizens. Although municipalities are mainly responsible for the costs of building sports facilities, state support, in many cases, has a decisive trigger for the start-up of a construction or renovation project (Report on sports policy, 2018).

Based on the available research and application material, it seems that the share of support for the construction of sports facilities in the state sports policy should be increased in the 2020s. The sports influencers who responded to the online survey conducted in connection with the report considered the support of the construction of 30 sports venues to be the most important sports policy measure of the state (Report on sports policy, 2018).

According to the report on sports policy (2018), in the 2020s, the key guidelines for supporting the construction of sports facilities are the following:

- Under the Sports Act, support for the construction of sports facilities is directed primarily to municipal projects but also to projects supporting the provision of sports facilities in the municipality.
- As the network of sports facilities ages, the need for renovation grants increases. However, a study must be made on the profitability of the renovation of an existing facility compared to a new construction project.
- State aid is directed only at projects that are accessible and otherwise work well from the point of view of equality and non-discrimination
- State support is directed primarily to projects serving large user groups and also to independent sports, but also to competitions in top sports

- State aid is conditional on energy efficiency and the minimisation of the ecological footprint in the implementation of the sports venue, including public transport conditions.

Of the 33,000 physical activity facilities in Finland (6 facilities per 1,000 inhabitants), approximately 80% are owned and maintained by municipalities that spend over 800 million EUR on physical activity annually and employ approximately 5,000 people; In recent years, construction of such facilities has emphasised developing physical activity for children and adolescents (National Sports Council, 2014). These include, for example, sports arenas, indoor swimming pools and other facilities, such as football fields and skating rinks. The municipal sports facilities are available to all residents. Municipalities and sports clubs, among others, organise instructed sports activities. Some municipalities organise instructed sports activities primarily aimed at minorities or immigrants, such as women-only groups or introduction to various types of sports.

Organised sports are open to all. Everyone can participate in the activities of sports clubs. Instructed sports can include activities such as exercise classes, guided walks, jogs or skiing trips (InfoFinland, 2021). Even a considerable number of gyms are free of charge or very affordable. Every citizen in Finland has the right to receive health care and education for free. According to the Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity (2015), local governments shall not engage in market competition. However, they can compete if such services are provided on a commercial level with commercial goals. Local governments can thereby make sport even more accessible for Finnish citizens.

Sport in Finland is generally affordable due to state and municipal funding. Especially children and students have access to most sports facilities for free. Sports grounds and ball fields have been primarily provided for free for children's practice sessions and adolescents; 78% of municipalities collect no fees, and 12% charge minimal fees (Hakamäki, 2015).

Schools play an important role in the Finnish sports system. School sports facilities are available for students to use for physical activities for free, even outside of school hours. Around 65% of municipalities have also provided school gyms for the use of sports clubs for children and adolescents (Hakamäki, 2015). Student villages and dormitory complexes are built to serve students in the best possible way and are often equipped with

canteens, study rooms and numerous sports and recreational facilities such as gyms, saunas or outdoor courts. These facilities are typically of a high standard and completely free of charge.

Even though Finland is an economically developed and safe country with a high standard of living, it is experiencing some serious social problems such as depression, gambling addiction or suicide. There is one of the highest suicidal rates in Europe. These issues are why the government wants to keep its citizens busy by providing them with a wide range of activities and facilities that can be used for free or very cheaply. The Finnish government strives to have physically and mentally healthy citizens and to avoid undesirable social problems.

7.4 Physical activity

According to a survey by the European Commission (2010), Finland tops the podium in physical activity in Europe and ranks among the most active countries in the world. Sport is also the most popular hobby among children in Finland, as more than 90% of those under 18 are physically active. Sports activities take place in clubs or informal groups. Favourites include football, ice hockey, floorball and various forms of gymnastics. Adults in Finland are also physically active. They favour sports that fit easily into their busy schedules, such as running, going to the gym and exercise classes that are conveniently scheduled at various times of the day. Finns also strive to remain healthy and strengthen their immunity by performing sports and other physical activities, including body hardening and sauna (Finnish Sports Federation, 2011).

Another study by the World Health Organization (2018) estimates the prevalence of sufficient physical activity levels. According to this study, 45% of children between 10 and 11 years and 16% of adolescents between 14 and 17 years are sufficiently physically active. For adults between 30 and 64 years, it is 56%, and for seniors older than 64 years, 36% (World Health Organization, 2018).

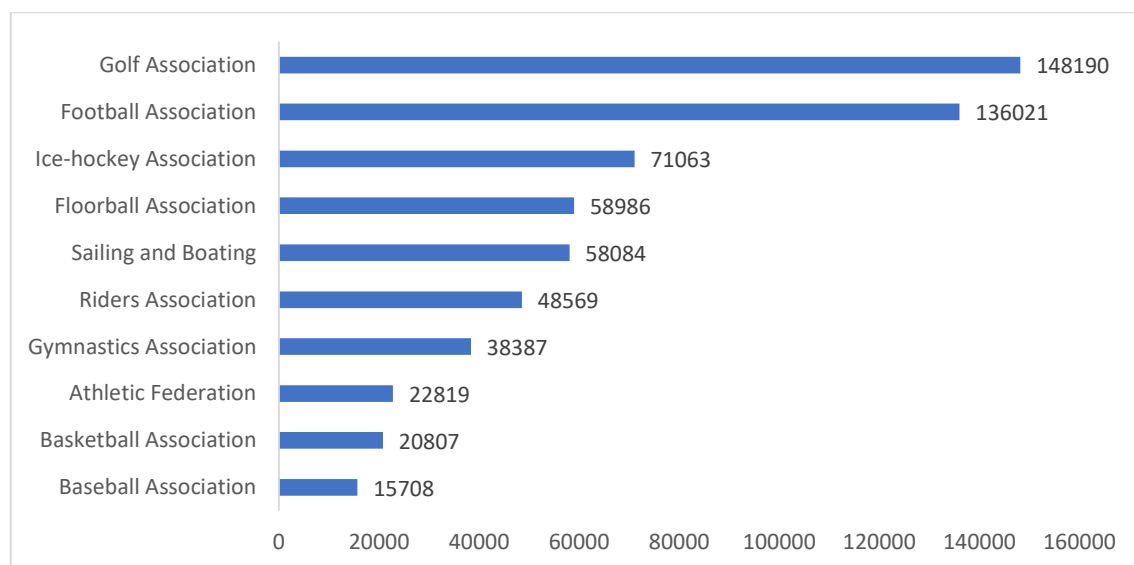
Finland also promotes and recommends physical activity for almost all citizens of all age groups except frail and elderly adults older than 84 years. The Finnish government also recommends physical activity for people with disabilities and chronic diseases. School sport is also important in the sports system and keeps citizens, especially children, active.

In primary schools, 2 to 3 hours of physical activity per week are mandatory. The pupils should also be physically active during lessons (World Health Organization, 2018).

Finns also top the rankings in terms of performing physical activities regularly. According to Eurostat, in 2014, 74% of Finnish citizens performed sports at least once per week. Along with Denmark, Finland recorded the highest number of all European Union countries and was well above the EU average of 44%. Among people aged between 18 and 29 years old, Finns were the most physically active of all, with 82% performing sports at least once per week. Finland also ranked third with 64% of physically active senior citizens, which is twice higher than the EU average of 32%.

In 2020, Finland's ten largest sports associations registered a total of 618,634 members, making it 11.24% of Finland's population. The golf associations registered the most members in 2020 (Lehtonen, Oja, Hakamäki, 2021).

Graph 12: Number of members of the ten largest associations in Finland in 2020



Source: Based on the data from Lehtonen, Oja, Hakamäki (2021)

On top of being an active nation, Finns also believe in a healthy lifestyle and have good eating habits. Finland's overweight and obesity levels are slightly below the European Union average. 62% of adults and 27% of children are overweight; 25% of adults and 8% of children are obese in Finland (World Health Organization, 2018).

The country has one of the lowest numbers of coronary heart disease and cancer-related deaths globally. Life expectancy is 78.6 years for men and 84.4 for women, making Finland a country with one of the longest life expectancies in the world (World Health Organization, 2018).

Promoting physical activity, well-being and health are some of the priorities and fundamental points of the Finnish sports policy. Although Finland is an active nation compared to other European countries, the country is also facing some challenges regarding physical activity. The key findings of physical activity from a research review submitted by Itkonen, Lehtonen and Aaresola (2018) are listed below:

- Exercise is polarised: for some, exercise is an increasingly important part of life, while others do not exercise at all, either because of their own choices or because of various factors that contribute to exclusion
- Total physical activity has decreased in society and also significantly among children and young people
- A significant proportion of mobility is self-sustaining, especially for adults and the elderly
- The majority of physical activity takes place other than as an organised activity
- The importance of organizing low-threshold sports activities is growing
- Sports lifestyle change needs support and guidance through a variety of methods to promote physical activity
- Research provides evidence that the effects of physical activity on health, well-being, and functioning are increasingly indisputable

Because exercise has an absolute value for each individual and society and is a prerequisite for children and young people's healthy growth and development, Finland's sports policy promotes physical activity and education for all social groups and age categories. These are childhood education, primary education, secondary schools, universities, compulsory military service, work communities, health care, elderly and immigrants (Report on sports policy, 2018).

According to the report on sports policy (2018), physical activity should be promoted by integrating exercise into the most natural part of people's daily operating environments and lives. An athletic lifestyle should be easy to choose, and exercise should be taken to

where people are. Cross-administrative cooperation also plays a key role in promoting well-being and health. It is essential that there is cooperation between the province, NGOs and businesses. Municipalities will continue to be responsible for promoting their residents' well-being, health, and physical activity (Report on sports policy, 2018).

7.5 Success in international competitions

According to the social rationale for top sports conducted by the Finnish Olympic Committee, top sports are an integral part of society that produces joy and benefits for both individuals and society. Top sports also strengthen national identity, and three out of four Finns are interested in international Finnish athletes' success (Report on sports policy, 2018). In Finland, there are 70 sports federations, and it is possible to play sports at the top level in more than a hundred sports (Report on sports policy, 2018)

The Finnish sports policy involves national team preparation in its top sports policy and emphasises the integration of elite sport into children's and young people's sports since they are under the same umbrella organisation, the Finnish Olympic Committee. Therefore, there is no need to amend the Sports Act regarding top sport. In the future, if necessary, the need to reform existing legislation must be examined and the need for a separate top-level sports law assessed. According to the report on sports policy (2018), in order to clarify the Finnish top-level sports system, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish Olympic Committee must continue to work on clarifying the Finnish top-level sports management system and division of labour, as signed by the parties on 14 December 2017. According to the document, the responsibility for top sport clearly lies with the Olympic Committee's Top Sport Unit.

The Ministry of Education and Culture summarises the background and formulates the following proposed measures to support top sport:

Background:

- The task of the state is to create the conditions for top sports success
- Concerning top-level sports funding, the state must steer development so that top-level sports comply with ethically sustainable principles and international agreements binding on Finland.

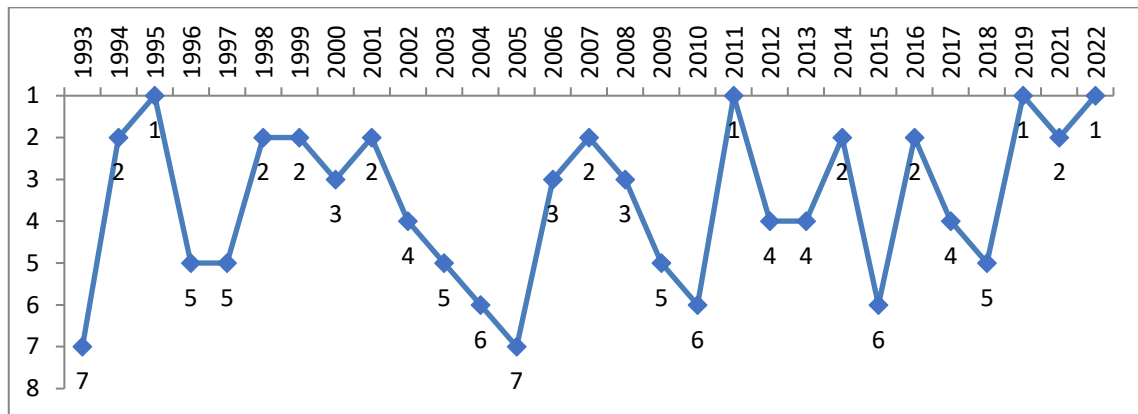
Proposed measures:

- Supporting athletes through the scholarship system
- State funding for top sports will be increased in the 2020s and will be directed especially at the youth stage, preparing for an athlete's career
- For its part, the state is preparing for the establishment of an Olympic fund
- The management of top sports will be centralised in the Olympic Committee's Top Sports Unit.
- Olympic Fund up to 20 million EUR as a donation of state-owned shares
- Other additional funding needs for top sports 3-5 million EUR per year

The bottom-up system seems to be working well as Finland has achieved great success in several, mostly winter sports. The most popular and the only fully professionalised sport in Finland is ice hockey, which has been developing rapidly since the 1990s. Finnish hockey has been successful at all levels. The senior, junior and women's national teams belong among the most successful ones in the world. The first major success of the men's national team dates back to 1995, when Finland won its first gold medal at the World Championship in Sweden. Since then, the Finnish national team has collected another 18 medals from major international competitions such as the World Championship or the Olympic Games. It is a remarkable accomplishment considering that Finland's member base is only 71,063 members (27,995 male, 5,906 female and 37,162 junior players) (IIHF, 2022).

Finland's average position in the ranking from 1993 to 2022 is 3.52. From 1993 to 2006 it was 3.85. Between 2007 and 2022, the position in the ranking has improved compared to the previous period, averaging 3.2 (IIHF, 2022).

Graph 13: Finland's ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993



Source: Based on data from IIHF (2022)

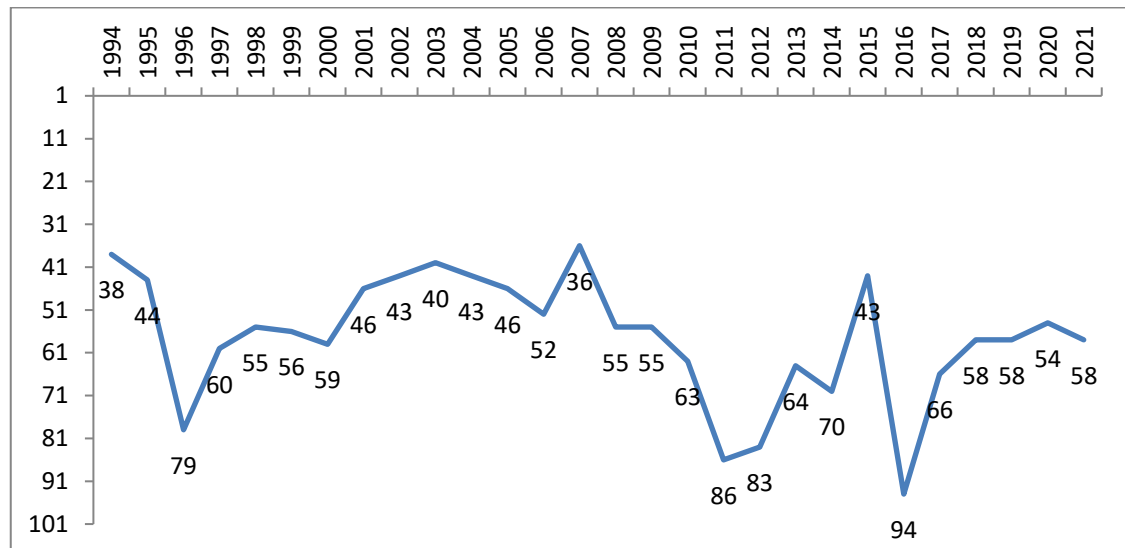
The number of female players represents a considerable share of the total number of players, which points to a focus on the development of sport for all in Finland since women's hockey is mainly performed on a non-professional level (YLE, 2017). It might be one of the reasons why the Finnish national women's team has been successful in international competitions (International Ice Hockey Federation, 2021).

There are also other sports in which Finns have been successful and sports that are emerging in Finland and are becoming increasingly popular. Floorball, futsal, cross-country skiing and ski-jumping are some of the most popular sports, and besides ice hockey, they are the most followed ones by spectators and the media. The great versatility of Finland's natural environment, together with the country's four distinctive seasons and 'everyman's right' – the legal right of Finns to roam the wilderness regardless of who owns the land – provide ample opportunities for open-air activities (Finnish Sports Federation, 2011). Thanks to suitable weather conditions, winter outdoor sports such as cross-country skiing and ski jumping thrive in Finland. The Finnish state and municipalities have built thousands of kilometres of maintained cross-country skiing trails that are free of charge (Nationalparks.fi, 2022). Thereby, Finnish citizens can exercise, be active and healthy in their free time and possibly discover their talents. Ski jumping has been a long tradition in Finland. Numerous ski jumping towers have been built, which create opportunities for this sport to thrive and develop in the country.

Also, football has become more popular in Finland (UEFA, 2022). In 2019, the men's national team managed to qualify for the European Football Championship for the first

time in history. In 2020, the Finnish national team ranked 54th in the FIFA ranking (FIFA, 2021). Despite the increasing popularity, Finland is not climbing up in the FIFA rankings and has kept ranking in the same range for years. However, this could be considered a success, taking into account the growing competitiveness in football.

Graph 14: Finland in the FIFA ranking since 1994

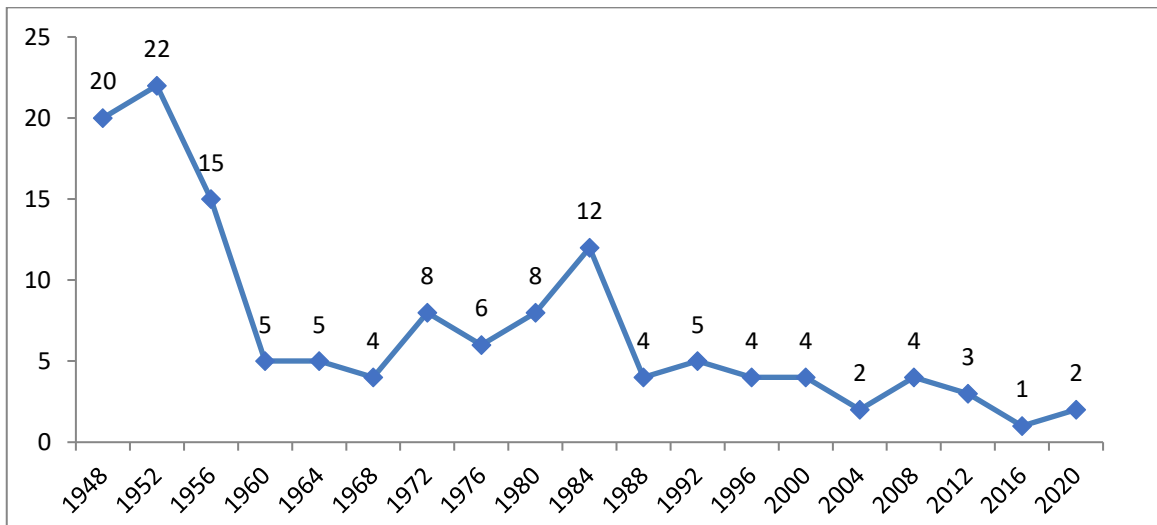


Source: Based on data from FIFA (2022)

There is certainly a chance of more sports becoming fully professionalised soon. This would eventually happen in Finland through a gradual development of young athletes and investing in youth sport, which is more sustainable and has the potential to create a large and stable member base for a wide range of sports. Sports in this system that have been slowly and sustainably developed also have the potential to become popular for a long time, and their popularity is unlikely to disappear quickly.

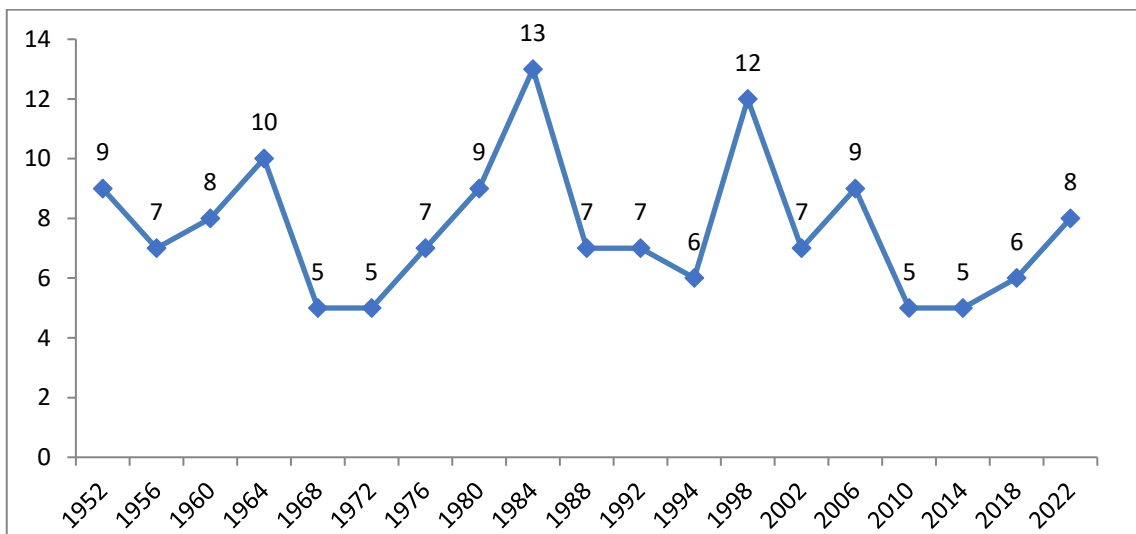
Despite a solid performance in major sports such as ice hockey and football, Finland has been struggling with its Olympic Games performance. Finland used to be a country with the most Olympic medals per capita, but that has changed. Finland has lost its dominance at the winter Olympic Games over the years but still manages to achieve decent results. However, Finland's performance at the Summer Olympics fell sharply.

Graph 15: Finland's medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948



Source: Based on data from Olympedia (2022)

Graph 16: Finland's medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952



Source: Based on data from Olympedia (2022)

Besides ice hockey and other winter sports, Finnish sport has not been so much success in recent years. Finland is more successful in junior sport, proving its focus on sport for all. Therefore, the current state of Finnish sport in international competitions might be only temporary, and Finland can benefit from its system in the future. A positive sign would be the result from the last Olympic Games in Beijing 2022, where Finnish athletes collected eight medals.

7.6 Talent development

The talent development in Finland emphasises the country's focus on youth and leisure sport and investments in this area. The Finnish youth policy is complex and involves more areas besides sport. It promotes the implementation of youth work (active citizenship, empowerment, growth, independence, and interaction between generations), educational guidance, support of youth associations, sport and cultural activities, environmental education and youth workshops (European Committee of the Regions, 2015).

Universities and schools also play an essential role in the Finnish sports system as they commonly have their own sports facilities that are provided to students for free or very affordably even outside school hours and provide a wide range of sports clubs that students can join. Universities also have sports teams across many sports that compete with other university teams or play in lower senior leagues.

Youth sport and talent development are fundamental in the Finnish sports policy. Talent development is an important part of the overall top-sport strategy and plays a key role in that area. As mentioned in the previous chapter, in the top-sport strategy regarding talent development, the policy makers focus on supporting young athletes through the scholarship system and increasing top-sport funding that is directed especially to young athletes' development.

The Finnish sports policy addresses the issue of talent development, and youth sport primarily builds on exercise for youth and emphasises it for every age category. That includes early childhood education, primary education, and education in secondary schools and universities (Report on sports policy, 2018).

According to the Report on sports policy (2018), the Finnish government developed the following programs for each age group:

1) Mobile Early Childhood Education Program

The program has been implemented in reaction to decreasing physical activity of preschool children and requires 4 million EUR funding for a two-year period. It aims to transform into permanent practices. The program suggests that facilities and yards of kindergartens should be developed in a way to better promote the implementation of

active early childhood education. Kindergartens' courtyards and other facilities should also serve as local exercise places in the evenings and on weekends.

2) Mobile School Program

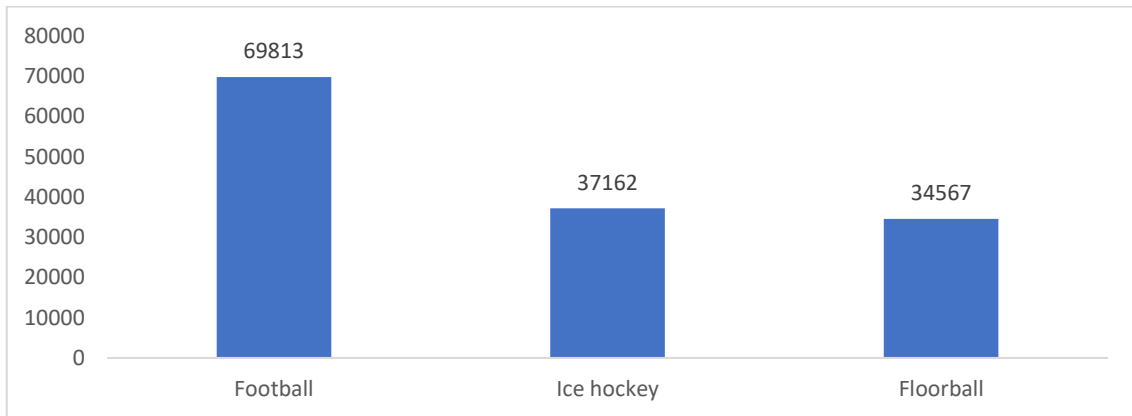
The insufficient physical activity level of school children was the reason for introducing the program. The program aims to bring an hour of exercise daily to every elementary school. The program has been a great success and has reached around 90% coverage of municipalities. One of the reasons for its success is that schools have been able to decide how they use government grants. The state funding has been 7 million EUR per year. The program also requires municipalities to provide 50% of self-funding for the project. The annual cost of implementation of an hour increase per week is 2.5 million EUR per grade.

The program also targets children in secondary schools, which is, according to the ministry, as important as exercise in primary schools as they face the same problem of insufficient physical activity levels. Young athletes should be guaranteed flexible study opportunities in secondary schools. There is also a need for sports-oriented vocational schools that must be developed on an equal level with sports high schools. The cost for implementation of this program is 8 million EUR over three years.

Universities are part of the Mobile Learning Network and are also addressed in the program. They have been supported for several years by the Sports Lifestyle Project Grant. However, there is a greater need to create physical activity cultures and increase student mobility as they are passive, including ten hours of sitting a day. The estimated cost of this measure is 3-4 million EUR per year with the precondition of 50% self-funding to receive the support so that activities would become a permanent practice in higher education institutions.

The sports associations with the most youth members in Finland are the football, ice hockey and floorball associations, totalling 141,542. The number of youth members of these sports associations accounts for 12.26% of Finland's youth (0-19) population of 1,154,489 (Statista, 2022).

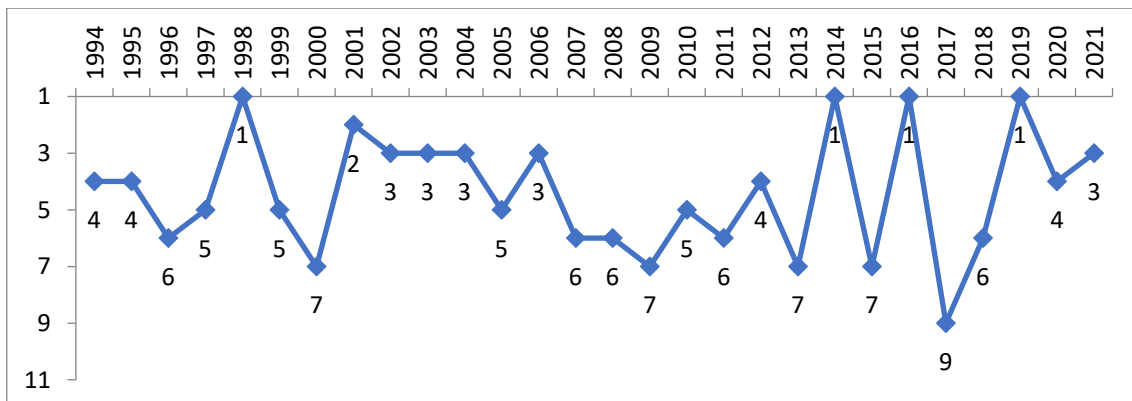
Graph 17: Number of registered youth members in the three largest associations (youth) in Finland



Source: Based on data from UEFA (2022), IIHF (2022) and IFF (2020)

Finland has been successful in junior categories, primarily in ice hockey. The national junior hockey team has been the third most successful team after Canada and the United States since 2010. The young Finnish players have collected three gold medals and one bronze medal since then.

Graph 18: Finland's ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship (U20) since 1994

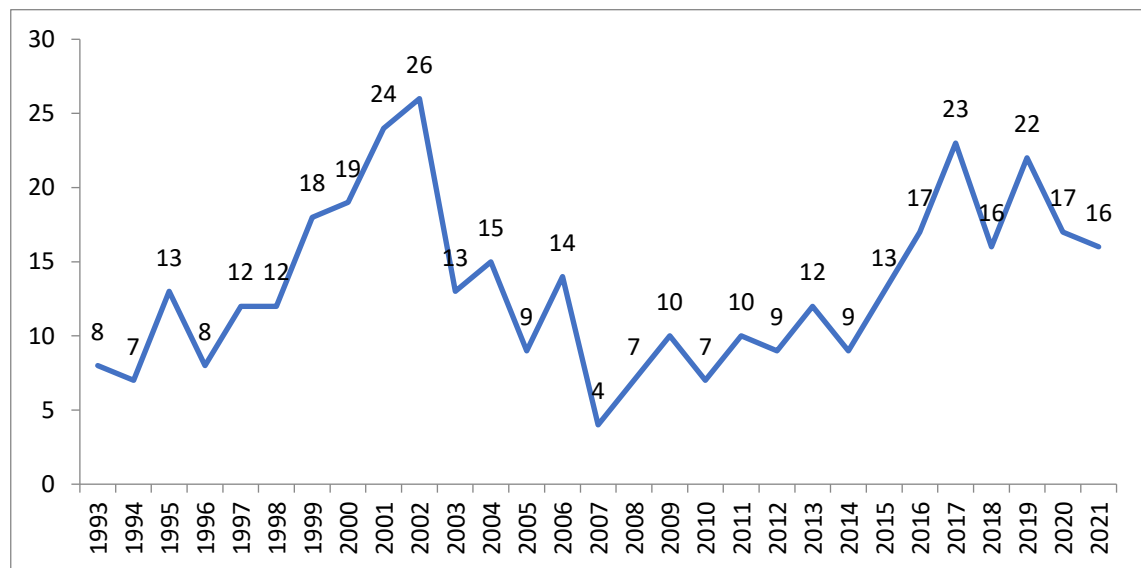


Source: Based on data from IIHF (2022)

Another proof of the success of the Finnish sports system is the number of young Finnish hockey players drafted to the NHL. 151 Finnish players were drafted between 1996 and

2005. Between 2011 and 2020, it was in total 145 players (Elite Prospects, 2021). Finland has experienced a very slight decrease in the number of drafted players over the years. Finland and Sweden are the only European countries that have been recently producing almost the same number of talented players for the NHL as in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Graph 19: Finnish hockey players drafted to the NHL since 1993

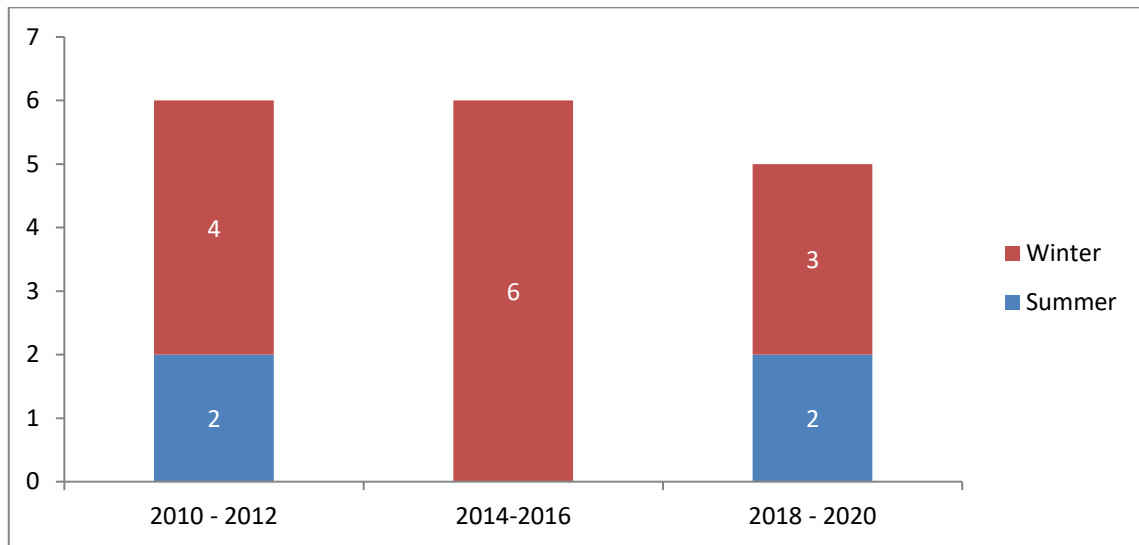


Source: Based on data from Elite Prospects (2022)

In football, Finland has not achieved any outstanding results. It is not surprising given the competitiveness in football, Finland's population and its focus primarily on winter sports. But football has become one of the most played sports among children in Finland, with 69813 registered players, making it 57.5% of the total member base (120,323) (UEFA, 2019). There is certainly potential for future success (Finnish Sports Federation, 2011).

Despite Finland's remarkable success in junior ice hockey, its performance at the Youth Olympic Games lags behind. Finnish young athletes perform traditionally well in winter sports and still rank high in the standings. However, the Summer Youth Olympic Games worsen Finland's overall ranking. It demonstrates the dominance of winter sports in Finland.

Graph 20: Finland's medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010



Source: Based on data from Youth Olympic Story (2022)

The educational system is one of the reasons for Finland's outstanding talent development. In Finland, teaching in school is often connected with sports practices, and the children have the opportunity to practice their clubs' sports in school, which is a significant advantage. Teachers also create an environment for students based on important values and behaviour. Being a teacher in Finland is a valued, respected and well-paid position, contributing to Finland's high-quality education.

According to Pavlovich, the school children in Finland in addition to physical education classes, have a mandatory 15-minute outdoor free-play break every hour. The Children in Finland also have excellent relationships with their teachers and are led to learn through play. There are five key points in the Finnish educational system that make it effective and impact its sports system:

- 1) Creating a successful team culture
- 2) Allowing youth sports to be about fun, learning and development
- 3) Allow kids to play a range of sports
- 4) Creating an unstructured environment
- 5) Fostering a great coach-athlete relationship

Source: Pavlovich (2020)

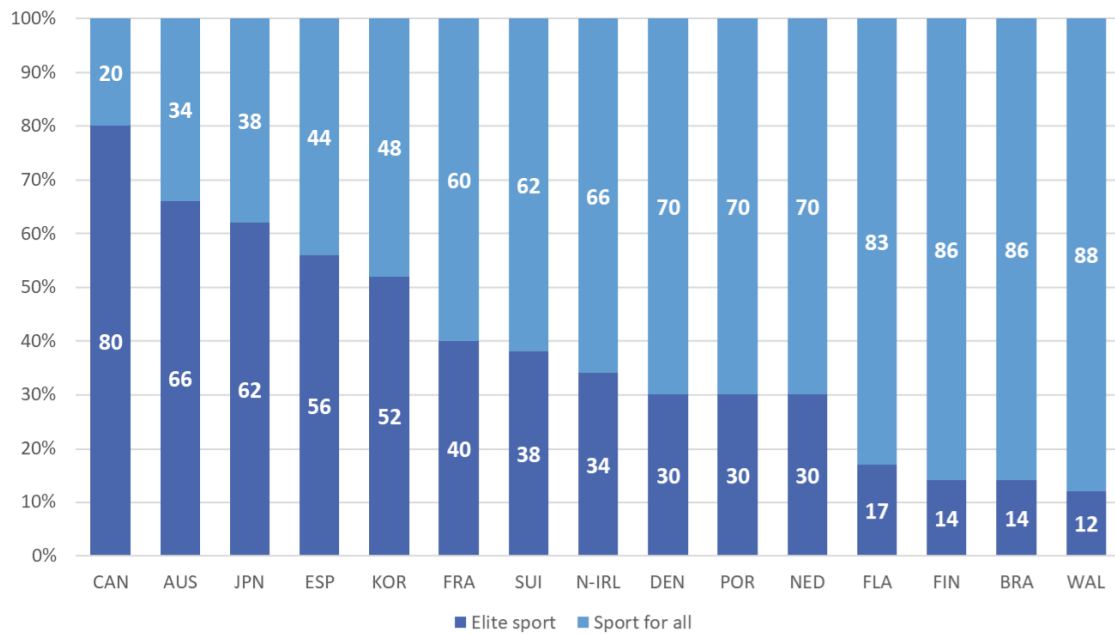
The Finnish government realises the importance of the fun factor and building a positive relationship with sport and physical activities. Early-stage development plays a crucial role in every individual's life. It is a stage when people learn the most skills. Therefore, Finland's effort to have high-quality schools on every level and its close connection to sport and physical activity help develop talent and skills for success in any field.

7.7 Government expenditure on sports

The sports policy in Finland reflects the political system and is also considered a welfare policy. It aims at the accessibility of sport for all citizens. In 2018, Finland was the country with the third-highest expenditure on sport and recreation per inhabitant in the European Union. The Finnish government spent 206 EUR per inhabitant, more than double the European Union average (100 EUR). Although this amount seems to be high, it only represents 0.9% of the total government expenditures. Thus, Finland ranked slightly above the European Union average (0.7%) (Eurostat, 2018). Finland allocates 7.2% of GDP to health, 6.1% to education and 0.5% to sports (World Health Organization, 2018).

As mentioned in previous chapters, Finland is a bottom-up system that invests heavily in sport for all and states it as the key priority. In 2018, Finland invested 86% of its total budget in sport for all, one of the highest proportions globally. Only Brazil and Wales dedicated a greater portion of their sports budgets to sport for the public (Lämsä, 2019).

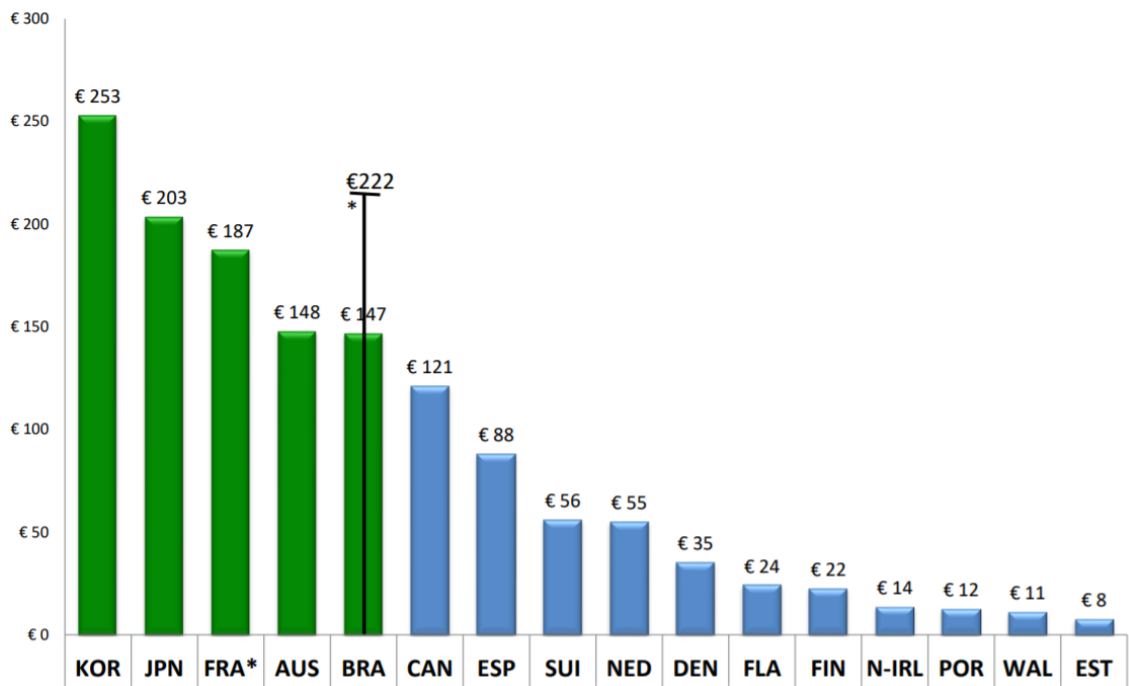
Graph 21: National funding of sport for all versus elite sport



Source: De Bosscher, 2015

Finland is also a country with one of the lowest expenditures on elite sport regarding the total spending in Euros. In 2015, Finland dedicated in total 22 million EUR to elite sport from its sports budget (De Bosscher, 2015).

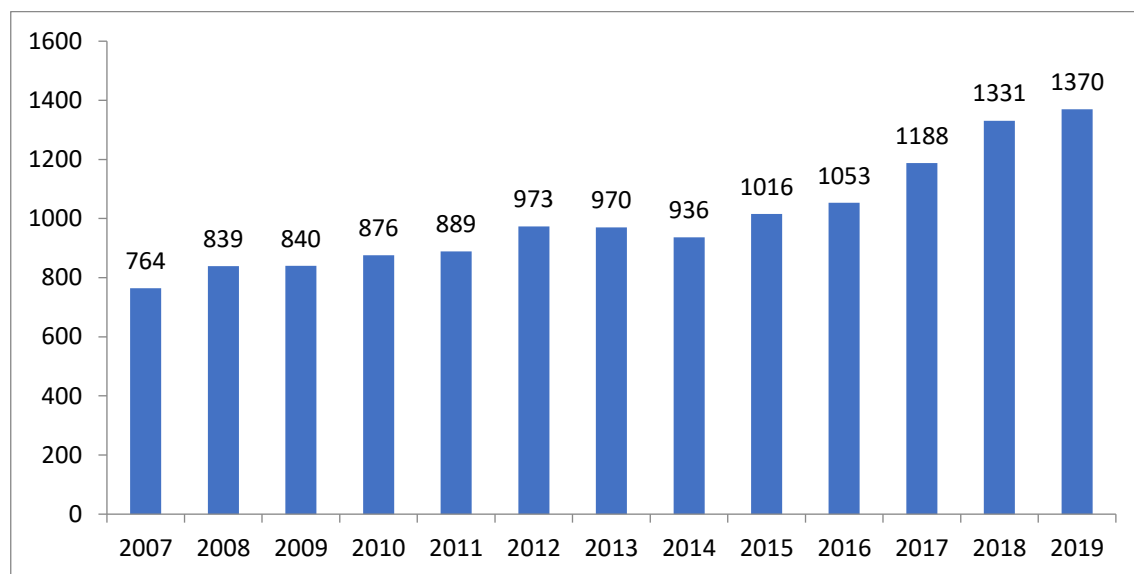
Graph 22: Investments in elite sport only (in mil EUR)



Source: De Bosscher (2015)

The total government expenditure on recreational and sporting services is significantly higher than the sports budget itself. Finland strives to allocate more funds to recreational and sporting services every year and maintain steady growth in this field. In 2019, Finland's expenditure was 1,370 million EUR, one of the highest per inhabitant in the European Union (Eurostat, 2022). The amount raised from 764 million EUR in 2007. However, when considering the Finnish GDP and purchasing power of citizens, the amount is not as outstanding.

Graph 23: Government expenditure on recreational and sporting services in Finland (in mil EUR)



Source: Based on data from Eurostat (2022)

7.8 Sports funding

The entire concept of sport in Finland is strongly influenced by the state sphere, especially in terms of funding. Financing of sport in Finland consists almost entirely of government grants, particularly on receiving money from a national lottery administered by Veikkaus, a state-owned company (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2018).

Veikkaus is a widely known company in Finland, as it has a monopoly in the betting industry and holds the exclusive right to operate all gambling in Finland. All the revenue generated by betting in Finland is received by the government and subsequently distributed to the Finnish ministries. The profit distribution of Veikkaus is determined by the law. The profit is to be further distributed to ministry-specific beneficiaries as follows: 53% to the Ministry of Education and Culture for improving sports and physical education, science, arts and youth work, 43% to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health for improving health and social welfare and 4% to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for improving horse racing (Veikkaus, 2018). Statistics show the funds allocated to sports, recreation, and youth work in the state budget in Finland from 2017 to 2019. According to the budget proposal for the year 2019, funding for sports was to amount to approximately 155.1 million EUR and the funds for youth work to 76.5 million EUR

(Statista, 2021). Budget appropriations are also used to help expand the Schools on the Move programme as a key project and to renovate the Olympic Stadium in Helsinki, and central government transfers are allocated to sports training centres (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2021).

Betting companies are primarily state-owned in all the Nordic countries. Thereby, all the profits from it end up in the state budgets. In Norway, 100% of the state funding for sport depends on the profits of the state gaming monopoly. The share of sport increased from 45.5% to 64%; In Finland, it is 90% of the state's funding of sport from the profits of the gaming monopoly, while the share of sport in profits is only 13.5%. (Lämsä, 2019). Statistics show the funds allocated to sports, recreation and youth work in the national budget in Finland from 2017 to 2019. According to the budget proposal for 2019, the funds allocated for sports amounted to approximately 155.1 million EUR and the funds for youth work to 76.5 million EUR (Mäkinen, 2019). The system is slightly diverse in Denmark and Sweden, where gaming markets have been partially liberalised, so unlike Finland, there also exist privately-owned betting companies. However, even in these countries, state-owned betting companies have a significant influence (Mäkinen, 2019).

The state betting company has its positives and negatives. The topic of Finland's sports funding arouses controversy and is a subject of many discussions. The revenues from the national lottery are high, and all the money is used for common good purposes and contributes to people's well-being. On the other hand, the accessibility of slot machines exacerbates the problem of gambling addiction. In Finland, gambling has become a severe problem, as 80% of citizens have tried Veikkaus games, and a large proportion of them play regularly. Finland also has the highest gross gaming revenue among Nordic countries, although it has the smallest population (5.54 million) (Lämsä, 2019). That points to the significance of the national lottery in the country.

The data show that over one-third of Finland's population regularly gambles. Therefore, the question is if the withdrawal of the national lottery and the monopoly possessed by Veikkaus would be beneficial as a strong sports funding concept would have to be created if the national lottery was abolished.

The core of the gambling problem in Finland is the accessibility of slot machines. They can be found in most common places, such as supermarkets, gas stations or restaurants.

Veikkaus recognises the seriousness of the problem and states that the fight against gambling is one of its core objectives and has already announced a plan to halve the number of slot machines by 2024 (Helsinki Times, 2019).

There is also a problem with the hidden cost of gambling. A significant amount of money is lost every year, mostly due to the reduced economic productivity of those who gamble and the cost of addiction treatment and recovery, which is covered by the state. The cost cannot be precisely determined. However, according to the Svenska Spel report from 2009, the estimates are 230 million – 450 million EUR (YLE, 2018). This amount would erase one-third to one-half of the money generated by the betting industry.

Funding works differently only for professional sports clubs. Most Finnish professional sports clubs are private entities and are not subsidised by the ministry, as the state does not provide financial assistance to profit-oriented organisations (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2018). They must establish sponsorship contracts with other private companies willing to support them financially or materially in exchange for advertising, game tickets and other benefits. The Ministry of Education and Culture grants aid to organisations based on their operational performance. The organisations' quality, scope and social impact and how they promote non-discrimination and gender equality are factors that are taken into account in allocating discretionary government grants (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2018).

7.9 Volunteering

Volunteering is also an important factor in the Finnish sports system. Most sports clubs are non-profit organisations and are mainly run by volunteers. Volunteering has become popular in the country, and Finns are keen to sign up and help organise sporting events. It has become a significant part of sport in Finland, and the Finnish sports system is primarily known for combining a strong influence from the state sphere and volunteering.

Most sporting events in Finland could not be organised without the help of volunteers. Volunteer work forms the cornerstone of physical activity and sports in Finland. Out of a population of 5.5 million, as many as 600,000 people volunteer their free time to sports clubs – that amounts to more than 10% of the population. The estimated annual value of this volunteer work is 1.5 billion EUR (Finnish Sports Federation, 2011). The equivalent

of full-time volunteer work in Finland is estimated to be 0.557 per 100 inhabitants, which is the fourth-highest share in the European Union, behind Sweden, France and the Netherlands (Study on the funding of grassroots sports in the EU, 2011)

However, according to the Report on sports policy (2018), the age of volunteers is rising, and volunteering is getting more challenging as it is burdened by excessive bureaucracy and a number of administrative procedures, which are not in the greatest interest of society. Citizens' desire to help or participate has been maintained, but their aspirations and expectations for volunteering have changed. Therefore, the government intends to abolish volunteering standards and regulations and reduce the bureaucracy associated with volunteering.

Although the Finnish sports system largely involves volunteering, it is not considered a voluntary sports model that is characterised by its inclination towards decentralisation and innovation, which has been introduced in Denmark, Sweden and Germany. The Finnish sports system primarily focuses on the opposite values - centralisation and continuity and therefore remains considered a bureaucratic system (Henry, Ko, 2009).

8 Comparison

8.1 Politics and economy

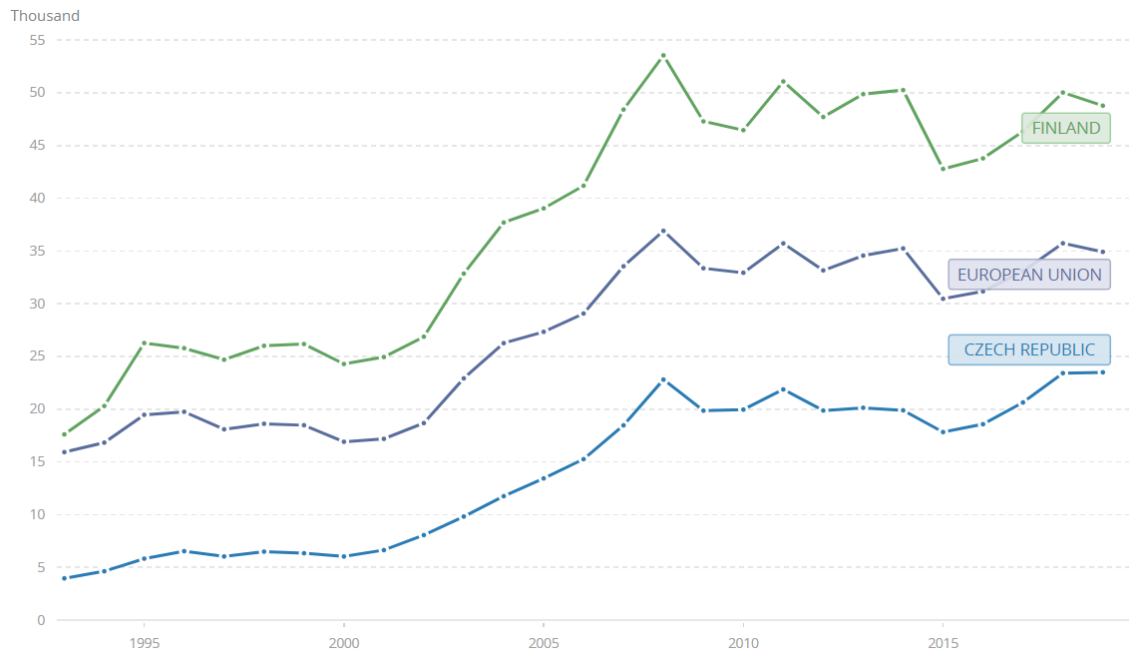
To properly understand sports systems, we must first understand the politics and economy of both countries. Politics and the economy certainly influence sports systems by establishing basic rules and providing all the necessary resources. Sport has become a phenomenon that affects and helps to develop society. It does not only use resources but also creates them. The sports sphere creates job opportunities and positively contributes to economic development as it generates wealth and represents around 2 – 3% of the total Gross Domestic Product in Europe (European Commission, 2020).

Although both countries are member states of the European Union, they face some significant differences in their political systems and the economy. This chapter will explain the main differences between the Czech Republic and Finland.

This thesis compares two socially developed countries that have become European economic leaders. However, both countries still experience substantial differences in certain areas and have gone through different stages of development in past years. Whereas Finland had become a developed country long ago, The Czech Republic has achieved this status quite recently. This is proven by the velocity of economic development and technological progress in recent years.

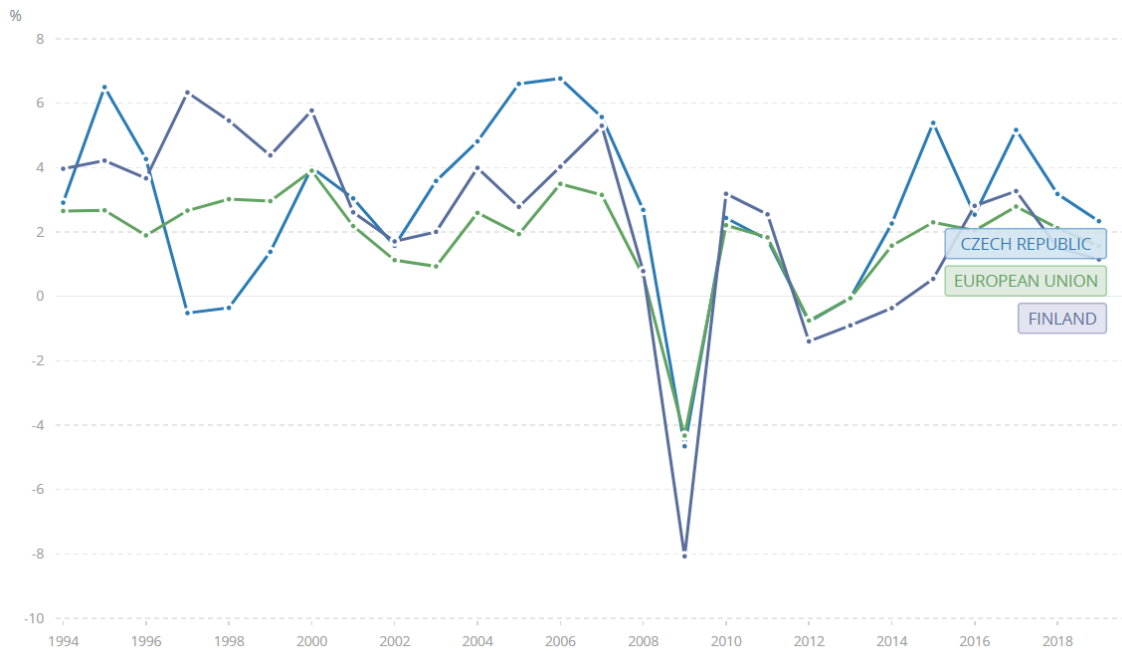
Considering GDP per capita, Finland is a more economically advanced country with an average of 46,342 USD. There is a significant difference compared to the Czech Republic, which recorded an average GDP per capita of 20,780 USD. However, the gap between them keeps narrowing every year as the Czech economy is still progressing while the Finnish economy is developing considerably slower. The average annual GDP growth in the Czech Republic from 2015 to 2019 was 3.72%, while it was 1.85% in Finland. That is a percentage difference of more than 67%. These numbers are not so surprising, considering the economic advancement of both countries. It is typical for more economically advanced countries to develop slower than countries that opened its economy to the world market later.

Graph 24: GDP per capita in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU



Source: World Bank (2021)

Graph 25: GDP growth (annual %) in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU



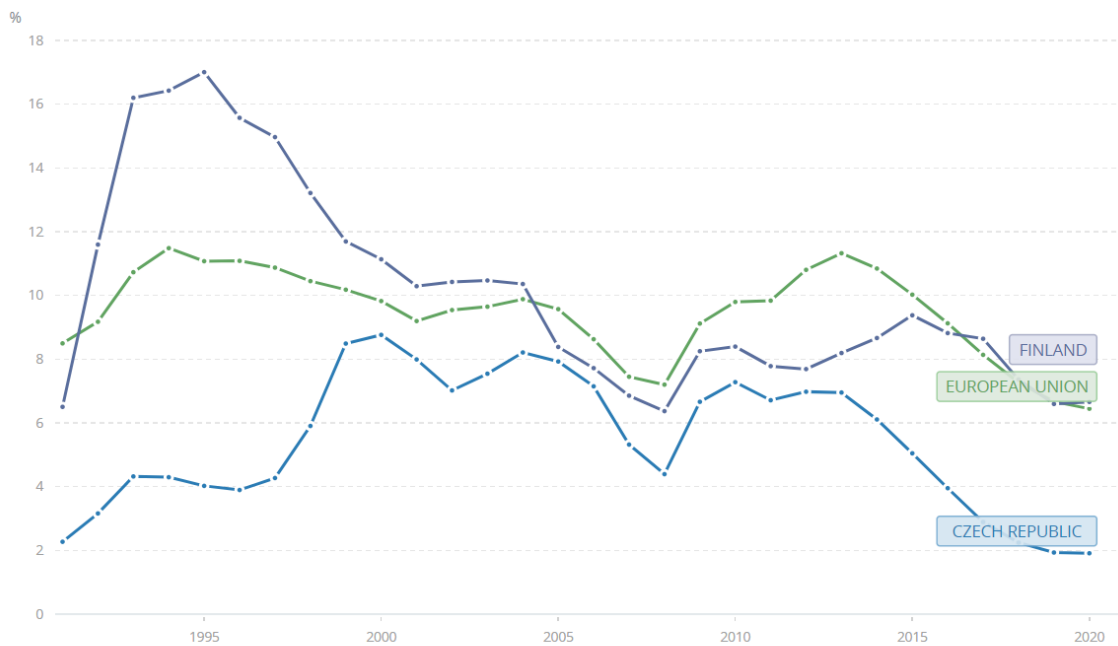
Source: World Bank (2021)

The Finnish economy might be more developed, but the Czech Republic has been the country with the lowest unemployment rate in European Union, and this trend does not seem to be changing. Although the state economies and the markets within both countries might be markedly diverse in some areas, this is a clear sign that the Czech Republic is on the right track. It could be expected that Finland would be the country with a low unemployment rate as it is considered a welfare state. However, the Finnish government seems to be focusing more on financial and material support for people in need than supporting the labour market and creating job opportunities for citizens.

Finland experienced a severe recession in the 1990s', and it took a long time to recover the economy and create new job opportunities. The welfare system also might not sufficiently motivate people to find a job. The Czech economy has been growing strongly recently, and a competitive labour market has been created. Both countries have been extensively reducing their unemployment rates, but there is still a significant difference. The average unemployment rate in the Czech Republic between 2015 and 2019 was 3.23% (World Bank, 2021). For comparison, in Finland, it was 7.90% between the same years, which is still a significant decrease from the 1900's highs (World Bank, 2021). The unemployment rate in the Czech Republic has been below the European Union average since the country's establishment in 1993. Finland broke below the European Union average in 2005, but in 2017 the unemployment rate in Finland was higher again.

Although Finland's unemployment rate is higher, Finland's share of people employed in the sports industry (1.4%) is more than twice higher than in the Czech Republic (0.6%) (Eurostat, 2021). This fact points out the significance of the sports industry in Finland and suggests a higher contribution to the economy.

Graph 26: The unemployment rate in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU



Source: World Bank (2021)

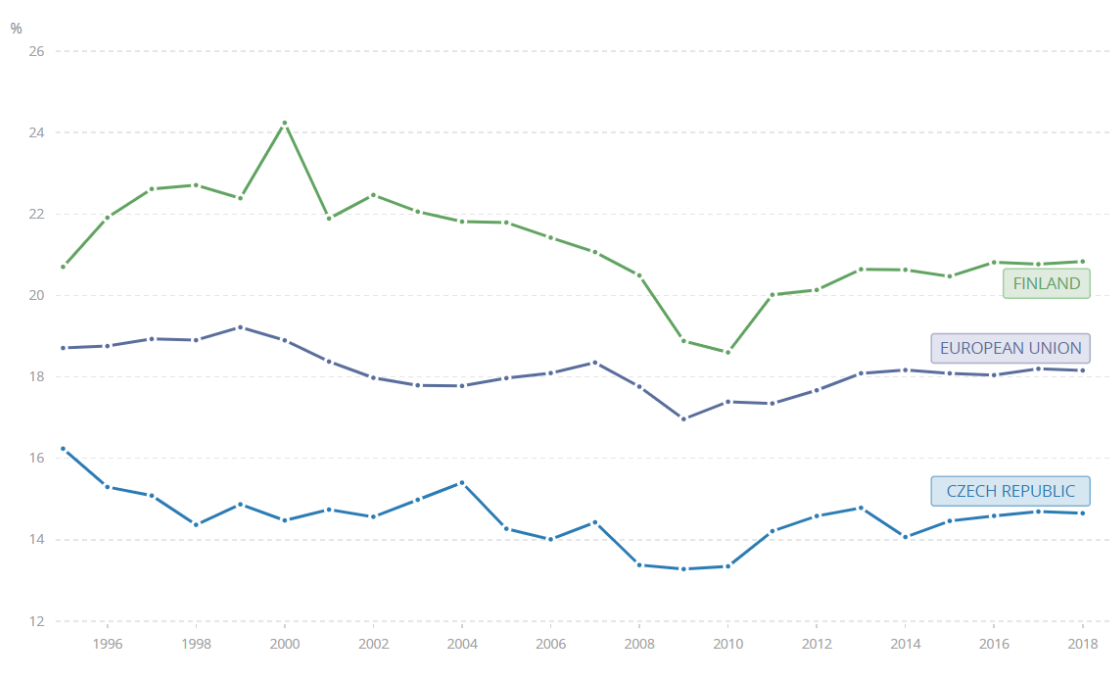
As mentioned earlier in this chapter, both countries have highly developed social systems and experience low-income disparities. Finland has become a welfare state with probably the most advanced welfare system in the world. The Finnish government creates most of the policies based on its welfare system. The social system in the Czech Republic is also undoubtedly advanced, although the Czech government does not focus on social issues as much as the government of Finland. Both countries have different social and tax systems and possess diverse approaches to this topic. Therefore, it might be surprising that they achieve similar results, at least in terms of income inequality. Both countries have the lowest income inequality rates in the European Union, but they have also been successful in other aspects. Especially Finland has been excelling in reducing gender inequality and homelessness. The Czech Republic lags behind in these aspects (Ara, 2019).

Creating a welfare state is much easier in countries with a progressive tax system, as this system generates higher tax revenue. Finland, with progressive taxes, certainly receives more money into its state budget than the Czech Republic with a proportional tax system. The differences in tax revenues are remarkable. Whereas the Czech Republic is a country

with one of the lowest tax revenues of GDP, Finland is above the European Union average. The average tax revenue of GDP between 2015 and 2018 in the Czech Republic was 14.58%, while it was 20.72% in Finland (World Bank, 2021). It might be startling that other countries such as Greece, Belgium or Austria have recorded higher tax revenues of GDP than Finland. Another interesting fact is that income inequality in the Czech Republic and Finland is almost the same, although there are major tax disparities. The Czech Republic has managed to become a relatively stable country with an equal society despite using proportional taxes and without major interventions in the social system and public life.

Because of the high tax revenues, the Finnish government can intensively invest in essential areas such as infrastructure, education, healthcare or sport and improve them to the highest level. These industries are also of very high quality in the Czech Republic. However, the Czech government lacks financial resources for their more progressive development. The Czech Republic lags behind, especially in infrastructure and higher education, although Czech education and infrastructure are still advanced compared to some other European countries (CzechInvest, 2022).

Graph 27: Tax revenue (% of GDP) in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU



Source: World Bank (2021)

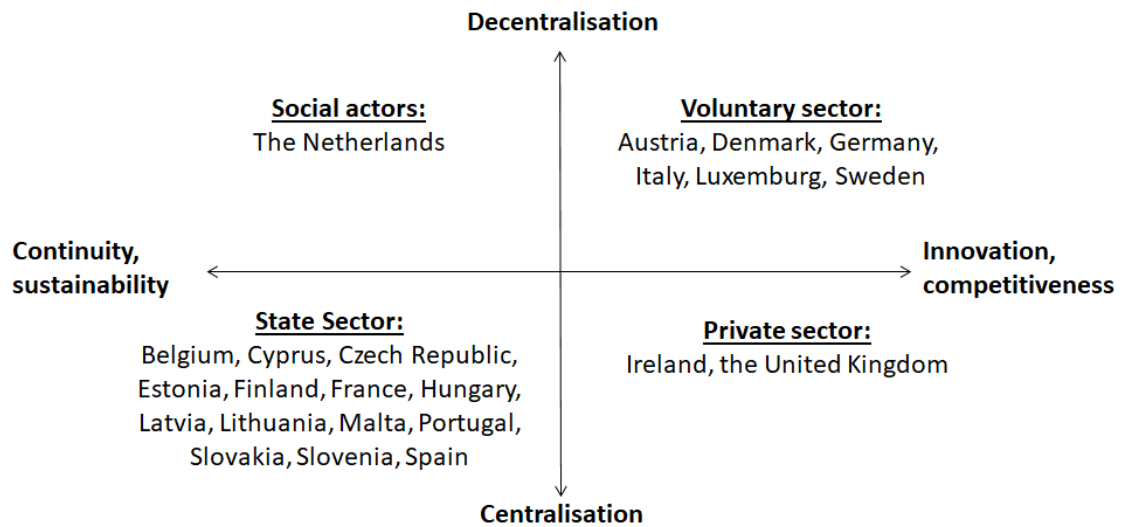
The differences in infrastructure, educational system, tax system, and tax revenues can also cause differences in sports systems and give Finland a competitive advantage over the Czech Republic since Finland has more resources to deploy for sports and other recreational activities. Nonetheless, sports systems will be compared in more detail in the following chapters.

8.2 Fundamentals of the sports systems and policies

In Finland, the governing body for sport is the Ministry of Education and Culture. In the Czech Republic, the National Sports Agency has taken over most responsibilities of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Especially sports funding and budget allocation are entirely in the power of the National Sports Agency.

The Czech Republic and Finland are both sovereign and democratic countries, and their sports systems virtually reflect politics in the countries and are influenced by political systems and social and economic development. However, they must comply with the rules and laws of the European Union, which also apply to sports systems in both countries. Both sports systems are considered bureaucratic and centralised, as can be seen in Image 3 below. Therefore, they have some similar characteristics and principles. The main common element is the role of the state. In both countries, the government plays a substantial role and strongly influences the organisation of sport. Both sports systems primarily focus on continuity and sustainability rather than innovation and competitiveness. Still, the two countries can experience some differences in sports.

Image 3: Sports policy systems in Europe



Source: Henry, Ko, 2009 (modified)

Finland's advanced welfare system makes sport accessible for all citizens since it contributes positively to the well-being of society. Although the Czech Republic is not an example of an opposite system when it comes to allocating the sports budget, the differences are still significant. The Czech Republic recently started investing more in sport for all, and its sports system is currently considered hybrid regarding budget distribution. However, Finland's investments are still much higher in this area. Due to this fact, Finland can provide its citizens with more accessible facilities and opportunities to perform sports and physical activities.

It is a significant difference between them, which changes the conception of sport in both countries. Finland uses the bottom-up system and allocates most of the budget to mass and leisure sport. The state and its representatives believe that mass sport creates and supports an elite sport, more job opportunities, and consequently produces more talent. Finland provides its citizens with sports facilities and activities for free or very cheaply, which is intended to motivate people to engage in physical activity. More success in elite sport is not meant to be the only positive outcome of the system. The second, perhaps even more important outcome is active and healthy citizens, who have the potential to be more productive and contribute to the prosperity of the country.

The main objective of the Finnish sports system is to make sport affordable, accessible and for all. That is one of the objectives of the Czech system as well. However, Finland

is more advanced with its implementation. It creates more favourable conditions for its citizens to participate in sports, perhaps the best globally since the Finnish government has been promoting this approach for decades.

Although the Czech Republic states sport for all as one of the priorities in the Sports Act, the country lags behind. Sports development in the Czech Republic was significantly affected by the end of the communist era. Sport has become privatised and commercialised. Subsequently, sport became more expensive and unaffordable for many people. The promotion of sport for all plays an important role. Nonetheless, the importance of its affordability and accessibility will likely prevail in the long run. Therefore, the development of sport for the public in the Czech Republic might be slower in the upcoming years. Sports budget allocation will be more elaborated on in the chapter ‘Government expenditure on sport’.

The sports policy in Finland is also more collaborative than in the Czech Republic. It relies on a close connection between the state, local governments, and municipalities. Also, inter-municipal collaboration is a common and desired phenomenon in Finland.

The sports policies of both countries have many common features and objectives, but some differences are still present. The differences in various areas of sport will be described and explained in more detail in particular sections of the comparisons.

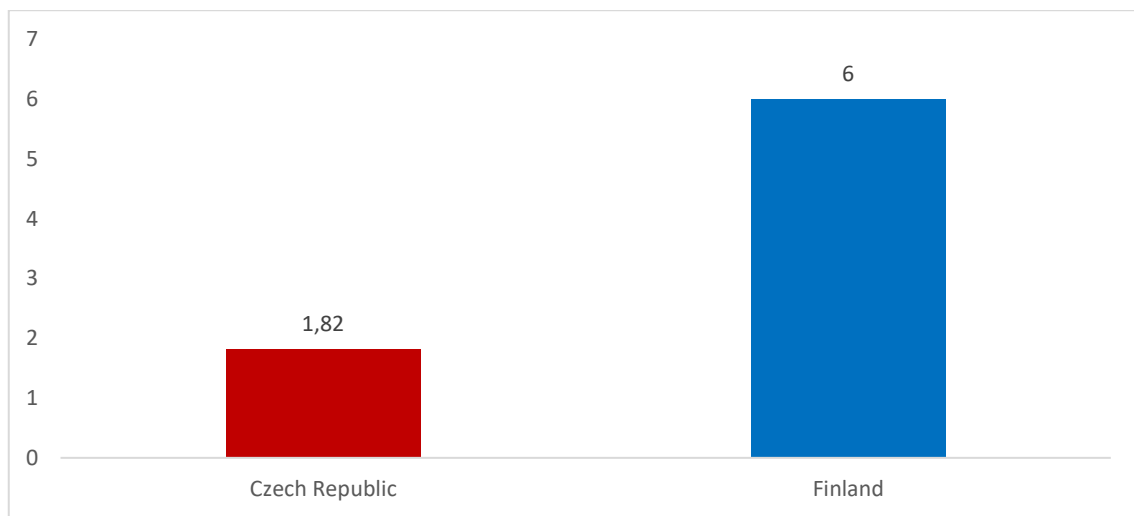
8.3 Sports facilities

The main difference between the Czech Republic and Finland when it comes to sports facilities is the ownership, role of public entities and funding. In Finland, most facilities are owned and funded by municipalities. In the Czech Republic, however, the majority of facilities belong to sports clubs, which primarily own sports facilities with a low-profit potential. Many facilities in the Czech Republic, especially those generating profits, are privately owned, and their share is higher than in Finland. It can make a substantial difference in terms of accessibility of sport and subsequently talent development, physical activity levels or the health of citizens. In the Czech Republic, there are very few opportunities for people to do certain sports unless they are members of a sports club or are willing to pay for it. On the contrary, in Finland, municipalities can make sport even more affordable by competing with private entities that provide sports services on a

commercial level. In Finland, citizens also have higher purchasing power than in the Czech Republic, which makes the differences in sports accessibility even more substantial.

Although the Czech Republic is a country with relatively affordable access to sport, private ownership in this field is still significant. Finland also has substantially more sports facilities (approximately 33,000) than the Czech Republic (approximately 19,200). Divided by the number of inhabitants, Finland has roughly 3.3 times more facilities per 1000 people (6) than the Czech Republic (1.82). These statistics are from the years 2011 for the Czech Republic and 2014 for Finland. However, there is an assumption that the number of sports facilities has not substantially changed, and the ratio remains the same or similar. Due to the facts stated above, the Czech Republic cannot compete with Finland in terms of the affordability or accessibility of sport.

Graph 28: Number of sports facilities per 1000 inhabitants



Source: Based on data from Bříza (2016) and National Sports Council (2014)

The state policies regarding sports facilities also experience some differences. Although both countries state construction and modernisation of sports facilities as one of the priorities, the approaches related to this matter slightly differ. While the Czech Republic primarily focuses on modernising sports facilities for sports clubs, schools and national teams, Finland prioritises building facilities serving large user groups, i.e., facilities for the general public. The Finnish government also emphasises building sustainable

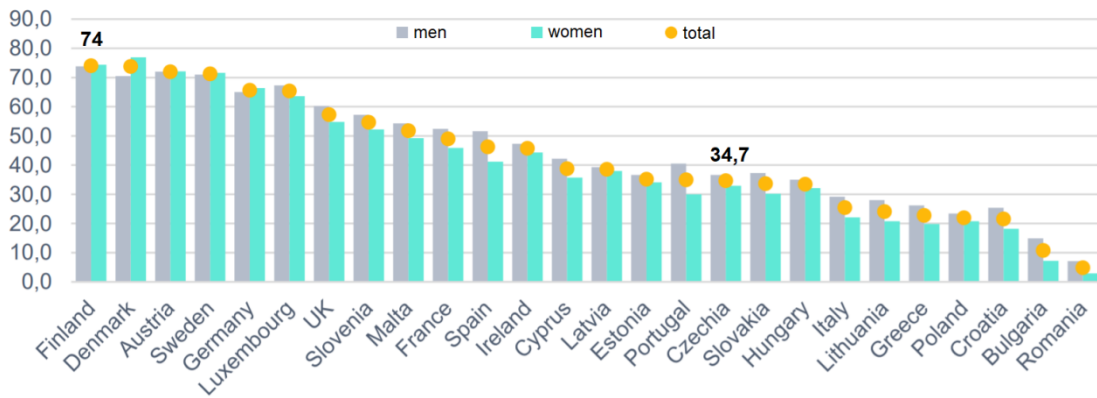
facilities with a focus on the minimisation of ecological footprint. This topic is neglected in the Czech sports concept. Another issue that the Finnish government emphasises significantly more is cost-efficiency. Finland's sports policy requires a study on profitability before renovating existing facilities and comparing the cost needed for constructing a new one. The Czech sports policy does not elaborate on this topic.

8.4 Physical activity

The way of budget allocation changes several factors in the sports system and subsequently even in society. The bottom-up system certainly offers more opportunities to be physically active to all citizens. Therefore, Finland is considered a country with physically very active and healthy people. Czechs are also considered a relatively active nation. However, the number of physically active people is higher in Finland, which applies to every age category, with children and seniors being significantly more active in Finland (World Health Organization, 2018). Especially, the difference can be noticed in the number of physically active seniors. In Finland are 66% of physically active seniors compared to 10% in the Czech Republic (World Health Organization, 2018). This number is particularly important, considering senior citizens' health vulnerability and the importance of being physically active for this age category.

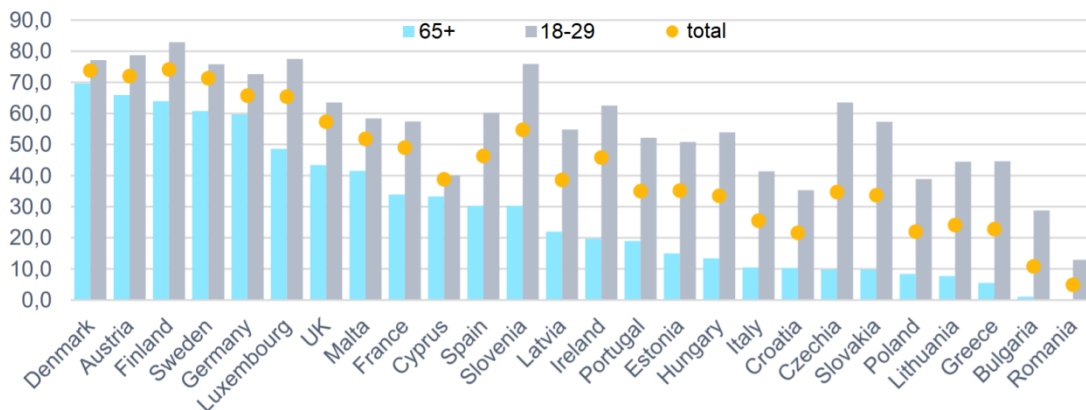
These statistics might be surprising, considering Finland is a country with harsh weather conditions in which people are generally less physically active. Still, in Finland, sport and physical activity are a part of the culture.

Graph 29: Percentage of people performing physical activity at least once a week



Source: Česká Spořitelna (2020) based on data from Eurostat (2014)

Graph 30: Percentage of people performing physical activity at least once a week (seniors and 18-29)

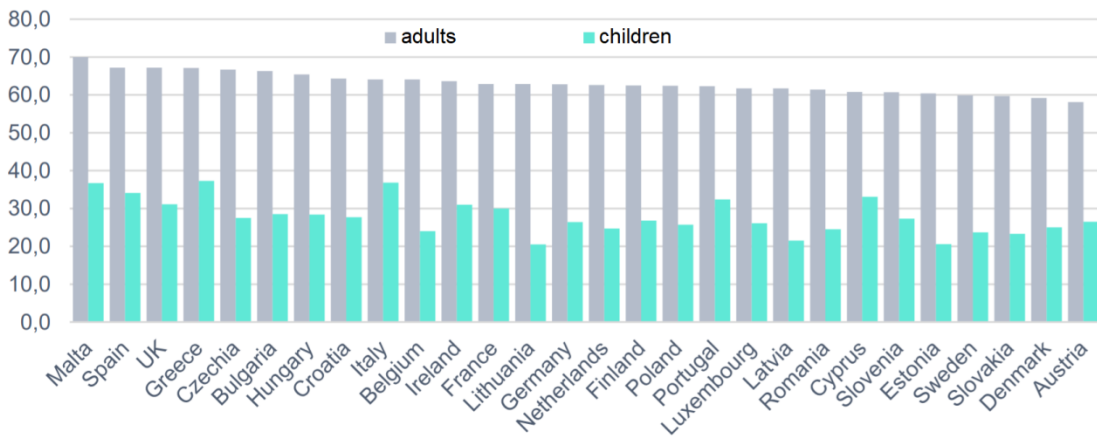


Source: Česká Spořitelna (2020) based on data from Eurostat (2014)

Eating habits and lifestyle should also be taken into account when speaking of physical activity as they significantly influence it. Finns generally incline more toward a healthy lifestyle and good eating habits than Czechs. This could be one of the reasons why Finland has one of the lowest deaths from coronary heart disease and cancer in the world, while the Czech Republic is one of the European countries with a higher proportion of deaths related to these diseases.

The overweight and obesity levels are slightly higher in the Czech Republic. 67% of adults and 28% of children are overweight in the Czech Republic compared to 62% of adults and 27% of children in Finland.

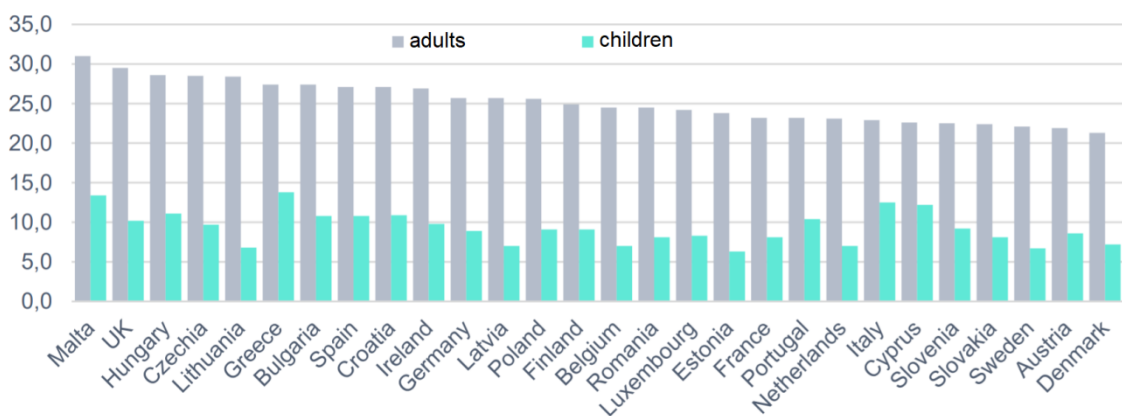
Graph 31: Overweight levels in the European Union



Source: Česká Spořitelna (2020) based on the data from the World Health Organization

Similar slight differences in numbers can be observed for obesity, which is also higher in the Czech Republic with 29% of adults and 10% of children with obesity compared to 25% of adults and 9% of children in Finland.

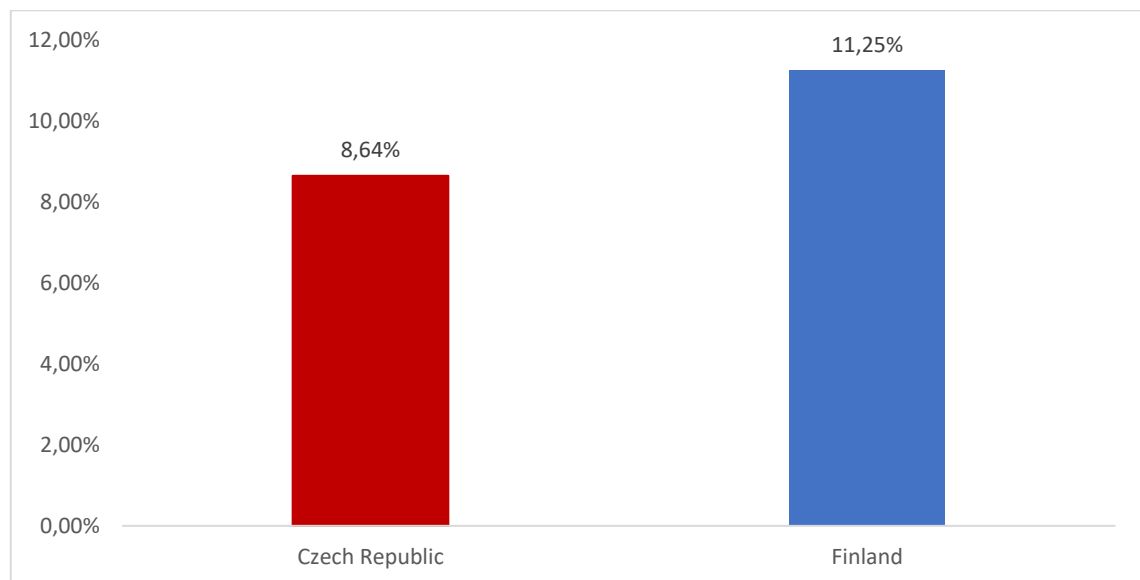
Graph 32: Obesity levels in the European Union



Source: Česká Spořitelna (2020) based on the data from the World Health Organization

The Czech Republic counts more registered players by associations than Finland. Nonetheless, the analysis showed that Finland's share of registered athletes to the total population in the ten largest sports associations is lower (8.64%) than in Finland (11.25%). Due to the absence of the total number of registered athletes in Finland, the ten largest associations were considered for the analysis. The number represents around 70% of all registered athletes. Therefore, there is an assumption the ratio would not change substantially.

Graph 33: Comparison of the share of registered athletes in the ten largest sports associations to the total population



Source: Based on the data from the Czech Union of Sports (2021) and Lehtonen, Oja, Hakamäki (2021)

The significance of physical activity is unquestionable, considering its impact on citizens' physical and mental health. It is also important to mention the economic burden of physical inactivity as it is proven that physical inactivity is associated with a number of diseases and physical conditions that require costly treatment. The sports system plays a vital role as it directly impacts several health-related factors. According to the above statistics, in Finland, eating habits, accessibility and affordability of sports facilities, and general sports and physical activity approaches are all more advanced than in the Czech Republic.

Although the physical activity levels differ between the two countries, they both register declines in this area, especially among children and youth. For both countries, increasing physical activity levels are the highest priority, but the approaches are slightly different. While Finland continues relying on municipalities and inter-institutional cooperation to promote physical activity, build more facilities for all and bring sport closer to people, the Czech Republic aims mainly to develop and strengthen the role of sports clubs and regional and local sports centres that would create conditions for increasing the membership base in organised sport. Therefore, the main difference is in countries' prioritisation of organised sport, which is more significant in the Czech Republic. However, although the Czech Republic inclines more toward promoting organised and club sport, Finland's share of registered members in organised sport is higher.

8.5 Success in international competitions

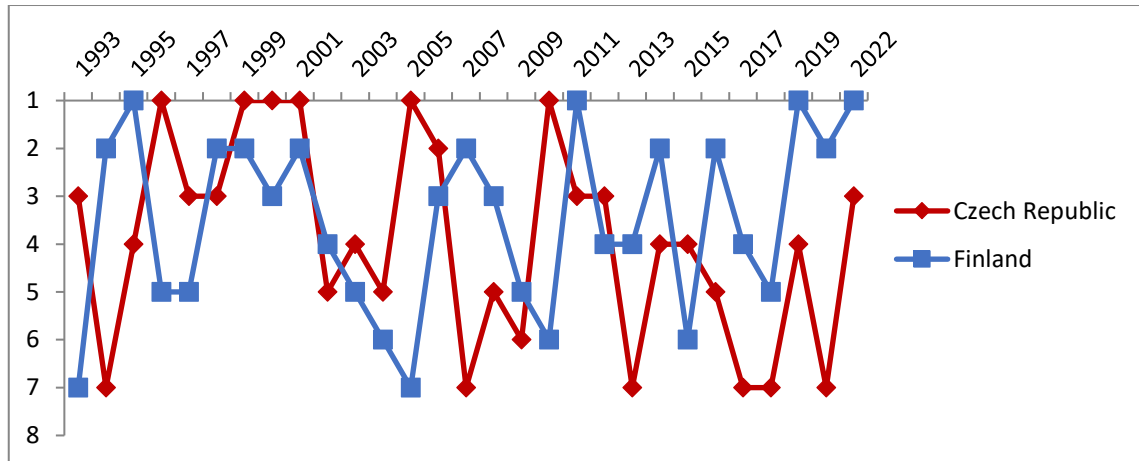
Both countries strive to create favourable conditions for top sports and emphasise the cooperation of youth, university sport and elite sport. However, the Czech sports policy is more comprehensive regarding top sport as it focuses on all stages of development, from youth sport to taking care of adult and retired national team members. On the other hand, Finland focuses primarily on developing youth sport through scholarships, successful organisation of international events and increasing top sport funding, especially at the youth stages. The Czech government realises the need for changes in the top sport system and is keener to implement them than Finland, which sticks to its top sport solutions with minor adjustments since, according to the report on sports policy, the solutions have proven to be workable.

The Czech Republic is currently experiencing a downtrend in its most popular sports, football and ice hockey. On the contrary, Finland's performance in ice hockey has been gradually improving since 2010, which resulted in two World Championship titles in 2011 and 2019, and other eight semi-final appearances.

Both countries still belong among the most successful in international hockey. However, Finland has taken over the Czech Republic's place in the rankings, and the gap between the two countries keeps increasing. The Czech Republic's average position in the rankings from 1993 was lower (3.93) than Finland's (3.52). Comparing periods 1993 –

2006 and 2007 – 2022, the Czech Republic declined in the rankings from 2.92 to 4.87, while Finland improved its ranking from 3.86 to 3.2.

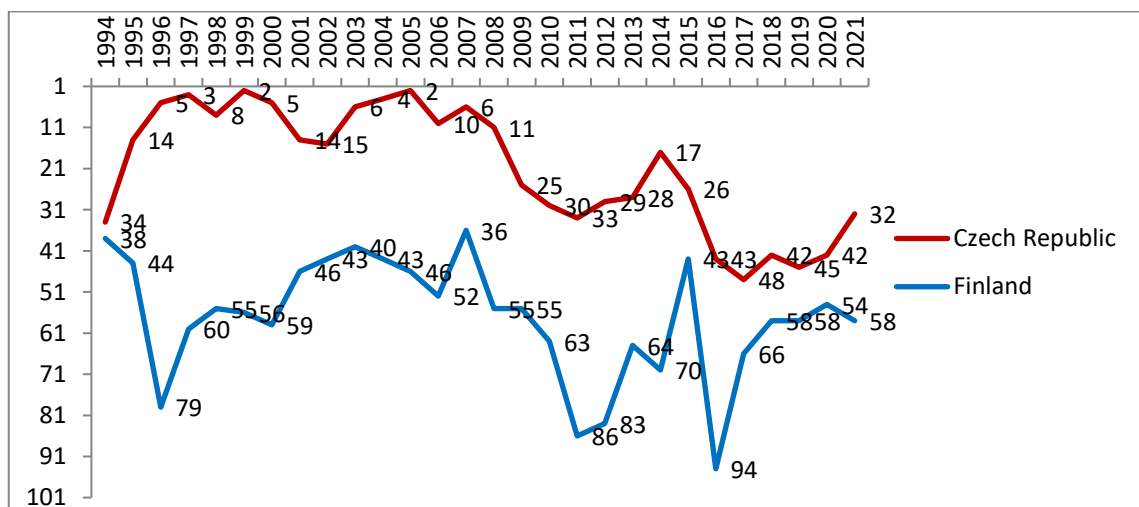
Graph 34: Ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993



Source: Own creation based on data from IIHF (2022)

In football, both countries fell in the rankings compared to the early 2000s levels. However, the decline is more significant for the Czech Republic since it was one of the best-performing countries. On the other hand, Finland has managed to improve its performance in the last five years and reach similar rankings.

Graph 35: Ranking in the FIFA rankings since 1994



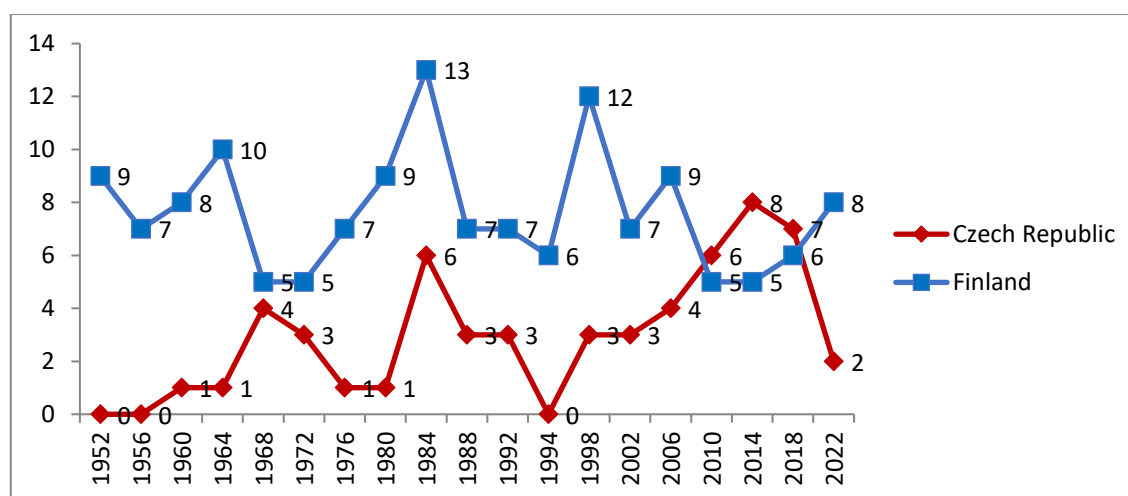
Source: FIFA, 2022

The sports that have been recently successful in the Czech Republic are cross-country skiing, biathlon and speed skating, thanks to the great performance of Czech athletes in major international competitions. However, these sports lack resources and thus are missing the opportunity to become sustainable and thrive in the long run. These sports and their popularity currently rely on the success of a few athletes, but their member base is not growing due to insufficient funding or unsuitable conditions. Speed skating would be an example of insufficient funding when the most successful speed has to practice abroad because the Czech government did not invest in constructing a speed skating arena in the country.

Nonetheless, the Czech Republic achieved success in Olympic sports in recent years and kept climbing the international ranking. Especially in winter sports, the Czech Republic has been increasing its medal share rapidly, although the most remarkable accomplishments come from more minor sports.

On the contrary, Finland’s medal share in Olympic sports has been slowly decreasing, and it is losing its dominance in winter sports. Until 2000, Finland was regularly ranking among the most successful ten countries, but there has been a slight decline since then. The Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver was the first time in the history the Czech Republic collected more medals than Finland. The trend did not change until the Winter Olympic Games 2022 in Beijing, where Finnish athletes performed much better and collected eight medals compared to two by the Czech Republic.

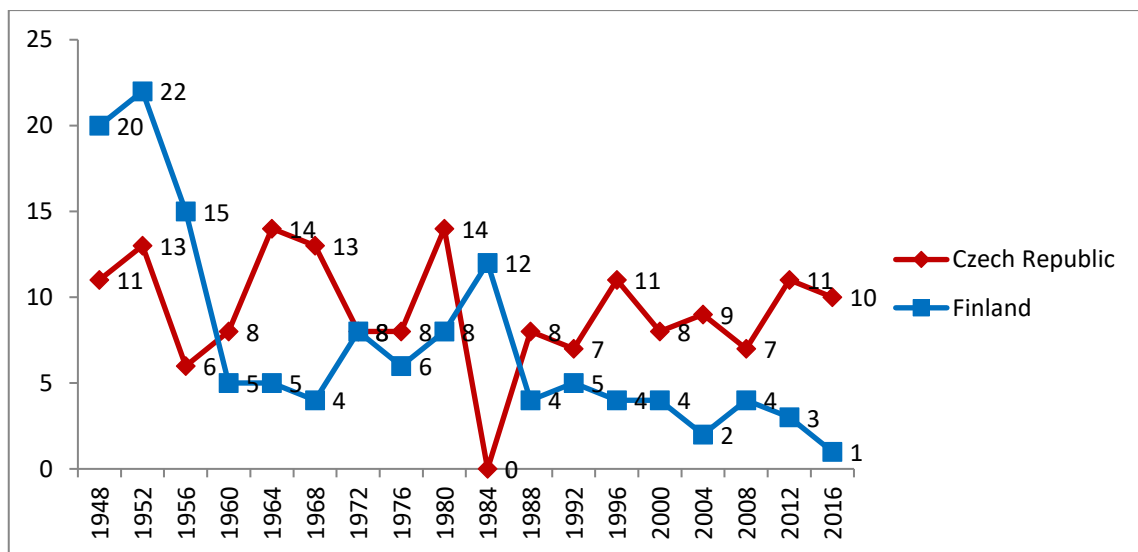
Graph 36: Medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952



Source: Based on data from Olympedia 2022

The Czech Republic has historically been performing better than Finland in summer sports and has kept a relatively stable position in the standings throughout the years. On the other hand, Finland, which once used to keep pace with the Czech Republic, is experiencing a significant decline in terms of success and medals from the Summer Olympic Games. Particularly Finnish athletic and wrestling teams that used to drive Finland's medal success deteriorated their performance. It is one of the reasons for disappointing Finnish results in the summer Olympic sports.

Graph 37: Medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948



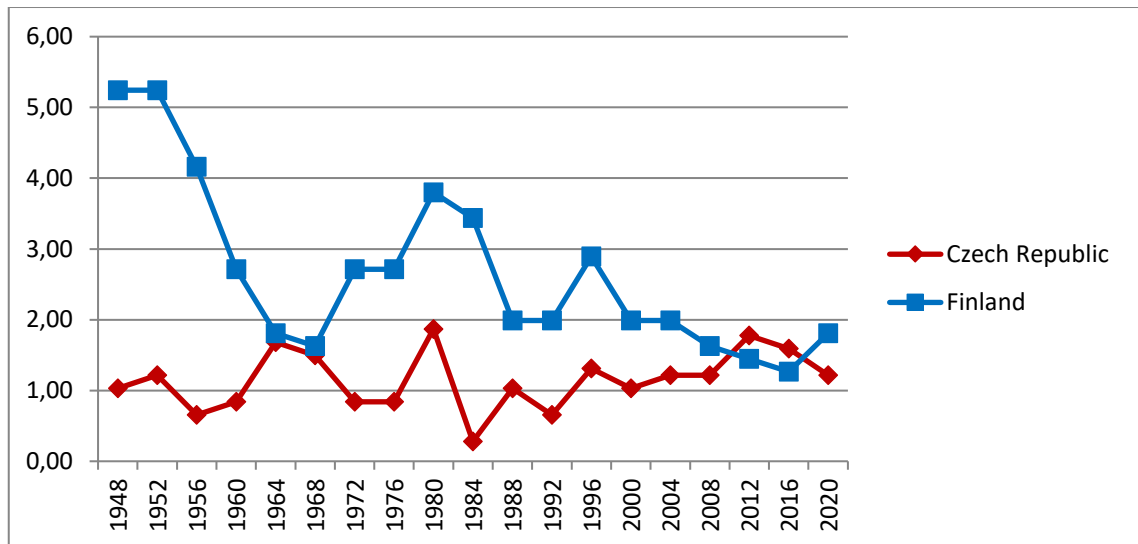
Source: Based on data from Olympedia 2022

When comparing success in international competitions, it is necessary to consider the number of inhabitants living in the country. Therefore, another graph compares the number of medals from Olympic Games, both summer and winter, per 1 million inhabitants.

For decades until 2002, Finland was among the countries with the most Olympic medals per capita in both, winter and summer Olympic Games, but that has changed notably. The graph also shows Finland losing its dominance and the Czech Republic surpassing Finland for the first time in 2012. However, Finland surpassed the Czech Republic again in the last cycle mainly thanks to its significantly better performance at the Winter

Olympic Games in Beijing 2022. Considering medals per inhabitant, both countries have been performing similarly in the last ten years.

Graph 38: Olympic medals per 1 million inhabitants



Source: Based on data from Olympedia (2022)

The statistics above might appear surprising considering Finland's long-term investment in youth sport and sport for all. On the other hand, Finland is gaining dominance in junior sport and becoming one of the most successful countries in this category. Finland also recently achieved better results in ice hockey, which belongs among the most popular sports in both countries.

In conclusion, both countries perform similarly in elite sport. The Czech Republic has made more significant progress in Olympic sports in recent years compared to Finland, and the differences in the Olympic rankings between the two countries have diminished. However, Finland prevails in ice hockey and maintains a relatively stable FIFA ranking compared to the Czech Republic, which has declined in the last 15 years. With its sports system and investing policy, Finland has undoubtedly the potential to become a leading country in elite sport again in the future, possibly becoming more successful than the Czech Republic with its rapid development in junior sport. These remain only assumptions for now that might not be met. Nevertheless, the last Olympic Games in Beijing 2022 might have shown a sign of a reversal.

8.6 Talent development

Talent development is crucial for future sports success but also for youth development in general. Finland is a good example of it with its close connection between education and sport, which is achieved through specific programs. Youth development in Finland is perceived as a whole and is complex, with education and sport being a part of the system. However, the Czech Republic is not far behind with development in this area, but the system works slightly differently. Although the support of school and university sport and intensifying the cooperation between education and the talent development system are the objectives of the Czech sports policy, sport and education have been developing more separately than in Finland. In addition to municipal facilities, university and school facilities are also more accessible and affordable in Finland than in the Czech Republic.

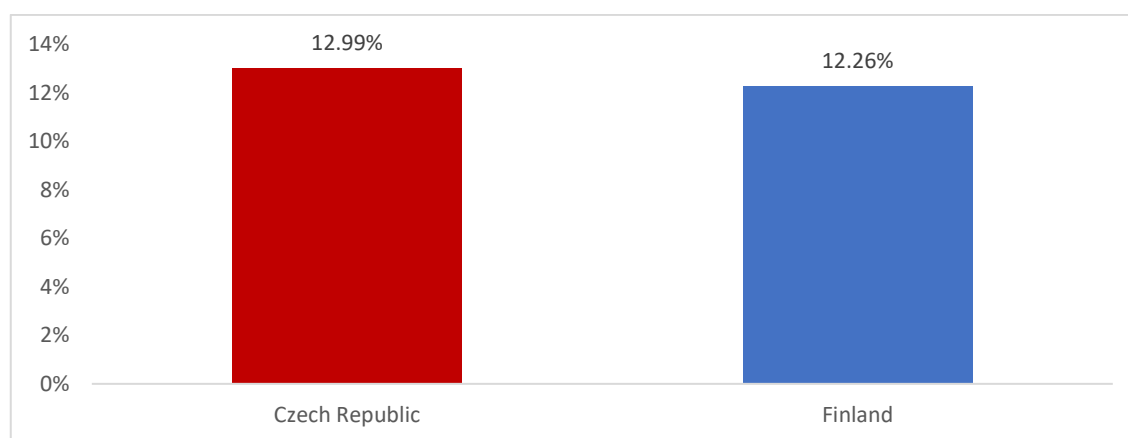
Both countries want to tackle the problem of decreasing physical activity levels in youth categories and improve their talent development systems by adjusting their sports policies, but each in its own way. The Czech sports policy addresses the issue across several areas of the Sports Act, whilst Finland focuses primarily on increasing funding for the development of young athletes and deepening the connection between the school system and sports and thus increasing physical activity levels in schools. The Czech youth sport and talent development measures are ambitious and broad, but their implementation is still in the early stage. Meanwhile, Finland has been focusing for many years mainly on the accessibility of sport for young people, which is fundamental for the entire Finnish talent development system.

Another difference is the importance of non-organised sport, which is higher in Finland since the government focuses on providing children and young people opportunities to exercise at any level. It is also possible thanks to closer cooperation with municipalities. At the same time, the Czech Republic emphasises more organised sport, including improving the preparation of youth national and club teams and establishment of university leagues.

Talent development in Finland has been outstanding for a long period of time as Finland set youth development as one of the main priorities and uses most resources to invest in it. It represents another difference between the sports system, which is proven by results in junior competitions.

The thesis analysed the number of registered youth members in the three most popular sports among youth (based on the participation levels). Due to the absence of statistics from other sports in Finland, more sports were not included. The Czech Republic registers a slightly higher proportion of registered members in the three largest associations, with 12.99% of the total population, compared to 12.26% in Finland.

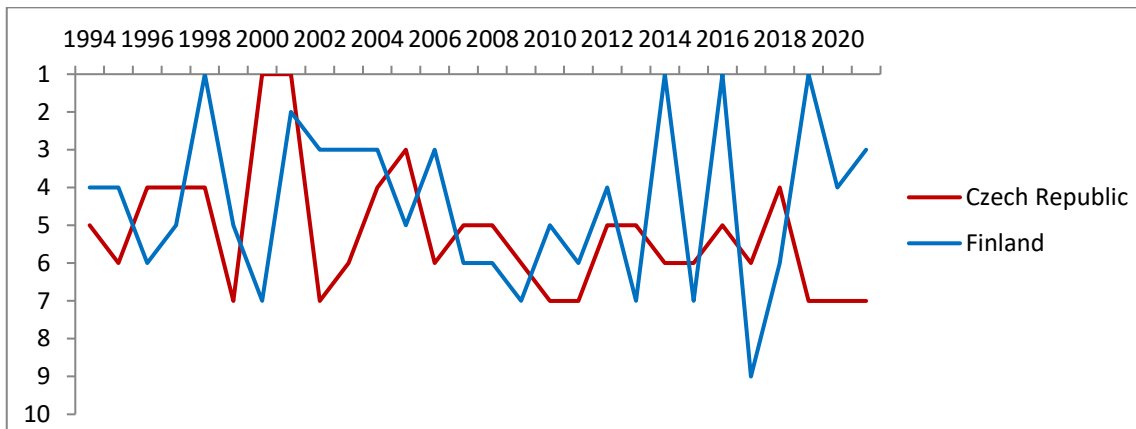
Graph 39: Proportion of registered youth athletes in the three largest associations of the total youth population (0-19)



Source: Based on data from the Czech Union of Sports (2021), UEFA (2022), IIHF (2022) and IFF (2020)

Finland has outperformed the Czech Republic in junior categories in one of the most popular sports, ice hockey. Both countries were performing similarly at the Junior World Hockey Championship until 2009. After, Finland surpassed the Czech Republic and won the tournament three times, while the Czech Republic reached the semifinals only once.

Graph 40: Ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship since 1994

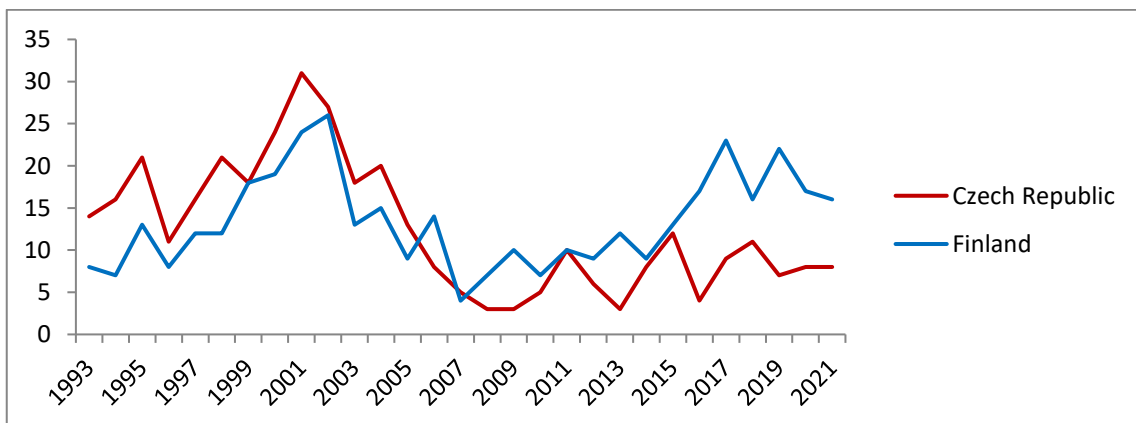


Source: Based on data from IIHF (2009)

Also, the number of talented young hockey players is in Finland’s favour. The draft picks to the NHL used on Finnish players have remained virtually unchanged compared to the 1990s and 2000s, while they have decreased sharply in most European countries, including the Czech Republic.

Unlike Finland, the Czech Republic is not producing nearly as many talents as in the 1990s and 2000s. The number of young talents drafted to the NHL has more than halved after reaching its peak of 31 players in 2001. The gap between the number of talented ice hockey players developed by each country is increasing, indicating Finland’s faster progress in developing young hockey talents.

Graph 41: The number of young players drafted to the NHL since 1993

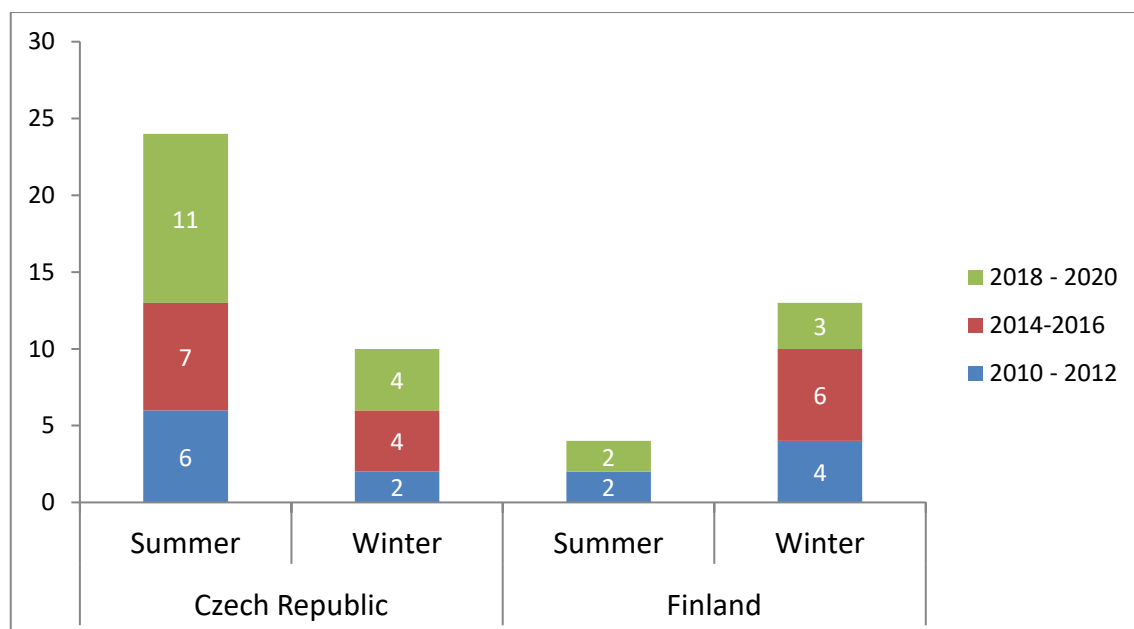


Source: Based on data from Elite Prospects (2022)

In football, there is a considerable difference between both countries in junior and senior categories, with the Czech Republic being more successful. Although football is becoming more popular in Finland, its junior teams do not qualify for major tournaments. Therefore, it is complicated to track its progress and compare it to the Czech junior teams that also do not regularly qualify for major tournaments. The number of registered football players under 18 years in the Czech Republic with 15.54 per 1000 inhabitants exceeds Finland's 12.58 players per 1000 inhabitants. However, the share of children in the total member base is higher in Finland (57.5%) than in the Czech Republic (49.8%).

At the Youth Olympic Games, the Czech Republic has been performing better. Although Finland collected more medals from the Winter Olympics, the difference in performances at the Summer Olympics is much more significant. However, considering the differences in population between both countries, the number of medals per 1 million inhabitants is almost identical, with the Czech Republic being slightly more successful (the Czech Republic – 3.17; Finland – 3.09). It is important to note that the Youth Olympic Games is a relatively new competition, first organised in 2010, and its significance might grow in the future.

Graph 42: Medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010



Source: Based on data from Youth Olympic Story (2022)

Based solely on the statistics from the Youth Olympic Games, the Czech Republic would be more advanced in talent development than Finland. However, the countries performed almost identically in terms of the number of medals per capita. In addition to the Youth Olympic Games starting only in 2010, the competition also arouses some controversy as some believe they are not beneficial for youth sport, and some developed countries, therefore, do not emphasise them. Michael Payne stated that the objective of the games is correct, but the solution to the problem is not since the YOG does not connect back to schools and is expensive. Others, though, do not entirely share the same opinion. For example, journalist Tracey Holmes said that some competitions from the Youth Olympic Games, such as 3 x 3 basketball or breakdancing, have been incorporated into the Olympics and the games bring a younger generation into sports.

Due to the stated above, the results from the Youth Olympic Games will be given less significance in the comparison than other competitions such as the World Hockey Championship.

Combined results from the youth competitions mentioned in this chapter suggest that Finland has been performing somewhat better in international youth competitions. Nonetheless, success in international competitions should not be the only factor when evaluating talent development. Education, accessibility, affordability of sport and facilities, and training quality also play a crucial role in youth sport. Both countries have slightly different approaches toward talent development. The Finnish sports policy emphasises the approach of primarily making sport available to all children and youngsters, while the Czech Republic wants to mainly develop its organised and club sports strategy and improve its overall quality.

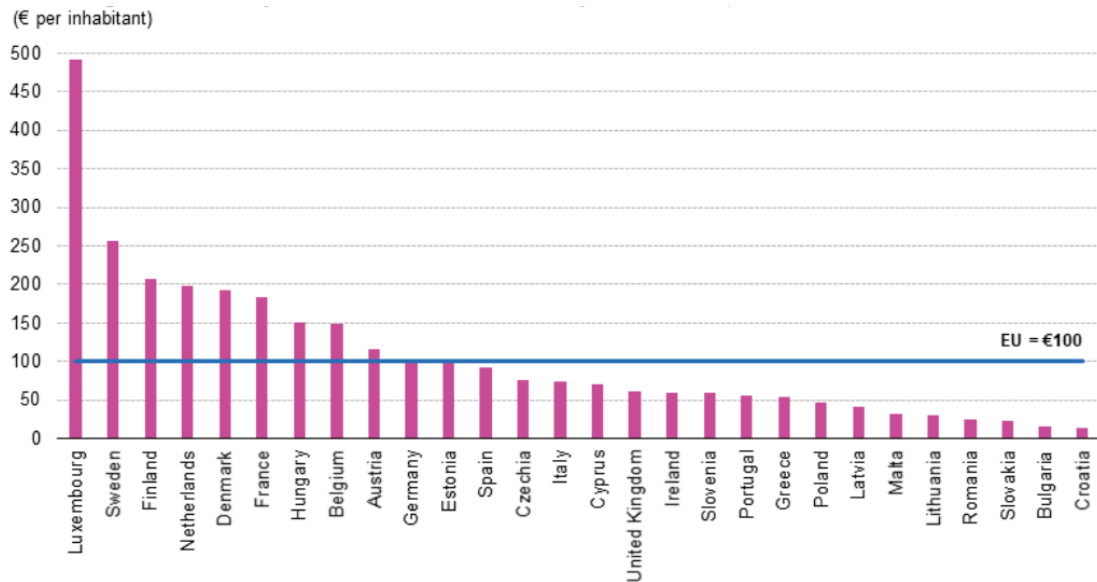
The sports policies of both countries suggest that the Finnish government is tackling the issue closer to its source. However, the results of the developed sports policies regarding talent development will be available in the upcoming years.

8.7 Government expenditures on sports

Both countries spend a considerable amount of money on sports and recreation. In Finland, the expenditures per inhabitant were considerably higher than in the Czech Republic. In 2017, Finland spent 206 EUR and the Czech Republic 75 EUR per

inhabitant. Nevertheless, the data considering government expenditure on total expenditure might be more compelling as they do not neglect purchasing power of citizens.

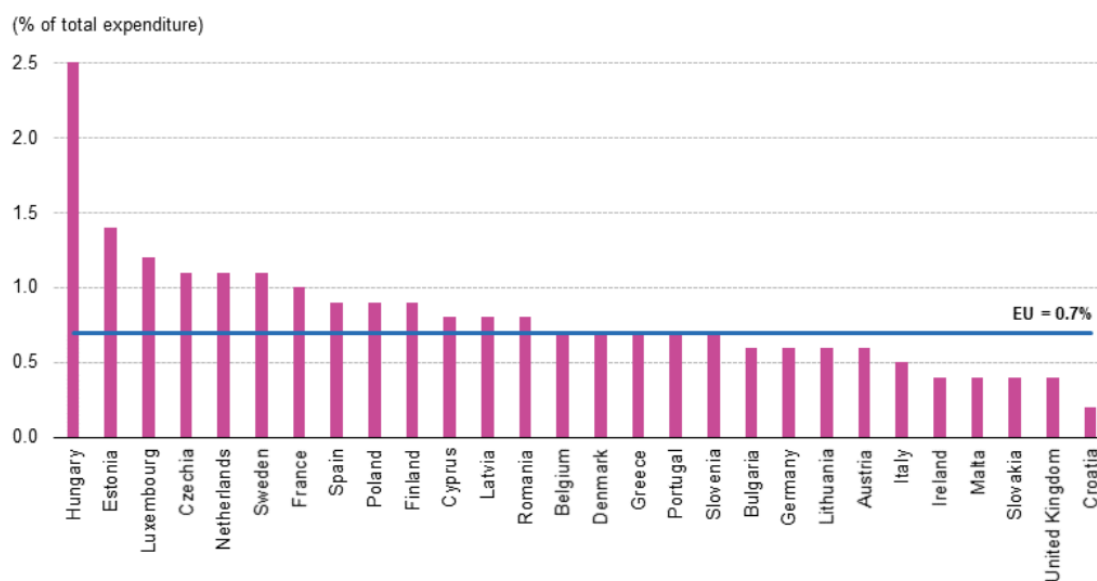
Graph 43: Government expenditure on recreation and sport in the EU per inhabitant, 2017



Source: Eurostat (2018)

The data show that the Czech Republic invested a larger share of total expenditure in sports and recreation than Finland in the same year. The ratio of government recreation and sport expenditure to total expenditure varied across the European Union member states from 0.2% in Croatia to 2.5% in Hungary. The Czech Republic recorded 1.1%, and Finland recorded 0.9%.

Graph 44: Governmental expenditure on recreation and sport in the EU of the total expenditure, 2017

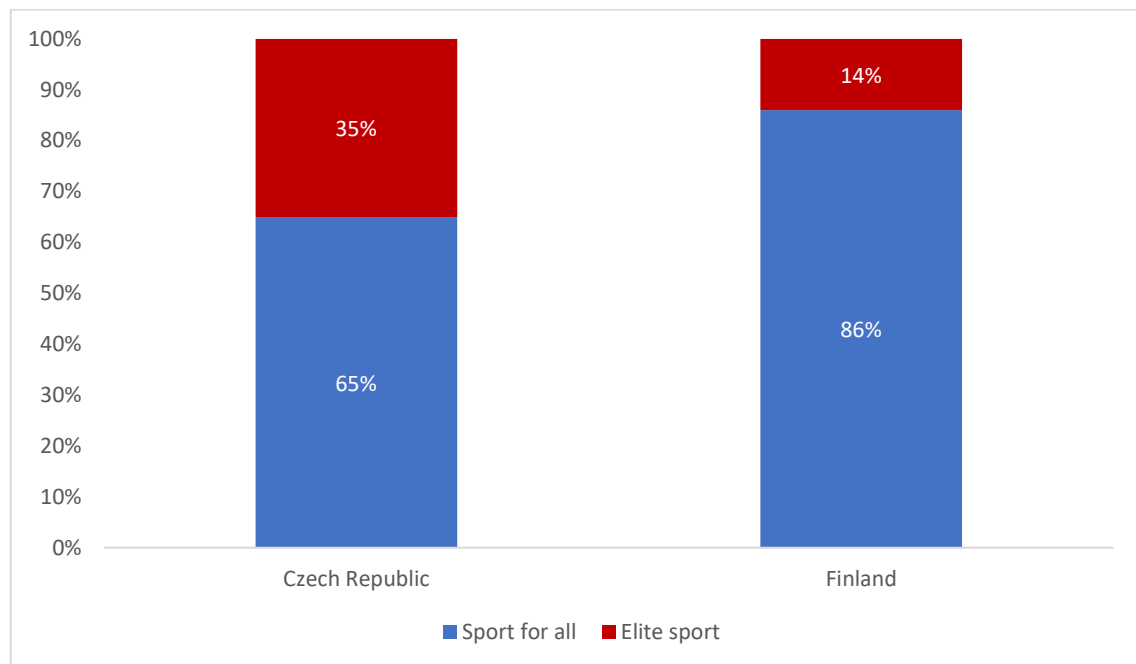


Source: Eurostat (2018)

Finland's sports budget allocation system can be considered more efficient than in the Czech Republic. Finland has a lower sports expenditure ratio to total governmental expenditure. With both countries performing similarly in major international sports competitions, Finland has a more advanced talent development system and focuses more on sport for all.

Both countries invest more in sport for all compared to elite sport. Nonetheless, while in Finland, this system of budget allocation has been in place for decades, and its share of investment in sport for all is one of the highest in Europe (86% to sport for all), in the Czech Republic, the system has changed relatively recently. In 2010, the Czech government still invested more in elite sport (52% of its sports budget). The proportion has changed substantially, and the average throughout the years since 2010 is 65% of the sports budget allocated to sport for all. However, the difference in the sports budget distribution between both countries is still significant.

Graph 45: Comparison of sports budget allocation between the Czech Republic and Finland



Source: Based on data from the Czech Statistical Office (2021) and De Bosscher (2015)

8.8 Sports funding

The sports systems are both strongly influenced by the state sphere and financed almost entirely from the state budget. Nonetheless, funds are being raised differently in both countries. The Czech Republic sources money for sport from many different sources and subsequently allocates the budget to several investment and non-investment programs. The Czech Republic does not have one particular source that significantly outweighs the others. However, in Finland, the profits from the gaming monopoly represent 90% of the state funding of sport. In the Czech Republic betting industry is not as significant a source of money for sports as the betting companies are owned privately, and the revenue for the state budget is generated through profit transfers and taxes paid by betting companies.

The betting industry in Finland generates substantially more money for the state budget than in the Czech Republic, as the whole amount is allocated to the sports, health, and culture budgets. Therefore, sport does not burden the state budget as significantly since it relies primarily on one source. The betting monopoly gives Finland undoubtedly an advantage in terms of financial support for sport. However, it also causes economic and

social problems directly linked to Finland's gambling addiction. The betting industry in the Czech Republic is significantly more regulated than in Finland.

The sports budget in the Czech Republic relies on several different sources and is certainly more financially demanding for the Czech government. Unlike the Czech Republic, sports funding in Finland is self-sufficient. On the other, the Finnish sports funding system is controversial and has highly positive but also negative effects on society.

Also, funding professional sports clubs works differently. Although professional clubs in both countries are financed primarily from private sources, in the Czech Republic, they still receive state support that is intended to develop youth sport in clubs. In Finland, the state does not provide any financial assistance to professional clubs. However, non-profit sports clubs in both countries are eligible for government grants, which are disbursed based on different criteria. In Finland, factors considered when disbursing government grants to sports clubs are primarily qualitative. Those are the quality of sports clubs, their social impact and how they promote non-discrimination and gender equality. In the Czech Republic, the factors are mainly based on quantitative data such as the number of children, clubs, organised competitions, etc.

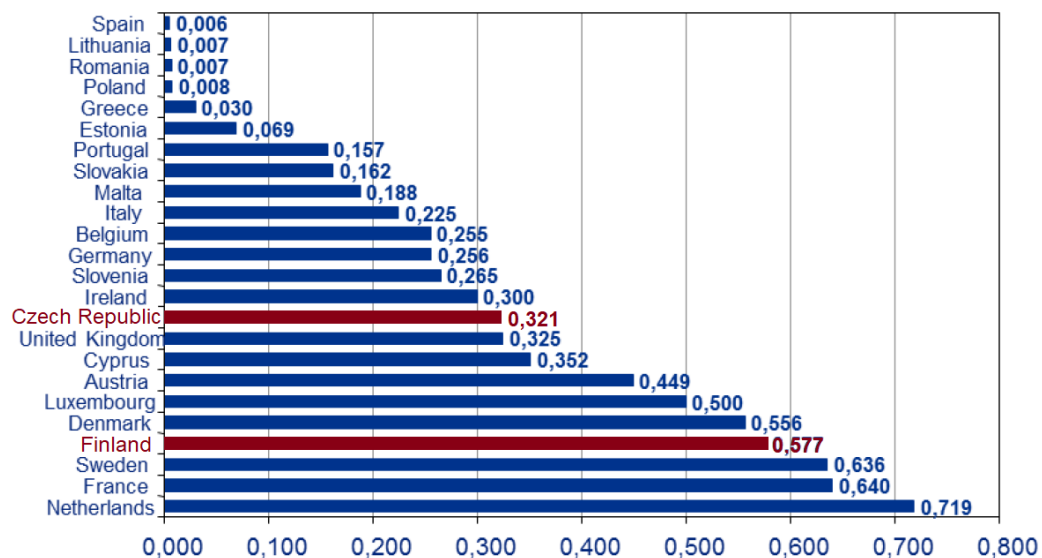
Reaching a conclusion when comparing these two sports funding systems becomes difficult given the above-mentioned facts. Nonetheless, despite the controversy of the Finnish sports funding system, it can still be considered somewhat more beneficial from an economic and social point of view as it is less financially demanding for the state budget, and the positive effect of the accessibility of sport could outweigh the gambling addiction issue. However, this issue might be viewed from various perspectives, and different conclusions can be reached.

8.9 Volunteering

Volunteering has also become an important phenomenon in both countries. Sport benefits from volunteering a lot, as it is where people are involved as volunteers the most. In the Czech Republic, the involvement of volunteers is slightly above the average among all countries of the European Union, while Finland is one of the leading European countries with Sweden, France and the Netherlands. The graph below shows that in 2008 there were

almost twice as many volunteers in Finland as in the Czech Republic, and the gap is gradually increasing since the Czech Republic is experiencing a decline in the number of volunteers. On the other hand, Finland maintains the same levels. It also makes a difference in sport organisation in both countries and gives Finland more resources and opportunities to organise major sporting events, promote youth sport and subsequently develop talent. One of the reasons why the number of volunteers is decreasing in the Czech Republic is the lack of systematic support. In contrast, volunteering is highly promoted in Finland, and people are motivated to participate.

Graph 46: Number of volunteers (full-time work equivalent) per 100 inhabitants in the European Union countries in 2008



Source: Study on the funding of grassroots sports in the EU (2011)

The number of volunteers also directly impacts governmental expenditure on sports, which is higher in Finland, but the expenditure per inhabitant is, in fact, higher in the Czech Republic. Finland's sports system is based on volunteerism, one of its essential factors. Volunteering has also become a standard in Finland, giving the Finnish government a significant advantage from the economic perspective and organisation of sports events. Thanks to this, Finland can save more finances than the Czech Republic and use them for sport for all or other purposes. According to estimates, volunteer work in Finland generates more than twice as much revenue (1.5 bil EUR) as in the Czech Republic (720 mil EUR).

Volunteering is addressed in both countries' sports policies. The Czech Republic wants to stop the decline in the number. However, there is no detailed plan for promoting volunteering except for improving the quality and accessibility of education for volunteer coaches. Finland is not currently facing the same problem, although the number of volunteers in Finnish sport is significantly higher than in the Czech Republic. Still, the country aims to make volunteering more accessible by removing excessive bureaucracy to maintain or increase the current participation levels.

8.10 Conclusion on the comparison

Table 1: Comparison of selected aspects of the sports systems

Aspect	More advanced country	The Czech Republic	Finland
Organisation of sport and policies	Finland	A bureaucratic system with a strong influence of the state sector. Hybrid system + Support of organised sport and its quality improvement	A bureaucratic system with a strong influence of the state sector and high volunteering importance. Bottom-up system + More perspective, sustainable and publicly oriented system + Sport for all support + Accessibility and affordability of sport
Sports facilities	Finland	Owned mostly by sports clubs + Focuses on modernising facilities	Owned mostly by municipalities + Focuses on building new facilities + More affordable and accessible facilities due to public funding + More facilities per capita
Physical activity	Finland	Tackling the problem by strengthening the role of sports clubs.	Tackling the problem by relying on municipalities, inter-institutional cooperation, and construction of facilities. + More physically active people + More participants in organised sport per capita + Lower overweight and obesity levels
Success in international competitors	The Czech Republic	+ More comprehensive elite sports policy and more focused on this area + Better progress in Olympic sports	+ Better performance in ice hockey

Talent development	Finland	Tackles the problem by improving its system of organised sport, including club, school, and university competitions + Better performance in the Youth Olympic Games + Slightly higher proportion of registered youth athletes	Tackles the problem by providing a high number of facilities to be accessible to children and increasing physical activity levels in schools + Better performance in junior hockey + More young ice hockey players drafted to the NHL + More physically active youth
Government expenditure	Finland	+ Spends more on sport compared to the total government expenditure	+ Spends more on sport per capita + Invests more in sport for all and youth sport
Sports funding	Finland	Funded from multiple sources Disburses grants based primarily on quantitative factors	Funded entirely by the national lottery Disburses grants based primarily on qualitative factors + Higher amount of money generated for sport and other beneficial purposes + Burdens the state budget less due to funds coming from one source – Gambling addiction problem
Volunteering	Finland	Tackles the problem by providing education to volunteer coaches – Decline in the number of volunteers	Tackles the problem by removing excessive bureaucracy associated with volunteering. + Higher share of volunteers per capita + Volunteer work generates more revenue

Source: Own creation

The table above concisely compares eight aspects discussed in the previous chapters. Based on the comparison, Finland is more advanced in seven of them and the Czech

Republic in one. The Czech Republic achieved better results only in international competitions.

Although both models share several similarities, the Finnish sports system is more perspective, sustainable, and likely to generate more opportunities and create a solid basis for future sports success than the Czech system. The differences in most aspects are not major, and both systems can be still considered advanced.

9 Discussion

Several publications are addressing similar topics, such as sports systems and sports funding. However, no publications have been released comparing sports systems in these particular countries yet, making this topic unique.

The thesis is supposed to deliver objective results to be used by governments and sports associations of either country to develop their sports systems. Nonetheless, delivering objective results can be complicated, given the theoretical nature of the thesis and the need to interpret the data and sports policies. There can be various opinions about several topics, such as support of youth sport, the effectiveness of certain approaches or benefits and disadvantages of the bottom-up system compared to the top-down or hybrid system in sport.

Based on the analysed data in the thesis, the Finnish sports system appears to be more sustainable and has the potential to generate better results in the future. The thesis analysed and compared sports systems based on eight related aspects. However, there can be many more considered. Other authors researching the same topic in the future might also use a different set of data that will reach different conclusions. Researchers could also use other methods and possibly collect primary data for certain aspects.

Some can also incline more towards the top-down system and investment in elite sport as it has, in theory, better potential to generate immediate positive results. The thesis analysed two countries in order to either support or refute this statement.

The thesis supports the main idea of the bottom-up system that was elaborated on by Grix (2012), but not entirely. The idea is that investment in youth leads to healthier citizens, a larger recruitment base, and subsequently elite sports success and a strengthened national identity. Based on the research, Finland, which heavily invests in youth sports, has a large participant base that results in high physical activity levels. But the success of its elite sport is achieved mainly in ice hockey, while many Olympic sports are declining. Nevertheless, with Finland's success in youth sport, this might change in the near future. On the other hand, the Czech Republic, with a hybrid system, has made somewhat better progress in elite sport. Though, it has not led to increased physical activity levels nor a larger participant base.

Based on the analysis, the Finnish sports system corresponds with the definition of the bottom-up system. The results somewhat support McMillan's (2020) statement that bottom-up systems are slow and sustainable since Finland is either slowly improving or its results in sports competitions, mostly in junior categories. However, that does not apply to all sports, as summer Olympic sports have registered a significant decline in Finland compared to the 1960s levels. At the same time, Finland maintains a relatively high sports participation level by youth, which can result in improved performance in the future.

Lämsä (2019) claims that sport is typically more accessible and affordable in countries where public ownership prevails. The thesis confirms the statement since Finland, with a higher share of publicly-owned sports facilities, provides better accessibility and affordability of sport than the Czech Republic, where most facilities are owned by clubs and a relatively significant portion by private owners.

Rongen et al. (2018) state in their publication that positive health and wellbeing impacts can emerge from high-quality talent development systems. The statement is supported by the thesis as Finland, which is considered a high-quality talent development system, registers some of the highest physical activity levels among youth and adults and experiences low obesity levels at the same time. The Czech Republic, whose talent development system is in a relatively early stage of development and still going through substantial changes, registers lower levels of physical activity and slightly higher obesity levels.

Releasing new data and statistics might significantly change the research results. In the upcoming years, physical activity levels or performance in international junior and adult competitions can change and contradict the current results of the thesis. Governments can also publish documents with updated data that would impact the results. For example, the most recent report found on volunteering, comparing data from both countries, is from 2008. However, based on governmental statements, there has been no substantial change in this area, and the numbers remain relatively stable. Therefore, the data were still used for the thesis.

It is also important to mention the impact of the division of Czechoslovakia into two sovereign countries in 1993, after which the Czech Republic registered substantially fewer athletes. The years before separation are shown in the graphs regarding the Olympic

Games as they take place every four (two) years. Those years were included to have a sufficient amount of data. However, according to the results, it does not seem the separation significantly impacted the success in international competitions. Still, other researchers can focus solely on the performance of the Czech Republic and consider other sports, which might result in different conclusions.

10 Conclusion

Sport has become an essential part of everyday life and found many functionalities to benefit society. Therefore, there is a need for the national governments to organise sport within countries and create effective and sustainable sports systems.

The goal of the thesis was to analyse in detail and compare sports systems in the Czech Republic and Finland and reveal the similarities and differences of both systems as well as their strengths and weaknesses. The thesis revealed that the countries vary in the political, economic and social points of view, which is also reflected in their sports systems. Each country approaches sport differently, and several policies have been developed over the years. Sports systems can be defined based on several characteristics. The thesis primarily focused on how sport is organised, state influence, centralisation, sustainability, and budget allocation within each sports system.

A bureaucratic, centralised sports system exists in both countries, which is a characteristic of the strong state influence. This influence can be noticed in the funding, organisation of the sports, and the restrictions and conditions that the associations and clubs must follow. Although both sports systems share some common features, they also experience significant differences in funding, talent development, budget allocation and sports accessibility. The differences and similarities were analysed in detail to provide a useful comparison that can benefit national governments, sports associations, clubs and people working in the sports industry. The results can also be used for other institutions than in the analysed countries.

The thesis compared the sports systems based on eight different aspects. Comparing systems in two different countries can be challenging due to political and economic situations and the level of development. The purchasing power of citizens, their preferences and needs were also taken into consideration. A part of the thesis was dedicated to the betting industry, which impacts sports funding in both countries and is an interesting part of the sports concepts.

The result of the comparison is that Finland is more advanced than the Czech Republic in seven of the eight aspects. Based on the comparison, the Finnish sports system is more sustainable, self-sufficient, socially and publicly oriented, and has a better potential to produce more sports talents in the future and benefit its citizens, their health and well-being.

It is necessary to mention that the difference in the quality of both sports systems and some individual aspects is not very significant, and both systems can be certainly considered advanced, although there can be space for improvements.

11 References

Literature:

BRÁZDA, P. 2020. *Komparace financování sportu České republiky a Slovenska s konkrétním příkladem financování na municipální úrovni*. Diploma thesis. Brno, the Czech Republic. Masaryk University. Faculty of sports studies.

BROŽÁK, D. 2015. *Vývoj financování sportovní činnosti z veřejných prostředků v ČR v období 2005-2015*. Diploma thesis. Prague, the Czech Republic. University of Economics, Economic policy.

BŘÍZA, M. 2016. *Komparace systémů financování sportu ve vybraných zemích Evropy*. Diploma Thesis. Charles University, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Management.

CROWTHER, N. B. 2007. *Sport in Ancient Times*. Praeger series on the ancient world, ISSN 1932-1406. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group. p. xxii. ISBN 9780275987398.

DE BOSSCHER, V. SHIBLI, S. & WEBER, A. 2019. Is prioritisation of funding in elite sport effective? An analysis of the investment strategies in 16 countries, *European Sport Management Quarterly*, 19:2, 221-243, DOI: 10.1080/16184742.2018.1505926

DING D. et al. 2016. The economic burden of physical inactivity: A global analysis of major non-communicable diseases. *Lancet* 338(10051, 24–30), 1311–1324. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(16)30383-X

DING D. et al. 2017. The economic burden of physical inactivity: a systematic review and critical appraisal. *Br j Sports Med* 51, 1392-1409. doi: 10.1136/bjsports-2016-097385

GARRICK, J.G. & REQUA, R.K. 2013. Sports and fitness activities: the negative consequences. *J Am Acad Orthop Surg*. 2003 Nov-Dec;11(6):439-43. doi: 10.5435/00124635-200311000-00008. PMID: 14686829

GHILDIYAL, R. 2015. Role of Sports in the Development of an Individual and Role of Psychology in Sports. *Mens Sana Monographs*. Online. 2015. Vol. 13, no. 1, p. 165. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. DOI 10.4103/0973-1229.153335.

GRIX, J. & CARMICHAEL, F. 2012. Why do governments invest in elite sport? A polemic, *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics*, 4:1, 73-90, DOI: [10.1080/19406940.2011.627358](https://doi.org/10.1080/19406940.2011.627358)

GUTHOLD, R. et al. 2018. Worldwide trends in sufficient physical activity from 2001 to 2016: a pooled analysis of 358 population-based surveys with 1.9 million participants. *Lancet GlobHealth*. 2018 Sep4. pii: S2214-109X(18)30357-7. doi: 10.1016/S2214-109X(18)30357-7.

- HAKAMÄKI, P. AALTO-NEVALAINEN, P. SAARISTO, V. & STÄHL, T. 2015. Promotion of physical activity in municipalities 2010–2014. Publications of the Ministry of Education and Culture 2015:18.
- HENDL, J. REMR, J. 2017. *Metody výzkumu s evaluace*. Praha: Portál, 464 s. ISBN 978-80-262-1192-1.
- HENRY, I. P. KO, L. 2009. European Models of Sport: Governance, Organisational Change and Sports Policy in the EU.
- HERBRÍKOVÁ, A. 2016. Financování sportu v České republice a ve Švýcarsku. Bachelor's thesis. Brno, the Czech Republic. Masaryk University.
- HOBZA, V. HODAŇ, B. 2010. Financování tělesné kultury jako složky občanské společnosti. Olomouc, the Czech Republic: Palacky University in Olomouc.
- HOLT, N. L. KINGSLEY, B. C. TINK, L. N. et al. 2011. Benefits and challenges associated with sport participation by children and parents from low-income families. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise* 12(5): 490–499.
- LENIKUSOVÁ, J. 2016. Loterie jako nástroj financování sportu na obecní úrovni. Masarykova Univerzita, Ekonomicko-správní fakulta. Veřejná ekomokia a správa. Bakalářská práce.
- MALM, C. JAKOBSSON, J. & ISAKSSON, A. 2019. Physical Activity and Sports—Real Health Benefits: A Review with Insight into the Public Health of Sweden. *Sports*. Online. 23 May 2019. Vol. 7, no. 5, p. 127. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. DOI [10.3390/sports7050127](https://doi.org/10.3390/sports7050127)
- MANGSET, P. 1995. Risks and benefits of decentralisation: The development of local cultural administration in Norway, *The European Journal of Cultural Policy*, 2:1, 67-86, DOI: [10.1080/10286639509358002](https://doi.org/10.1080/10286639509358002)
- MANGSET, P. KANGAS, A. SKOT-HANSEN, D & VESTHEIM, K. 2008. Nordic cultural policy, *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 14:1, 1-5, DOI: [10.1080/10286630701856435](https://doi.org/10.1080/10286630701856435)
- MULCAHY, K. 2001. Preface: The Social-Democratic Model of Cultural Patronage, *The Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society*, 31:1, 3-4, DOI: [10.1080/10632920109599575](https://doi.org/10.1080/10632920109599575)
- NOVOTNÝ, J. 2009. *Ekonomika sportu: vybrané kapitoly*. (2nd ed.). Prague, the Czech Republic: Oeconomica.
- NOVOTNÝ, J. 2000. *Ekonomika sportu*. Praha : ISV.

OPSTOEL, K. CHAPELLE, L. PRINS, F. DE MEESTER, A. HAERENS, L. VAN TARTWIJK, J. & DE MARTELAER, K. 2019. Personal and social development in physical education and sports: A review study. *European Physical Education Review*. Online. 5 November 2019. Vol. 26, no. 4, p. 797–813. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. DOI 10.1177/1356336x19882054.

RONGEN, F. MCKENNA, J. COBLEY, S. & TILL, K. 2018. Are youth sport talent identification and development systems necessary and healthy? *Sports Medicine - Open*. Online. 22 May 2018. Vol. 4, no. 1. [Accessed 2 May 2022]. DOI 10.1186/s40798-018-0135-2.

SLEPIČKOVÁ, I. 2011. The transition in central and eastern European sport. In C. Sobry (Ed.) *Sports Governance in the World II: Volume II. The Transition in Central and Eastern European Sport*. Paris: Le Manuscrit. 8-35. EAN 9782304038729.

TAYLOR, P. et al. 2015. *A review of the Social Impacts of Culture and Sport*. Department for Culture, Media, and Sport CASE program: UK. 136 pp.

STARÁ, M. 2013. *Dobrovolnictví ve sportu*. Bachelor's thesis. Masaryk University, Faculty of sports studies. Department of Social Sciences and Sports.

SYED, S. T. GERBER, B. S. & SHARP, L. K. 2013. Traveling Towards Disease: Transportation Barriers to Health Care Access. *Journal of Community Health*. Online. 31 March 2013. Vol. 38, no. 5, p. 976–993. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. DOI 10.1007/s10900-013-9681-1.

VAN BOTTENBURG, M. 2013. Why are the European and American sports worlds so different? Path dependence in European and American sports history. In: *Sport and the Transformation of Modern Europe*. Routledge, 2013. p. 217-237.

WRIGHT, P.M. & CRAIG, M.W. 2011. Tool for assessing responsibility-based education (TARE): Instrument development, content validity, and inter-rater reliability. *Measurement in Physical Education and Exercise Science* 15(3): 204–219.

WESTERBEEK, H. & EIME, R. 2021. The Physical Activity and Sport Participation Framework—A Policy Model Toward Being Physically Active Across the Lifespan. *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*. Online. 7 May 2021. Vol. 3. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. DOI 10.3389/fspor.2021.608593.

Internet sources:

10 Psychological and social benefits of sport for kids - UQ Sport, 2015. *UQ Sport*. Online. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. Available from: <https://uqsport.com.au/10-psychological-and-social-benefits-of-sport-for-kids/>

ANDERSEN, S. & RONGLAN, L. 2013. Nordic Elite Sport. Online. 2013. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: <https://books.google.ca/books?id=p5RUBoMm0qsC&pg=PA215&dq=what+sports+are+free+in+finland&hl=cs&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewj06PDkrJ71AhXXZs0KHe77BPkQ6AF6BAgDEAI#v=onepage&q=what%20sports%20are%20free%20in%20finland&f=false>

ANDERSEN, T. M. HOLMSTRÖM, B. HONKAPOHJA, S. KORKMAN, S. SÖDERSTRÖM, T & VARTAINEN, J. 2007. *The Nordic Model: Embracing globalization and sharing risks* Online. [Accessed 29 June 2022]. Available from: <https://economics.mit.edu/files/5726>

Annual Changes Czech Republic FIFA Ranking 2013-2022, 2022. *en.fifaranking.net*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: http://en.fifaranking.net/nations/cze/ranking_d.php

Annual Changes Finland FIFA Ranking 2013-2022, 2022. *en.fifaranking.net*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: https://en.fifaranking.net/nations/fin/ranking_d.php

BAILEY, R. COPE, E. PARNELL, D. & REEVES, M. 2016. The Human Capital Model: Realising The Benefits of Sport and Physical Activity. *ResearchGate*. Online. 2016. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321826245_The_Human_Capital_Model_Realising_The_Benefits_of_Sport_and_Physical_Activity

BELLIS, M. 2019. The History of Sports. *ThoughtCo*. Online. 2019. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. Available from: <https://www.thoughtco.com/history-of-sports-1992447>

BYERS, T. SLACK, T. & PARENT, M. M. 2012. Sport policy. In *Key concepts in sport management* (pp. 154-157). SAGE Publications Ltd, <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781473914599.n37>

CLAUSNITZER, J. 2021. Finland: sports, recreation and youth work budget 2021. *Statista*. Online. 2021. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/529232/finland-national-budget-for-sports-recreation-and-youth-work/>

CoR - Finland Youth and Sport, 2022. *Europa.eu*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Finland-Youth-and-Sport.aspx>

CRAW, J. 2009. *Profile of the Czech Republic's Education System National Center on Education and the Economy New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce* Online. Available from: <http://www.ncee.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Czech-Education-System.pdf>

Cross-country Skiing in Finland - Nationalparks.fi, 2022. *Nationalparks.fi*. Online. [Accessed 15 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.nationalparks.fi/skiing>

ČTK, 2019. Sazka podala stížnost Evropské komisi. Kvůli zvýšení daně z loterií. *Deník.cz*. Online. 17 December 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.denik.cz/ekonomika/sazka-podala-stiznost-evropske-komisi-kvuli-zvyseni-loterni-dane-20191217.html>

Culture and Sport, 2014. *Council of Europe*. Online. [Accessed 2 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/culture-and-sport>

Culture and Sport, 2014. *Manual for Human Rights Education with Young people*. Online. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. Available from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/culture-and-sport>

Czech Republic, 2022. *Forbes*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.forbes.com/places/czech-republic/?sh=30f2896f1e7c>

CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE, 2016. *Population of the Czech Republic: By age group* Online. [Accessed 28 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/documents/10180/32853303/2501331601.pdf/6d941294-efa3-43cd-9cbc-5d91dcf1df57?version=1.0>

Czechia - Physical activity factsheet (2018), 2018. *Who.int*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. DOI <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/czechia/data-and-statistics/czech-republic>.

Daň z příjmů fyzických i právnických osob 2022: sazby, platba | Finance.cz, 2022. *Finance.cz*. Online. [Accessed 5 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.finance.cz/dane-a-mzda/dane-z-prijmu/>

DE BOSSCHER, V. SHIBLI, S. & WEBER, A. 2018. Is prioritisation of funding in elite sport effective? An analysis of the investment strategies in 16 countries. Online. 3 September 2018. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327407683_Is_prioritisation_of_funding_in_elite_sport_effective_An_analysis_of_the_investment_strategies_in_16_countries

Debate Continues Over Future of Youth Olympics, 2021. *SwimSwam*. Online. [Accessed 22 May 2022]. Available from: <https://swimswam.com/debate-continues-over-future-of-youth-olympics/>

Dotační neinvestiční programy státní podpory sportu pro spolky na období 2017 – 2019. MŠMT. Online. 2016. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: http://www.msmt.cz/uploads/Neinvesticni_dotacni_programy.pdf

Effect of Sports on General Health, 2019. *Manhattan Medical Arts*. Online. [Accessed 2 May 2022]. Available from: <https://manhattanmedicalarts.com/blog/2019/09/25/effect-of-sports-on-general-health/>

EKSTEEN, E. 2014. *Sport Organisation and Administration* Online. Available from: <http://lib.bvu.edu.vn/bitstream/TVDHBRVT/15827/1/Sport-Organisation-and-Administration.pdf>

- Elite Prospects - Players from Czechia in the NHL Entry Draft, 2022. *Eliteprospects.com*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.eliteprospects.com/draft/nhl-entry-draft/nation/cze>
- Elite Prospects - Players from Finland in the NHL Entry Draft. *Eliteprospects.com*. Online, 2022. 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.eliteprospects.com/draft/nhl-entry-draft/nation/fin>
- EUROSTAT, 2019. How much do governments spend on recreation and sport? *Europa.eu*. Online. 23 September 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/EDN-20190923-1>
- FASANDOZ, H. 2016. *Sport as an Industry in Finland Exploring the Economic Significance, Contributions, and Development of the Sport Sector as an Industry* Jyvaskyla, Finland. University of Jyvaskyla. Online. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: https://jyx.jyu.fi/bitstream/handle/123456789/49961/978-951-39-6607-2_vaitos20150518.pdf?sequence=1
- FIFA. *Fifa.com*. Online, 2022. 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.fifa.com/fifa-world-ranking/fin>
- Financing - OKM - Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland, 2018. *Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://okm.fi/en/financing-sport>
- Financing of sport - OKM - Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland. *Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö*. Online, 2018. 2018. [Accessed 23 May 2022]. Available from: <https://okm.fi/en/financing-sport>
- Financování sportu v ČR. Asklovosice-cz, 2021. *Asklovosice-cz*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.asklovosice.com/financovani-sportu-v-cr/>
- Finland - Individual - Taxes on personal income. *Pwc.com*. Online, 2021. 2021. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://taxsummaries.pwc.com/finland/individual/taxes-on-personal-income>
- Finland - Physical activity factsheet (2018), 2018. *Who.int*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. DOI <https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/finland/data-and-statistics/finland>.
- Finland, 2022. *Forbes*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.forbes.com/places/finland/?sh=2bda36186ccd>
- Finland: population by age group 2021 | Statista, 2021. *Statista*. Online. [Accessed 28 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/521152/population-of-finland-by-age/>
- Finland: The frontrunner in sports and fitness. *thisisFINLAND*. Online, 2011. 23 August 2011. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://finland.fi/life-society/finland-the-frontrunner-in-sports-and-fitness/>

Finland's gambling problem: "A Robin Hood system in reverse." *News*. Online, 2018. 31 July 2018. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://yle.fi/news/3-10329304>

Finnish education system - OKM - Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland, 2018. *Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://okm.fi/en/education-system>

Gambling - THL. *Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland*. Online, 2019. 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://thl.fi/en/web/alcohol-tobacco-and-addictions/gambling>

GDP growth (annual %) - Finland, Czech Republic, European Union | Data, 2015. *Worldbank.org*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=FI-CZ-EU>

GDP per capita (current US\$) - Finland, Czech Republic, European Union | Data, 2015. *Worldbank.org*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?end=2020&locations=FI-CZ-EU&start=1993>

HARNOCH, M. & ŠAFRÁNEK, J. 2019. Proč ubývají medaile? Stát sport zanedbal a Češi z pohodlně, tvrdí expertka. *Aktuálně.cz - Víte, co se právě děje*. Online. 28 November 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://sport.aktualne.cz/ostatni-sporty/po-revoluci-stat-zanedbal-ulohu-sportu-cesi-nejdou-pilni-jak/r~874e9bb2105311ea9ec9ac1f6b220ee8/>

Homelessness in Finland 2019. *Www.ara.fi*. Online, 2019. 2019. [Accessed 5 May 2022]. Available from: [https://www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness_reports/Homelessness_in_Finland_2019\(55546\)](https://www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness_reports/Homelessness_in_Finland_2019(55546))

HRTÚSOVÁ, J. & NOVÁK, R. 2020. *Češi a sport* Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: https://www.csas.cz/content/dam/cz/csas/www_csas_cz/Dokumenty-korporat/Dokumenty/Analytici/sport_v_CR_09_2020.pdf

IIHF MEMBER NATIONAL ASSOCIATION CZECHIA, 2022. IIHF Member National Association Czechia. *IIHF International Ice Hockey Federation*. Online. 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.iihf.com/en/associations/337/czech-republic>

IIHF Member National Association Finland. *IIHF Kansainvälinen Jääkiekkoliitto*. Online, 2022. 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.iihf.com/en/associations/341/finland>

Infrastructure in the Czech Republic. *Czechinvest.org*. Online, 2022. 2022. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.czechinvest.org/en/Doing-business-in-the-Czech-Republic/Infrastructure>

ITKONEN, H. LEHTONEN, K. & AARRESOLA, O. 2018. *Tutkimuskatsaus liikuntapoliittisen selonteon tausta-aineistoksi*. Valtion liikuntaneuvosto. Valtion liikuntaneuvoston julkaisuja, 2018:6. http://www.liikuntaneuvosto.fi/files/627/Tutkimuskatsaus_liikuntapoliittiseen_selontek

JOKINEN, H. 2019. Income equality in Finland among the best in Europe. *Heikkijokinen.info*. Online. 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <http://heikkijokinen.info/en/trade-union-news-from-finland/1467-income-equality-in-finland-among-the-best-in-europe>

Koncepce podpory sportu 2016-2025, MŠMT ČR. *Msm.cz*. Online, 2016. 2016. [Accessed 8 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.msm.cz/sport-1/koncepce-podpory-sportu-2016-2025>

LEHTONEN, K. OJA, S & HAKAMÄKI, M. 2021. Liikunnan ja urheilun tasa-arvo Suomessa 2021. *Valtioneuvosto.fi*. Online. 2021. [Accessed 31 May 2022]. DOI 978-952-263-798-7.

MÄKI-FRÄNTI, P. 2018. Unemployment rate in Finland close to structural level – Bank of Finland Bulletin. *Bank of Finland Bulletin*. Online. 6 July 2018. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.bofbulletin.fi/en/2018/3/unemployment-rate-in-finland-close-to-structural-level/>

MÄKINEN, J. 2019. Reforms of the gaming markets and the public sport policies in the Nordic countries. KIHU.

MCMILLAN, S. 2020. Top-Down or Bottom-Up? *ALTIS*. Online. December 2020. [Accessed 2 May 2022]. Available from: <https://altis.world/articles/top-down-or-bottom-up/>

MERKEL, D. 2013. Youth sport: positive and negative impact on young athletes. *Open Access Journal of Sports Medicine*. Online. May 2013. P. 151. [Accessed 30 April 2022]. DOI 10.2147/oajsm.s33556.

Mobility and transport, 2022. *Mobility and Transport*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: https://transport.ec.europa.eu/index_en

MŠMT, 2016. Koncepce podpory sportu 2016-2025, MŠMT ČR. *Msm.cz*. Online. 2016. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.msm.cz/sport-1/koncepce-podpory-sportu-2016-2025>

MŠMT, 2020. Co říká Analýza financování sportu v České republice, MŠMT ČR. *Msm.cz*. Online. 2020. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.msm.cz/ministerstvo/novinar/co-rika-analyza-financovani-sportu-v-ceske-republice>

MURRAY, S. & PIGMAN, G. A. 2014. Mapping the relationship between international sport and diplomacy. *Sport in Society*. Online. 2014. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17430437.2013.856616>

National Sports Council. 2014. Sports Facility Construction Guidance Document. Publications of the National Sports Council 2014: 4.

NEŠPOR, Z. 2012. Metoda srovnávací – Sociologická encyklopedie. *Soc.cas.cz*. Online. 2012. [Accessed 5 May 2022]. Available from: https://encyklopedie.soc.cas.cz/w/Metoda_srovn%C3%A1vac%C3%AD

NSA představila kritéria financování sportovních svazů pro rok 2022 - Národní sportovní agentura. *Národní sportovní agentura*. Online, 2021. 2 December 2021. [Accessed 25 May 2022]. Available from: <https://agenturasport.cz/nsa-predstavila-kriteria-financovani-sportovnich-svazu-pro-rok-2022/>

Number of licensed floorball players in 2019 - IFF Main Site, 2020. *IFF Main Site*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://floorball.sport/2020/10/01/number-of-licensed-floorball-players-in-2019/>

O nás - Sdružení sportovních svazů České republiky. *Sdružení sportovních svazů České republiky*. Online, 2022. 6 April 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.sporty-cz.cz/o-nas/>

O nás | ČUS. *Cusczech.cz*. Online, 2013. 2013. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.cusczech.cz/o-nas/co-je-cus.html>

Olympedia – Czech Republic (CZE), 2012. *Olympedia.org*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <http://www.olympedia.org/countries/CZE>

Olympic Story. *Youtholympicstory.com*. Online, 2020. 2020. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <http://youtholympicstory.com/olympic/#!intro>

PAVLOVICH, L. 2020. Youth Sports, What Can They Learn From Finnish schools? | Athlete Assessments. *Athlete Assessments*. Online. 2020. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.athleteassessments.com/what-can-youth-sports-learn-from-finnish-schools/>

Physical Activity Reduces Stress | Anxiety and Depression Association of America, ADAA, 2022. *Adaa.org*. Online. [Accessed 28 June 2022]. Available from: <https://adaa.org/understanding-anxiety/related-illnesses/other-related-conditions/stress/physical-activity-reduces-st>

RAUNIO, T. 2019. *The Finnish Political System* Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.oulu.fi/sites/default/files/66/The%20Finnish%20Political%20System.pdf>

REKOLA, J. 2019. Income equality in Finland among the best in Europe. *Journalists in Finland*. Online. 5 July 2019. [Accessed 27 May 2022]. Available from: <https://journalistiliitto.fi/en/income-equality-in-finland-among-the-best-in-europe/>

- Rekordní členská základna a transparentní účet FAČR | FAČR | FOTBAL.CZ, 2022. *Fotbal.cz*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://facr.fotbal.cz/rekordni-clenska-zakladna-a-transparentni-ucet-facr/a6622>
- RINGUET, C. 2012. Volunteers in sport: Motivations and commitment to volunteer roles. *Aspetar.com*. Online. 2012. [Accessed 29 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.aspetar.com/journal/viewarticle.aspx?id=30#.YrypB3bMI2w>
- Ročenka ČUS. *Cuscz.cz*. Online, 2021. 2021. [Accessed 30 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.cuscz.cz/o-nas/rocenka-cus/rocenka-cus-2020.html>
- SOFI, J. 2019. How Sports can be used for peace and development. *Times of India Blog*. Online. 11 November 2019. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. Available from: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/poverty-of-ambition/how-sports-can-be-used-for-peace-and-development/>
- Sport | ČSÚ. *Czso.cz*. Online, 2021. 2021. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/28-sport-w09mepnmor>
- Sport and preparing troops for war | National Army Museum, 2012. *Nam.ac.uk*. Online. [Accessed 1 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/sport-and-preparing-troops-war>
- Sport policy in Finland - OKM - Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland, 2018. *Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://okm.fi/en/policies-and-development-sport>
- Sports facilities Definition | Law Insider, 2022. *Law Insider*. Online. [Accessed 3 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/sports-facilities>
- Sports organisations - OKM - Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland, 2018. *Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö*. Online. [Accessed 6 May 2022]. Available from: <https://okm.fi/en/sports-organisations>
- Sport policies, acts and regulations - Canada.ca, 2019. *Canada.ca*. Online. [Accessed 29 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/sport-policies-acts-regulations.html>
- Statistics on sport participation - Statistics Explained, 2022. *Europa.eu*. Online. [Accessed 29 April 2022]. Available from: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistics_on_sport_participation
- Study on the funding of grassroots sports in the EU : with a focus on the internal market aspects concerning legislative frameworks and systems of financing : final report. *Europa.eu*. Online, 2013. 25 April 2013. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/50e6357c-6e20-43fc-8cf7-b7ca073b197c>

Suomalaisen naisen euro on kolme senttiä – Yle selvitti, kuinka valtaisa palkkaero huippu-urheilussa yhä ammottaa, 2017. *Yle Urheilu*. Online. [Accessed 15 May 2022]. Available from: <https://yle.fi/urheilu/3-9967439>

Tax revenue (% of GDP) - Czech Republic, European Union, Finland | Data, 2022. *Worldbank.org*. Online. [Accessed 3 June 2022]. Available from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS?locations=CZ-EU-FI>

Tax revenue (% of GDP) - Czech Republic, European Union, Finland | Data, 2022. *Worldbank.org*. Online. [Accessed 3 June 2022]. Available from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GC.TAX.TOTL.GD.ZS?locations=CZ-EU-FI>

TEIVAINEN, A. 2019. Veikkaus to almost halve number of slot machines in five years. *Helsinki Times*. Online. 31 October 2019. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/finland-news/domestic/16937-veikkaus-to-almost-halve-number-of-slot-machines-in-five-years.html>

The Effects of Stress on Your Body. *WebMD*. Online, 2021. 2021. [Accessed 29 June 2022]. Available from: <https://www.webmd.com/balance/stress-management/effects-of-stress-on-your-body>

THE NOMAD TODAY, 2020. An overview of the gambling industry in Finland. *The Nomad Today*. Online. 2020. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.thenomadtoday.com/articulo/releases/an-overview-of-the-gambling-industry-in-finland/20200605133954006272.html>

Tiskové zprávy. Sazka.cz. Loterie a hry, stírací losy, kurzové sázky | Sazka.cz. Online. 2016 [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.sazka.cz/sazka-svet/pro-media/tiskove-zpravy/cerven-2016/hospodarske-vysledky,-loterni-zakon,-podpora-sport>

UEFA, 2022. Country coefficients | UEFA Coefficients. *UEFA.com*. Online. 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.uefa.com/nationalassociations/uefarankings/country/#/yr/2022>

UEFA, 2022. Developing football in Finland. *UEFA.com*. Online. 2022. [Accessed 15 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/national-associations/fin/>

Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (national estimate) - Finland, Czech Republic, European Union | Data, 2022. *Worldbank.org*. Online. [Accessed 2 June 2022]. Available from: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.TOTL.NE.ZS?locations=FI-CZ-EU>

UNICEF, 2013. *Sustainable development starts and ends with safe, healthy and well-educated children* Online. Available from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3372SD_children_FINAL.pdf

Univerzitní ligy - ČAUS, 2021. *ČAUS*. Online. [Accessed 20 May 2022]. Available from: <https://caus.cz/souteze/univerzitetni-ligy/>

Valtioneuvoston selonteko liikuntapolitiikasta Online, 2018. Available from:
https://www.eduskunta.fi/FI/vaski/JulkaisuMetatieto/Documents/VNS_6+2018.pdf

VEIKKAUS, 2020. *Annual and sustainability report 2020* Online. Available from:
https://cms.veikkaus.fi/site/binaries/content/assets/dokumentit/vuosikertomus/2020/annual_csr-report_2020.pdf

Vláda schválila Akční plán sportu pro rok 2018 až 2019, MŠMT ČR. *Msmť.cz*. Online, 2018. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from:
<https://www.msmť.cz/ministerstvo/novinar/vlada-schvalila-akcni-plan-sportu-pro-rok-2018-az-2019>

What is the EU doing for sport? Improving the game Online, 2020. Available from:
https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/documents/eu-sport-factsheet_en.pdf

Základní informace, 2012. *Olympijskytym.cz*. Online. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.olympijskytym.cz/zakladni-informace>

Zákon o podpoře sportu, MŠMT ČR. *Msmť.cz*. Online, 2020. 2020. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www.msmť.cz/sport-1/zakon-o-podpore-sportu>

Zdravotní péče v roce 2022. *Deloitte Czech Republic*. Online, 2022. 16 February 2022. [Accessed 26 May 2022]. Available from: <https://www2.deloitte.com/cz/cs/pages/life-sciences-and-healthcare/articles/global-health-care-sector-outlook.html>

Presentations:

KARI, J. 2019. The economic burden of physical inactivity. Presentation. University of Jyväskylä.

LÄMSÄ, J. 2019. The Nordic sport model. Presentation. KIHU – Research Institute For Olympic Sports

List of tables

Table 1: Comparison of selected aspects of the sports systems

List of images

Image 1: Summary of the social impacts of sport

Image 2: Bottom-up compared to the top-down system

Image 3: Sports policy systems in Europe

List of graphs

Graph 1: Number of members of the ten largest associations in the Czech Republic in 2020

Graph 2: Czech Republic's ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993

Graph 3: Czech Republic in the FIFA ranking since 1994

Graph 4: Czech Republic's (Czechoslovakia) medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948

Graph 5: Czech Republic's (Czechoslovakia) medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952

Graph 6: Number of registered youth members in the three largest associations (youth) in the Czech Republic

Graph 7: Czech Republic's ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship (U20) since 1993

Graph 8: Czech ice hockey players drafted to the NHL since 1993

Graph 9: Czech Republic's medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010

Graph 10: Government expenditure on sports representations and general sports activities (in mil EUR)

Graph 11: Government expenditure on recreational and sporting services in the Czech Republic (in mil EUR)

Graph 12: Number of members of the ten largest associations in Finland in 2020

Graph 13: Finland's ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993

Graph 15: Finland's medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948

Graph 16: Finland's medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952

Graph 17: Number of registered youth members in the three largest associations (youth) in Finland

Graph 18: Finland's ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship (U20) since 1994

Graph 19: Finnish hockey players drafted to the NHL since 1993

Graph 20: Finland's medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010

Graph 21: National funding of sport for all versus elite sport

Graph 22: Investments in elite sport only (in mil EUR)

Graph 23: Government expenditure on recreational and sporting services in Finland (in mil. EUR)

Graph 24: GDP per capita in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU

Graph 25: GDP growth (annual %) in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU

Graph 26: The unemployment rate in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU

Graph 27: Tax revenue (% of GDP) in the Czech Republic, Finland and the EU

Graph 28: Number of sports facilities per 1000 inhabitants

Graph 29: Percentage of people performing physical activity at least once a week

Graph 30: Percentage of people performing physical activity at least once a week (seniors and 18-29)

Graph 31: Overweight levels in the European Union

Graph 32: Obesity levels in the European Union

Graph 33: Comparison of the share of registered athletes in the ten largest sports associations to the total population

Graph 34: Ranking at the World Ice Hockey Championship since 1993

Graph 35: Ranking in the FIFA rankings since 1994

Graph 36: Medals from the Winter Olympic Games since 1952

Graph 37: Medals from the Summer Olympic Games since 1948

Graph 38: Olympic medals per 1 million inhabitants

Graph 39: Proportion of registered youth athletes in the three largest associations of the total youth population (0-19)

Graph 40: Ranking at the World Junior Ice Hockey Championship since 1994

Graph 41: The number of young players drafted to the NHL since 1993

Graph 42: Medals from the Youth Olympic Games since 2010

Graph 43: Government expenditure on recreation and sport in the EU per inhabitant, 2017

Graph 44: Governmental expenditure on recreation and sport in the EU of the total expenditure, 2017

Graph 45: Comparison of sports budget allocation between the Czech Republic and Finland

Graph 46: Number of volunteers (full-time work equivalent) per 100 inhabitants in the European Union countries in 2008