



Education and Culture DG



# ***Sport: a 'language' of Europe***

**Perspective of European Commission**

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1. Introduction
2. Language of sport
3. European Union and sport
4. The Action Plan "Pierre de Coubertin 2007 – 2011
5. Preparatory Actions in the field of Sport
6. Policy challenges and priorities for the new strategy on Sport
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### 2. Sport as a language:

- What are we talking about?
- How many people speak the language of sport?
- How many people understand the language of sport?
- Where could we find the language of sport?





- What are we talking about?
  - A non verbal or physical language
    - Special defined activities with its own universal language of rules and codes
    - A non formal or non cognitive way of learning
    - A very popular and fascinating activity which made it possible to motivate people and bring them together etc
    - A therapy for mentally handicapped people to communicate
    - A special language for spectators, marketing agents, media
    - Diversity of activities with its own culture and characteristics





## EU: Sport as a language



- How many people speak the language of sport?

271 million people in 25 European Member States (60%)

180 million people once a week (38%)

70 million are member of a sport association

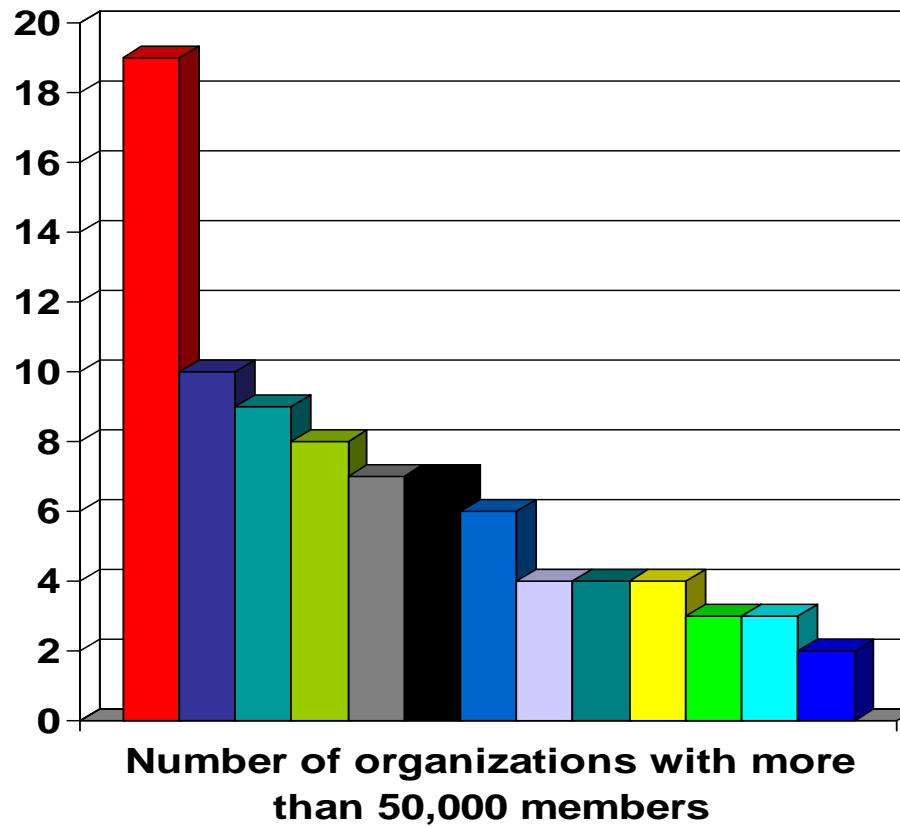


(Eurobarometer 2004, 25 Member

States)



## EU: Sport as a language



- Sport
- Intern. solidarity
- Political parties
- Broadcasting corporations
- Health care organizations
- Nature and environment
- Churches and denominations
- Consumer organizations
- Trade unions
- Women's



## EU: Sport as a language



- How many people understand the language of sport?
- Sportmagazines
  - Sport hours in the media
  - Number of watchers sport programmes
  - Attending matches and events



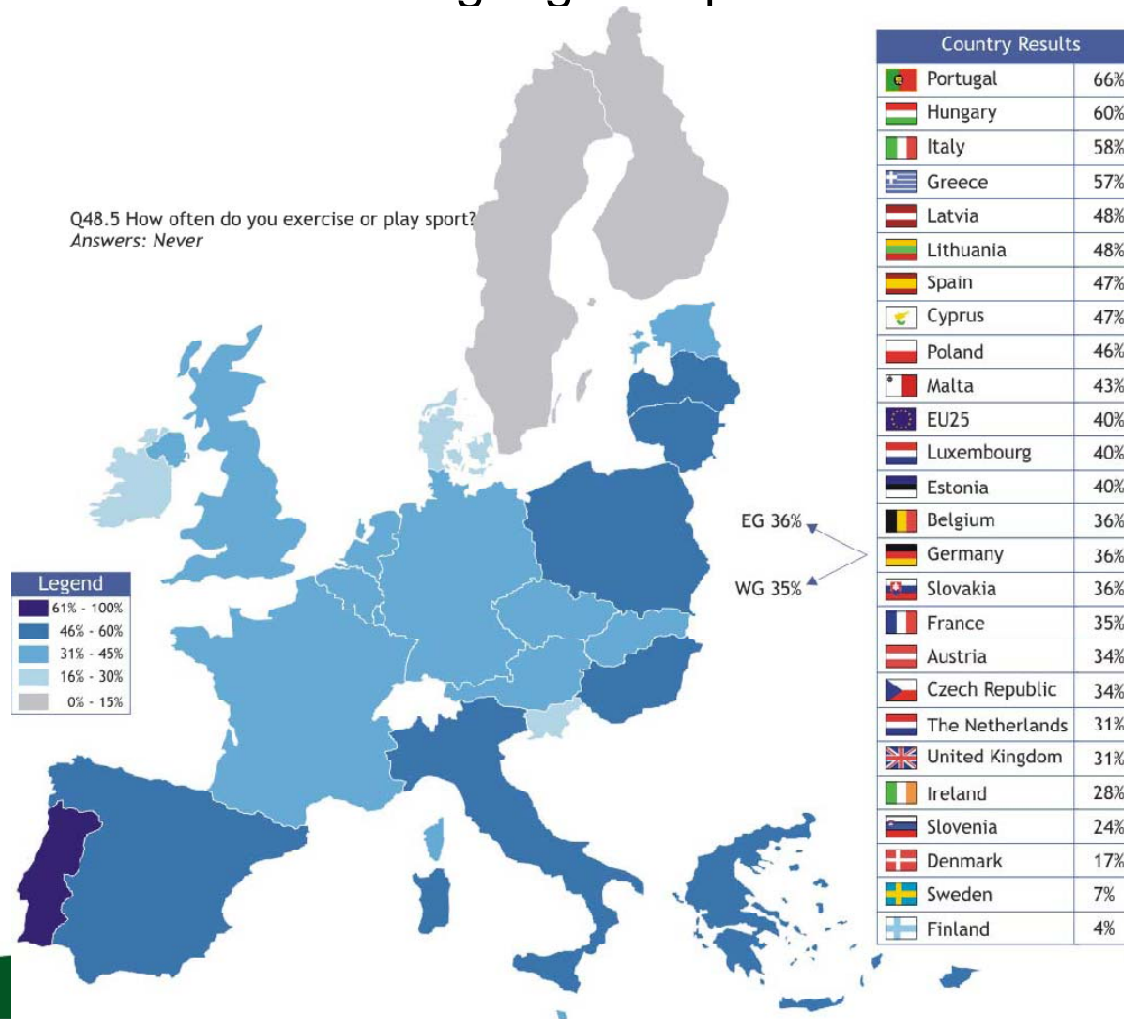


## EU:Sport as a language



Where could we find the language of sport?

Q48.5 How often do you exercise or play sport?  
Answers: Never





## European Union and Sport

- EYES
- White Paper
- Plan of Action
- Preparatory Actions
- Lisbon Treaty
- Future prospects



## Action Plan "Pierre de Coubertin"

*Public health and physical activity*

Fight against doping

*Education and Training*

Volunteering in Sport

*Social inclusion and sport*

Free movement and nationality

*Fight against Racism and Violence*

Player's Agents

*Social Dialogue*



## Preparatory Action 2009

- Providing policy support for the identification of future policy actions in the area of sport through studies, surveys, conferences and seminars
- Testing the establishment and functioning of suitable networks and good practices through [call for proposals](#)
- Budgetary line 2009 voted by European parliament: € 7,5 millions



## **Call for Proposals 2009**

### **Objectives:**

- Prepare future EU actions in this field
- Test suitable networks and good practices in the field of sport, in the following areas:
  - health-enhancing physical activity
  - education and training in sport
  - social inclusion of handicapped in sport
  - gender equality in sport



## Lisbon Treaty

- A soft competence alongside education, vocational training and youth, (no directives, respect of subsidiarity)
- promote sporting issues by taking account of the specific nature of sport;
- develop a European dimension of sport by promoting fairness and openness in competitions, cooperation between bodies responsible for sport, and protecting physical and moral integrity of sportspersons.
- foster cooperation with third countries and international organisations.



## Lisbon Treaty

- *New Council structures for sport*
- *A budget for sport*
- *Better promotion of sport*



## Intense dialogue at different levels

### ***Member States:***

Informal and formal meetings EU Sport Ministers & EU Sport Directors  
Working Groups “White Paper implementation”, Health, Doping,  
Economics, Non-profit sport organisations, Education & Training

### ***Sport movement.***

EU Sport Forum  
Structured Dialogue for sport at EU level  
Social Dialogue structures for sport

### ***European Commission / Interinstitutional:***

Inter Service Group on Sport  
European Parliament  
Economic and Social Committee, Committee of Regions







## **Future prospects**

European sport policy

Communication of the European Commission

Sports programme

Mainstreaming sport through various programmes

(Youth in action and mobility, European Year Volunteers

Life long Learning programme, Regional Fund, Progress, Euro aid)



# Thank you for your attention !



[http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/index_en.html)

