



DiscoverU

DISCOVERING UNIVERSITY SPORT AND DUAL CAREER

National Factsheets



Co-funded by
the European Union

INTRODUCTION

The national factsheets provide general country data and some specific insights on the field of higher education and sports, focusing also specifically on university sport and dual career legislation in six selected countries (Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland and Slovenia), corresponding to the countries of the partners of the Discovering University Sport and Supporting Dual Career (DiscoverU) project.

DiscoverU is a 36-month project running until end of 2026. It is co-funded by the European Union, with the main aim to improve sport and physical activity opportunities for students in higher education on one hand, addressing larger student population; and at the same time promote and support dual career in higher education in partnering countries.

Some data for these national factsheets was gathered through research done for the production of other deliverables of the same project - DiscoverU Research report - Dual Career and University Sport in Europe and DiscoverU Collection of Good Practice; while some data was gathered through by the European University Sports Association (EUSA), based on individual self-assessments of the national university sport bodies; some data is based on the research some data was retrieved from data by World Bank and OECD Data, as well as from data available on European Commission's Eurydice network; while some data came from publicly available sources, like Wikipedia and specialised searches.

The data may not represent full accuracy as it represents a cross-over from different sources and information from recent years, but it does provide a useful overview of similarities and differences between the partner countries.

CROATIA



General Country Data

- **Size:** 56,594 km²
- **Population:** 4 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€16,000
- **Climate:** Mediterranean and Continental

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 58 higher education institutions – universities, polytechnics, colleges
- **Student Population:** ~160,000
- **Tuition Fees:** Generally payable at the MSc level; BSc tuition partially subsidized.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** Established, with national support.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 3 hours
 - o Secondary: 2-3 hours
 - o Tertiary: Elective courses available.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Basketball, Handball, Water Polo, Tennis, Athletics, Sailing
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Notable success in Football, Handball, and Water Polo internationally.
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Basketball, Handball
 - o **International Participation:** Handball, Football, Basketball
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
284	6	298	6	381	5

HUNGARY



General Country Data

- **Size:** 93,030 km²
- **Population:** 9.6 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€15,700
- **Climate:** Continental

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 82 institutions of higher education – universities and colleges
- **Student Population:** ~250,000
- **Tuition Fees:** Generally payable, though various scholarships exist.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** National support with sport-student balance programs.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 3 hours
 - o Secondary: 2 hours
 - o Tertiary: Available through electives.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Water Polo, Handball, Fencing, Athletics, Canoeing, Gymnastics
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Water Polo and Canoeing dominate, with extensive success in international events.
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Water Polo, Basketball
 - o **International Participation:** Water Polo, Fencing, Football
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
210	9	437	3	426	4

ITALY



General Country Data

- **Size:** 301,340 km²
- **Population:** 60 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€29,000
- **Climate:** Varied, Mediterranean to Alpine

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 91 universities
- **Student Population:** ~1.7 million
- **Tuition Fees:** Generally free or payable, though public university fees are moderate.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** Institution-led support, with new national initiatives emerging.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 2 hours
 - o Secondary: 2 hours
 - o Tertiary: Limited, mostly elective.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Cycling, Tennis, Athletics, Rugby
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Football, Swimming, and Volleyball excel, with frequent European and global victories.
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Volleyball, Basketball
 - o **International Participation:** Football, Volleyball, Basketball
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
160	13	69	18	225	9

MALTA



General Country Data

- **Size:** 316 km²
- **Population:** 0.5 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€25,100
- **Climate:** Mediterranean

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 8 universities
- **Student Population:** ~11,000
- **Tuition Fees:** Generally free for BSc; MSc fees apply for non-Maltese EU students.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** No national legislation, though local institutions provide support.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 2 hours
 - o Secondary: 2 hours
 - o Tertiary: Elective, limited availability.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Water Polo, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics, Tennis, Sailing
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Water Polo and Sailing are the top-performing sports in international competitions.
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Water Polo, Rugby
 - o **International Participation:** Water Polo, Rugby, Football
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
0	-	0	-	0	-

POLAND



General Country Data

- **Size:** 312,696 km²
- **Population:** 38 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€14,700
- **Climate:** Mostly temperate with maritime and continental influences

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 457 higher education institutions – universities and colleges
- **Student Population:** ~2.1 million
- **Tuition Fees:** Free at public universities for domestic students.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** In progress, with institution-led programs.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 3 hours
 - o Secondary: 2-3 hours
 - o Tertiary: Limited, with elective options.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Athletics, Handball, Skiing, Table Tennis
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Football and Volleyball are the most successful internationally.
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Volleyball, Basketball
 - o **International Participation:** Volleyball, Basketball, Football
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
370	5	560	1	294	7

SLOVENIA



General Country Data

- **Size:** 20,273 km²
- **Population:** 2.1 million
- **GDP per capita:** ~€26,900
- **Climate:** Mainly continental, with Mediterranean and Alpine influences

Higher Education Data

- **Institutions:** 7 universities
- **Student Population:** ~70,000
- **Tuition Fees:** Generally free for BSc and MSc, with some exceptions.
- **Dual Career Legislation:** Present; includes support frameworks for students balancing academics and sports.
- **Physical Education Hours (weekly):**
 - o Primary: 3 hours
 - o Secondary: 2-3 hours
 - o Tertiary: Varies, mostly elective.

Sports Data

- **Popular Sports:** Football, Basketball, Skiing, Handball, Tennis, Cycling, Alpine Skiing
- **Achievements in Competitions:** Skiing, Basketball, and Rowing lead with high performance at European and World Championships
- **Higher Education Sports Participation (Top 3):**
 - o **Local Participation:** Football, Basketball, Volleyball
 - o **International Participation:** Basketball, Volleyball, Football
 - o **Participation at European Universities Sport events:**

2019		2022		2023	
Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking
62	21	33	23	24	28



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