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Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sports Clubs in Europe

EU Funded Research Project 2015-2017

Summary of findings presentation to Sport Wales
Wednesday 4th October 2017

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Co-funded by the
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EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT 2015 – 2017

FINDINGS FOR POLICY MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sports Clubs in Europe

Co-funded by the
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The University
Of Sheffield.

Plus, several other reports published:



SDU 

Karsten Elmosø-Østerlund
Bjarne Ibsen

..... INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND VOLUNTEERING IN SPORTS CLUBS IN EUROPE

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union 



SPORTS CLUB POLICIES IN EUROPE

Bjarne Ibsen, Geoff Nichols and Karsten Elmosø-Østerlund

SIVSCE REPORT
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND VOLUNTEERING IN SPORTS CLUBS IN EUROPE

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union 



CHARACTERISTICS OF EUROPEAN SPORTS CLUBS

Christoph Breuer, Svenja Feiler, Ramon Llopis-Goig and Karsten Elmosø-Østerlund

SIVSCE REPORT
SOCIAL INCLUSION AND VOLUNTEERING IN SPORTS CLUBS IN EUROPE

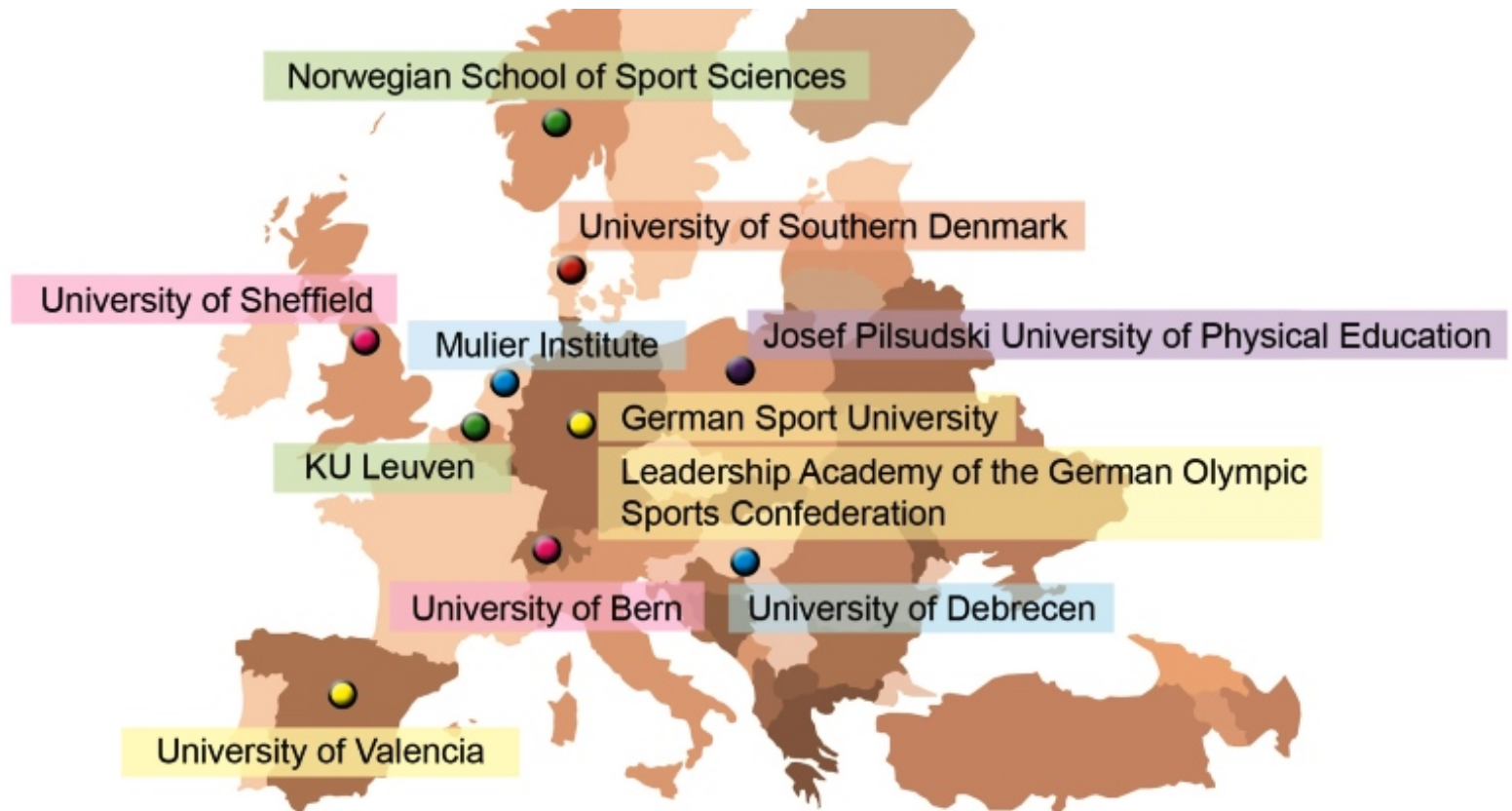
Visit the project website: <http://www.sdu.dk/SIVSCE>



1. Background to the European project.
2. Comparing sport policies – to show what might be done in UK.
3. Comparing sports clubs – to show strengths and weaknesses.



Ten project partners





Methods

- WP1.** Sports club policy analysis.
- WP2.** Sports club survey (35,790 clubs)
- WP3.** Member and volunteer survey (13,082)
- WP4.** Overall analysis of the results.
- WP5.** Examples of good practice (3 per country)
- WP6.** Handbook with suggestions for practice.
- WP7.** European and national conferences.



Best comparative data – provisos:

- Language interpreted differently?
- Some Qs hard to answer
- Responses may not be equally representative in each country
 - Report considers this.



Why this matters

- 62,000 + sports clubs in England
- Contribution to sports participation – with associated benefits
- Contribution to social capital - a set of social relationships and shared enthusiasms to provide a collective resource

Differences across Europe

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

Why differences across Europe?

History, welfare policies and level of equality are important





Comparative sports policies – from WP1 report

- From the 3 countries with highest participation levels
- Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Denmark
- Others – see project report on WP1.



The Netherlands

- Govt. funded ‘neighbourhood sports coaches’ - to stimulate cooperation between schools, sports clubs and other social organisations
- Legislation allows volunteers of sports clubs to receive a remuneration for time committed and expenses of €4.50 per hour – max. of €1,500 per year, without paying tax.
- Local governments provide facilities with reduced fees to sports clubs



Switzerland

- clubs supported through the national *Youth and Sport* programme - Federal Office of Sport distributes over 80 million Swiss Francs (CHF) per year (~£364m) to clubs engaged in the promotion of youth sports. Clubs receive a fee per young person (aged between five and 20 years) participating in their sports clubs.
- about two-thirds of the Swiss population aged between ten and 20 years take part



Switzerland

- National funding pays for the development of coaches
- currently over 120,000 licensed J+S coaches and managers in Switzerland. Specialised courses include how to recruit and motivate volunteers in a sports club and the integration of immigrants and disabled people.
- club receives free training of its coaches who deliver *Adults Sport Programme Switzerland (ESA)* for people over 20 years old



Switzerland

- Local government supports clubs by providing sports facilities at concessional rates [policy varies] – in 2010, about three-quarters of all sports clubs (73%) relied exclusively or partially on public sports facilities.
- Local govt. may pay a lump sum to clubs. about 5-20 CHF per member (~£4-£16) annually or a flat rate sum of 100 or 1,000 CHF.
- Clubs also receive financial support for special programmes that promote sport-related integration of immigrants.



Denmark

- ‘Leisure Act’ – obliges municipalities to give voluntary sports clubs access to facilities free of charge or against payment of a minor fee, for club members aged under 25 - and to receive reimbursement of two thirds of the cost of renting privately owned facilities
- Local government also gives clubs an amount for each member aged 25 or under - €3-15
- = 83% of the total public funding for sports in 2012



Denmark

- in most municipalities, all members of sports clubs can use the municipally owned facilities free of charge.
- Legislation permits people who do voluntary work to receive around €650 per year to cover expenses without being taxed



Policy - What could be lobbied for in England and Wales?

- What policies could be lobbied for in the present – or future political climate???
- Subsidy targeted at young people via clubs
- Subsidy of coaching qualifications
- Subsidised facility use
- Tax concessions for volunteers



Policy - What could be lobbied for in England and Wales?

- Why?
 - Contribution to participation and health
 - Contribution to social capital and volunteering



Comparing clubs across Europe – WP2 report

- Best comparative data – provisos:
- Language interpreted differently?
- Some Qs hard to answer
- Responses may not be equally representative in each country
 - Report considers this.



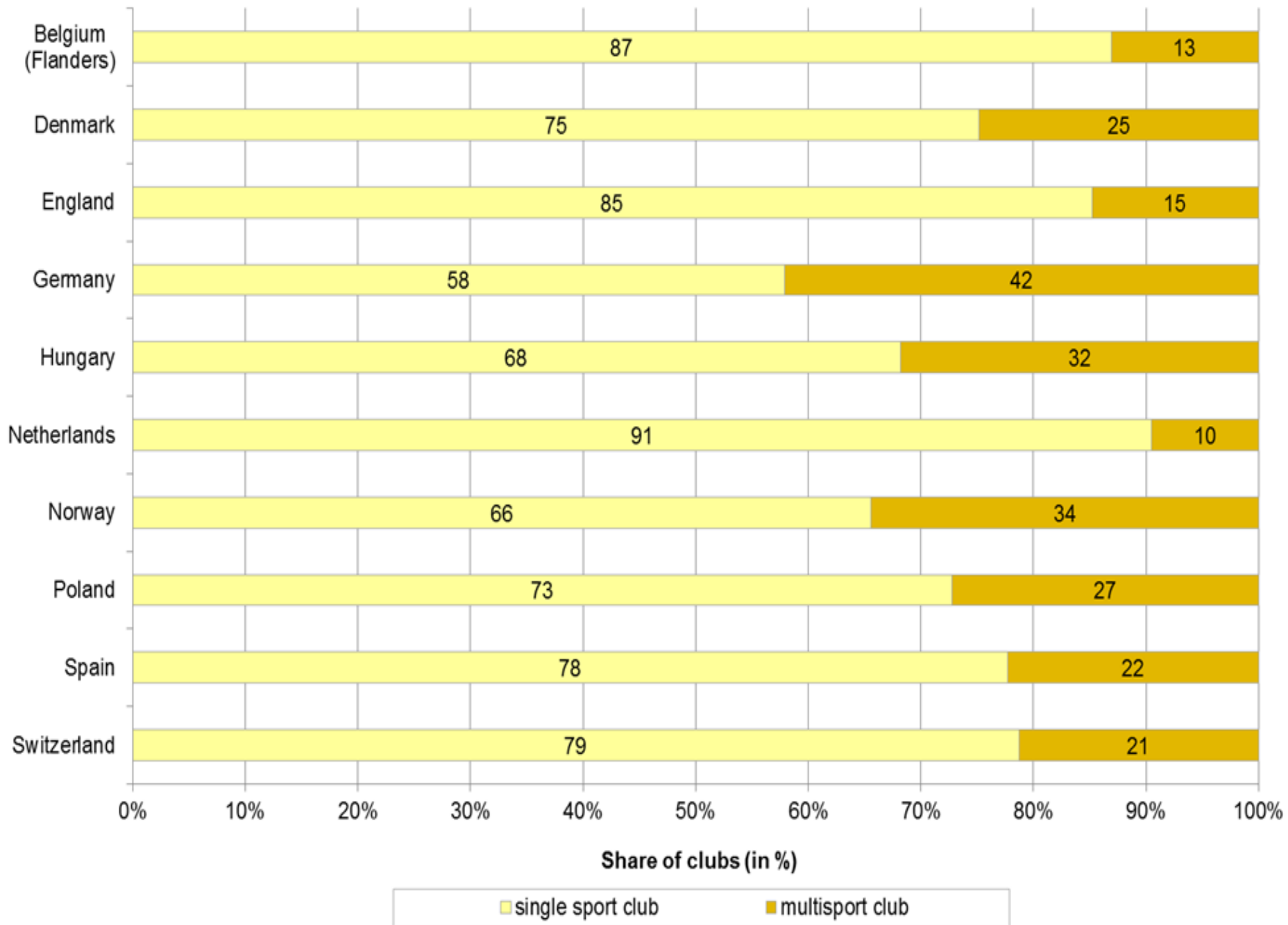
Summary

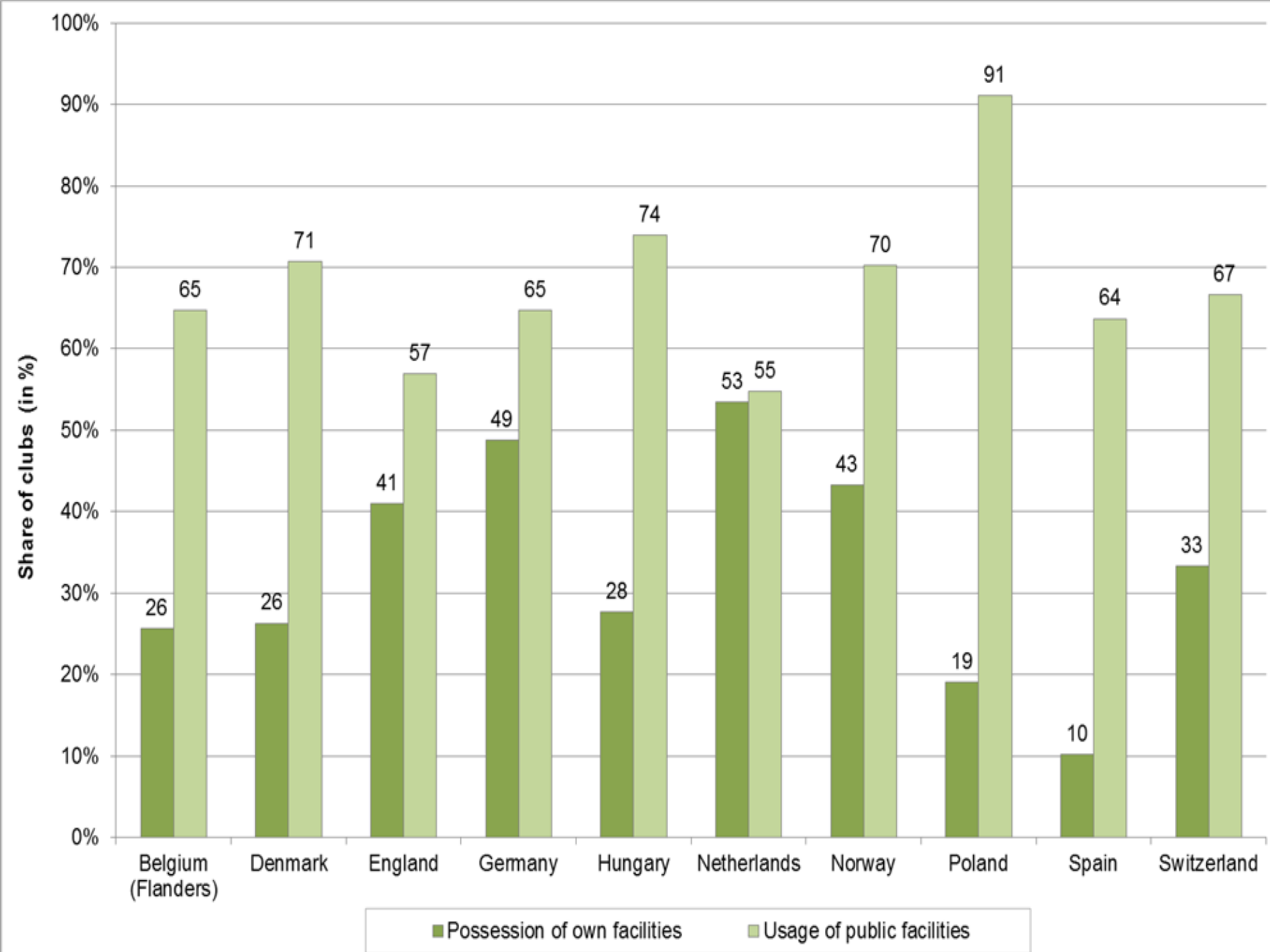
- English clubs are no worse or better a position than clubs across Europe in general –including recruiting members and vols. .
- **Biggest problem - access to facilities – threat to 9% of clubs** (bigger threat to clubs in Spain, Poland and Hungary, and almost as great in Norway).
- English clubs are second to least in use of public facilities

Club size

Country	Median	Male (%)	Female (%)
Belgium (Flanders)	76.0	66.6	33.4
Denmark	112.0	60.6	39.4
England	112.0	65.9	34.1
Germany	163.0	62.5	37.5
Hungary	50.0	68.5	31.5
Netherlands	270.0	62.0	38.0
Norway	199.0	60.2	39.8
Poland	60.0	72.4	27.6
Spain	45.0	70.0	30.0
Switzerland	58.0	63.6	36.4

Type of sport club (single vs. multisport club)



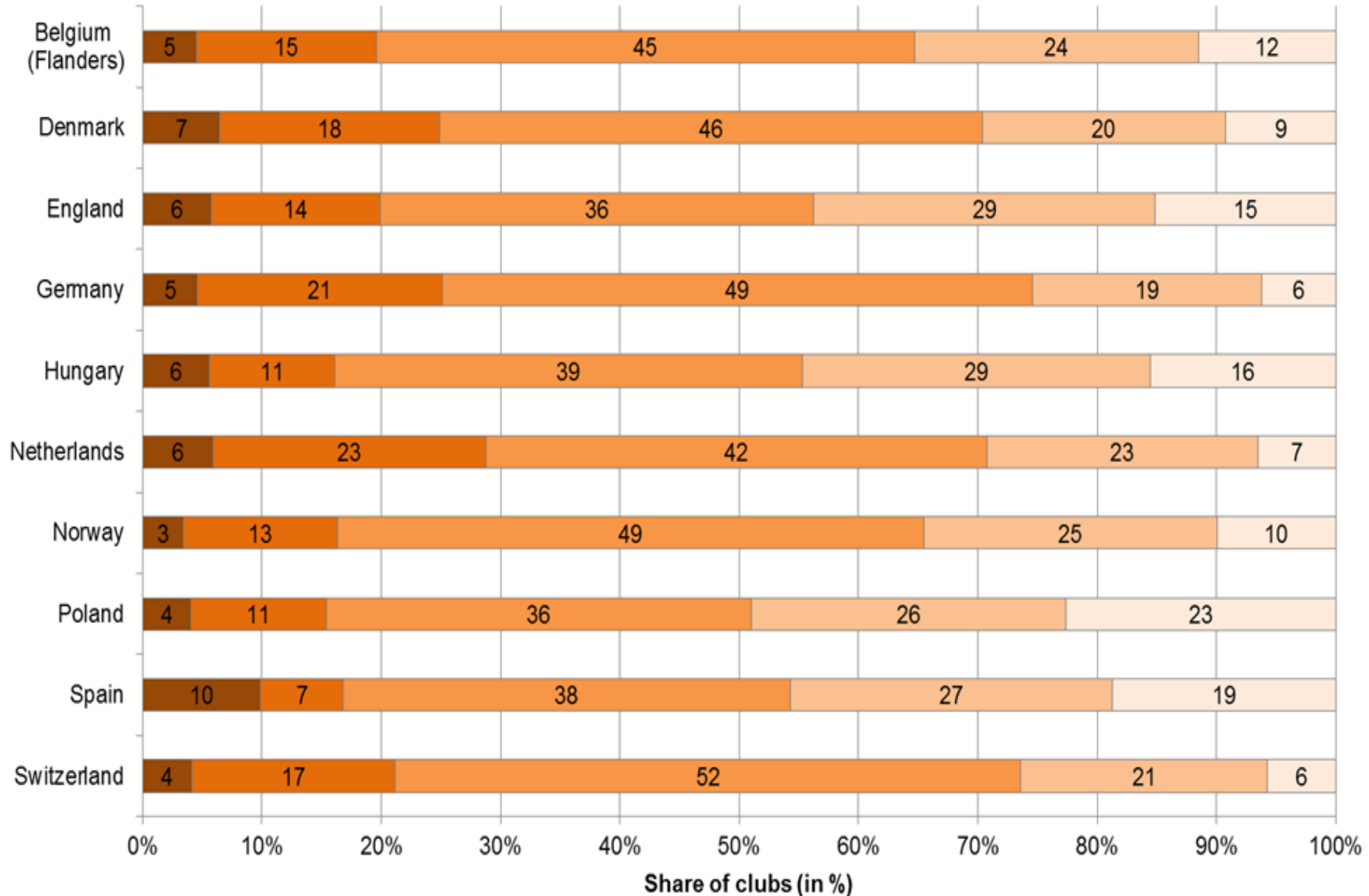




Strengths of English clubs

- Stable numbers of volunteers and members
[in this sample]

Membership development



■ Large decrease (more than 25 %)

■ Moderate decrease (11-25 %)

■ Roughly unchanged (+/- 10 %)

■ Moderate increase (11-25 %)

■ Large increase (more than 25 %)

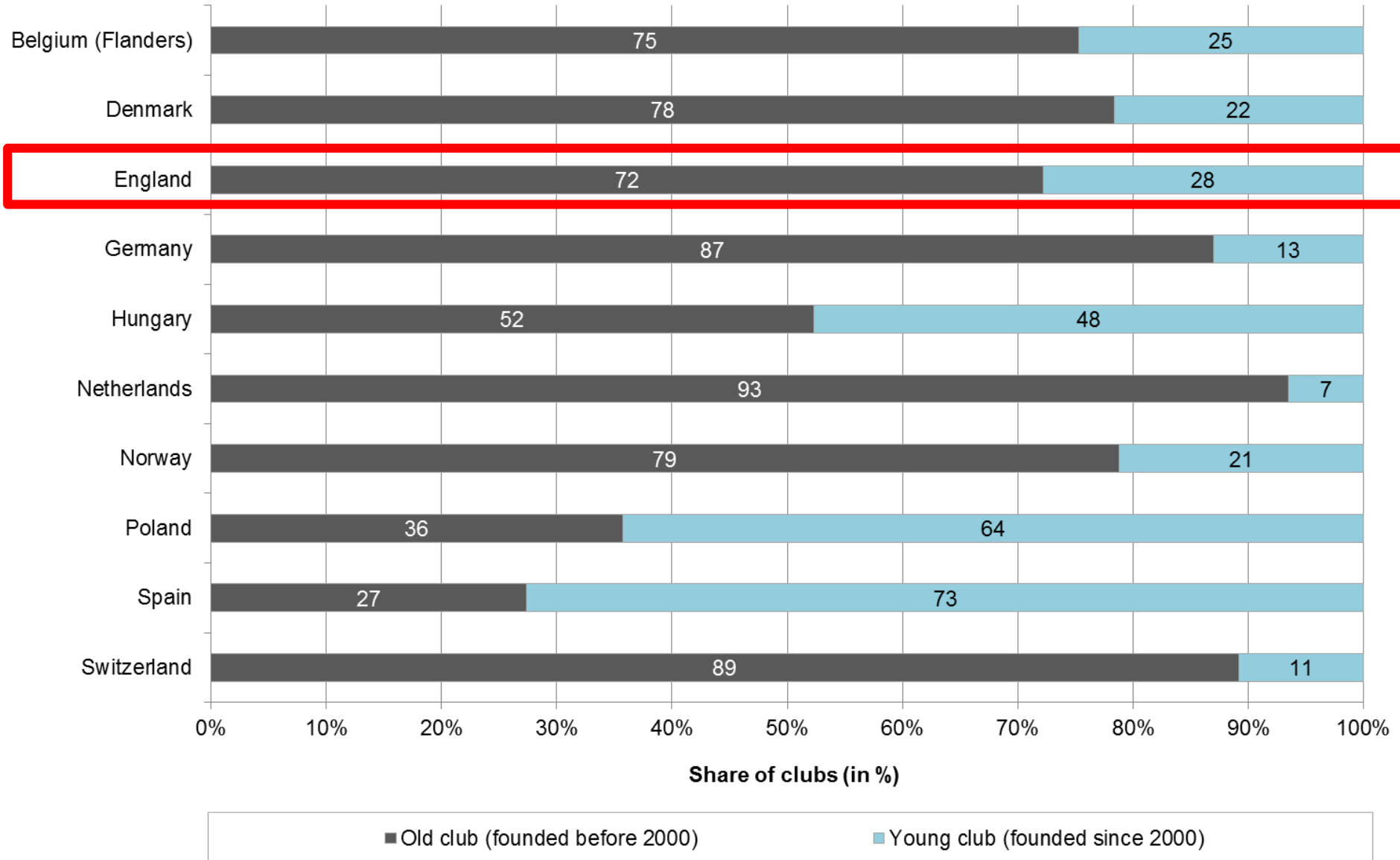


Strengths of English clubs

- Continuity – as a social institution
- In England 20% of clubs were founded before 1930 and 10% before 1900.
- 72% before 2000

Age of clubs

Old and young clubs





Club weaknesses

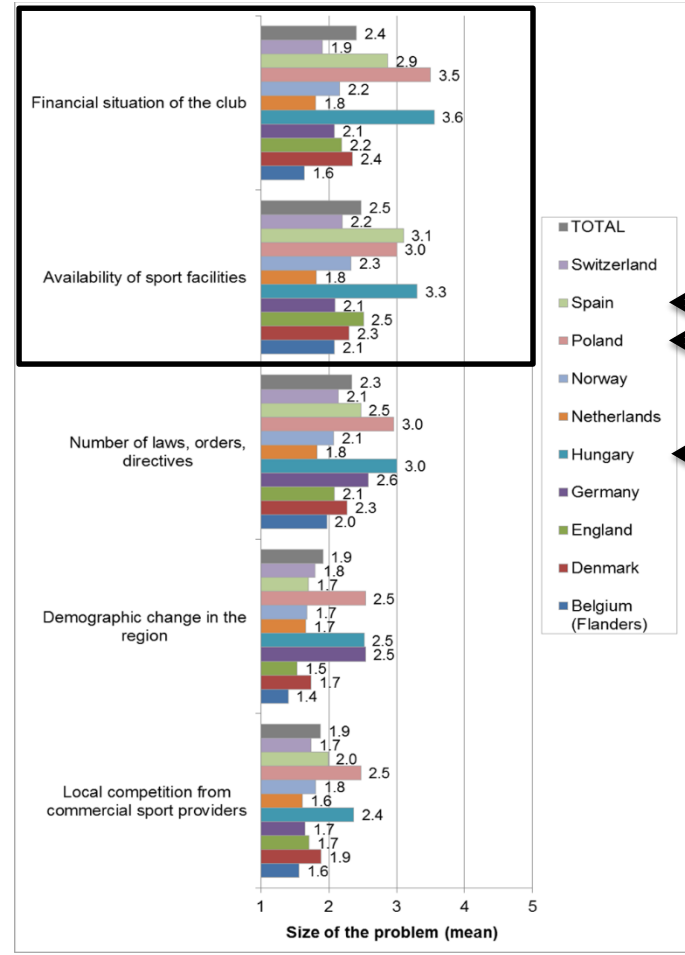
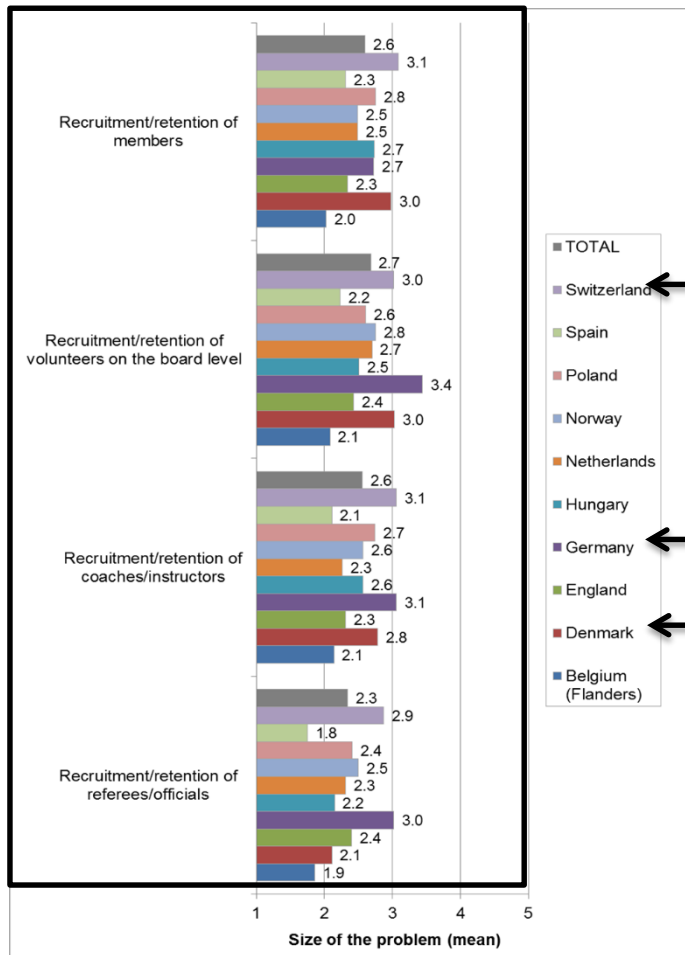
- Problems
- Problems threatening existence.



- **Go in here complete problems**
- **Then do second section on inclusion and volunteering - notes below**

No crisis in European sports clubs

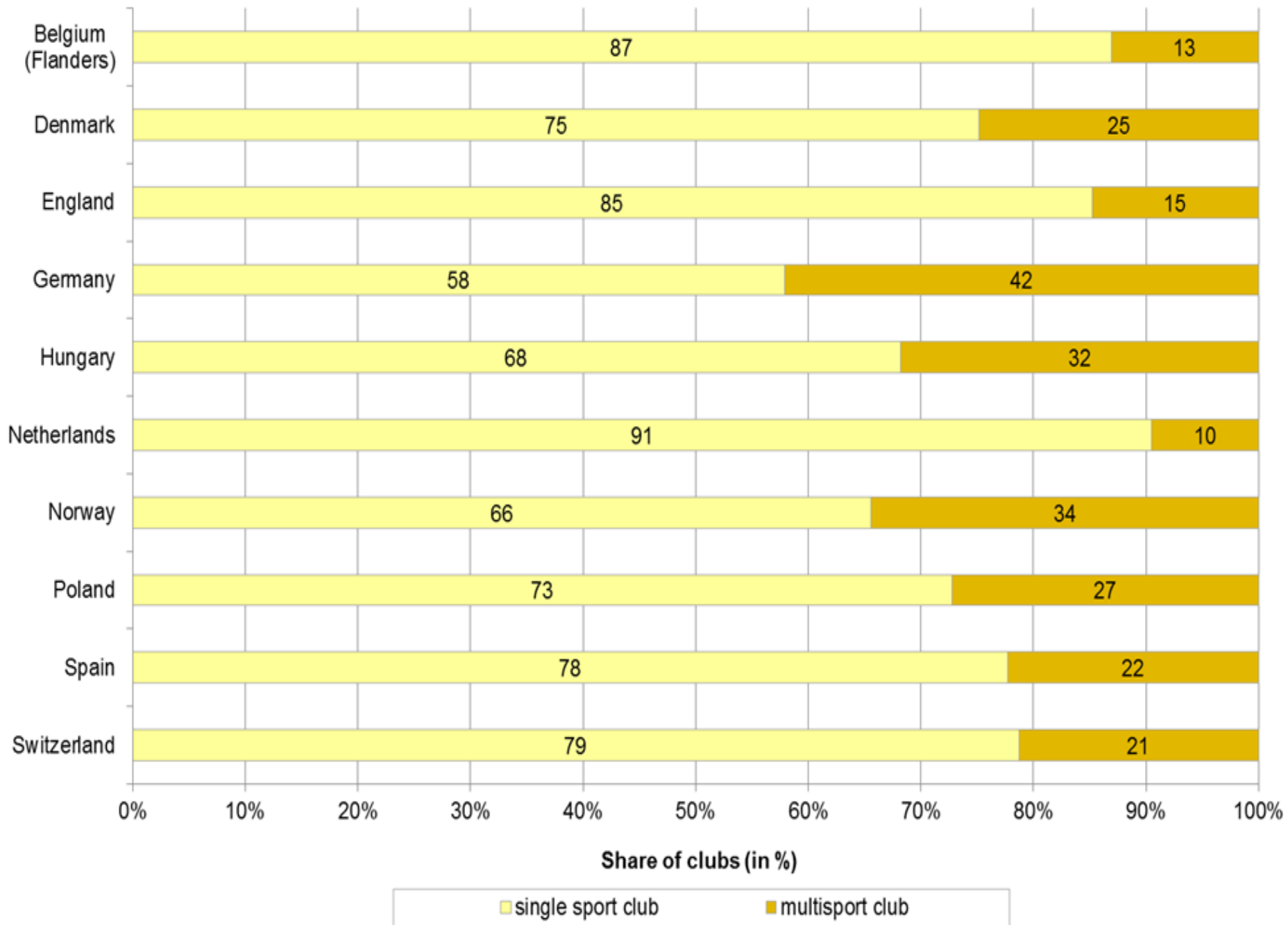
- What are the main challenges?



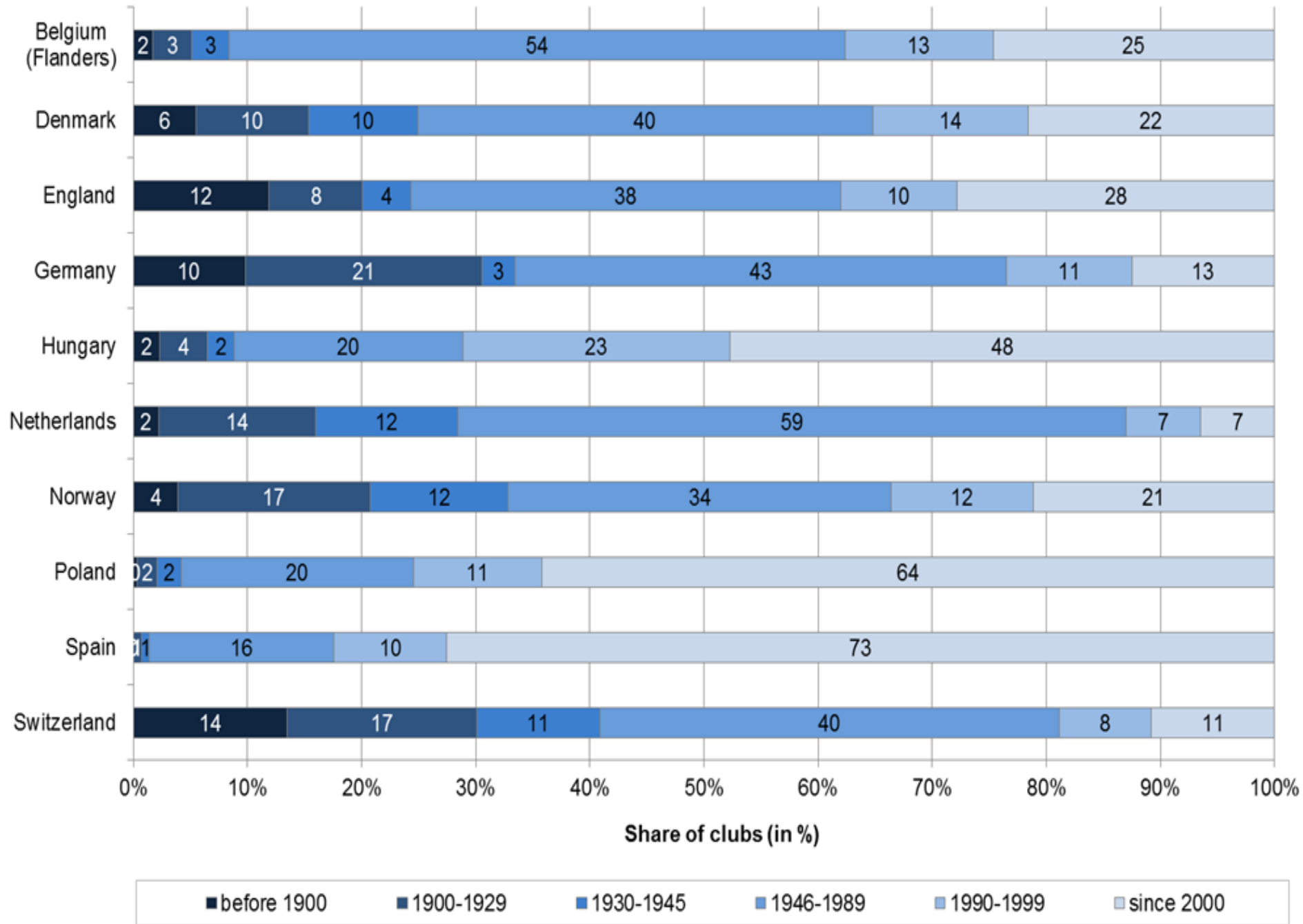
Public subsidy

Country	Direct public subsidies (share of revenue in %)
Poland	41
Hungary	28
Norway	17
Denmark	15
Switzerland	14
Belgium (Flanders)	13
Spain	11
Germany	9
England	6
Netherlands	5

Type of sport club (single vs. multisport club)

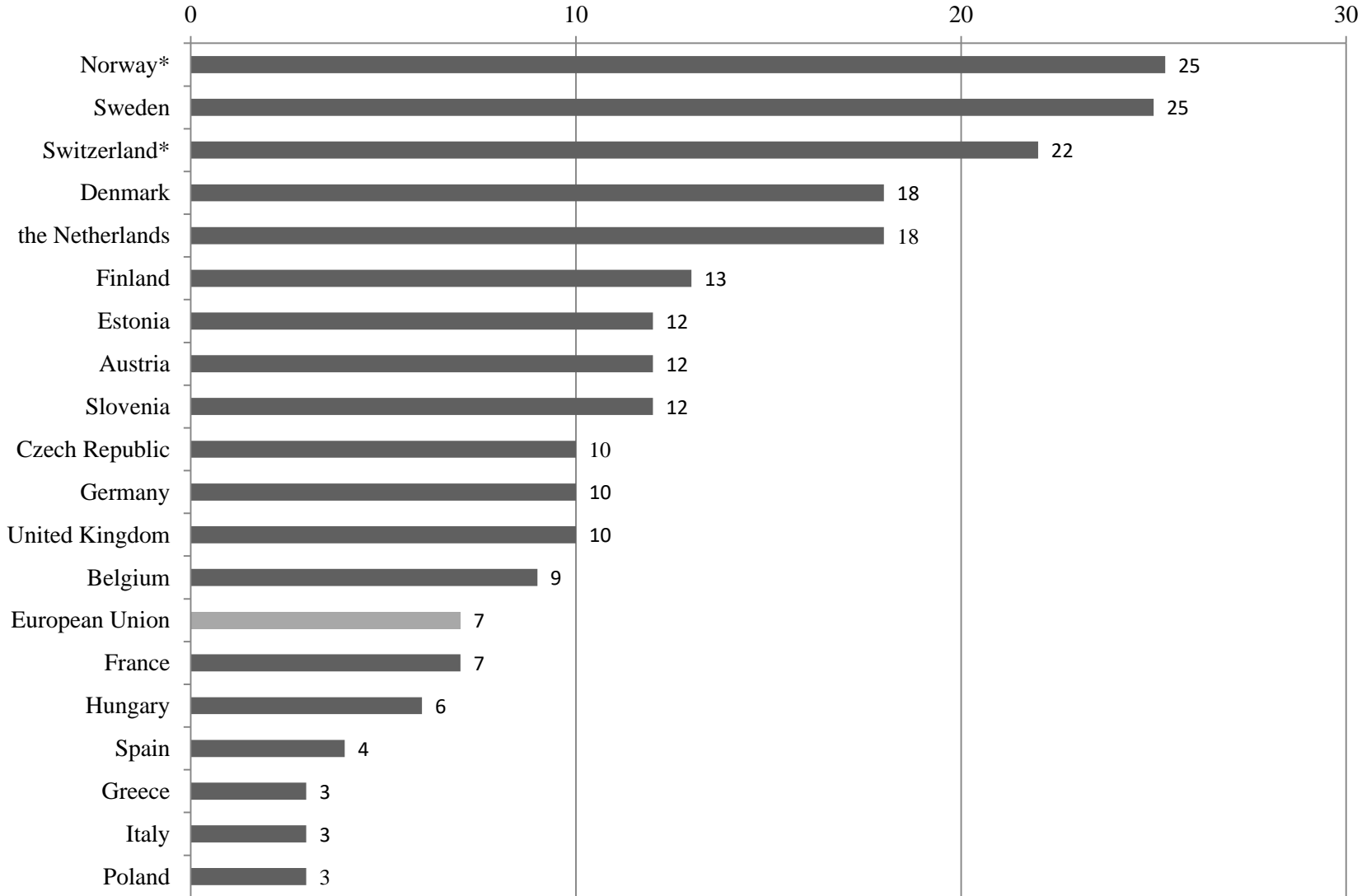


Foundation years



Participating in voluntary work that supports sporting activities (people 15 years and older).

Breuer, C., Hoekman, R., Nagel, S., & Werff, H. v. d. (Eds.) (2015). *Sports clubs in Europe. A cross-national comparative perspective* (p. 423). Basel, Switzerland: Springer.





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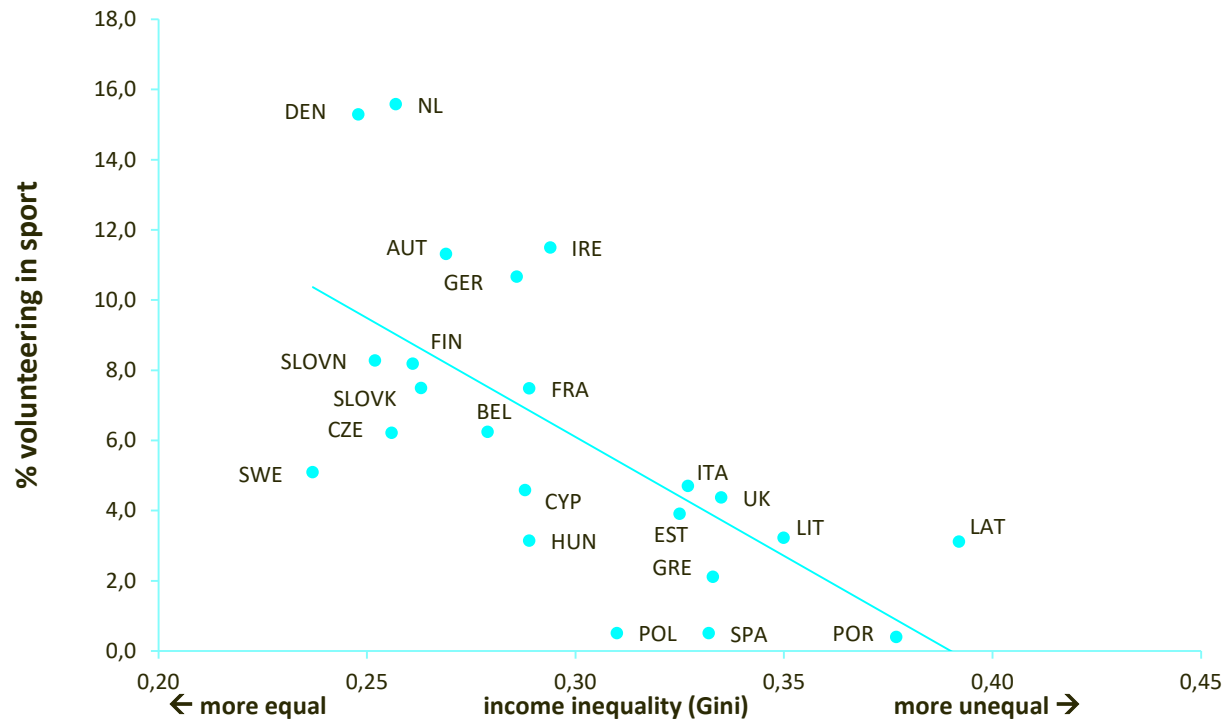
So why are these rates different?

Type of welfare state	Description	Countries and Equality rankings
Liberal	USA as the most typical – a low level of redistribution and welfare rights	England (8)
The Conservative / Corporatist	A medium level of redistribution and welfare rights – Germany is typical	Germany (4), Flanders (3), Netherlands (2), (Switzerland)
Social Democratic / Universal	Sweden as the most typical –high redistribution and welfare rights	Norway, Denmark (1)
Latin		Spain (7)
Post-Communist		Poland (6), Hungary (5)



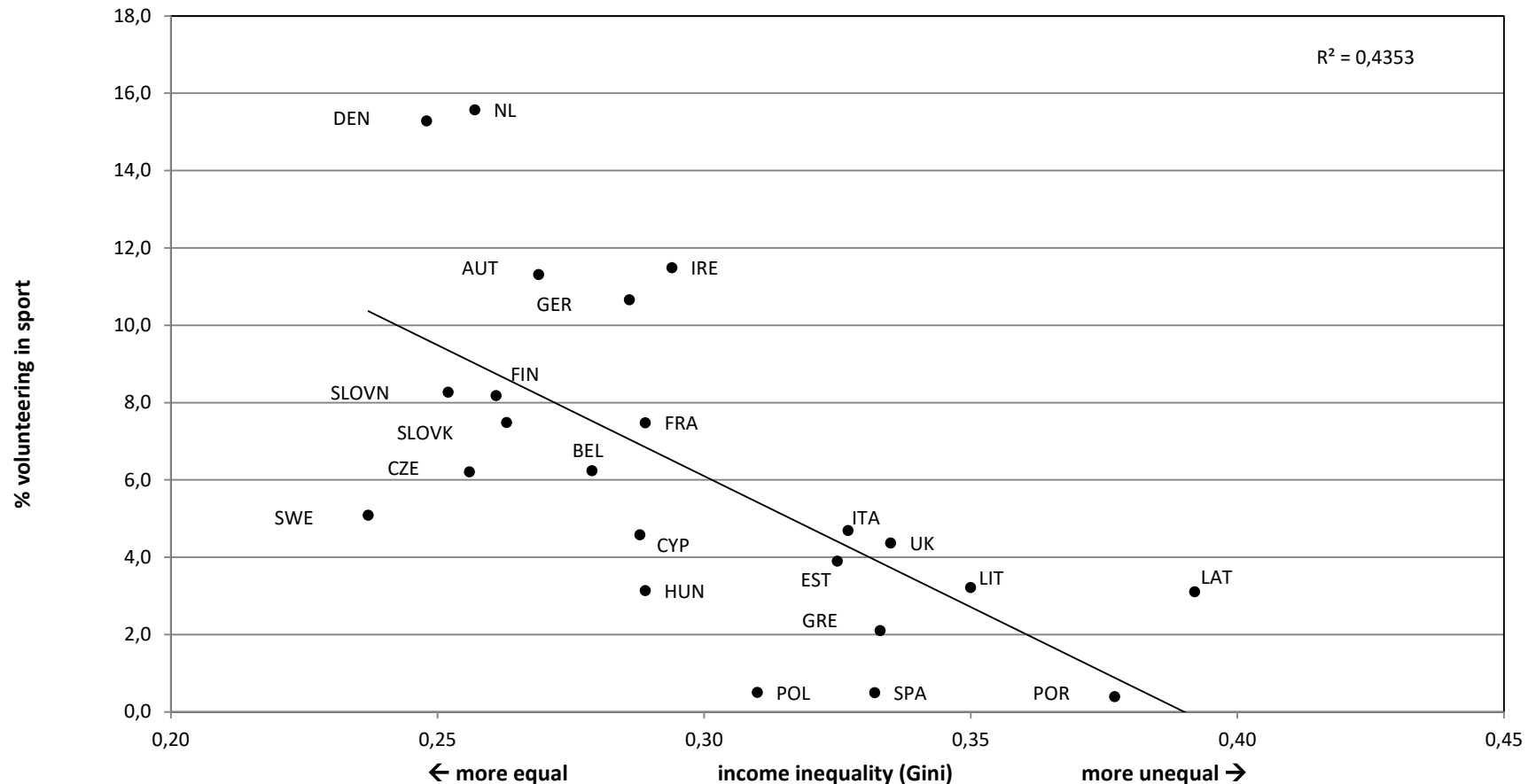
Income inequality by sports-related volunteering

$R^2 = 0,4353$





Income inequality by sports-related volunteering



Veal, A. J.& Nichols, G. (2017) Volunteering and income inequality: cross-national relationships. *Voluntas* 28(1), 379–399. P.395.



Country			
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Spain	45.0	70.0	30.0
Switzerland	58.0	63.6	36.4



Paid staff, relative to members, in %

- Poland 5
- Spain 3
- Hungary 2
- Germany 2
- England, Denmark, Belgium (Flanders),
Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland 1



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Questions?

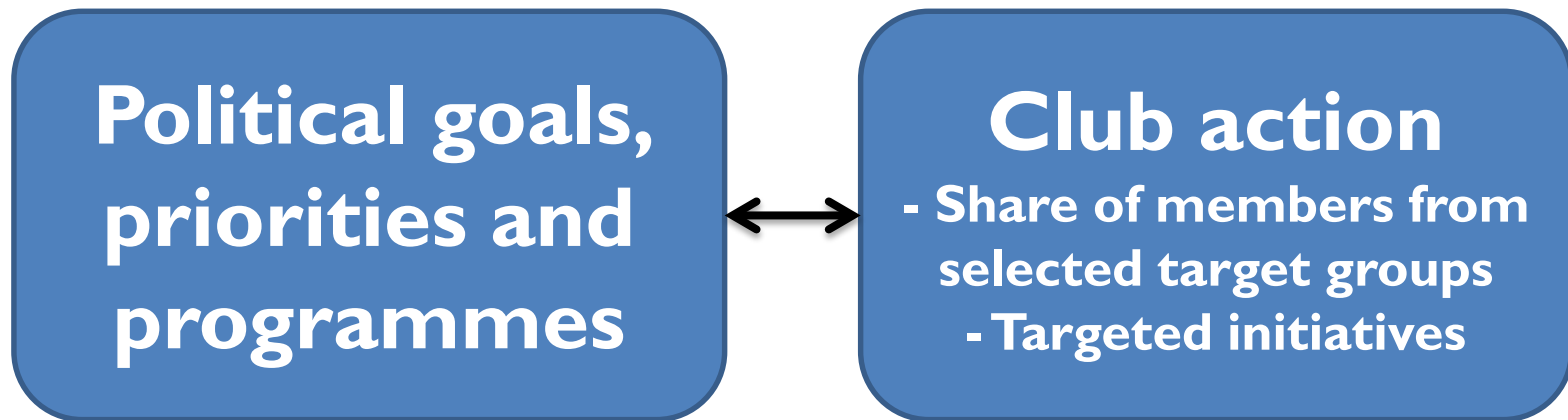
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Thanks for listening.

Policy and club action – missing link?

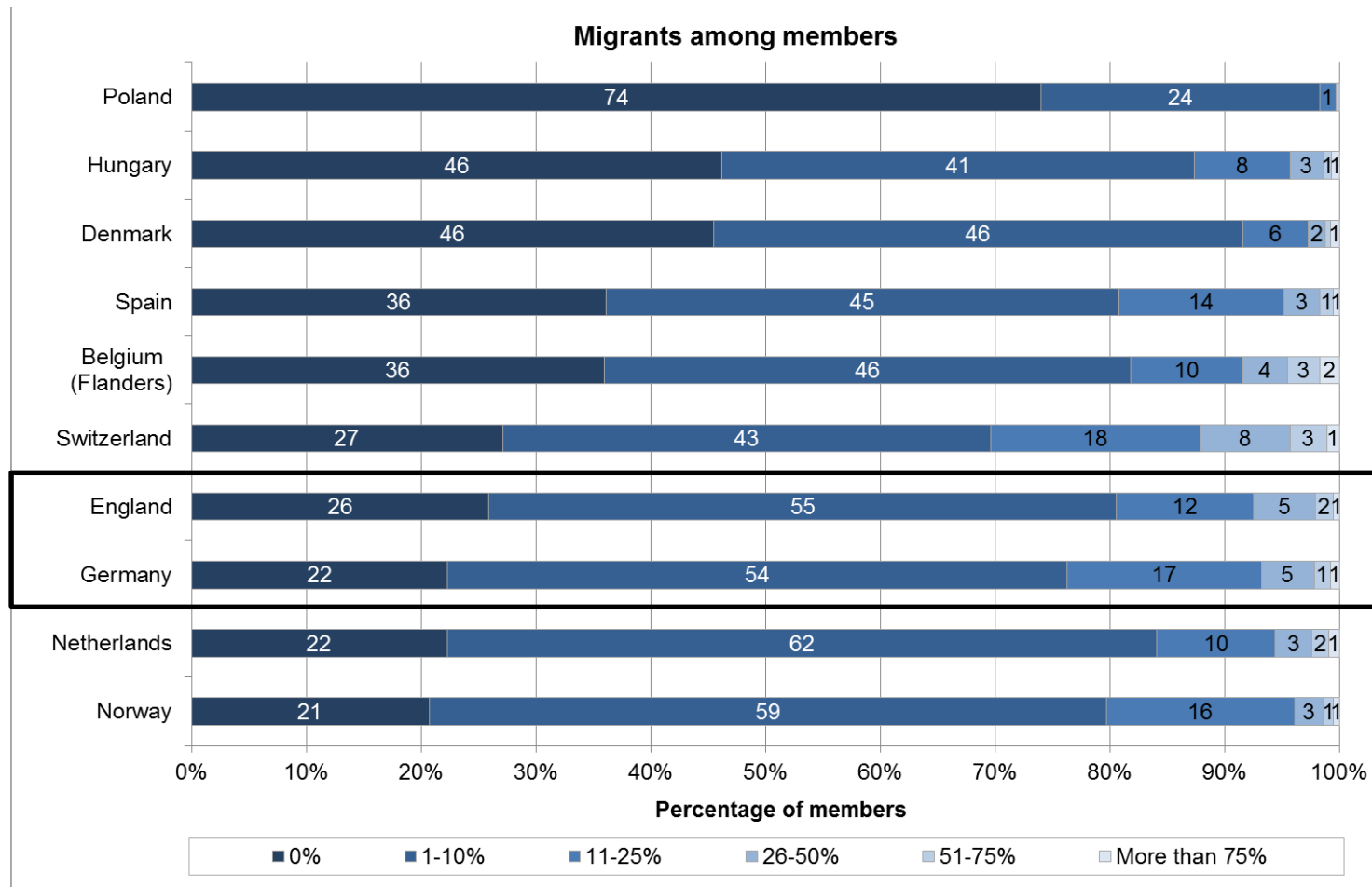
- Integration of ‘target groups’



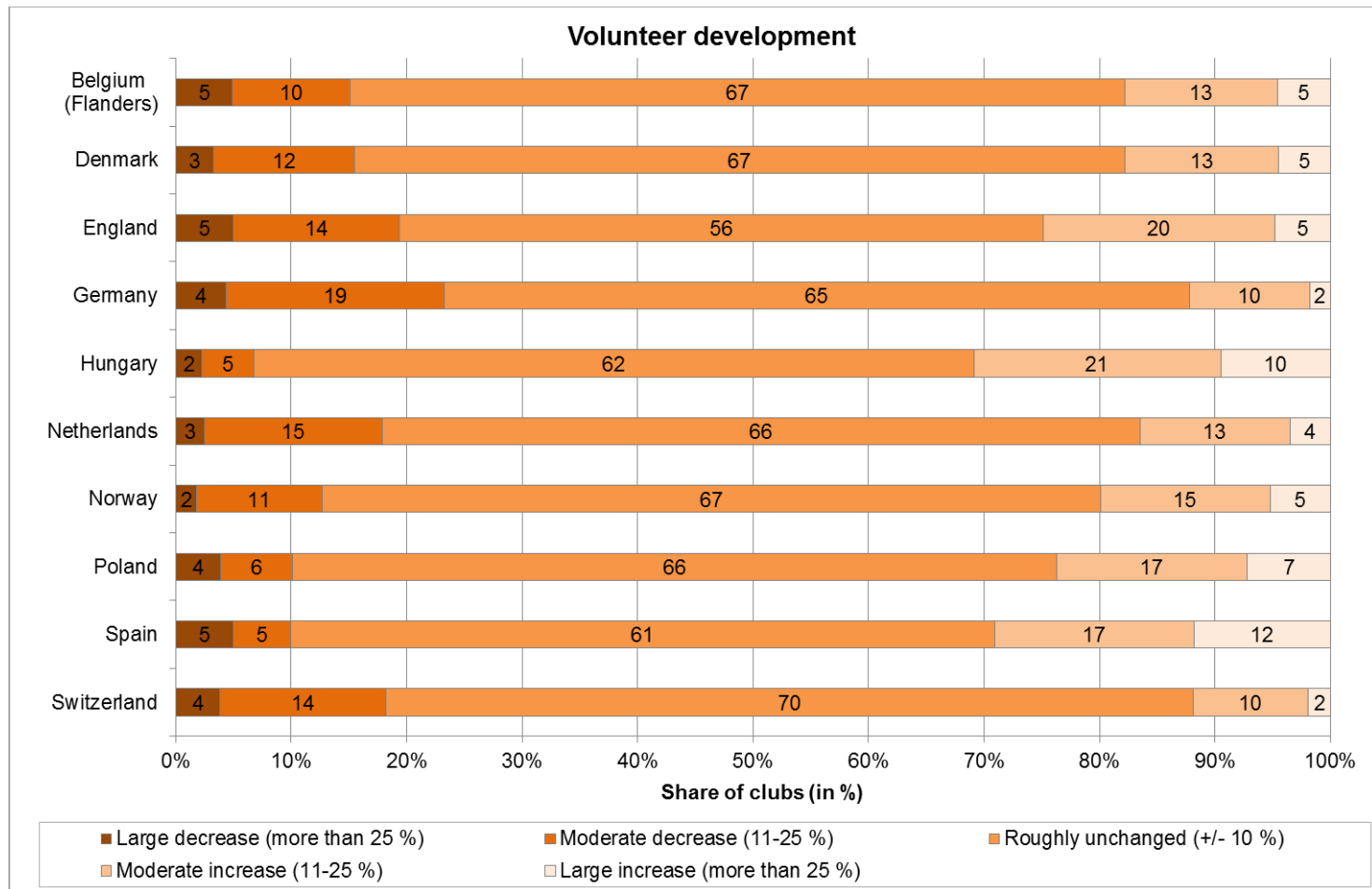
- No clear and general link can be identified
- Example: People with migration background
- High political priority in Germany, the opposite in England, but relatively high representation in sports clubs in both countries

Policy and club action – missing link?

- Integration of ‘target groups’



No crisis in European sports clubs - Volunteer development last 5 years





‘Good Practice’ from case study clubs

- The 4 English ones / examples of good practice, sprinkled with pictures, can we fit in links to videos clubs have done

Parkrun – epitome of a growth activity

- **Eg Sheffield Hallam parkrun?**
- 5km run - Every Saturday at 9:00am. Endcliffe Park (Hunters Bar), Sheffield. - it's free! but please [register](#) before your first run. It is entirely organised by volunteers - email SheffieldHallamhelpers@parkrun.com to help.
- **We're friendly!** parkrun coffee at Endcliffe Park Café - please come and join us.

Parkrun – why?

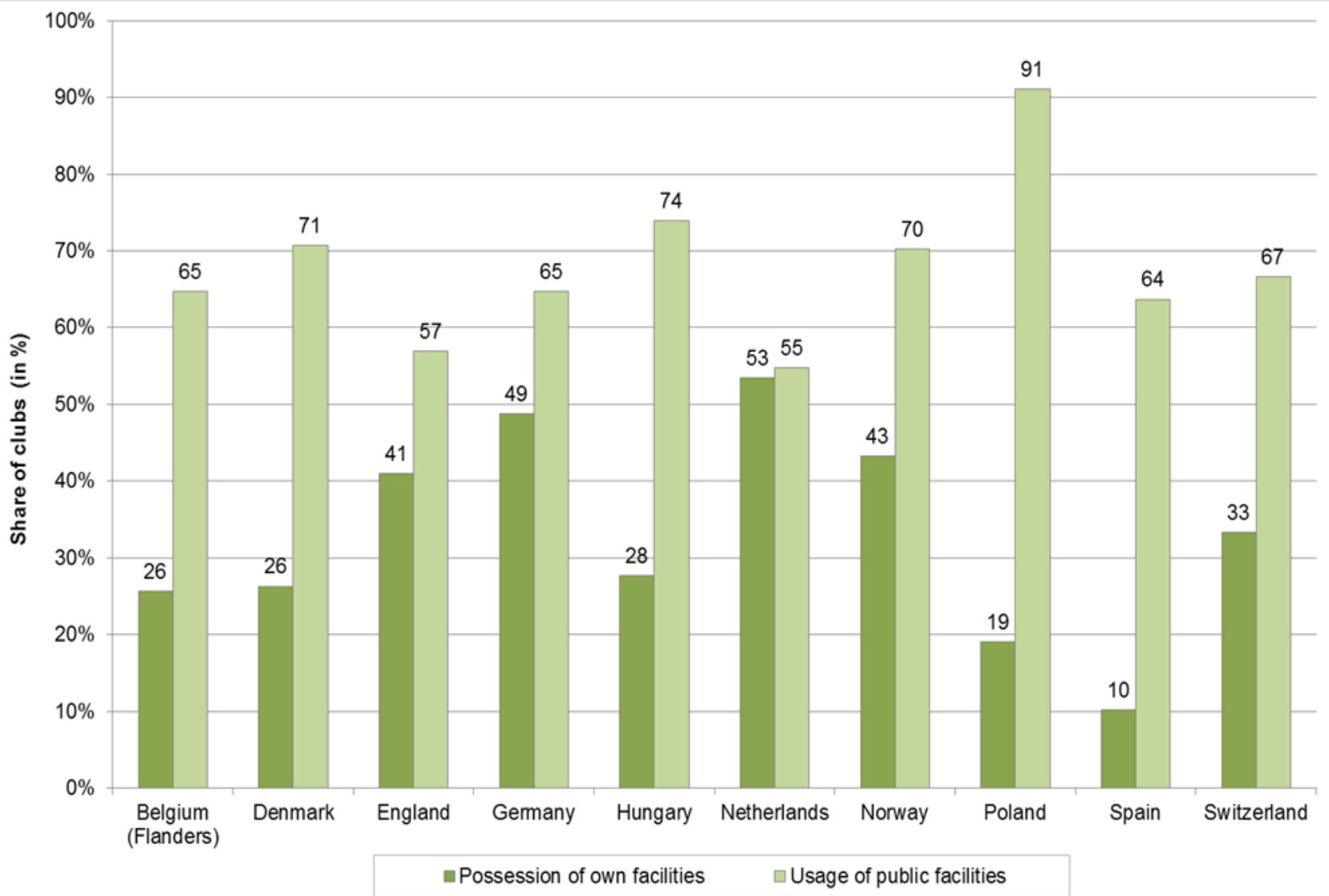
- Flexible participation – in a growth sport you can do individually
- But – as a big group – social buzz
- For any level
- free





Other example results

- Problems facing clubs - English clubs are no worse or better a position than clubs across Europe in general –including recruiting members and vols. .
- Biggest problem - access to facilities, bigger threat to clubs in Spain, Poland and Hungary, and almost as great in Norway.
- English clubs are second to least in use of public facilities





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Recommendations



Policies to consider in England and Wales

- Pick them out - discussion points in notes section.



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Lessons from good practice clubs

- To promote volunteering



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Lessons from good practice clubs

- To promote social inclusion