

COACHES in ESTONIA

QUALIFICATIONS

REGISTER

POLICY MAKING

CONFERENCE

“ROLE OF SPORT COACHES IN SOCIETY.

Adding value to people’s lives.”

Toomas Tõnise

Head of Estonian Foundation of Sports Education and Information

Situation today

ESTONIA today:

Qualifications for coaches – from 2003, included into NQF in 2004, total inclusion into European Qualifications Framework in 2013.

Almost 3 400 licenced coaches, more than 4 400 coaches at all.

Sports Register - 2011 – sports database belonging to state information system:

Organisations (2 627) + Coaches (3 383) + Facilities (3 022)

Excellent tool – evidence base for making sports policy at the level of central government, local authorities, sports organisation!

Changes

Changes in Society → Changes in Sports

30 years ago we had here centrally-planned sports system.

Practically no sports clubs, approx. 40 000 children-youth at sports schools,

Number of coaches ~ 1400, full paid ~ 700, half paid ~ 700.

Coaches were educated at 2 universities in Estonia and outside (in Soviet Union)

Salaries were planned and paid from the state budget.

Transition period

Sport was totally de-centralised in 1990-ties and this opened initiative of people! Thousands of clubs founded and structure of sports organisations established. It meant fast growth of participation in many sports, almost triple growth! Coaches salaries were influenced by the complications of transition period, in general it was not motivating for university studies and also many coaches changed their profession.

On the other hand – fast growth of participation caused strong need for more coaches. And so happened – many active people, former athletes, parents, etc. started to train children and adults at clubs.

Unfortunately clubs and sports organisations all due to insufficient experience, know-how and financing were not able to emphasise, organise and finance respective educational trainings for coaches.

Changes in sports organisations

	1987	1997	2007	2017
Participation				
Children & Youth	42 500	51 150	82 400	97 800
Participants all	55 000	67 450	148 800	163 200
Coaches				
Full time coaches	696	590	830	950
Coaches all	1 401	1 746	3 300	4 400

Build-up

In 2001/2002 – understanding the situation - we stated that:

- no information about persons who coach - nor by sports, nor by territories;
- everyone can practice as coach in spite of qualities, knowledge, competence;
- no rules and standards for training and evaluating coaches competences;
- coaches training and in-service training are chaotic and unsystematic;
- there is no motivation – nor material nor moral – for coaches competences and systematic training.

All these negative factors seemed to be very dangerous for the credibility of sport and sports organisations!

Build-up

Then under the leadership of the Estonian Olympic Committee and in excellent cooperation with sports federations and Estonian Qualifications Authority COACHES QUALIFICATIONS were worked out in 2003, amended a number of times, included into the NQF in 2004 and connected with the EQF in 2013.

Estonian Olympic Committee is a awarding body and working through sports federations (commissions for coaches qualifications) according to the specialisations by sports.

Horizontally harmonized rules, preconditions, requirements on education and working experience, also regular in-service training. Evaluation in the form of exam and testing – general knowledge and skills in specialisation.

Qualifications

Coaches licences at six levels:

Assistant coach – EQF level 3

Junior coach – EQF level 4

Coach – EQF level 5

Senior coach – EQF level 6

Master coach – EQF level 7

Elite coach – EQF level 8

For the moment we have the following number of certified coaches:

EQF levels	Number of coaches – in Total 3383
EQF 3	914
EQF 4	578
EQF 5	1024
EQF 6	683
EQF 7	182
EQF 8	2

Qualifications

As a general rule:

Levels 3 – 4 – 5 on the basis of educational courses

General subjects – courses through universities

Sports specialisation – courses through federations or internationally

Number of lessons:

Level 3 30 hours general subjects and 30 hours specialised sport

Level 4 + 50 hours general subjects and + 50 hours specialised sport

Level 5 + 70 hours general subjects and + 70 hours specialised sport

Level 6 in general - bachelor's degree and specialisation

Level 7 in general - master's degree and specialisation

Level 8 outstanding contribution to the sports

Estonian Sports Register

Valuable database of Estonian sports – Estonian Sports Register.

It is classical collection of statistical data, but not only! It makes available detailed information about every unit, every coach.

Such capabilities allow sports register to be ideal tool for policy makers, sports managers and also for parents and families, for all who make decisions!

It creates credibility, trustfulness and transparency for sport, for sports organisations, for parents and families and for the profession of coaches.

Coaches Register

Public use	Official use
First name(s) and Family name	ID code - First and Family name
	Date of Birth – Age
	Gender
Place of residence – County and local municipality	Address, contact phone and e-mail
	Education, incl. higher e. in sports
Qualification, sports, level, validity	= qualification + data about processing
Place of work – organisation, county, local municipal.	= place of work + dates, history
	= place of work + form of involvement
	Supported by public programmes
	Educational courses
	Sanctions, disqualifications

Sports Act

Requirements for coaches, incl. qualifications are fixed in the Estonian Sport Act.

§ 6 Requirements for coaches

(1) A coach is required to:

- 1) ensure compliance with the general principles of sports training and safety;
- 2) monitor the correspondence of the training load to the state of health of the trainee.

(2) A coach is a sports specialist who instructs sportsmen and sportswomen and other persons participating in sport **and who has the professional qualification of coach within the meaning of the Professions Act.**

Existence of the qualification system and precise reflection of all certified coaches in Estonian Sports Register allows evidence base for policy making to the central government and to the local authorities, gives argumentations for motivating and supporting sports organisations.

Analyses

With the existing data we have analysed together with our Taxation Department the occupational level of coaches in last 5 years:

Data from Sports Register and Taxation Department	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Coaches	3 565	3 847	3 980	4 234	4 448
Employed Coaches	1 321	1 508	1 685	2 116	2 370
„Loyal Coaches“ = one and only work place	480	373	593	751	874

Policy Making

With the help of Data from Sports Register – evidence base – following decisions:

Ministry of Culture:

- Dividing subsidies for sports federations
- Working out and realising support programmes for coaches
- Award state sports scholarships

Local authorities:

- Dividing subsidies for local clubs

Cultural Endowment:

- Financing applications of sports organisations

Olympic Committee, Sports federations and associations

- Planning and realising educational courses and sport activities