

The Financing System Of Hungarian Sport, With Special Regard To The Relationship Between Sport And Health Promotion, And The Use Of Natural Resources, Thermal Water And Healing Minerals

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Abstract:

Sport, as a sector of national strategy, plays a key role in Hungary's economic and social development, as well as in the successful realization of its national economic and national policy goals. Sport and the support of sporting activities, the creation and provision of conditions for sporting activities – among others – are also state and public tasks, which also presuppose state funding, responsible, prudent and at the same time increasingly efficient management of public funds (Mátrai-Tóth, 2023). The financing of sport must move from an extensive phase to an intensive phase, and in the field of sport it is also necessary to focus on the financial and social return on investment. Expenditures, investments and further conscious and thoughtful development of the sports ecosystem in sport and the sports sector can be regarded as investments with multiple returns, which significantly contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of individuals, communities, sports organizations and enterprises, to the growth of the economy and to increasing social welfare.

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I. Introduction - The Economic And Social Importance Of Sport

By the end of the 20th century, sport had become an area of outstanding importance, a sector of national strategy. Sport is an extremely complex phenomenon, it affects physical culture, education policy, health, and its economic and social policy importance is growing. Today we can justifiably speak of a "sports industry". Sport is gaining increasing importance in domestic and foreign policy, and it has also become a very important tool for increasing the country's image (Tóth, 2017).

Professor Tamás Sárközy, the father and highest level practitioner of sports law, took stock in a scientific paper of why sport became a national strategic sector in 2010 (Sárközy, 2017)⁴. The internal transformation and expansion of sport has taken place, and thus its appreciation in domestic and foreign policy has also taken place. Once upon a time, sport was an amateur top sport, a purely civil one, a world of self-regulation and self-dispute resolution. At most, the state was engaged in physical education, and not sports. This situation began to change from the 1930s onwards, and from the 1970s sport was radically transformed, to put it simply: amateur elite sport and exclusive civil character ceased to exist. The main factors in this context are:

Sport has lost its character as an elite competitive sport, a significant part of people has become part of their everyday lives, a mass sport. In this sense, it is part of public health, it means a culture of movement, it is a factor in improving the quality of life and prolonging life. Sport plays a special role in the life, education and education of youth, students and university and college students, but also in preserving the activity of elderly people. Slowly, almost all people are affected to some extent.

Of course, the creation of the infrastructural background necessary for sports activities also plays a key role, such as the construction and maintenance of sports facilities, sports spaces - gyms, swimming pools, sports

halls, ice rinks, sports grounds, stadiums - their sustainable operation, as well as the provision of human background. Sport is one of the target areas of investments, construction technology installation, the operation, maintenance and security infrastructure of sports facilities (Bács, 2018) is also very widely job-creating in nature. Top sport is the inspiration for gigantic sporting events, domestic and international sports tourism has developed. The sports industry has become one of the leading branches of the entertainment industry; Sports facilities are multifunctional. Sporting events are a source of human enjoyment, active forms of social interaction, providing an unpredictable experience, which is further amplified by sports betting. Sport has also become a field of technological development and innovation, and digitalization is also developing significantly in the sports world (Sárközy, 2017).

Sport has been international for more than a hundred years (summer-winter Olympics, world championships, continental championships, world cups). International continents and world championships are pouring down on the population at the venues, on television and via the Internet. These events mobilize the population. International sporting successes can serve national pride at the same time.

Sport is also considered one of the defining elements of the entertainment industry and the media, which, on the one hand, represents an increasing share in the "active" and "passive" spending of leisure time, on the other hand, it popularizes, arouses interest, shapes and shapes public thinking, sets an example for young people, so in addition to ensuring the next generation of children, it also plays a role in strengthening the physical and mental state of children.

It can be stated that sport is an extremely complex social and economic phenomenon, it affects physical culture, education policy, health care, and its economic and social policy significance is also growing (Tóth, 2014). Today, therefore, we can justifiably speak of a 'sports industry'. Sport is gaining increasing importance in domestic and foreign policy, and is also one of the key tools for increasing the country's image (Tóth, 2015).

II. Basic functions of sport

The basic functions of sports, sports activities can be summarized as follows (Nádori-Bátonyi, 2003):

- a. Community development, creating equal opportunities
- b. Political function
- c. Economic function
- d. Health promotion
- e. Entertainment, racing, leisure
- f. Educational, cultural and youth policy
- g. Entertainment, Media



Figure: Basic functions of sport

The promotion of sports activities and the provision of sport's functions are, among other things, tasks of the state, and thus also public tasks, and consequently require financing from public finance subsystems, primarily from the central budget (FazekS, 2009).

III. Financing Of Sport

The current Hungarian Sports Act also provides for the system of financing: as defined in the Sports Act, the Budget Act, the legislation on the operation of public finances, the Government Decree on State Sports Grants and the Government Decree on Priority International Sport and Sports Diplomacy Events and Related Budget Support - primarily by focusing on support based on sports development programmes, - The state participates in

the financing of competitive sports, youth education, school and student sports, university-college sports, leisure sports and sports for the disabled, as well as major international sports and sports diplomacy events and sports tasks performed by local governments.

Sport funding refers to the provision of funds to athletes, sports professionals, sports organisations, sports federations or public bodies. Material assets can come from the state, budgetary resources, business revenues and own revenues (Sárközy, 2017).

The state finances the sports sector in the form of direct and indirect sports grants and also defines important public financial guarantee provisions, according to which state aid can only be provided to organizations that have no overdue public debt, manage in accordance with legal regulations, and have properly accounted for the previously received subsidies and subsidies.

Financing from direct sources, i.e. from budgetary sources, is provided by the Budget Act in force at any given time, Áht., Ávr. Government Decree No 474/2016 (27 December 2016) on the use and distribution of state sports funding and Government Decree No 27/2013 (29 December 2013) on the use and distribution of state sports funding EMMI Regulation (EMMI Regulation).

Among the indirect subsidies of the budget we can mention tax and other types of benefits and exemptions, the purpose of which is to provide sports support and financing to athletes or sports organizations through regulation.

The chart below shows the sports expenditure of the Hungarian budget for the period 2010-2020 grouped according to sports activities and institutional and organisational system (Mátrai-Tóth, 2023).

Year	Sports administrative and anti-doping activity	Operational support of sports federations and regulatory bodies ^a	Reward of sports achievements, allowances, scholarships	Operation and development of sports building and training centres	Competitive and youth sport ^b	School and student sports ^c	Leisure and recreation sports	Total
2010 ^d	–	2,899	436	21,805	10,656	1,184	1,709	38,689
2011	184	2,896	2,562	23,834	13,515	1,522	2,173	46,688
2012	184	3,667	5,309	27,646	16,285	1,841	2,344	57,277
2013	184	11,427	2,482	37,334	16,072	1,874	2,557	71,930
2014 ^e	346	1,276	3,189	72,206	35,046	2,828	4,640	119,551
2015	484	812	3,006	76,101	38,709	6,937	4,318	130,367
2016	16,997	767	5,341	283,240	65,668	4,953	4,983	381,048
2017	45,296	546	298	225,803	62,620	3,512	6,044	344,119
2018	4,832	509	175	237,563	64,361	3,179	14,206	324,824
2019	11,559	537	87	286,309	83,275	2,819	8,498	372,485
2020	23,562	284	185	234,130	167,088	2,660	13,238	441,147

Footnotes
 a. Source: budget reports for local government and for central subsystem.
 b. Including other tasks.
 c. Including the school and student sports activity and support tasks for people with disabilities.
 d. As budgetary task in 2010 changed, data from 2010 are comparable only to a limited extent with data for earlier years.
 e. As institutional reports in 2014 changed to accounting by functions of government, data from 2014 are comparable only to a limited extent with data for earlier years.

Figure: Sports expenditure of the Hungarian budget 2010-2020

We would like to note that official statistical data on budgetary sports expenditures for 2021 are not yet available, so we estimated its aggregate value, the value of which was set at HUF 450-470 billion.

It is worth assessing the magnitude of state sports spending in relation to GDP, if only because in many cases we can find opinions that a disproportionately large proportion of public money is spent on sports. Based on the available data, it can be concluded that sports expenditures as a proportion of GDP ranged from 0.14 to 1.05% in the period 2010-2021, its share was lowest in 2010, at 0.14%, and the highest in 2016, with a value of 1.05%. In our assessment, these ratios are not abnormally or excessively high, even if they are leading by European standards.

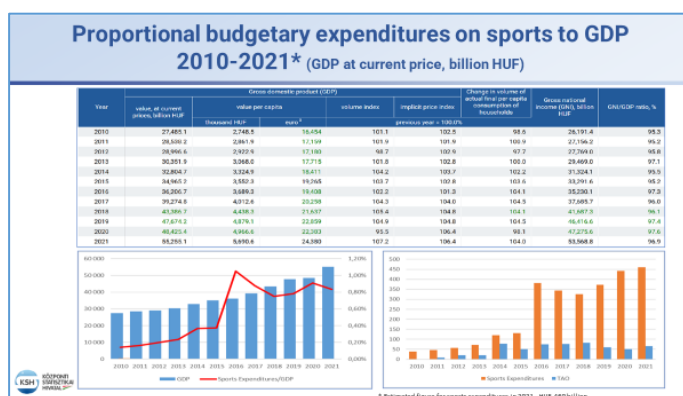


Figure: Sports expenditures of the Hungarian budget as a proportion of GDP 2020-2021

There is currently no internationally established and accepted uniform set of standards regarding the size of sports financing and state sports funding. In the National Sport Strategy we can only find guidelines for the proportion of domestic state sports funding to reach the average of the sports funding of EU Member States.

Therefore, it is worth reviewing the structure, size and proportion of Hungarian budget sports expenditures in a European comparison as well. The chart below shows the share of general government spending on recreation, sport, culture and religion in 2021 across the EU-27 and EFTA, based on Eurostat statistics. It is important to mention that in EU statistics the amount spent on recreation and sport is counted together, also in connection with the fact that the two areas interact significantly.

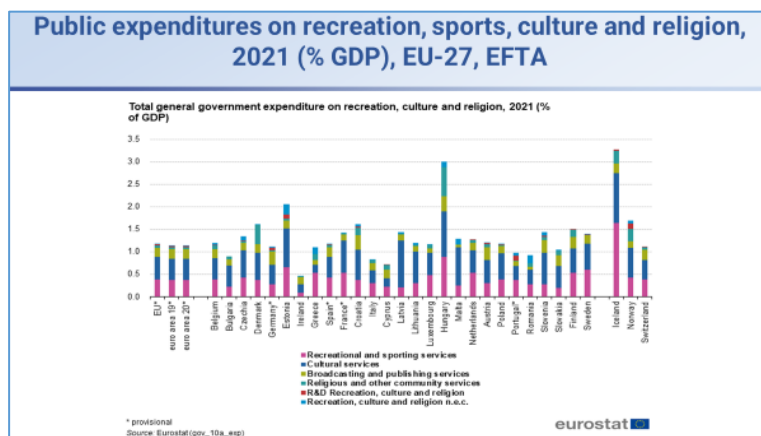


Figure: Total general government expenditure on recreation, sport, culture and religion, 2021 (% GDP), EU-27, EFTA

Eurostat collects data on general government expenditure by economic function. The classification of functions of government (COFOG) is based on the European System of Accounts, according to which EU general government expenditure on 'recreation (sport, culture and religion)' amounted to EUR 172 billion in 2021, or 1.2% of EU GDP. Hungary (3.0% of GDP) and Estonia (2.1% of GDP) and Iceland (3.3% of GDP), as members of EFTA, had the highest share of general government expenditure to GDP in 2021, with the function of 'recreation (sport, culture and religion)'. While the lowest spending rates were recorded in Ireland (0.5% of GDP), Italy (0.8% of GDP) and Cyprus (0.7% of GDP) (Mátrai-Tóth, 2023).

IV. Sport, Recreation, Health Promotion – Expenditure Of The Health Insurance Fund

In this place, if recreation was also mentioned in the previous cases, with regard to EU statistics, it is worth paying special attention to the health-preserving function of sport and its direct and indirect economic, financial and public financial effects.

A series of physiological studies prove that an active, exercise-rich lifestyle is one of the factors most positively influencing quality of life: it helps maintain health, resist diseases, prevent them, and significantly reduce the risk of their occurrence. A physically active, sporty lifestyle plays a decisive role in avoiding, preventing and preventing the development of the most common chronic diseases - cardiovascular, cancer, diabetes, mental health problems, respiratory and musculoskeletal system. According to WHO data, physical inactivity remains considered the fourth risk factor for global mortality.

According to the latest Eurobarometer survey from May 2022, 74% of the Hungarian population does not exercise or does sports at all or only very rarely, and unfortunately young people are also characterized by a physically inactive life, it can be stated that in the case of young Hungarians between the ages of 15 and 29, fewer and fewer people engage in sports with age, and few choose sports activities to spend their free time. In addition to physical and mental health, sport plays a significant role in improving young people's self-discipline and self-esteem and makes a significant contribution to preventing addictions. By detecting talented children at an early age, they have the opportunity to develop successful careers, therefore sport also plays an important role in social inclusion. Sport thus improves opportunities for already vulnerable or disadvantaged target groups, and contributes to the prevention of early school leaving and the prevention of school leaving without qualifications by strengthening young people spiritually.

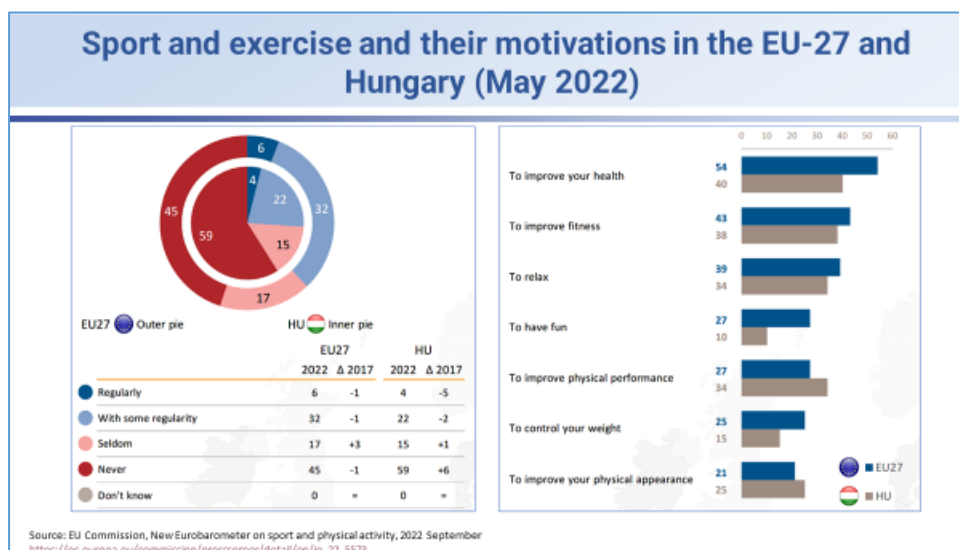


Figure: Sport and physical activity and its motivations in the EU-27 and Hungary (May 2022)

A series of researches and studies confirm that the costs and expenditures of the above-mentioned types of diseases most closely related to physical inactivity can be significantly reduced by increasing the physical activity of society, including by spreading and cultivating sports activities as widely as possible. Accurate, continuous and up-to-date calculations of the actual volume of direct and indirect savings are not currently available, but some methods can be used to obtain good, approximate numerical data. When determining and estimating the costs of physical inactivity (individual and social), the PAR (Population Attributable Risk) method is most often used, of which there are several computational variations.

Using the PAR indicator, we can estimate mortality or morbidity data due to a risk factor, and based on this, we can calculate the number of cases that could be prevented by reducing the impact of a given factor and thus save the costs spent on them.

As an example, it is worth briefly presenting the amount of health insurance expenditures (before the COVID period) spent in 2019 on disease groups clearly related to the lack of regular exercise, which clearly illustrates the magnitude of savings that can be achieved by increasing and increasing the proportion of regular athletes and exercisers. The total expenditure of the items presented here, without claiming completeness, in 2019 was nearly HUF 600 billion. All this once again highlights how important an economic and social goal it is to implement the strategy of the "sporting nation" as widely and quickly as possible.

During 2019, cardiovascular disease care directly burdened the Health Insurance Fund with more than HUF 207 billion, thus 17% of the total resources available under the examined items of the annual appropriation were used to finance this group of diseases, which included the reimbursed costs of all diagnostic, specialist care, care and rehabilitation and medication. In 2019, the amount of social security support provided for the price of pharmaceutical products affecting the cardiovascular system totalled more than HUF 53 billion. The scale and complexity of the group of circulatory diseases is well illustrated by the steadily high number of beneficiaries: in 2019, more than 1.5 million inhabitants received some form of specialist care (this number was almost the same in the last 10 years), and even more received some form of drug treatment (details can be read in the rest of the analysis). Last year, the highest proportion of specialist care was related to high blood pressure, followed by ischemic heart disease and cerebral circulatory disorders, while these three groups of diseases were considered the most costly per capita.

In 2019, outpatient and inpatient treatment with tumors and subsidizing the price of their medicines resulted in HUF 250.5 billion in payments from the Health Insurance Fund. With this, almost one fifth (19.4%) of the funds available for outpatient and inpatient care in 2019 were spent on cancer. In the case of cancers, individual equity requests were typically submitted for tumor profile examinations and professionally justified interventions that deviate from standard care options, on the basis of which HUF 1.14 billion was made available from the Health Insurance Fund in 2019. In addition, HUF 9.5 billion was paid out on the basis of individual authorisation of anticancer drug therapies.

In 2019, a total of HUF 63.5 billion was paid out from the Health Insurance Fund due to diabetes. The largest share of funding came from subsidies for prescription medicines (insulin and oral antidiabetics) (76%), but also from subsidies, which included price support for medical devices (blood glucose strips, insulin pumps) (11%).

Over the past ten years, the financing values of specialist osteoporosis care have shown a gradual increase: while HUF 3.2 billion was paid in 2010, HUF 3.8 billion was paid in 2019. The subsidy provided for the price of prescription medicines represents a larger proportion in terms of total payment, but its rate changed less between 2010 and 2019 (HUF 5 billion).

V. The Role Of Natural Remedies In Health Promotion And Recreation

Natural remedies are methods, techniques, and materials that have traditionally been used to maintain health and treat diseases. Although the scientific verification of these methods is still ongoing in many cases, based on long-standing experiences and empirical facts, many people believe in natural remedies and experience their positive effects. However, it is important to remember that natural remedies are not a substitute for medical treatment and it is always necessary to consult specialists before and during the use of each method.

Below are some examples of natural remedies that can play an important role in maintaining health:

Use of herbs and herbal supplements: Many herbs and herbal supplements can be used to support health. For example, turmeric can have anti-inflammatory effects, echinacea can strengthen the immune system, chamomile can have a calming effect, and garlic can protect against cardiovascular diseases. However, it is important to remember that herbs and supplements are not always safe, and when used in combination with certain medications or medical conditions, they may carry risks.

The role of nutrition and diet: A healthy diet and nutrition can greatly contribute to maintaining health. Eating fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein sources, and healthy fats such as olive oil or avocados can support the immune system, improve digestion and reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Drinking adequate amounts of water regularly is also important to maintain hydration.

The importance of stress management and relaxation: Stress can have a significant impact on health. Stress management techniques, such as meditation, yoga, breathing exercises, and relaxation methods, can help reduce stress and support a healthy lifestyle. The use of these methods can also help treat anxiety and sleep disorders.

Alternative therapies: Certain alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, homeopathy, massage or reflexology, are also popular for maintaining health. Such therapies focus on energy points, the body's natural healing mechanisms, and the balance of the body as a whole.

Effects of thermal waters: Medicinal waters, or thermal waters, have been part of alternative medicine and natural healing for a long time. These mineral-rich waters come from natural sources and have healing properties. Medicinal waters can have many beneficial effects on health and are often used to improve the health of body and mind.

Here it is important to introduce balneology, the discipline that deals with the healing effects inherent in spas and thermal waters. Balneology studies the physical and chemical properties of water, as well as methods and techniques associated with hydrotherapy. The role of balneology is outstanding in health promotion and recreation, since the use of spas and thermal waters has many benefits for people's physical and mental well-being.

Balneology studies the minerals, trace elements and other natural ingredients found in thermal waters. These substances have a healing effect, can have a healing effect on the human body, for example, they can have anti-inflammatory, analgesic, regenerating and immune-strengthening properties. Balneology helps in the scientific understanding of natural healing effects and in the development of appropriate treatment protocols. Spas and thermal waters provide an environment that helps reduce stress and relax. The feeling of weightlessness provided by warm water, hydromassage and water relaxes muscles, improves blood circulation and helps relieve stress. Such relaxation experiences can promote the regeneration of body and mind, contributing to rehabilitation and overall well-being. Regular "spa" visits and the use of thermal waters help prevent diseases and maintain health. Mineral-rich water and hydrotherapy procedures can relieve pain and promote general vitality by strengthening the immune system, improving circulation, thus contributing to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reducing the risk of diseases. However, it is important to remember that balneology and the use of spas are not substitutes for medical treatment and a health professional should always be consulted, especially if the patient has a medical condition or chronic illness.

The medicinal waters exert their beneficial effects through dissolved healing minerals and trace elements. Healing minerals are minerals that have a significant positive influence on the living organism and help prevent and effectively treat diseases. These minerals are found naturally in the earth's crust and play an important role in various processes in the human body. The minerals dissolved in medicinal waters can be varied, and the composition of each spring is also significantly different. Here are some common minerals that are most commonly found in medicinal waters:

Sulfur (sulfates): Sulfur typically has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial effects and can have beneficial effects on skin problems and joint complaints.

Calcium: Calcium is a mineral widely found in medicinal waters. Calcium can contribute to strong bones and teeth and plays an important role in the proper functioning of the nervous system and muscles, as well as in the contraction and relaxation of blood vessels.

Magnesium: Magnesium plays many important roles in the body. Magnesium can contribute to muscle relaxation, stress reduction, energy production and proper functioning of the nervous system. It supports healthy cardiovascular function, as well as participates in the synthesis of DNA and RNA.

Sodium: Sodium is an important electrolyte that helps maintain water and electrolyte balance, and can help hydrate and cells function properly.

Iron: Iron is an important mineral involved in the formation of red blood cells and the transport of oxygen. Iron has a beneficial effect on hematopoiesis and energy production and immune function.

Zinc: Zinc is a key mineral for optimal immune system function. It supports cell growth and development, participates in the synthesis of hormones, and also helps heal wounds and provide antioxidant protection.

Selenium: Selenium has antioxidant effects and protects cells from free radical damage. Supports the immune system, participates in the production of thyroid hormones

In addition, other minerals such as potassium and fluoride can be found in medicinal waters, depending on which source it is. The combination and concentration of minerals determine the specific properties and therapeutic effects of the medicinal water.

These are just a few examples of the importance of healing minerals in health preservation and healing, but it is very important to get minerals into the body in a balanced and varied form. For example, if someone is experiencing a mineral deficiency or has a specific medical condition, they may need supplementation in the form of supplements.

Hungary is famous for its rich medicinal water resources and has many high-quality medicinal water springs. There are more than 1,500 medicinal springs in the country, which are rich in different minerals and have different healing effects.

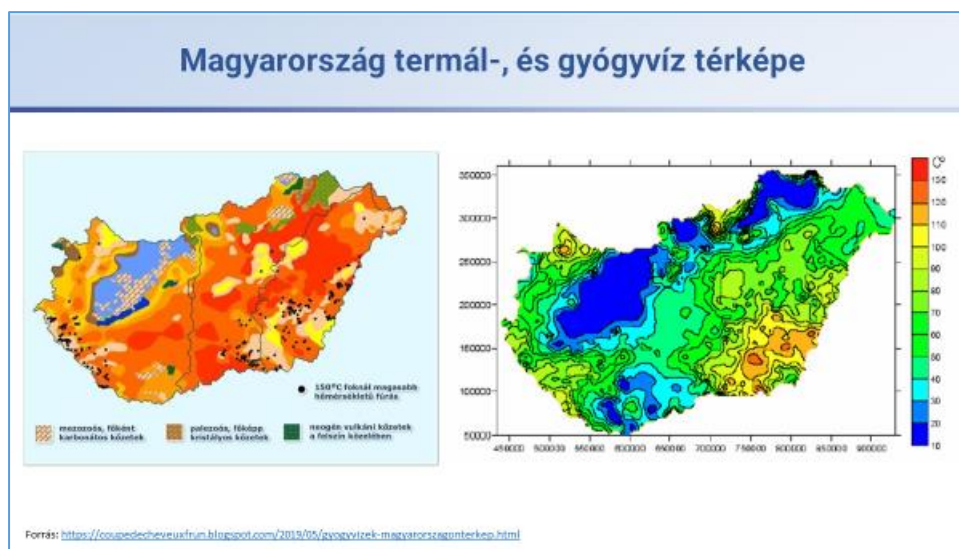


Figure: Map of Hungary thermal and medicinal water (2020)

Due to the geological peculiarities of the Carpathian Basin there are many thermal water springs on the territory of the country. The reserve of thermal waters in Hungary is significant and is distributed as follows:

Great Plain: The Great Plain has the largest thermal water reserves in Hungary, especially in Szeged-Csanád, Kiskun, Hajdú-Bihar and Békés counties, such as Hajdúszoboszló, Berekfürdő, Gyula or Gyopárosfürdő.

Transdanubia: Thermal water areas can also be found in Transdanubia, such as Hévíz in Zala County, which is the largest natural warm water lake in Europe. The water of the lake has minerals such as sulfur and healing effects, which are excellent for treating muscle and joint complaints, or Zalakaros, which is also a popular spa town and its medicinal water has a uniquely high mineral and salt content, which is excellent for the treatment of rheumatic diseases, arthritis and skin diseases. Here we should also mention the Harkány Spa, which has achieved very serious results in the prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal and joint diseases, in the improvement of osteoporosis, chronic gynecological inflammations and disorders of lymphatic circulation, and the medicinal water of Harkány has proven effective in relieving the symptoms of psoriasis. (There are only two other places in the world where psoriasis has been proven to be curable.)

Northern part of the country: In the Northern part of the country, for example in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, there are thermal springs, such as the Cave Bath in Miskolctapolca or Egerszalók in Heves county, where the medicinal water spring offers a unique sight thanks to travertine karst formations and has a healing effect of calcium-magnesium-bicarbonate water, which is especially good for treating musculoskeletal problems.

Budapest: Budapest famous for its bathing culture, which is made unique by the thermal waters of the city. The Gellért Bath, the Széchenyi Bath and the Rudas Bath are some of the most well-known baths in which the thermal waters provide relaxing and healing effects.

The exact thermal water resource data is difficult to determine, as water research is constantly being carried out and new springs are always being discovered. However, based on centuries of experience and a long history of spas, it can be said that Hungary has a significant amount and quality of thermal water, which contributes to the development of health and tourism services, and to the growth of health and thermal tourism in the country. Above we have mentioned only a few examples of medicinal waters in Hungary, as the country has medicinal water springs and baths in many other places, which provide opportunities for healing, relaxation and recreation.

The widespread use of natural remedies, methods, techniques and materials can significantly contribute to reducing healthcare costs, on the one hand by focusing on prevention and prevention, secondly, in many respects to making rehabilitation work more effective, and thirdly, as a complementary element of the healing work of modern medicine, making it more effective and its increasing role in recreation. This is especially true for athletes and sporting activities (both in the top flight, youth and leisure sports).

VI. The Indirect Economic Impact Of Sport And Its Accounting - The System Of Sport Satellite Accounts (SRO)

In addition to their socio-political importance, sports and sports activities contribute significantly to the performance of a country's economy, economic growth, the development and growth of other sectors, and as we have seen above, they also have an impact on several sectors and areas of national economy, such as healthcare, health industry, tourism and the food industry. The importance of a coordinated European project involving Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands was already organised in the 1980s and 1990s in order to determine the actual economic impact of sport, but since the general definition and data collection system of sport in these countries were completely different, it was not possible to compare data internationally. Subsequently, already in the mid-2000s, the European Commission set up a working group called 'Sport and Economy'. The primary task of the working group was to summarize the effects of sport on the economy, to take stock and evaluate sport from an economic point of view using statistical methods, and on this basis to develop a system of statistical sport satellite accounts (SSzSz). In 2012, the Council of the EU and the Member States declared the development of an EU-wide data-driven sport policy as a priority, focusing on the development and creation of sport satellite accounts by Member States and the exchange of good practices on sport satellite accounts in the Member States on the basis of the EU Work Plan for Sport 2017-2020. The most recent study on this topic was carried out by the European Commission in 2018, in which it analysed in detail the economic impact of sport in EU Member States measured through satellite accounts.

In 2019, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office prepared a possible model experiment of the Hungarian sports satellite account system, in cooperation with experts from Corvinus University of Budapest. Within the framework of the project, the previous international and domestic professional materials were reviewed, and the Hungarian methodology was also developed.

Satellite accounts are typically analytical statements closely linked to the national statistical accounts system, complementing direct data on the economy as a whole or a sector in the national accounts system. "Such a functional analysis account may relate to tourism, environment, education, culture, health or, for example, the non-profit sector. However, sport as a possible satellite area is not mentioned in the methodological manuals of the national accounts system. Quantifying the role of sport in the national economy is a very complex task, the services and products used by sports activities are extremely diverse. The sport satellite account system may be most suitable for bringing together sport-related economic areas because it highlights items from the national accounts system that are suitable for presenting indirect links and spill-over economic effects of sport (Methodological basis for the preparation of the sport satellite account (SSzSz)). KSH, 2020)." The so-called Vilnius definition of sport established by the European Commission in 2007 is a statistical approach that seeks to highlight the impact of sport on individual industries. This definition consists of three parts:

Statistical definition:

According to the unified sectoral classification of economic activities (the so-called TEÁOR'08), 93.1 of the 93 sports, entertainment and leisure activities represent sporting activities. The category includes the operation of sports facilities, sports club activities, physical training services and other sports activities.

Narrow definition: In addition to the statistical definition, this includes all enterprises that produce/supply equipment necessary for sport (e.g. manufacture and retail trade of sports equipment). So all activities that fall under sport and that serve as inputs to sport.

Broad definition:

In addition to statistical and narrow definitions, this includes all enterprises in which sport plays a role (e.g. hotels). According to the broader understanding of sport, sport also includes sectors that use the output of sport.

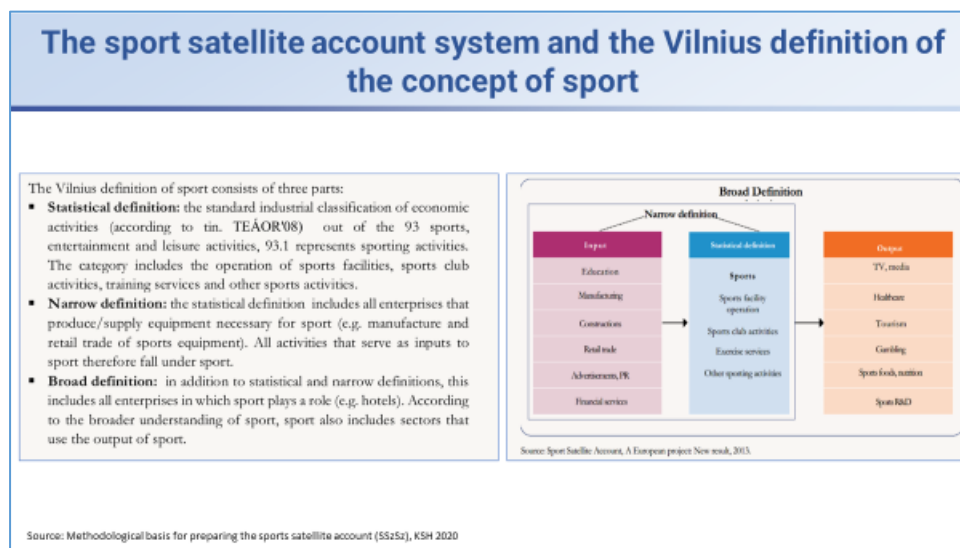


Figure: Sport satellite account system and Vilnius definition of sport

Experience has unfortunately shown that few official statistics on sport are available or published in Hungary, and sports expenditure in other sectors (e.g. education, healthcare) is recorded only to a limited extent and not systematically. Economic data for the sport sector are also not visible in national accounts and appear together with other leisure activities, typically not sporting. International experience also shows that it is only worth dealing in detail with those sectors where the weight of sport can play a significant role, since (i) the share of sport can be better documented, (ii) based on experience, the 10 largest sectors usually cover half to three-quarters of the sports economy of the given country. The above-mentioned project of the HCSO only tried to estimate the value of the contribution of sport to the performance of the entire domestic economy on an experimental basis, however, we definitely consider it advisable - similarly to tourism - to develop, finalize and incorporate the sports satellite account system into the HCSO's data collection, data analysis and summary STADAT table set.

VII. Priority Areas Of Focus, Recommendations

Based on the facts, data, suggestions and conclusions presented above aimed at presenting the relationship between sport and public funds, the social and economic effects of sport, health preservation, natural remedies and a healthy lifestyle, the following proposals should be highlighted separately:

- The world of sport and its sport system must be considered as a unified ecosystem, and with a complex approach, all its social and economic effects (direct and indirect) should be explored and analyzed simultaneously, continuously monitoring it, thus determining the actual place, role and significance of sport, even within the framework of a large-scale research and study,
- In terms of social impacts, priority should be given to education for a healthy lifestyle, increasing physical resilience, improving mental health, raising social welfare, using natural remedies and natural "elements" in health preservation, and making wider use of them
- It is advisable to analyse the role of sport in the economy in full detail, taking into account all direct and indirect relationships and externalities, also taking into account multiplier effects, especially in the fields of health, health industry, tourism, sport and medical tourism
- In addition to the direct participation of the state, more space should be given to civil and individual initiatives in the field of sport, focusing on strengthening leisure and amateur sport, thereby improving the state of health and resilience of society, and the number of healthy and active working years,
- Greater emphasis should be placed on ethical business-based operation in all areas of sport, and its sustainability

- should also be prioritised,
- The widespread dissemination, application and exploitation of innovation, innovative solutions, technological developments and digital solutions in all areas, and in this context,
 - Priority should be given to the effective integration of the results of science and scientific research in all areas of sport, and
 - In the future, the education and continuous training of sports professionals, health professionals, employees and managers active in any field of sport must continue to be prioritised.

VIII. Summation

Sport, as a sector of national strategy, plays a key role in Hungary economic and social development, as well as in the successful realization of national economic and national policy goals.

The support of sport and sports activities, the creation and provision of conditions for sports activities – among others – are also state and public tasks, which also presupposes state funding and management of public funds. The most important principles of the use of public funds are transparency, accountability and integrity, which should also be a key priority in the field of sports financing (Mátrai-Tóth, 2023). In addition, and in line with this, the efficiency, direct and indirect return on financial spending, as well as sustainability must become increasingly determining factors, and it is essential to expand market-based financing and create the conditions for the widespread involvement of private sources.

Spending and investments on sport and the sports sector (including from public funds) and further conscious and thoughtful development of the sports ecosystem can be regarded as investments with multiple returns, which significantly contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of individuals, communities and enterprises, to the growth of the economy and to the increase of social welfare.

In this context, we can conclude that a healthy society and sport are closely related topics, and sport has many positive effects on society and its development. Regular exercise promotes physical health and disease prevention, regular physical activity reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular problems, obesity, diabetes and cancer, thus contributing to improving the overall health of the population and reducing the spread of diseases in a healthy society. In addition, sports also have a significant impact on mental health, exercise helps reduce stress, improves mood and increases the level of endorphins, resulting in happiness and well-being.

Sport activities are also an opportunity to build community, strengthen social ties and build cohesion, and sport allows people to meet, cooperate and support each other, which promotes positive social bonds and community cohesion in a healthy society. Sport is an excellent tool for young people's personal development and the transmission of values. Regular sports activities help children and adolescents develop physically and mentally, develop self-discipline, work in teams and learn the values of fair play. In a healthy society, sport provides space for positive development of youth and value-oriented thinking.

A healthy society and sport are therefore mutually reinforcing. Supporting and making available sport activities promotes health promotion, mental well-being, community cohesion and value-oriented development, contributing to a healthier and more harmonious society. All this must be done in such a way that we use - and at the same time develop, protect and protect - our natural resources, values and endowments, such as our medicinal and thermal water reserves, as much as possible, and exploit its beneficial effects as much as possible.

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