

4th edition

The energy costs crisis and its impact on the European sport sector

EASE

European Association of Sport Employers

With the participation of our members



CONFEDERAZIONE DELLO SPORT



And Sport Austria, the Olympic Committee of Portugal, the Olympic Committee of Slovenia, the Institute for Sport Governance, the Sports Federation of Poland, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia, the Latvian Olympic Committee, ENGSO Youth, the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark, the German Olympic and Sports Federation, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovakia, the Ministry of Sports and Culture of Greece.

The European Association of Sport Employers gathered opinions and data from European sport structures about the energy costs crisis and its impact on the sport sector.

This consultation showed the growing importance of this topic for the European sport movement, as sport activities are at risk and have to face the direct and indirect consequences of the energy crisis.

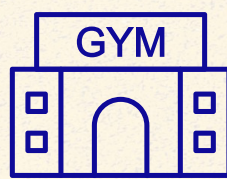
The main risks linked to the energy costs crisis for the European sport sector

The whole consultation shows that sport structures have to face, at the same time, the direct consequences of the energy crisis, which are the rising energy costs, and its indirect impacts, like the inflation and its consequences.

The main identified risks are:



Closure of swimming pools and skating rinks



Bankruptcy of sport clubs and businesses



Decline in sport practice and attendance

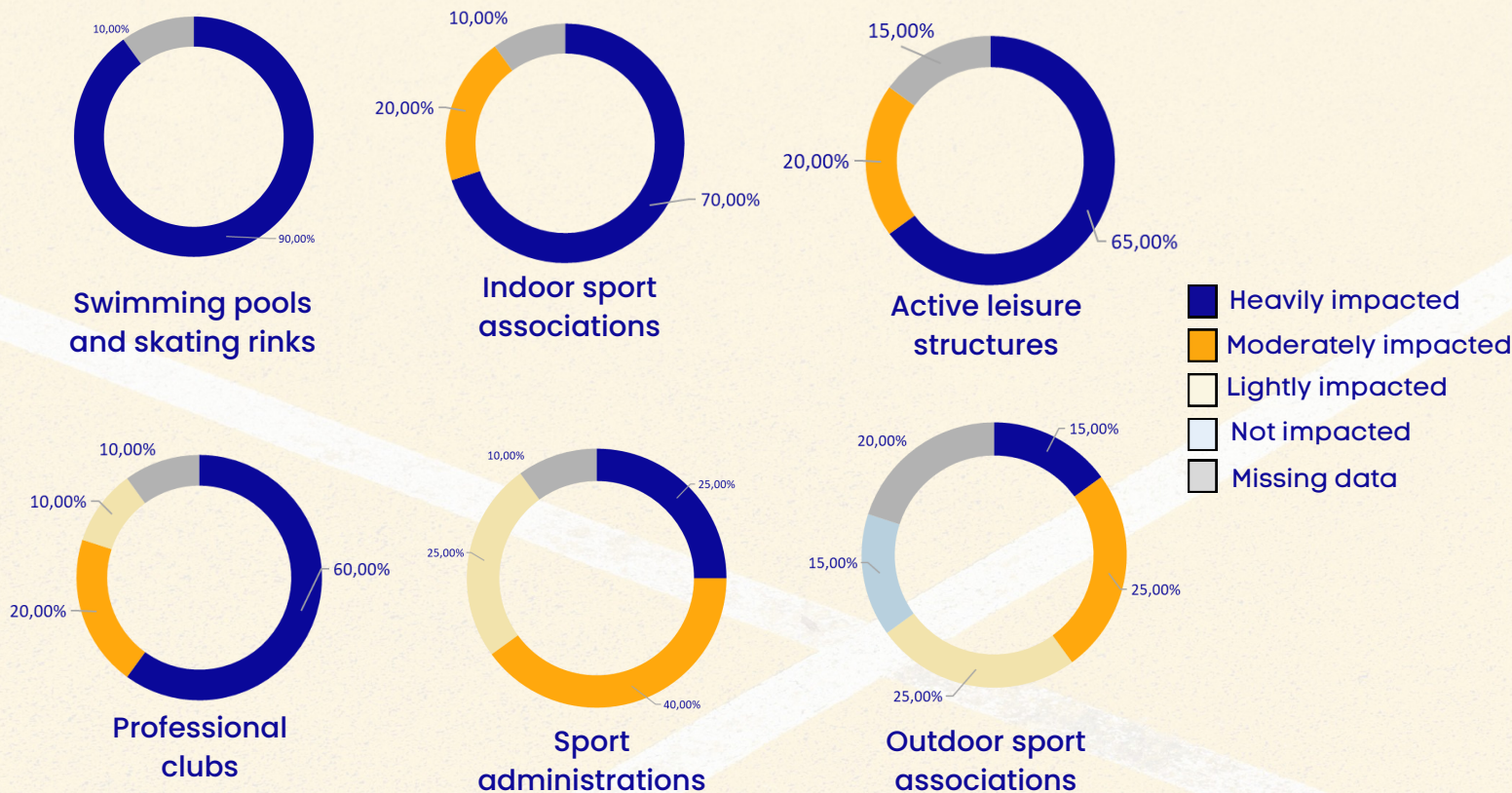
In Spain, clubs owning their own facilities have to face a rise of their energy costs up to 30% of their total costs.



In France or in Finland, clubs whose facilities are owned by municipal or local authorities are protected from the rising energy costs.



The impact of the energy crisis on the sport structures



*These percentages have been calculated from the answers received by national sport authorities in 20 European countries.

According to a survey realised by the German Olympic Committee, 40% of the clubs expect the energy crisis to have a strong impact and 6% fear the dissolution of the club.



The projections of Sport Austria indicate that there could be up to €1 billion of additional expenditure for the sport sector as a whole.



Unlike other economic markets, the supplementary costs supported by sport structures can not be passed on the customers.

The sport sector's mobilization to face the crisis

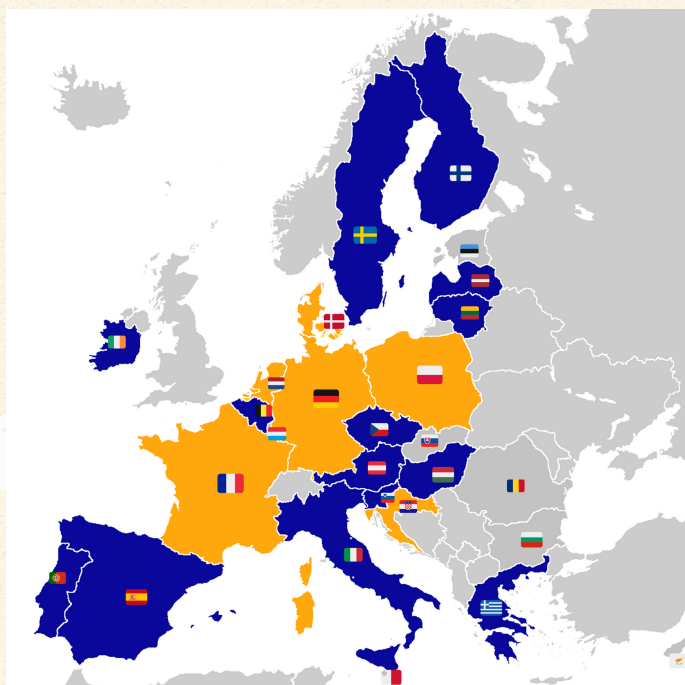
Sport employers of all countries have spontaneously implemented some saving energy measures, from lower heating to reduced lightning. These measures have very often been coordinated by governments or national sport authorities.

The Portuguese government implemented an Energy Saving Plan 2022-2023 in place, with immediate measures to reduce the energy consumption of sport facilities.



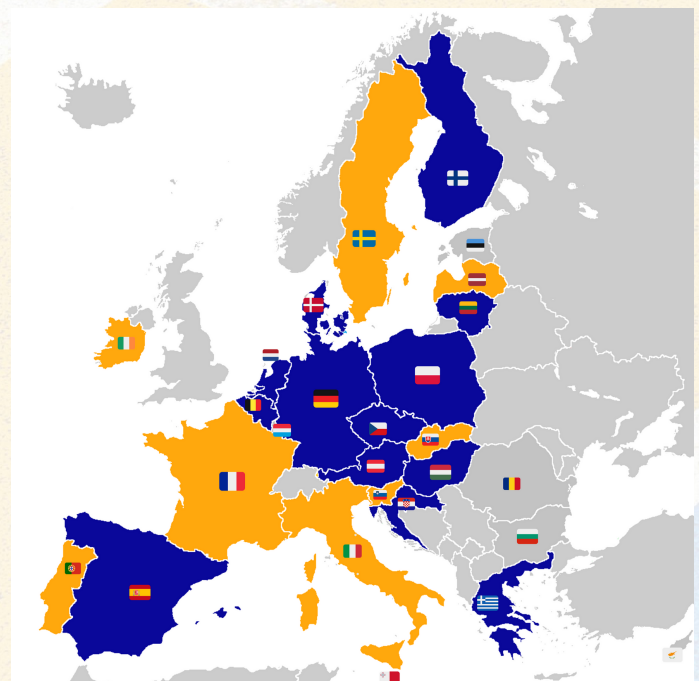
These measures will not be sufficient to ensure the sustainability of sport structures. Depending on the countries, diverse actions have been implemented by national authorities, such as cap prices on gas and/or electricity or public subsidies and compensations. These measures do not only apply to the sport sector but help sport associations or small businesses.

Cap prices on
electricity and/or gas



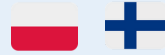
- Cap prices on gas and/or electricity
- No cap prices

Public subsidies and
compensations



- Public subsidies or compensations of any kind for small businesses and associations of any sector
- No public subsidies or compensations for small businesses or associations

In Finland and in Poland, discussions have been held with the government to establish a VAT reduction on sport activities.



Nevertheless, these mechanisms are not sustainable in the long term. The year 2023 might be a difficult period for sport structures, that will have to face the energy crisis and the inflation.

In the meantime, the question of the energy consumption is becoming increasingly important and will be debated for the next years, as it generally questions sport sustainability. In this context, the issues of energy transition and infrastructure renewal appear as solutions to reduce energy costs of sport structures. The actors of the sport movement are starting to take up these issues, but a structural reflection at the European level and the involvement of public fundings appear necessary to support the renewal of the infrastructures.

The French ministry of Sports set up a target to reduce the energy consumption of the sport sector by 10% in 2023 and by 40% in 2030. An energy efficiency plan has been published in October 2022 as a first step to meet these goals.



European sport employers are committed to reduce their energy consumption and improve their infrastructures but the energy crisis and the inflation still question the sustainability of sport structures.