

associated with it are generating an ever-growing market and the sports industry is becoming increasingly important in the developed, welfare states' economies [8, 9]. It is also important to analyse them because there are a number of other health and economic benefits realised at the societal level in addition to pure market transactions. However these are not immediately realised and possibly not only by sports consumers in many cases but also by other members of society, by social welfare system or by enterprises that employ physically active people [10, 11].

As an extension of our previous research in Hungary [12–15] we have analysed and compared sports consumption of three EU member states (Hungary, Germany, Poland) in this study. Although there are sev-

Respondents mostly do sports alone (38%) or with friends (27.7%). They started to do sports primarily motivated by parents and friends (23.1%) or due to the popularity of the sport (17.7%). Only 11.5% of the respondents stated that they never have done sports in their childhood, while 63.3% reported practicing sport for more than 5 years in their childhood.

We have examined sociodemographic factors that have an effect on physical activity rates most frequently (Table 2).

Cross-tabulation analysis shows after checking the standardised residuals that category doing physical activity regular (based on Eurobarometer nomenclature 1–2 or 3–4 times a week) typically includes men; moreover men who used to be registered athletes. The results of previous studies [

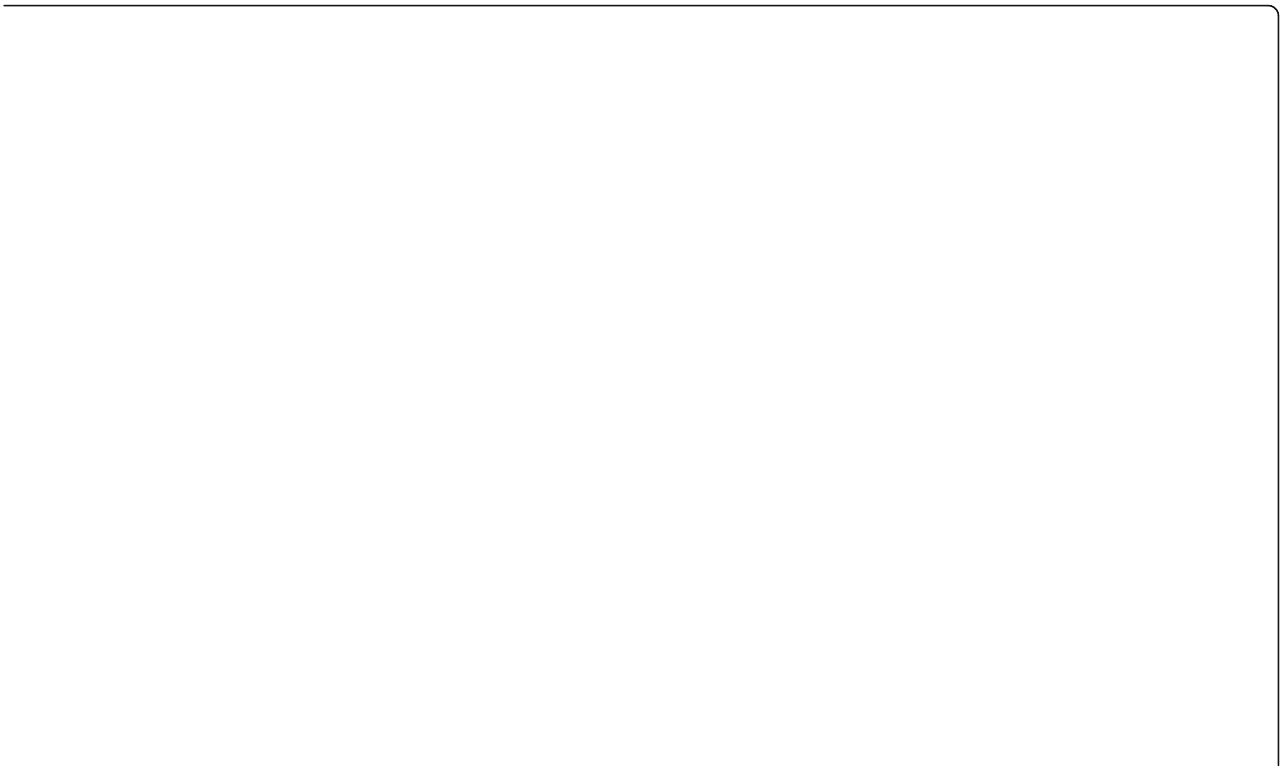


Table 3

The results supported our hypothesis that the average annual sports spending of German households is the highest HUF 131,397 (EUR 413), followed by Hungarian ones.

It seems that there is a significant difference between the examined nations only in terms of expenditures on sports services and in the total annual sports expenditure. It is clear that the sports consumption of German households is the highest for both items.

Discussion

Our research concluded that men – especially previous athletes – exercise physical activity more than women and those who have no history as registered athletes. This result is in line with our previous research findings [14, 15]. The international literature's similar results suggest that men do sports with higher possibility than women and they spend more time with it too. However there are some sports with different characteristics – these are the so called sports for women [22–25]. Based

on Breuer and Wicker [26] the gender differences decrease with age.

The choice of sports venues is obviously different be-

Although there is an identifiable trend that the increase in the level of education results increase in sports spending but it is not significant. One of the reasons could be that the sample size at some levels of education

12. Paár D. Economic study of the sports consumption of Hungarian households [a magyar háztartások sportfogyasztásának gazdasági szempontú vizsgálata]. Sopron: University of West Hungary Faculty of Economics; 2013. https://www.tankonyvtar.hu/hu/tartalom/tamop422b/2010-0018_kotei_04_paar_david/adatok.html. Accessed 6 Apr 2019.