

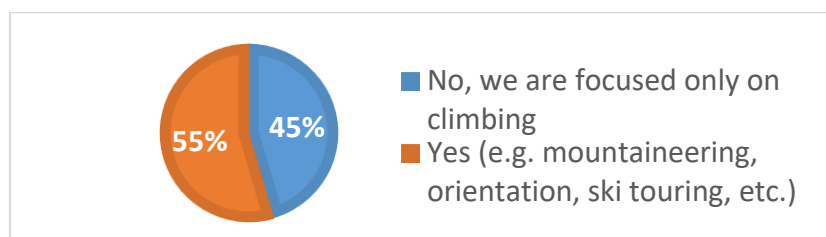
Analysis report of the Slovenian climbing clubs

The survey was sent to 52 climbing clubs that are registered under the Commission for Sport Climbing (CSC) and 34 alpine clubs that are registered under the Commission for Alpine Climbing. Both commissions are a part of the Alpine Association of Slovenia and are national umbrella organizations for sport climbing and alpine climbing in Slovenia.

We received answers from 11 clubs. All of them are registered as sport climbing clubs which was expected since most of the alpine clubs don't have youth members. Since we sadly received only 21% of the answers (11 out of 52 sport climbing clubs, where most of them have youth climbers), the results can be incomplete.

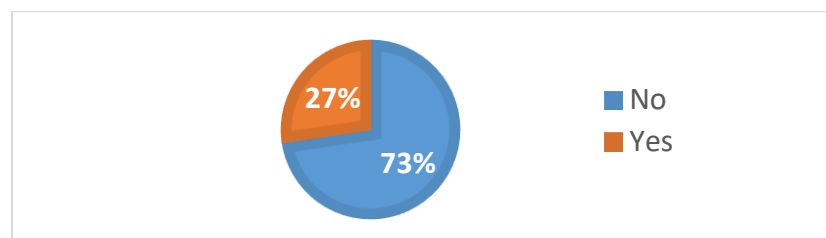
GENERAL INFO

1. Does your club specialize in any other activity (other than climbing)?



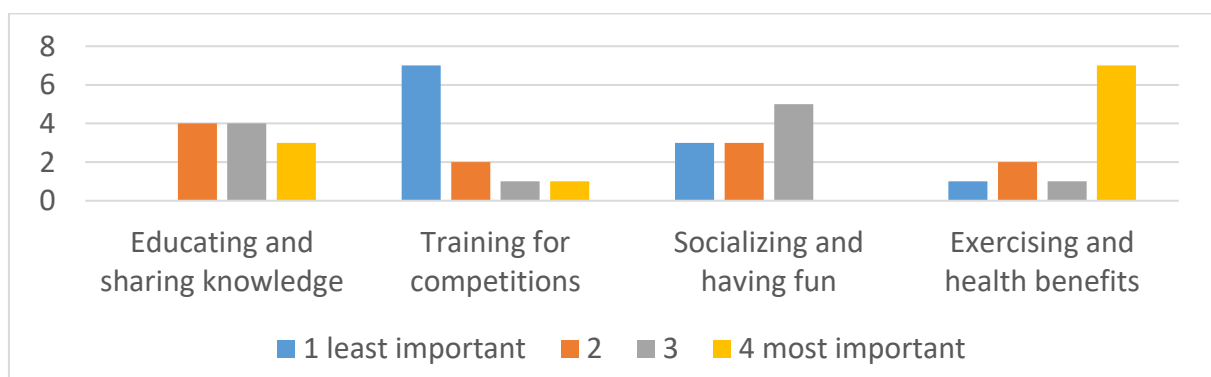
We can see from the graph that less than 50% of the participating clubs are strictly climbing clubs. Others are mostly mountaineering clubs that also have a section for sport climbing.

2. Is any member of your club part of some minority (e.g. ethnic minority, racial minority, religious minority, sexual minority, or disabled people)?



Only a quarter of the members are part of any minority.

3. How would you prioritize your goals regarding young climbers in your club?



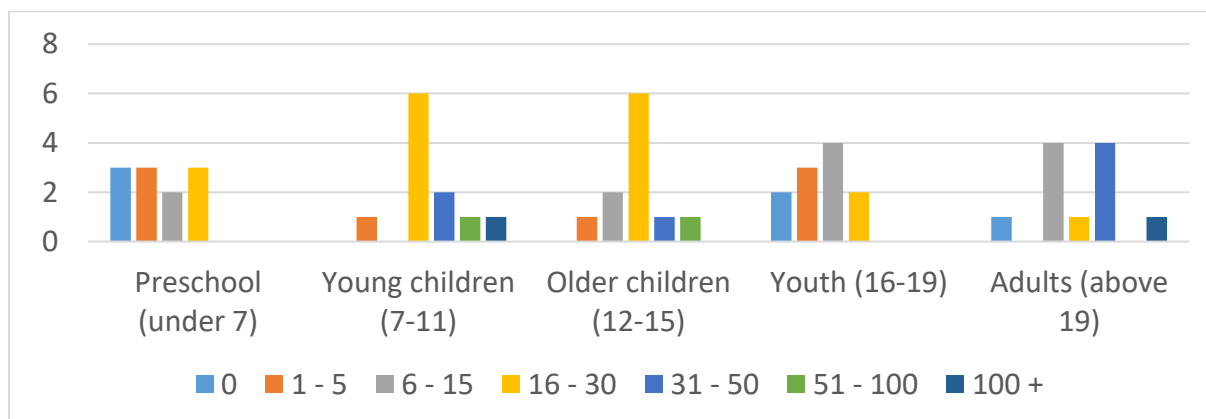


We can see from the answers that for most of the clubs, the focus is on exercising and health benefits, while the least important goal is training for competitions. This could be explained by the fact mentioned in the first question, that most of the registered climbing clubs are not focused only on climbing and therefore give more importance to the recreation of youth than the competition.

'Educating and sharing knowledge' and 'Socializing and having fun' are somewhere in the middle of prioritized goals.

CLIMBING ACTIVITIES

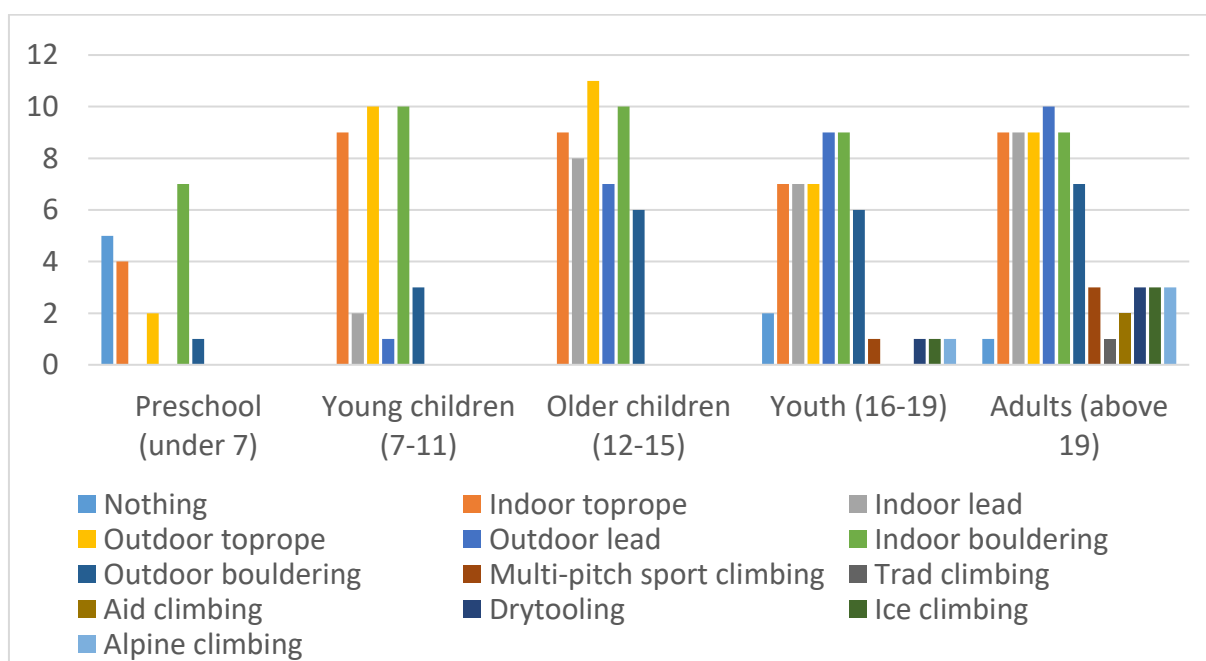
4. Roughly estimate the number of climbers in your club in different age brackets:



Half of the clubs have less than 6 preschool children. Young and older children are much more numerous in most of the clubs. The numbers drop again for the youth climbers. It shows it is much easier to attract children from primary schools.

If we go through the results more thoroughly, we see that clubs differ a lot in their size, from less than 50 to more than 300 climbers of all ages. Normally, smaller clubs cannot concentrate on all age groups the same.

5. Choose the types of climbing you do in your club with children/youth in different age brackets:

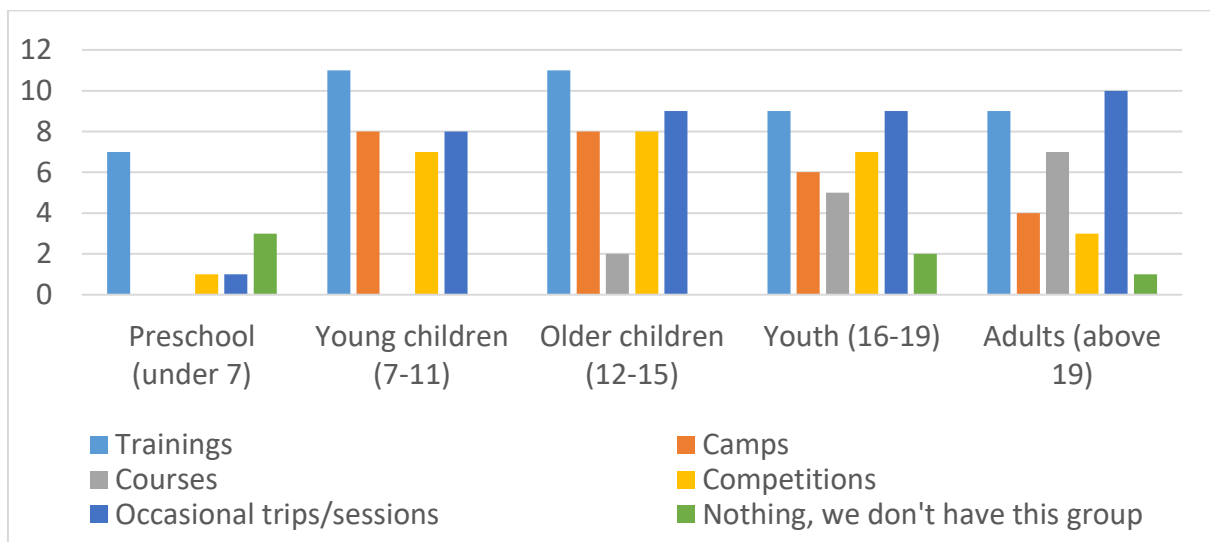




The answers show natural progression through the years. Preschool children only climb top rope and boulder, mostly indoors since it is easier to control and it's safer in general. We can see a big jump in climbing outdoors in young children (almost all of the clubs do it) and even some cases of lead climbing. Most of the clubs do lead climbing with older children.

One of the clubs does more serious types of climbing with youth climbers (in addition to already mentioned types), probably as a part of alpine school: dry-tooling, ice, alpine and multi-pitch climbing. We can see that there are a few clubs that also have adult climbers, that participate in such alpine activities.

6. Choose the climbing activities you organize in your club for children/youth in different age brackets:



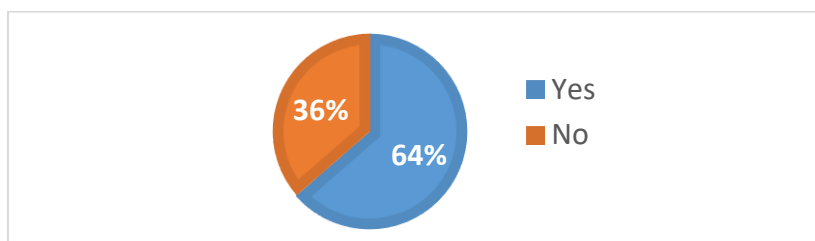
Most of the clubs have regular training and occasional group trips for all age groups. We can see that the number of camps and competitions decreases with the age, but the number of learning courses increases.

7. Write if you organize any other climbing activities for young climbers that weren't mentioned in the last question:

No answers.

COMPETITORS

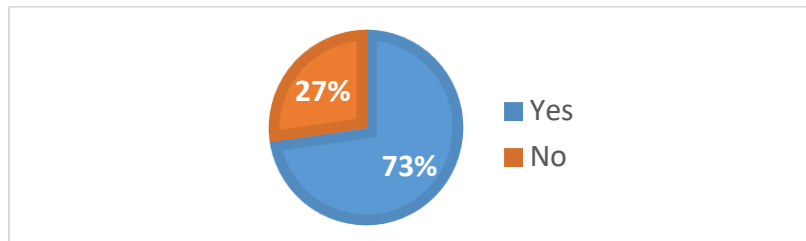
8. Do you have any young competitors in your club that compete on a national level?



Almost two-thirds of the clubs have at least one young competitor on the national level.

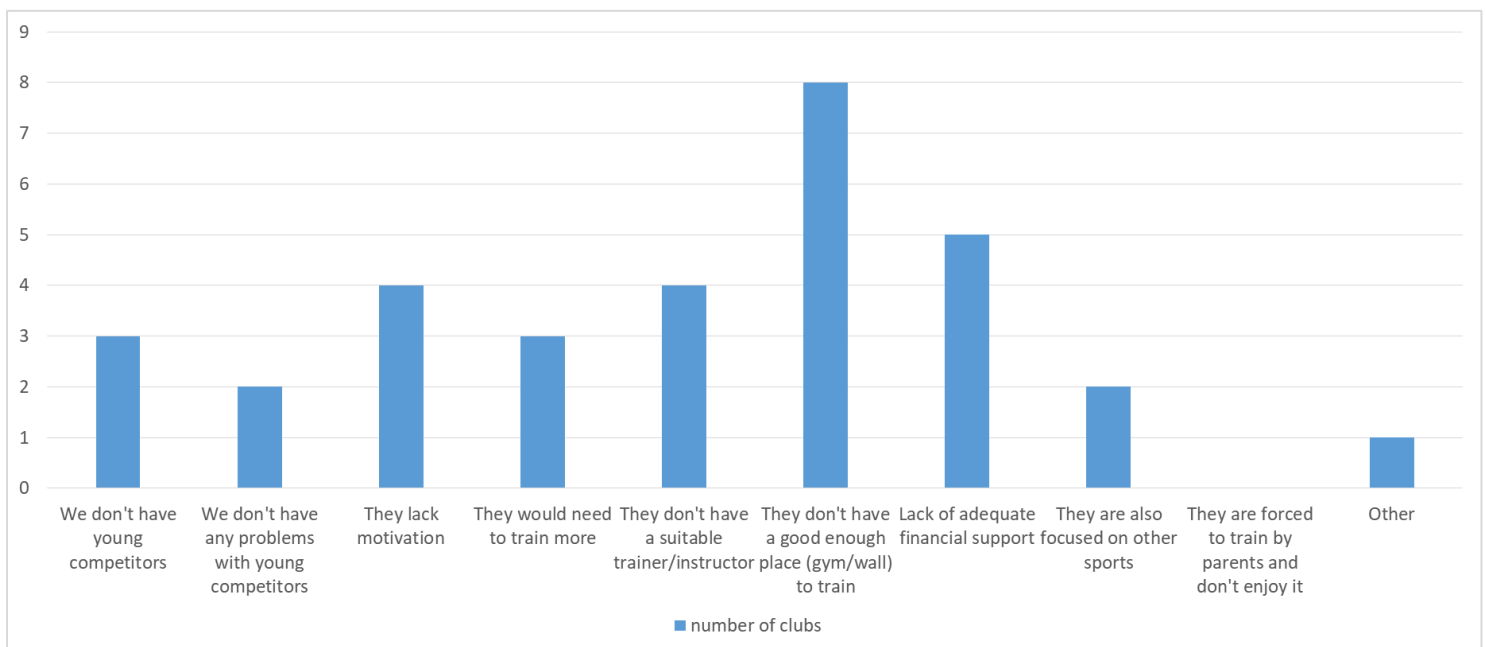


9. Do you have any young competitors in your club that compete in other climbing competitions or leagues (not on a national level)?



The number of clubs that have young competitors that compete on the regional or municipal level is even higher at 73%. It is interesting to see that even though most of the clubs don't prioritize training for competitions (question 3), they have at least a few competitors.

10. Does your club face any problems regarding young competitors (on any level)?



We can see that 3 clubs have no young competitors, so we have a total of 8 clubs whose answers we can analyze.

All 8 of the clubs have answered that one of the problems they face is not having a good enough gym/climbing wall to train. More than half of the clubs don't have adequate financial support to help young competitors. Half of the clubs say that young competitors lack motivation, would need to train more, and don't have a suitable trainer/instructor.

2 of the clubs face the problem of too many hobbies and sports, which makes it hard to concentrate on one of them, while 2 clubs luckily have no problems. No club has the problem of parents forcing children to train, which is a good result.

11. Does your club have any program for young competitors who stopped competing? (Please share your tips & tricks on how to keep them motivated and avoid losing their interest in climbing)

Clubs have some experience with former competitors. Their suggestions are:

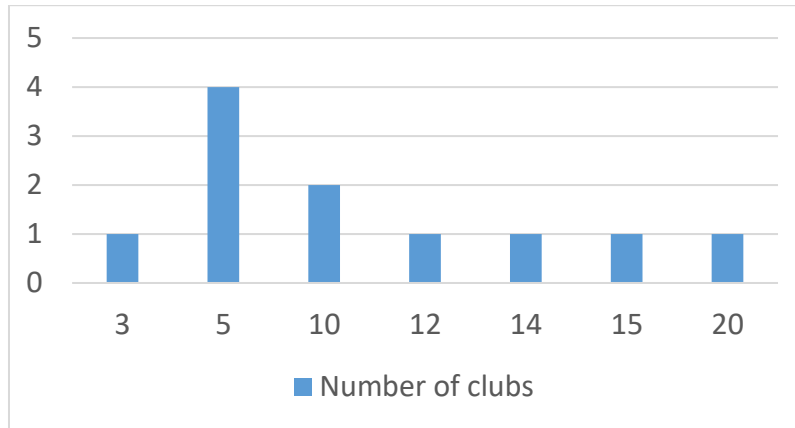
- Joining recreational groups, they can also join adult climbers.
- A lot of trips with outdoor climbing.
- Guiding them to courses and education, to get a certification.
- Involving them in club activities (depending on the professional competencies acquired).



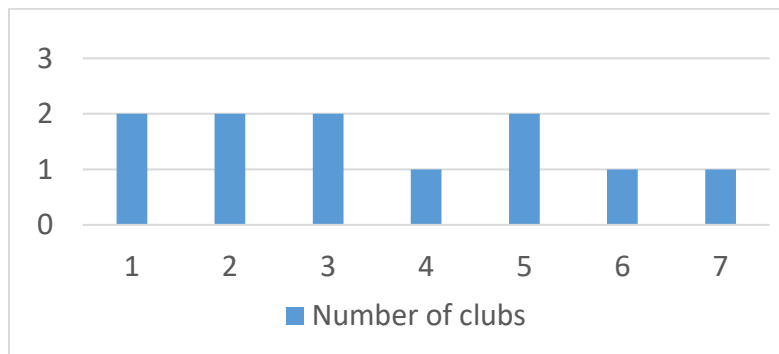
STAFF

Write the number of professional staff in your club that work with children/youth (instructors/coaches/trainers/leaders/assistants/helpers):

12. Number of all staff (with licence or not):

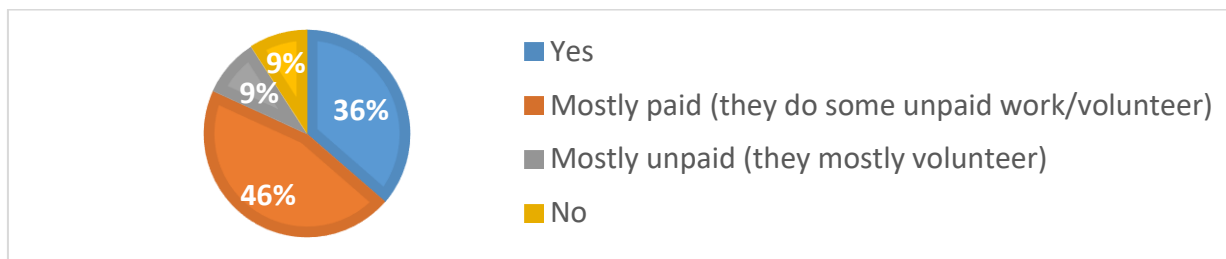


13. Number of staff with licence:



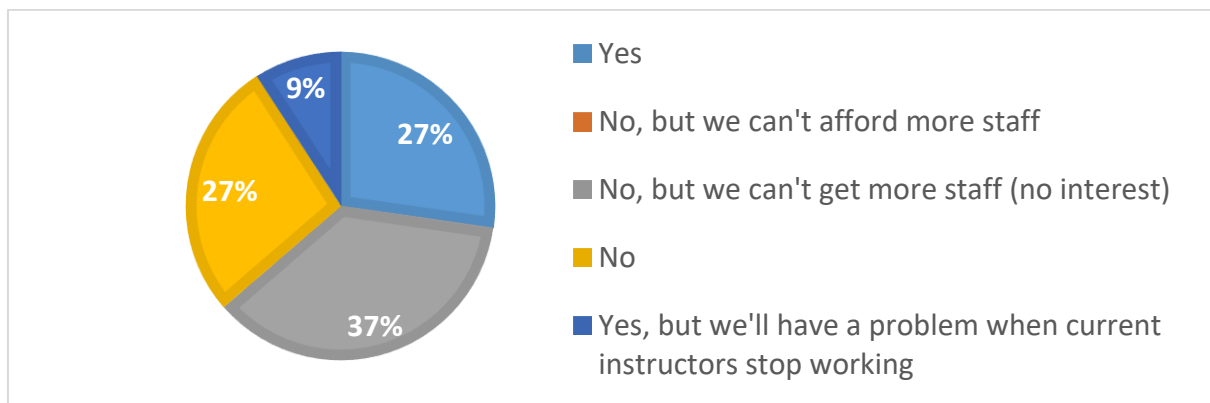
If we compare the above graphs we can see that most of the staff that works with children don't have a licence (a total number of 104 versus 39 with the licence). Here we have to mention that staff without a licence are mostly experienced and competent climbers, so they mostly have enough knowledge for their work, just haven't completed an instructors course.

14. Are the instructors (and other staff) paid for their work?



More than 80% of the staff are fully or mostly paid for their work. 18% of the staff does their work for free or they mostly volunteer. The answers are not surprising since a lot of the clubs are a part of the mountaineering club, which traditionally relies on a lot of volunteer work.

15. Is the number of your staff sufficient for all the climbing activities that you organize for children/youth?

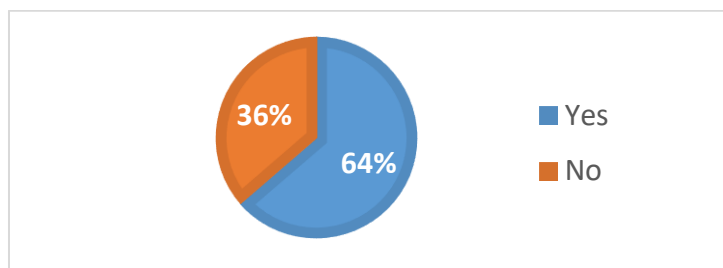


Only a third of the clubs have enough staff for their activities. The other two-thirds either cannot get more staff (because of no interest) or didn't specify the reason. Luckily no club answered that they cannot afford more staff.

If we compare these answers to questions number 12 and 13, we can see why most of the staff are working without a licence. There is a low interest in working as a climbing staff for children and even lower in getting a licence since it takes a lot of money and time to complete all of the courses. That is why clubs also have to rely on people without a licence, even though it is not strictly by the rules.

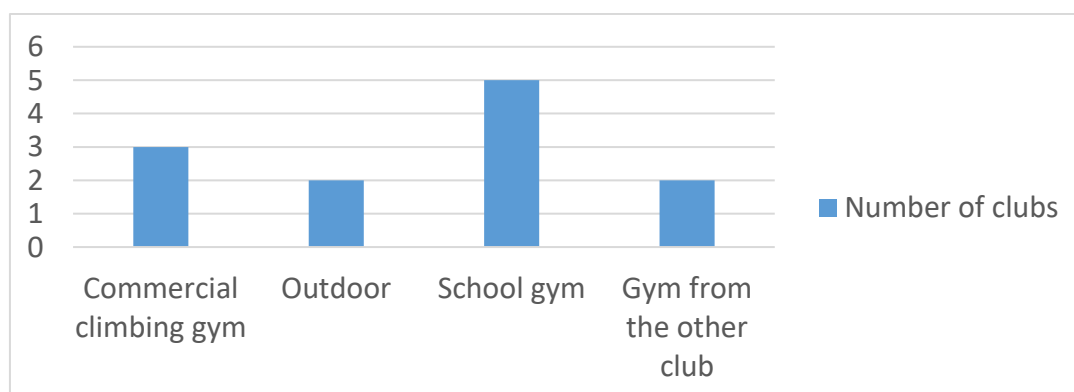
ORGANIZATION

16. Does your club have its own climbing gym/wall?



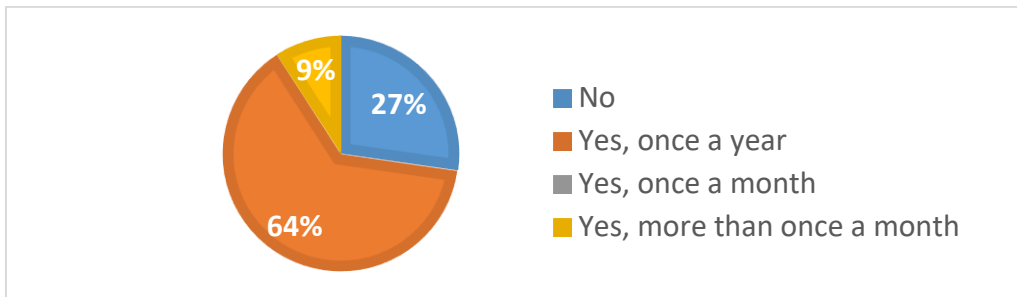
Two-thirds of the clubs have some kind of home climbing wall.

17. If your club doesn't have its own climbing gym/wall, how do you organize your training?



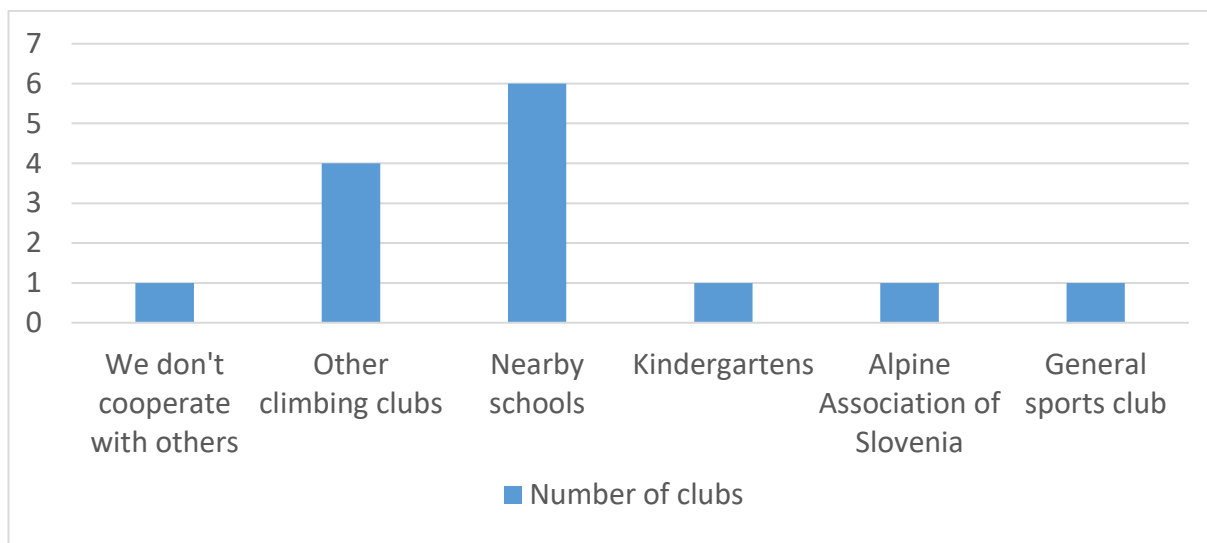
Half of the clubs without their own gym use a school gym, while others use a commercial climbing gym or visit a gym from others climbing clubs. Few of the clubs climb in nature since they don't have their own climbing wall.

18. Do you organize any type of 'open for public' climbing events, where children can try climbing for free?



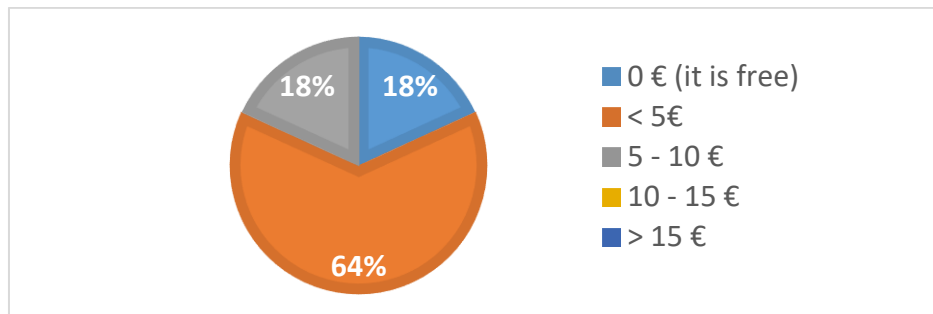
Only a quarter of the clubs don't have any event, where children can try climbing for free. Others have it mostly once a year while one of the clubs has it more than once a month.

19. Choose the organizations that your club cooperates with:



Half of the clubs cooperate with schools and a third with other climbing clubs. Some of them also cooperate with kindergartens, general sports clubs, and the national mountaineering association.

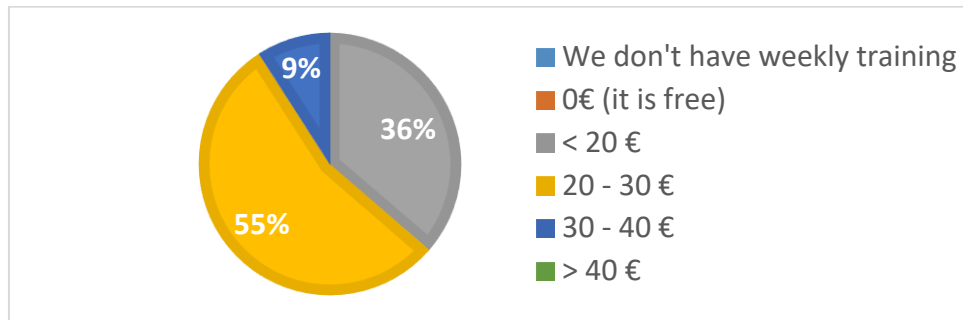
20. What is the average cost for one visit to the climbing gym (your gym or any other near you) for a young climber from your club?



Two-thirds of the young climbers pay less than 5€ for a visit to a gym. 18% of young climbers have to pay double that amount (5-10€), while 18% can do that for free.

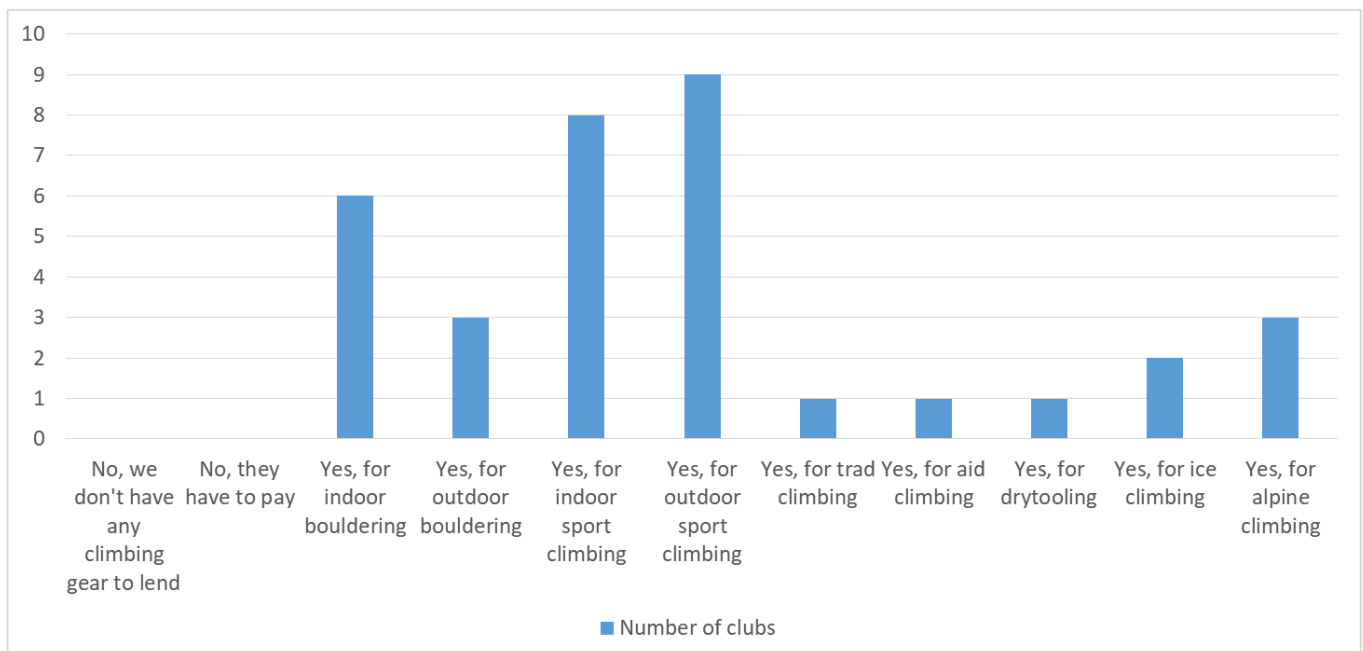


21. What is the average cost per month for regular weekly training (training once a week) for a young climber from your club?



Half of the young climbers pay 20-30€ for weekly training. A third of the clubs charge less than 20€ for weekly training.

22. Can young climbers from your club borrow climbing gear for free from your club?



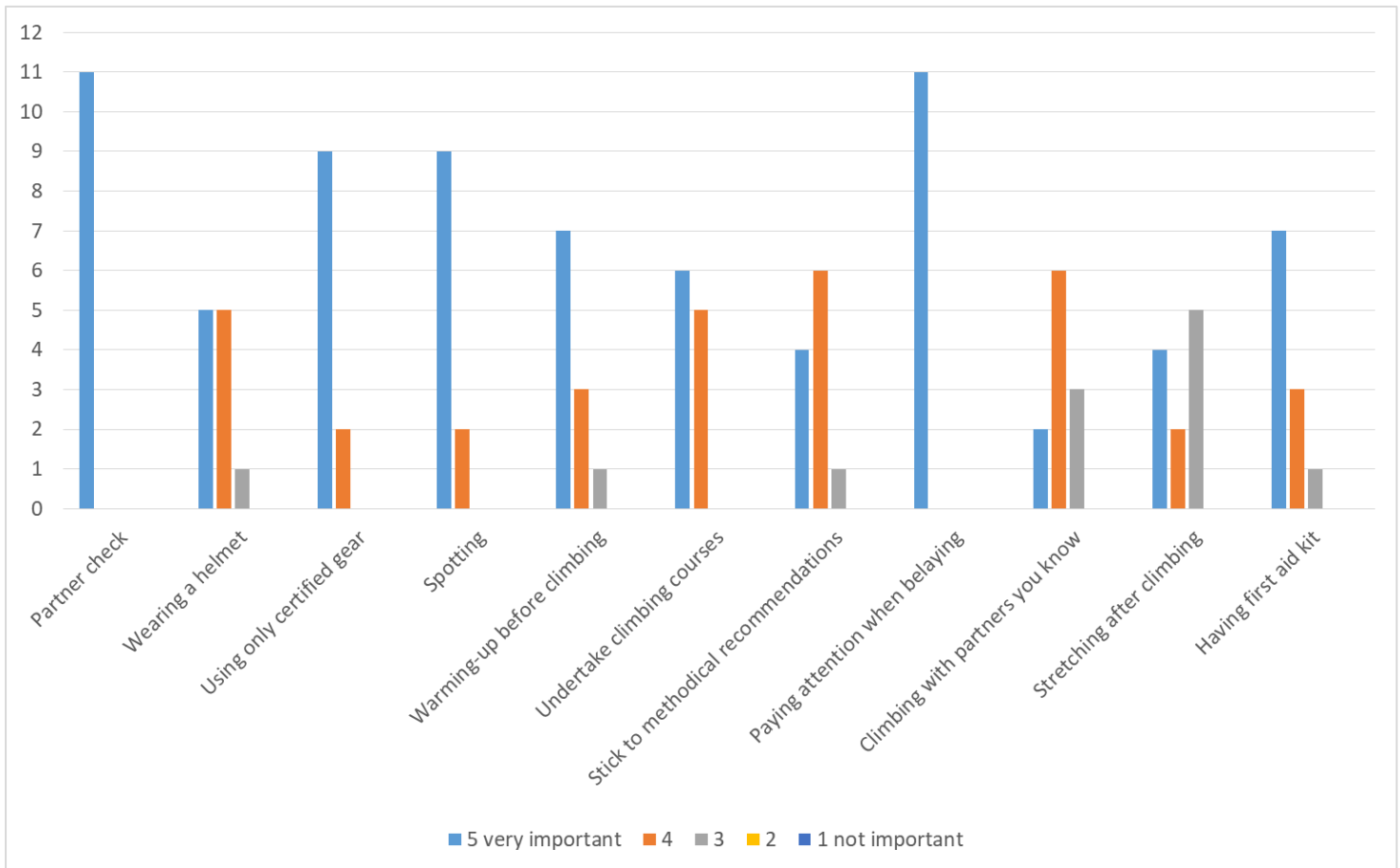
All of the clubs have some kind of gear that climbers can borrow. Most of them lend the gear for sport climbing, while it's harder to borrow the gear for bouldering. Some of them also borrow more technical gear for different types of alpine climbing.

23. Who do you think could benefit from being introduced to climbing as a sport in the future? (Please write target groups who could benefit from climbing)

- All age groups (kindergartens, students, middle-aged people, pensioners).
- Anyone interested in climbing.
- Children with bad posture.
- People with no physical activity.
- Children with developmental disabilities (autism, body asymmetries).
- Ministry of Education and Sport, to realize the importance and benefits of climbing.
- Local touristic organizations.

SAFETY

24. Please rate how important you find the following in terms of climbing safety while climbing outdoor:



All of the clubs agree that partner checks and paying attention when belaying are very important. Most of them place certified gear and spotting (belaying before clipping the first bolt) as very important. Most of the other answers were marked as more or very important.

The least important (while still important for half of the clubs and indifferent for the other half) was stretching after climbing.

None of the possible answers was chosen as not important or less important.