



REPORT

Activity 1. Preparation, analysis, and initial assessment

Aim: The aim of this activity was to analyze the current state of the climbing, regarding children and youth, in the countries of the Project Partners, and to use this analysis to further specify the exact focus points of the project and the Transnational Meetings.

Used methods: We implemented methods that we agreed on in the project plan. We implemented the whole activity in three major parts:

1. The first part consisted of doing the general analysis of the current state of youth climbing separately for all project partners' countries. We gathered general information about the system, type and number of climbing clubs, and climbing personnel education in the countries, also with help from our national associations. The results, which were presented in an online meeting, were not a surprise. Our climbing organizations are organized very differently and it is hard to compare information in different forms. We concluded it is necessary to create a questionnaire, which will be the same for all clubs in all countries, to have more comparable data.
2. After analyzing the results from the first point and recognizing the main objectives and issues, we prepared the questionnaire for the national level. The main goal was to gather and compare the direct info from climbing clubs from all countries. The questionnaire was created in all five partner languages and shared with all of the climbing clubs in the five countries. Each project partner conducted the analysis for climbing clubs from their own country. Partner reports and the questionnaire are appended at the end of this summary report.
3. We presented the results of the questionnaire and national partner reports on online meetings. We also started with the work on the final analysis (summary report) online, but we had the final discussion during the first Transnational Meeting (Activity 2) in Hungary.

Summary report - Results and comparison of national analysis

We've made a questionnaire regarding climbing possibilities, backgrounds, and conditions in each partner country. The online questionnaire was translated into all five partner languages and sent to all climbing clubs registered in each country. In total, the questionnaire was sent to 388 clubs in 5 countries (Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia). We received 134 answers which make up 34,5 % of addressed clubs. Received answers were then the basis for further analysis (first for the national ones and then for this summary report).

Questions in the questionnaire were divided into 6 parts – general info about the club, climbing activities, young competitors, climbing staff, organization, and safety. This summary report contains only some interesting results, answers, and comparisons from the country analysis. Full country reports are attached.

General info

In the first part, called general info, questions were focused on basic information about clubs. One of the questions was if the club specializes only in climbing. Answers ranged from 33% (in Czech clubs) to 81% (in Croatian clubs). So we can see that in Croatia clubs are mainly focused on climbing, meanwhile, in Czechia, there are mostly multisport-focused clubs. In other countries, the answers were around 50:50. Priorities of the clubs regarding young climbers are also different, but interestingly mostly everybody said that "training for competitions" was a less important goal for their club. The goals offered in the questionnaire were: educating and sharing knowledge, training for competitions, socializing and having fun, exercising, and health benefits.



Climbing activities

Part two focused on the climbing activities of the clubs. Regarding the number of members in each club and the age range, Slovakia together with Slovenia and Croatia has the largest diversity regarding the number of members in different age brackets. On the other half, Czech clubs have mostly adults and they lack youngsters in age 16-19 years old.

Regarding the activities of the clubs, clubs in all 5 countries organize regular training sessions and occasional climbing trips for their members. The number of competitions and trips decreases with increasing age in Czechia and Slovenia, meanwhile, quite the opposite phenomenon can be seen for Hungary and Croatia where there are more competitions and climbing trips for adults. In Slovakia, the number of competitions with age decreases but there are more climbing trips organized with increasing age.

Competitors

The third part focused on the young competitors. Croatia at $\frac{3}{4}$ has the highest share of clubs that have young competitors on a national level, followed by $\frac{2}{3}$ of Slovenian clubs that have at least one competitor competing at a national level. In Hungary and Slovakia, there are around $\frac{1}{2}$ of the clubs with such competitors. For Czechia, only about $\frac{1}{3}$ of clubs have national competitors.

Young competitors not competing on a national level, but still competing in other leagues are majorly (more than half of the clubs) represented in all countries apart from Slovakia, where $\frac{3}{4}$ of the clubs are lacking young competitors.

Slovakia has a shortage of young competitors but even if the clubs have young competitors they face a lot of problems regarding their success. The most common problems regarding young competitors from all 5 countries were the lack of adequate financial support and also the lack of suitable training facilities. For Czechia, unexpectedly the biggest issue is that the youngsters have other sports activities and consequently don't focus only on climbing.

Staff

The fourth group of questions was analyzing the staff situation. The number of licensed staff compared to the total number of staff is lower for clubs in all countries, but the share is very diverse. In Hungary, almost all of the staff is licensed, while in Slovenia the licensed staff presents less than half of all staff. In most cases, staff without a licence are experienced and competent climbers, so they mostly have enough knowledge for their work, they just haven't completed an instructor's course because of various reasons. More than half of Croatian clubs and Slovenian clubs pay their staff members, on the other hand, Czech and Slovak clubs have mostly volunteering staff that is not paid for their work.

The question concerning the sufficient number of staff was in all 5 countries around 50:50. More than half of the clubs are understaffed, and the other half has enough people for their functioning. The main reason for understaffed clubs is the lack of interest in that job, closely followed by financing problems.

Organization

The organization part was asking about facilities and activities organized by the clubs. In Croatia, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the clubs own a climbing wall, and in Slovenia, $\frac{2}{3}$ of the clubs have some kind of climbing wall. In Slovakia, Czechia, and Hungary it was only $\frac{1}{2}$ of the clubs.

Clubs that don't have their own climbing wall mostly organize their training on commercial climbing walls or have outdoor rock climbing training sessions.

The vast majority of Croatian climbing clubs organize a free event yearly where people can try climbing for free. For Czechia and Slovenia, it's around $\frac{3}{4}$ of the clubs, and for Hungary and Slovakia, it is nearly half of the clubs. Apart from Hungary, free events in other countries are not organized more than once per month. The average cost of one visit to a climbing wall for a club member ranged from 5 to 10 € in all countries.

Safety

The very last part was based on the importance of safe climbing in clubs. Each club was rating the importance of the chosen safety measures. In Hungary, the majority of the clubs gave the biggest



importance to all chosen safety measures. The vast majority of the clubs from all 5 countries agreed that the partner check and paying attention during belaying are of the biggest importance. It was rare that clubs would answer that one of the chosen safety measures is not important.

Conclusion

This analysis helped us to compare the differences and similarities in the functioning of our clubs and to expose some of the biggest issues the clubs might be facing. Such analysis helps us to have an overview of the present situation and to inspire for further improvements. This questionnaire with obtained answers can be useful for each country individually in proposing useful solutions to national associations and climbing clubs.

Annexes

- 1) questionnaire in english
- 2) partner reports