



ONLINE LEARNING IN SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

EOSE SURVEY RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Sport has **huge potential** to positively change society and change people but to do so it needs a workforce with the right skills and competences, **supported by a fit-for-purpose programme of education, training and professional development.**



Volunteer and staff training have been identified as critical to the success of Sport for Development programmes. While professional development opportunities do exist for Sport for Development practitioners including conferences, workshops, events and courses; development opportunities are not as widespread or structured as those which exist in related sectors.



Online learning is a way of learning remotely without attending lessons in a classroom or having regular face to face contact with a tutor. One difference between online and face-to-face learning is that online students can study from anywhere and at any time.



Some of the advantages of online learning have been suggested to include:

- 1 Flexibility
- 2 Reduced Costs
- 3 Immediate Feedback
- 4 Access to Course Materials

EOSE was the coordinator of the **EU funded CHANGE project** (www.change-sport.eu 2019-2021) which aimed to build capacity in the European sport workforce and **develop the skills to tackle social issues**. CHANGE produced new occupational standards and training guidelines for Sport for Development in Europe.



EOSE decided to follow up the CHANGE project with a short study into **online learning in Sport for Development**. The purpose of the study was to **explore the potential for online learning in Sport for Development as a tool for capacity building and staff training**.

In order to gain some data from real Sport for Development practitioners in the field a short survey was devised to **gather their views on the core topics** related to online learning.

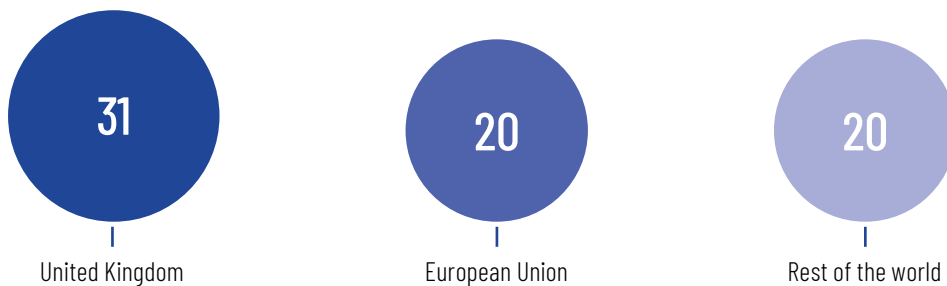
The survey was distributed throughout the Sport for Development sector in November and December 2022.



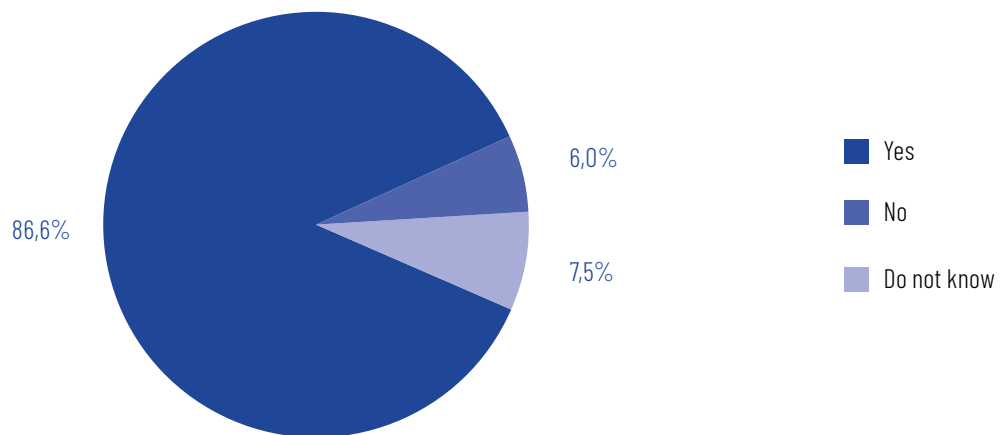
This paper presents the results of the study.

RESULTS OF THE ONLINE SURVEY

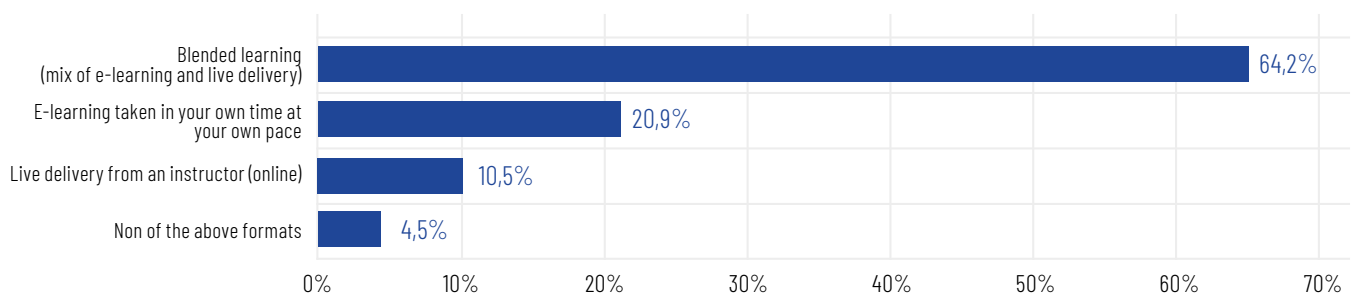
Total number of responses collated in the survey on online learning for Sport for Development - n=71



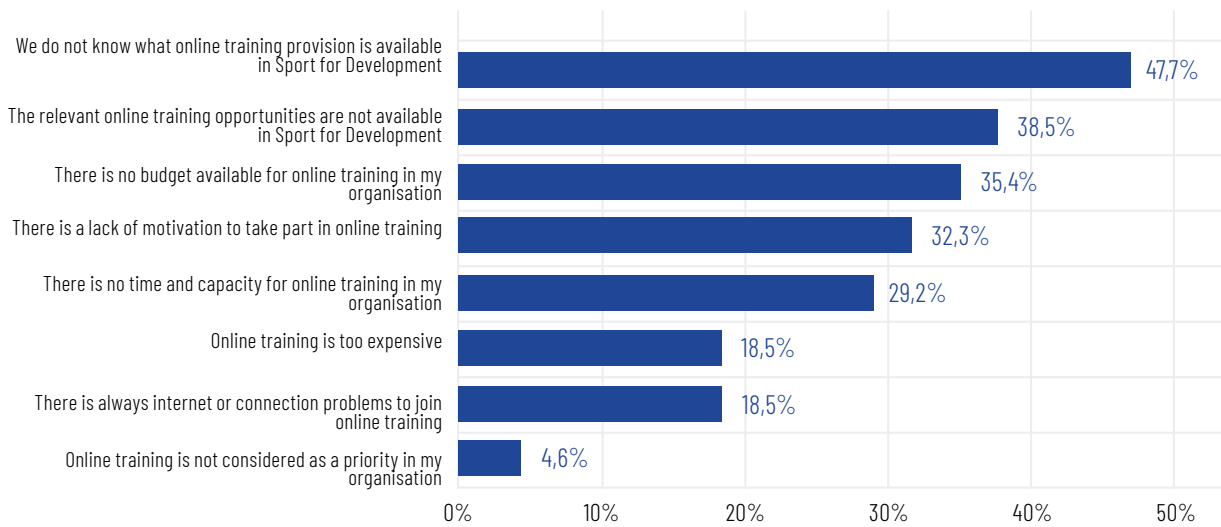
More online learning in Sport for Development would be beneficial to the sector - n=67



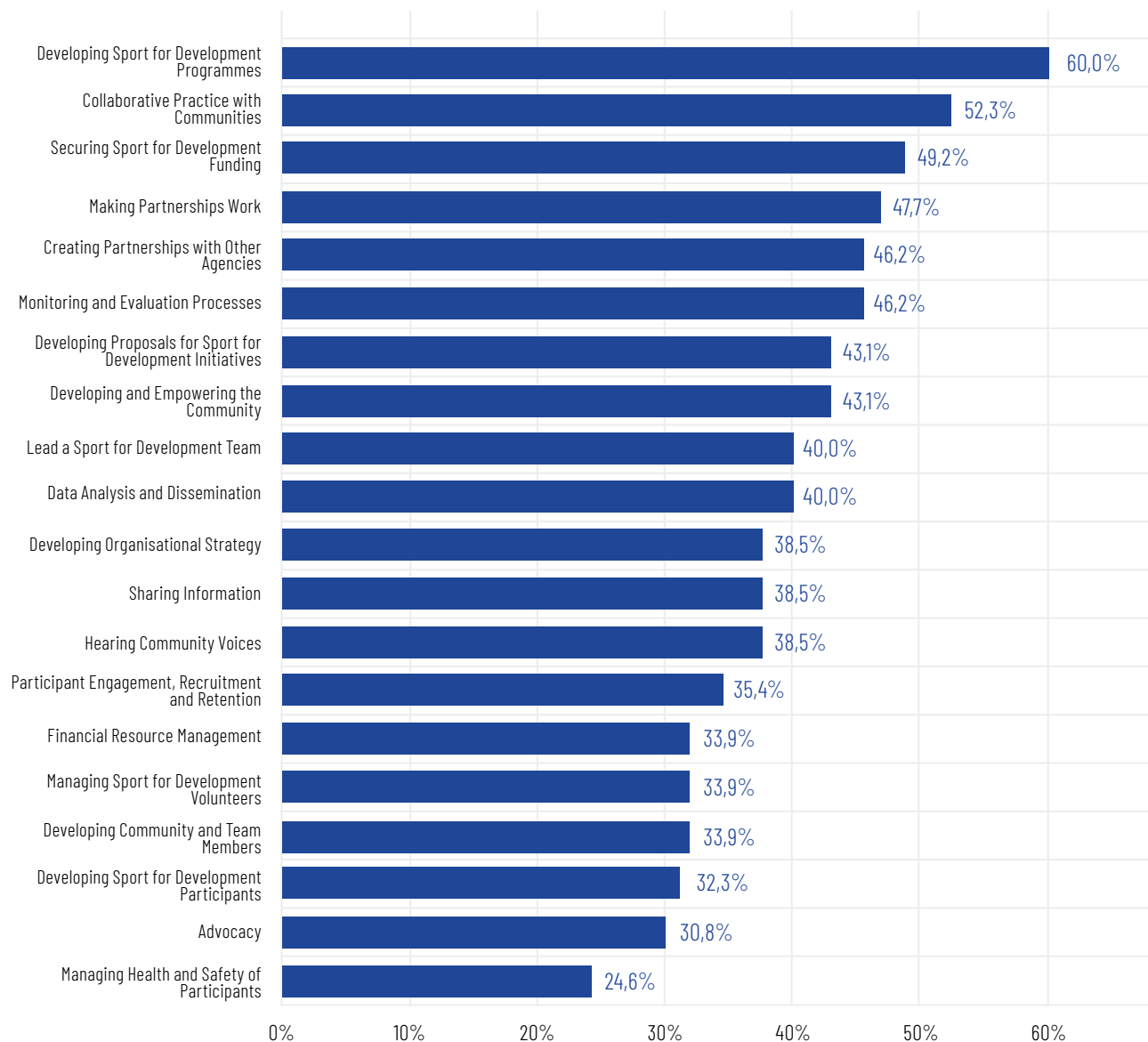
Preferred format for online learning in Sport for Development - n=67



Biggest barriers to online learning in Sport for Development - n=65



Most relevant topics to see developed and made available through online learning to support Sport for Development - n=65



RECOMMENDATIONS

We can use these results to present recommendations for consideration by those involved in Sport for Development.

- 1 Recommendation 1:** Leading organisations in the sector should continue to consider online learning and work with universities or others involved in research to explore further the relevance and demand for online learning as a part of the capacity building drive in the sector.
- 2 Recommendation 2:** Education providers in sport, which could include universities, training providers, and consultants, should further explore the demand for online learning, and the blended learning format, which this study indicates exists, and pilot new course offerings.
- 3 Recommendation 3:** Leading Sport for Development organisations at the national or international level should audit what training is available to the sector (both designed for Sport for Development and designed for other sectors and can be applied to Sport for Development) and raise awareness of these course offerings.
- 4 Recommendation 4:** To counter the identified barriers leading Sport for Development organisations or associations, and funders, should emphasise the long-term benefits of capacity building and skills / human resources development, to make training more of a priority.
- 5 Recommendation 5:** To ensure online learning does not exacerbate existing divides in opportunity across global regions, more research should be undertaken into the topic of connection issues as a potential barrier to online learning in different parts of the world.
- 6 Recommendation 6:** Potential online learning providers should take account of the topics indicated by respondents as areas where they would like to see courses, as well as suggested learning outcomes for developed through the CHANGE project.



EOSE hopes the results are useful to education providers and other stakeholders in Sport for Development to stimulate further debate and action on this topic.

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EOSE Secretariat
1, Grande rue des Feuillants
69001 Lyon - FRANCE

Tel.: +33 (0) 437 431 939
Mail: eosesec@eose.org
Web: www.eose.org