

Audit of Youth and Sport subsidies – synthesis report

Federal Office of Sport

Key facts

The Youth and Sport (Y+S) programme of the Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO) supports organisers – mainly sports clubs – of sports courses and camps for children and young people with contributions. Approximately CHF 100 million, or about 80% of FOSPO's total subsidy credit, is used to support around 70 sports and disciplines and over 600,000 participants per year. FOSPO is responsible for the programme and works together with sports associations and the cantons, which in turn are responsible for approvals and systematic controls of courses and camps. A key programme objective is the basic and advanced training of Y+S instructors.

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) carried out an audit in the Y+S funding area at FOSPO with the aim of assessing the economic efficiency of Y+S subsidies. The audit was awarded externally to B,S,S. Volkswirtschaftliche Beratung AG in cooperation with Grünenfelder Zumbach GmbH (B,S,S.). This synthesis report summarises the most important findings and makes recommendations.

The promotion system has proved its worth and is efficient

Y+S promotion has generally proved its worth and is broadly supported both by society and politically. Given the total cost of CHF 1.80 per sports lesson per child for Y+S, relative to CHF 9.30 per school hour per pupil, the efficiency of Y+S is high. The voluntary commitment of Y+S course instructors also helps to reduce costs here. However, the costs per sports lesson are likely to be higher taking the deadweight effect into account. Furthermore, the Y+S focus is not on the number of sport offerings, but rather on qualitative expansion. Y+S administrative expenses amount to about 12% of the total costs, which more or less corresponds to the scale of non-profit organisations recognised by the certification body ZEWO. The Y+S promotion system can be described as efficient and, in terms of quality, the funding/benefits ratio of the promotion is good.

Room for improvement: impact measurement and supervision

At present, FOSPO does not have sufficient impact measurement. The SFAO considers the study initiated by FOSPO to assess and quantify the impact to be wise, but it should be implemented with sound judgement.

The cantons are responsible for organising course quality control, although not all of them make use of the quota to which they are entitled. FOSPO considers the 865 activities visited in 2016 and the first half of 2017 to be too small a sample to make valid statements on the quality of Y+S activities. In the cantons, only 0.7% of all course instructors were visited. FOSPO must ensure an effective control system in cooperation with the cantonal bodies and associations.

The impact of Y+S focuses on higher quality as well as the degree of achievement of sport offerings. FOSPO should take sufficient account of both criteria when developing its impact measurement.

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