

Sport & Physical Activity - Hungarian Community

Basic Facts:

- The Republic of Hungary is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordered by Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia.
- The capital city is Budapest.
- In 2005, the population was estimated to be just over 10 million people.
- Hungary has a continental climate, with cold, cloudy, humid winters and warm to hot summers.

Demographics:

- For some 95% of the population, mostly Hungarians, the national language is Hungarian. Several ethnic minorities also exist including: Roma (2%), Germans (1.2%), Romanians (0.8%), Slovaks (0.4%), Croats (0.2%), Serbs (0.2%) and Ukrainians (0.1%).

Immigration:

- Historically, the Hungarian community is well established in Britain, over 20,000 people coming here after the October revolution in 1956 and settling. These have since been joined by the post 2004 emigration where Worker Registration figures record **25,419** people arriving between 2004 and 2008. These have mainly settled in Central and West London as well as Norfolk.

Health:

- Total health spending accounted for 8.3% of GDP in 2006, slightly lower than the average of 8.9% in OECD countries.
- In 2006, life expectancy at birth in Hungary stood at 73.2 years, more than five years below the OECD average of 78.9 years. Apart from Hungary, only Turkey (71.6 years) had a lower life expectancy among OECD countries.
- The daily smoking rate among adults remains high at 30% of the adult population in 2003, above the OECD average of 24%, but lower than in 1995 (35.5%).
- The obesity rate among adults, based on self report, was 18.8% in 2003. It is higher than the OECD average of 15.4%, This figure was self reported data which generally underestimates the real prevalence of obesity.
- In 2005, a report entitled "Health of the Nation Hungary" revealed that Hungary was one of Europe's unhealthiest countries, thanks largely to a traditionally unhealthy diet and lack of physical activity by the population in general.



- The report revealed that 47% of Hungary's population was considered overweight or obese in 2000 (contrasts with the OECD figures above) and by 2020 this figure was expected to increase to reach almost 62%.

Religion:

- The largest religion in Hungary is Catholicism - Roman and Greek - (approx two thirds of the population), with a Calvinist minority (around 20%) and Lutherans (5%). However, the Hungarian population is not particularly religious; at most 25% practice their faith. Most of the country's Jews (1%) live in Budapest.

Physical Activity and Sport:

- Recreational tourism is an important feature in Hungary with cycling, hiking, golf, angling and hunting being particularly popular. Cycle hire shops are still hard to come by however.
- Snooker, billiards and bowling are popular with facilities found mainly in the larger cities and towns.
- In Beijing, Hungary won ten medals (three gold, five silver and two bronze) four of them in flatwater canoeing and kayaking, water polo, wrestling, fencing and swimming.
- Popular team sports include football, handball, water polo and ice hockey. Horse riding is also extremely popular stemming back historically to the times of the Magyar horsemen.
- The influx of new immigrants provides more opportunity for English clubs to seek new members, many of them sports that England is not traditionally strong in such as water polo and handball.

Further Information:

The starting point to contacting the Hungarian community is the Hungarian Cultural Centre in London.

For more information about partnership working with the Hungarian community please contact Sporting Equals on **0121 777 1375**.

For further details please contact:

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