

Title: A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Dual Career Environments for Elite Athletes in Switzerland, Denmark, and Poland

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Aims: The aim of the study was to explore and compare the beliefs and values of stakeholders working in different national dual career environments and to increase understanding of the relationship between athletes' dual career paths and their environments. **Method:** Semi structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders who play a role in facilitating athletes dual careers from three different European countries (Denmark, Switzerland, and Poland). During the interviews, the stakeholders were encouraged to discuss the benefits, challenges and best practices of within their systems.

Results and Practical Implications: Results suggested that in addition to key differences in the support provided to elite athletes within higher education, the stakeholders expressed a range of attitudes and values about how they believed dual career support and structures should be organised. These differences were linked to the welfare systems in each of the countries. Due to the different values and underlying attitudes, athletes experienced very different pathways combining sport and education. The key implications to take away from this study include that culture plays a key role in how athletes experience dual careers, and each country has very different systems and beliefs about how education and sport should



be combined. The study suggests that professionals, including coaches, career advisors and those who lead on educational programmes for athletes should reflect on the context they are within, and not look to always replicate the practices of other countries. This research also provides key implications for researchers of dual careers, as it highlights the importance of exploring dual careers within specific contexts (e.g., countries, sports).

TASS have produced this lay summary. The full article is available (permissions may apply): <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/1612197X.2018.1553889?needAccess=true>