



DEPORTISTA - UNA PROFESIÓN DE CONFIANZA PÚBLICA A SPORTSMAN – PROFESSION OF PUBLIC TRUST

Małgorzata Tomecka
Academy of Sport Education in Warsaw
Technical Secondary School (Śl. TZN) in Katowice
Poland
Małgorzata Tomecka, tomeckam@poczta.onet.pl

RESUMEN

En Polonia desde los años noventa funciona una definición del deporte profesional y del deportista profesional. Además en los últimos años han surgido muchas escuelas del perfil profesional de diferentes tipos y en todos los niveles de enseñanza. Hay que comprender que las escuelas de este tipo deberían preparar para ejercer la profesión del "deportista" como por ejemplo las escuelas de música preparan para ejercer la profesión del músico. A pesar de esto hasta hoy en día en la clasificación polaca oficial de profesiones no existe la profesión del "deportista", pero desde hace poco existe el término del "jugador de una disciplina deportiva". En los resultados del informe "La confianza para las profesiones 2016" que describe más de treinta profesiones diferentes podemos, entre otras cosas, leer que "desde todas las profesiones creció más la confianza para los deportistas profesionales y futbolistas". En la opinión popular "la profesión de confianza pública" está relacionada, entre otros, con la impecable postura moral, conservación del código ético y el secreto profesional y también el servicio profesional de alta calidad. El trabajo que ejercen miembros de aquellas profesiones debería tener mucha importancia para la sociedad y es cierto

que la profesión de deportista profesional en el deporte de clasificación se convirtió en una de ellas. Entonces, es la profesión ser un deportista y si es profesión de confianza pública? En el presente trabajo intento responder a esa pregunta.

PALABRAS CLAVE:

deportista, una profesión, confianza pública

ABSTRACT

The terms of professional sport and professional sportsmen have been functioning in Poland since the 90ties of the twentieth century. Moreover, in the recent years several schools of a sport profile of different types and on different levels of education have been founded. Thus, it should be understood that schools of this kind would prepare to perform the occupation of a sportsman, such as e.g. music schools prepare to perform the occupation of a musician. In spite of that, up to now, there has not been the profession of the name "sportsman" in the official, Polish classification of professions. In the conclusion of the report on the subject "Trust in Professions 2016", which involved 30 different professions it can be read that: "among all professions, it is the professional sportsmen and footballers that trust has increased in the most". Common



opinion is that “profession of public trust” is associated among others, with an impeccable moral attitude, a compliance with ethical code and professional secrecy as well as a performance of high quality professional service. Jobs performed by representatives of such professions, should have important meaning for the community, and, such, undoubtedly, the work of the extreme sportsmen in qualified sport has become. Thus, is the profession of a sportsman a profession deserving public trust? In the present work I undertake an attempt to give an answer to this question.

KEYWORDS:

sportsman, profession, public trust,

INTRODUCTION

In the recent years, there has been observed a crisis of trust, in nearly all of spheres of social life in Poland. A tangible indicator of the increase and decrease of trust are the results of social opinion surveys. Jobs performed by the representatives of professions of public trust, should have an important meaning for the society and the work of high performance sportsmen in the classified sport has become such one. Sport is defined in categories of phenomenon and is often perceived as a symbol of universal and timeless values, a symbol which involves the rules of sport ethics and the required rule of fair play. There have been functioning the notions of a professional sport and a professional sportsman in Poland since the 90ties of the twentieth century. In the recent years there have been founded a lot

of schools of a sports profile of different types and on different levels of education, however, they do not belong to the system of vocational education. So far in the official Polish classification of occupations there is no profession called “sportsman” although there has existed the term “sport discipline competitor”. In practice, there are two notions of occupation – profession (education acquired) and the performed occupation, as well as the narrower notion such as “specialty” (knowledge and skills required for the job). There is also the working position which means the work place in a given organization. However, the notion of “a profession of public trust” is not necessarily known in the European countries as, it is a specific creation of the Polish legal system (Antkowiak, 2013, p. 135). In the present work I am undertaking an attempt to answer the question: Is sportsman a profession, and if so is it a profession worth public trust?

METHOD

The present paper has a cognitive character and the basic source material is the overview of the subject literature and legal acts binding in Poland. Commonly known and generally available on the internet information has also been used.

RESULTS

Profession and Professional Classifications

Profession is an indicator of position in the social structure and professional position influences the sense of identity, the style of life, personality of individuals as



well as social inequalities and distances (Domański et al., 2007). Profession is a “set of tasks excluded as a result of social division of work, performed permanently or with little changes by various persons (...) requiring suitable competences (knowledge, skills, and social competences) acquired in the course of education or practice. Performing a job is a source of incomes” (Gruza, Hordyjewicz, 2014, p. 8). In practice, there are differentiated: a profession (acquired education) and a performed occupation. The first is acquired in course of vocational training (school occupation) and require achieving an official certificate or a diploma confirming the acquired qualifications. The other are occupations which occur at the job market and are called economic occupations. Occupations are divided into specialities connected with the division and specialization of work within one occupation where, positions/workplaces can be differentiated. However, scales of occupations are the rules of their grouping worked out on the basis of the International Standard of Classification of Occupations according to levels of competences specified in ISCO-08, as well as, levels of education specified in The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) (Gruza, Hordyjewicz, 2014). In the regulation of the Minister of National Education it is said, among others, that the classification of occupations of vocational schooling specifies names of occupations for the occupations which are taught in the system of education, at the level of a vocational school, technical secondary

school and post secondary school. Achieving full qualifications that are conferred in the system of education is confirmed by the certificate issued by the regional examination commission (MEN, D.U. 2016, pos.2094). Qualifications which the particular occupations involve are described in the core curriculum for education as sets of expected educational effects: knowledge, professional skills, as well as, personal and social competences. Occupations in which, qualifications are not distinguished, are the occupations of artistic schooling (MEN, D.U. 2016, pos. 2094), but they do not include the occupation of a “sportsman” or a “competitor of sport discipline”. The data of the Central Statistics Office in Poland, gathered every other year, show that the number of sport schools at various levels of education has been systematically rising from 127 in 2010 to 144 in 2106 and the number of schools of sport mastery has risen from 68 in 2010 to 131 in 2016. It follows from the statistical data, that in 2016, in the schools mentioned before, there were almost 72 thousand students (GUS, 2011, 2017), and the interest in such schools is systematically growing.

Profession: sportsman

Up to now it has been difficult to find a single definition of the term “sport” and “sportsman” and the experts on the subject claim that, a sportsman is a person who practises an event acknowledged as sport, on the level of high performance sport. In the Act on sport, of 25th, June, 2010 it is said that “Sport is all the forms of physical



activity, which, through temporary or organized participation, influence the development or improvement of physical and psychical condition, the development of social relations or achieving sport results on all the levels”. According to the definition of professional sport in the art. 2, section 143 of the regulation of UE Commission, a professional sportsman is a person who gets payment for the performed work or provided services “regardless of the question if, there is a formal work agreement or not, between the professional sportsman and a particular sport organization, in case when the payment exceeds the costs of participation and makes a significant part of the sportsman’s incomes. The costs of travel and accommodation connected with participation in sport competition are not regarded as payment (...)” (UE Commission, 2014, section L 187/30). The EU Court of Justice stated that “practising sport undergoes the European Union law in the range in which it is a business activity” (May, 2018). However, “the business activity involving sport (...) can be held as a part of paid work performance, provision of services for wages or running a sole trader’s business (...) in case of a business run by professionals or half-professionals” (EU Commission, 2014, section L 187/30). Also in Poland, in 2015 The Supreme Administrative Court decided that, a sportsman can be an entrepreneur and pay a flat tax, as if he ran a business (Szulc, 2015). However, every occupation has a particular threshold of requirements, in the form of tasks involved in its performance.

In the classification of occupations and specialties of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy, binding on the 25, January, 2018, in the description of the occupation of a “Competitor of sport discipline” we read:

Synthesis: “Competitor of sport discipline”: improves extremely his physical fitness (motion development) of his body in a specified discipline of sport aiming at an effective participation in competition and achieving measurable material benefits and other satisfactions; participates in sport competitions, Olympiads and massive sport events; represents the country and promotes his own sport discipline.

Professional tasks: specification of his own psychophysical predispositions towards practising a particular discipline and sport event; individual or team trainings based on his own knowledge or trainer’s indications; determining his own professional position: member’s affiliation to a particular organisation or signing an appropriate agreement; determining (together with the trainer) the strategic target of his own competitor’s career, indirect targets and tasks to be made in the particular training cycles; cooperation in working out a detailed training plan including its basic rules; reliable realization of the training plan; participation in the scheduled sparring and championship competitions; assuring oneself



a proper medical care, hygienic life style, a proper equipment, an insurance and other conditions essential in the process of intensive training; undertaking a maximal effort to achieve the best result during competitions and using ways of fighting which are permitted by regulations; participation in competition (fighting) and obeying the rules of fair play, as well as, avoiding the application of means of forbidden doping; permanent shaping of motoric features: fastness, strength, endurance, motoric coordination, suppleness and agility.

However, in the sociological indicators of social position in Poland of 2007 sportsmen were classified among artistic activity workers, entertainment workers and sport workers. The group included also the instructors of billiard, bridge and chess as well as judges, negotiators and sport activists and also trainers of the eastern martial arts (Domański et al., 2017). The mentioned above activities and their classification are disputable, as they run counter the definitions specifying the notion of a “sportsman” principally.

Trust and professions of public trust with reference to sport

Trust is a foundation of all human relations both in institutional situations and situations beyond institutions as well as, one of the resources of social capital. It is commonly known, that trust is being built for a long time and it

can be lost in one moment and never be earned again. Fukuyama defines trust as a “mechanism based on the assumption, that other members of a given community are characterised by honest and cooperative behaviour, based on commonly accepted norms” (Fukuyama, 1997, p.38). As the result of the carried out research, five dimensions of trust were differentiated: integrity, openness, competences, consequence and loyalty. Integrity (honesty and truthfulness) occurred to be valued the highest because “without the acceptance of morality and basic honesty of the other person, the remaining dimensions have no significance” (Schindler, Thomas, 1993, pp. 563-573 after: Robbins, 1998, pp. 207-208). According to the European Social Survey, Poland takes the last place with the 10.5 percentage of people at the age of 18 and more who trust other people, and Spain, for instance takes mid position with the percentage of 25,1% of such people while the first place is taken by Denmark with the result of 64,3%. However, the average for all the 20 surveyed countries in Europe, in the same research is 32% of people trusting other people. “Polish paradox” is that the growth of human capital and GDP (Gross Domestic Product) for a citizen, do not cause the growth of social capital (Czapiński, 2008). Social trust is often connected with social prestige and the latter with the prestige of professions. In Poland for several years, the first place in the Scale of the Prestige of Professions, has been taken by the university professor. However, in the recent years, the prestige of



sportsman has increased from 44,9% in 1979 to 61,3% in 2007 (Domański et al., 2007). Among different types of trusts it is the “interpersonal trust” which is acknowledged as elementary and it is directed to the closest surrounding of a man, and, all other types are its derivatives and they are determined as “social trust”. Social trust involves public trust with typical for this category objects of trust, that are e.g. school, police, church (Szymczyk, 2016) and sport.

As I have already mentioned in the introduction the “profession of public trust” is a Polish term and it does not have a legal definition. In the sentence of the Constitutional Tribunal of 2002 we read that: “profession of public trust” is a profession that refers to servicing personal human needs, that involves receiving information regards personal life and that in organized in a way which justifies the social conviction about using this information, appropriately for an individual’s interest, by those who provide the services (...). And, that these professions “are practised in the way which is socially acceptable, insofar as practising them is accompanied by public trust” (Krasnowolski, 2013, pp. 12-13). Professions of public trust are not only a question of prestige, but most of all professions of a distinctive significance. Their task is also fulfilling the most important needs and protection of important values such as life and health and people who practise such professions not necessarily act from a desire to generate profits (Polańska-Solorz, 2016). Common opinion is that such professions are associated

with an impeccable moral attitude, obeying the ethical code and professional secrecy as well as providing professional services of high quality. The results of the report “Trust in Professions 2016” which involved over 30 different professions show that Polish people trust fire fighters the most and politicians the least. However, “among all professions, the trust in professional sportsman and footballers increased the most” (Siejewicz, 2016).

As it has already been presented, the level of sportsmen’s prestige grew significantly, which, as it seems, has its translation into the growth of trust in this social group. Non-negligible for trust in sport are the binding in it, categories of ethics, which include: valour, honour, enjoyment and fair play as well as, the parallel to the latter, rule of justice (Krawczyk, 2000). Equally important are the universal values preferred in education such as altruism, tolerance, responsibility, freedom and justice. The priority in achieving educational goals have moral values (Łobocki, 2006), and the “effects of moral education for sport and through sport depend mainly on moral education in the global sense” (Krawczyk, 2000, p.53). An increase of social trust in sportsmen is also influenced by high culture of trust and low culture of distrust in the field of sport. From the structural perspective the influence upon trust/distrust in sport is dependent of a few factors: historical heritage, transparency of sport structure, stability and durability of sport order, obeying the binding legal regulations by sport authorities,



assurance of laws and duties realisation (Dziubiński, 2016). It can be generally stated that, the “level of the culture of trust in sport is a consequence of a good and transparent organization in all of its sections and depends on people’s wealth and honesty” (Dziubiński, 2016, p. 403).

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

The interest of researchers in the problem of social trust in sport is rather marginal, and an attempt to place sportsmen in the group of “professions of public trust” seems to be a pioneer procedure. In the recent years there has been a significant growth of interest in sport, moreover, sport has become “fashionable”. In spite of the fact that the number of sport schools and schools of sport mastery in Poland is increasing, they are not functioning in the vocational school system. Situating sportsmen in the social-professional structure of the society is a difficult task. A “sportsman” is not a learnt profession, confirmed with authorizations, qualifying requirements and real certificates or diplomas. On the basis of the carried out here short analysis on the subject it results, that a sportsman is a performed occupation, practised relatively shortly and based on the practise of the professional sport tasks. It can also be accepted that, a “sportsman” is a person performing a job in the speciality of a given sport discipline, in the position of a competitor in an organization, which is e.g. sports club. If, however, a sportsman is an entrepreneur, the services provided by him are inclu-

ded in the range of his business activity and according to its specification, the sportsman has to prove his separateness from e.g. a club. Transparent rules of the organization, professional ethics, universal and timeless values, high culture of trust and growing prestige of sportsmen influence the increase of social trust in this community. Finally, I am answering the question asked in the introduction – A sportsman is a profession (occupation), which is worth social trust and according to public opinion it belongs to professions of public trust.

REFERENCES

- Antkowiak P. (2013). *Polskie i europejskie standardy wykonywania wolnych zawodów* (pp. 128-142). Przegląd Politologiczny, Nr 1. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14746/pp.2013.18.1.10>
- Czapiński J. (2008). *Kapitał ludzki i kapitał społeczny a dobrobyt materialny. Polski paradoks* (pp.13-21). Zarządzenie Publiczne Nr 2(4)/2008 ISSN 1898-3529. <http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.desklight-9c7ad00a-a0b8-4b5d-b63a-81207ff0d708> (05.09.2018)
- Domański H., Siwiński Z., Słomczyński M. (2007). *Nowa klasyfikacja i skale zawodów. Socjologiczne wskaźniki pozycji społecznej w Polsce* (pp. 15-20, 183-198). Warszawa: IFiS PAN.
- Dziubiński Z. (2016). *Zaufanie*



- spoleczne a sport*. In: Szymczyk J. (ed.), *Zaufanie społeczne. Teoria-idee-praktyka* (pp. 373-402). Warszawa: Oficyna Wydawnicza.
- Fukuyama F. (1997). *Zaufanie. Kapitał społeczny a droga do dobrobytu*. Warszawa: PWN.
- Gruza M, Hordyjewicz T. (2014). *Klasyfikacja zawodów i specjalności na potrzeby rynku pracy. Tworzenie i stosowanie* (pp. 8 – 10). Ministerstwo Pracy i Polityki Społecznej.
<http://psz.praca.gov.pl/documents/10240/54723/KZiS%20Tworzenie%20i%20stosowanie%20na%20www.pdf/c0c1b987-546a-42c9-b49a-7ed9f5f1a4eb>
(30.08.2018)
- Klasyfikacja zawodów i specjalności na potrzeby rynku pracy z 2014 r. – tekst jednolity (Dz. U. z 2018 r. poz. 227) – wg stanu na dzień 25 stycznia 2018 r. Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej.
<http://psz.praca.gov.pl/documents>
(05.09.2018)
- Kultura fizyczna w Polsce w latach 2008-2010 (pp. 194-198). Główny Urząd Statystyczny. U.S. w Rzeszowie
https://stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/gus/kts_kultura_fizyczna_w_polsce_2008-2010.pdf (03.05.2018)
- Kultura fizyczna w Polsce w latach 2015-2016 (pp. 153-157). Główny Urząd Statystyczny. U.S. w Rzeszowie
<https://stat.gov.pl/files/gfx/portalinformacyjny/pl/defaultaktualnosci/5495/1/4/1/kultura>
(03.05.2018)
- Krasnowolski A. (2013), *Zawody zaufania publicznego, zawody regulowane oraz wolne zawody. Geneza, funkcjonowanie i aktualne problemy*. Kancelaria Senatu. Biuro Analiz i Dokumentacji. OT-625.
https://www.senat.gov.pl/gfx/senat/pl/senatopracowania/56/plik/ot-625_.pdf (05.00.2018)
- Krawczyk Z. (2000). *Sport w zmieniającym się społeczeństwie* (pp. 53-59). Warszawa: AWF.
- Łobocki W. (2006). *Teoria wychowania w zarysie* (pp. 108-119). Kraków: Oficyna Wydawnicza „Impuls”.
- Maj J. (2018). *Pojęcie sportu wyczynowego w prawie Unii Europejskiej* https://prawosportowe.pl/pojecie-sportu-wyczynowego-w-prawie-unii-europejskiej.html#_ftn7
(06.09.2018)
- Naczelny Sąd Administracyjny. Centralna Baza Orzeczeń Administracyjnych. II FPS 1/15 - Uchwała NSA <http://orzeczenia.nsa.gov.pl/doc/167D298193>
(05.09.2018)
- Opis zawodów*. Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej.
<http://psz.praca.gov.pl/rynek-pracy/bazy-danych/klasyfikacja-zawodow-i-specjalnosci/wyszukiwarka>
(27.08.2018)



- Polńska-Solarz J. (2016). *Zawód zaufania publicznego – co to oznacza dla klienta?*
<https://www.prawo.pl/podatk/zawod-zaufania-publicznego-co-to-oznacza-dla-klienta,21329.html> (06.09.2018)
- Rozporządzenie Ministra Edukacji Narodowej z dnia 13 grudnia 2016 r. w sprawie klasyfikacji zawodów szkolnictwa zawodowego. D.U. 2016 poz. 2094
<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20160002094/O/D20162094.pdf> (07.08.2018)
- Rozporządzenie Komisji (UE) nr 651/2014 z dnia 17 czerwca 2014 r. Dziennik Urzędowy Unii Europejskiej, L 187/30
<http://rpo.opolskie.pl/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/> (08.09.2018)
- Schindler P.L., Thomas (1993). *The Structure of Interpersonal Trust in the Workplace* (pp. 563-573). "Psychological Reports, cyt. za Robbins P.S. (1998). *Zachowania w organizacji* (pp. 207-208). Warszawa: PWE.
- Siejewicz M., 2016, *Największym zaufaniem darzymy strażaków, najmniejszym polityków*. GfK Press release
<https://www.gfk.com/pl/aktualnosci/press-release/> (27.08.2018)
- Szulc M. (2015). *NSA potwierdza: Profesjonalny sportowiec to przedsiębiorca*. Dziennik Gazeza Prawna.
<http://podatki.gazetaprawna.pl/artykuly/878832> (04.09.2018)
- Szymczyk J. (2016). *Zamiast wprowadzenia. W stronę socjologii zaufania z perspektywy wartości* (pp. 7-34). In: Szymczyk J. (ed.) *Zaufanie społeczne. Teoria-idea-praktyka*. Warszawa: Oficyna wydawnicza.
- USTAWA z dnia 25 czerwca 2010 r.o sporcie Dz.U. 2010 Nr 127 poz. 857
<http://prawo.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20101270857/U/D20100857Lj.pdf>(01.09.2018)