

The economic impact of federative licenses in the Andalusian Padel Federation (2009-2016)

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Published online: August 31, 2018

(Accepted for publication July 15, 2018)

DOI:10.7752/jpes.2018.s3199

Abstract:

Federated sports have undergone important changes in the last decade. From a period of economic and sports abundance, the situation has turned very delicate for federative entities, where all the structures, both sports-related and technical, had to be remodeled. The budget cuts implemented from the highest national sports organization of Spain, the National Sports Council (NSC), have led the national and regional federations to search new solutions to keep organizing competitions and funding the structural costs that these require. The objective of this study was to analyse the impact that federative licenses had on the Andalusian Padel Federation during the period between the years 2009 and 2016. Descriptive analyses (frequencies and percentages) were conducted, as well as crossed tables between the variables of federative licenses of all categories (minors, absolute and veterans) by gender and Andalusian provinces. The results of this study show that Andalusian Padel has great support from Andalusian federates through their sports licences and that it is in constant economic growth in its three categories (minors, absolute and veterans). There are several important conclusions to be highlighted. The category that contributes with the largest income is veterans, followed by absolute and minors. However, this finding is not completely clarifying. The minors' category, although being the one with lowest number of affiliates, is the one with the highest growth rate in all the study years (361.68%). This could ensure that, in the future, minors with a federative license may move up to higher categories and, therefore, if the levels of organization and professionalism are maintained, the Andalusian Padel Federation will surely experience great development.

Key words: padel, Andalusian Padel Federation, federative licenses, sports categories.

Introduction

In today's society, constant changes take place; this also occurs in the world of sports and both require frequent adaptations to face reality. Sports practice increases year after year and it has become a very important element to society, not only linked to competition, but mostly motivated by the improvement of health and the quality of life.

Sports federations need scientific studies to adapt to this reality, since they are the ones in charge of promoting and organizing physical activity and sports at the regional level. In the study conducted by the Autonomous Community of Euskadi (also known as the Basque Country) (ACE, 2012) about sports federations, the authors indicate that non-Olympic modalities, e.g. Padel, have the largest number of licenses (53%), higher self-financing level (63%) and lower structural cost (23%). The ACE, also indicates that the social system is at a crossroads; the sports organizational structures must be adapted, taking the necessary measures to settle such structures on more solid bases, not only to achieve a wider practice of physical activities and sports, but also to guarantee their sustainability. The National Sports Council (NSC) indicates that Padel is in the seventh position among the most practiced sports in Spain (NSC, 2018a). Of all the federative licences registered in 2017, 79.7% corresponded to 15 federations, specifically football, basketball, hunting, golf, mountaineering and climbing, judo, handball, athletics, volleyball, tennis, cycling, karate, padel, swimming and skating (NSC, 2018). According to the annuary of sports statistics of 2018, in both men and women, Andalusia was third in federative affiliates in Spain, after Catalonia and Madrid, in that order (NSC, 2018a).

With respect to racket sports, at the level of sports practice, padel had a marked increase from 2010 to 2015, almost doubling its number of weekly players (NSC, 2018a). Other authors highlight the fact that padel, from 2005 to 2010, had an increase of 300% (García-Ferrando & Llopis-Goig, 2011).

This large increase has been justified by other authors for the simplicity of this sport in the initial stages, the characteristics of the court, the continuity of the game given by the walls, which retain the ball in action inside the court, and its low physiological demand (Lasaga, 2011; Sánchez-Alcaraz, 2014).

Padel has evolved in terms of weekly practice, which has doubled between 2005 and 2010 (from 1.7% to 3.7%). On the other hand, Basque Ball and frontenis have increased slightly (from 0.5% to 0.9%) in this period, and tennis has remained the same (1.9%). Tennis (1.9 %) and padel (3.7 %) are the most weekly practiced racquet sports by the Spanish population, although they are well below others, such as gymnastics, running and cycling (NSC, 2018a). Tennis racquets (35.3%) are the most purchased item, followed by ping-pong bats (22%) and padel racquets (21.9%) (NSC, 2018a).

Padel is one of the sports with greatest growth regarding its practice, compared to other sports in Spain (Gómez-Chacón, Pascua-Barón & Fernández-Martínez, 2017). It is worth highlighting that from all the people who practice sports in Spain, two out of ten play padel, which is 9% of the entire population (Courel-Ibáñez, Sánchez-Alcaraz, García-Benítez & Echegaray, 2017). Likewise, and following the line of other authors, padel is the sport that has developed the most in the last 23 years, with a growth of 1,947.41% (López, 2017). These data indicate that padel is one of the most emerging sports with the greatest growth of the 21st century (Gómez-Chacón et al., 2017). The collective of absolute and veteran padel players represent around 83.5% of the federative licences of Andalusia, and the other 16.5% correspond to minor players (Fernández-Martínez, Gómez-Chacón, Bernal-García & Pérez-Villalba, 2018). The NSC (2018b), in their study about the large economic numbers of the national federations, confirmed that licences and club fees are the main and most stable source of income for sports federations and that they represent approximately one third of these.

The studies by Vega (2013) indicate that national federations, in the last 20 years, have been excessively dependent on the income from grants given by the NSC. This income has increased year after year, thus reaching a time in which the NSC progressively decreased the contributions to each of the federations. In this sense, there was a year when the NSC made the greatest contribution in history to federations with 76.3 million euros in 2009, and then it plummeted 55.4%, to exactly 34 million euros, in 2013. Moreover, the then president of the NSC, Miguel Cardenal, in 2012, in a public appearance before the Senate's Commission of Education, Culture and Sports, recommended the fusion of the federations related by their activities, with the aim of rationalising expenditures in the Spanish federative sector.

The data obtained from the provisional budgets, presented in the year 2014 at the ordinary assembly of the Andalusian Padel Federation (APF, 2017), indicate the good state of this organization and its great future as a sports federation. There is a datum that will be of reference for the continuation of this research: in the year 2014, 69.51% of the total income corresponded to federative licences, which is two thirds of the resources of this entity. In view of the above mentioned, this field requires studies to verify the economic impact of padel with respect to federative licences; thereby, the aim of this study was to analyse the economic impact of federative licences of padel in the APF, from 2009 to 2016.

Material and methods

Participants and instruments

The participants of this study are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of federative licences by category and year.

YEAR	CATEGORY	Nº LICENCES	TOTAL
2009	MIN	287	7086
	ABS	1869	
	VET	4930	
2010	MIN	355	7042
	ABS	1806	
	VET	4881	
2011	MIN	498	6809
	ABS	1658	
	VET	4653	
2012	MIN	603	6749
	ABS	1586	
	VET	4560	
2013	MIN	866	7318
	ABS	1846	
	VET	4606	
2014	MIN	1309	9331
	ABS	2347	
	VET	5675	
2015	MIN	1389	9487
	ABS	2379	
	VET	5719	
2016	MIN	1611	9773
	ABS	2481	
	VET	5681	

For the gathering of information, an observation sheet obtained from the files presented by the NSC (NSC, 2016), and the APF (APF, 2017) was used. This sheet included the variables gender, Andalusian province and padel category (minor, absolute and veteran).

Procedure and analysis of the data

Andalusia is an autonomous community of Spain located in the south of the country and consists of eight provinces: Seville, Malaga, Cadiz, Huelva, Cordoba, Jaen, Almeria and Granada.

The gathering of the data began on the 1st of December of 2017 and finished on the 28th of December of 2017. The data were provided by the APF and the NSC. The NSC has published their data on their website and it was easy to reach them; however, the data of the APF were more difficult to obtain. Descriptive analyses (frequencies and percentages) were conducted, as well as crossed tables between the variables federative licences of all the categories (minor, absolute and veteran) by gender and Andalusian province.

The data were processed using the statistical software SPSS v.24.0.

Results

The federative licences of 2009-2011 were between 42 and 44 euros for people over 18 years of age, 33 euros for those between 14 and 17 years, and between 25 and 27 euros for those under 13 years (Table 2).

Table 2. Prices of federative licences according to age in the period of 2009-2016 (APF, 2017).

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
If you are 18 or older in 2016	44.00 €	44.00 €	44.00 €	44.00 €	44.00 €	42.00 €	42.00 €	42.00 €
If you are between 14 and 17 in 2016	33.00 €	33.00 €	33.00 €	33.00 €	33.00 €	31.00 €	31.00 €	31.00 €
Up to 13 years old in 2016	27.00 €	27.00 €	27.00 €	27.00 €	27.00 €	25.00 €	25.00 €	25.00 €

Figure 1 shows the economic evolution of federative licences in all the categories. As can be observed, during the Olympic cycle of 2009-2012, there was an economic decrease, with 2011 being the year with the lowest income of all the analysed years, which was a total of 195,426€ (Figure 1).

The minors' category underwent a sharp growth; federative licences invoiced 11,515€ in 2009 for the entity, and in 2016 this income went up to 53,163€, which meant a basic growth rate of 361.68% (Figure 1). Moreover, this category has a continuous growth; year after year, the numbers of the previous season increase, which does not occur with the other categories.

With respect to the absolutes, it is important to highlight that this category also grew in the study period. In the year 2009, it generated 78,498€, and in 2016 this number went up to 109,164€, which is a growth rate of 39.06% (Figure 1). Lastly, the veterans' category showed the lowest growth, which was 20.70% (Figure 1).

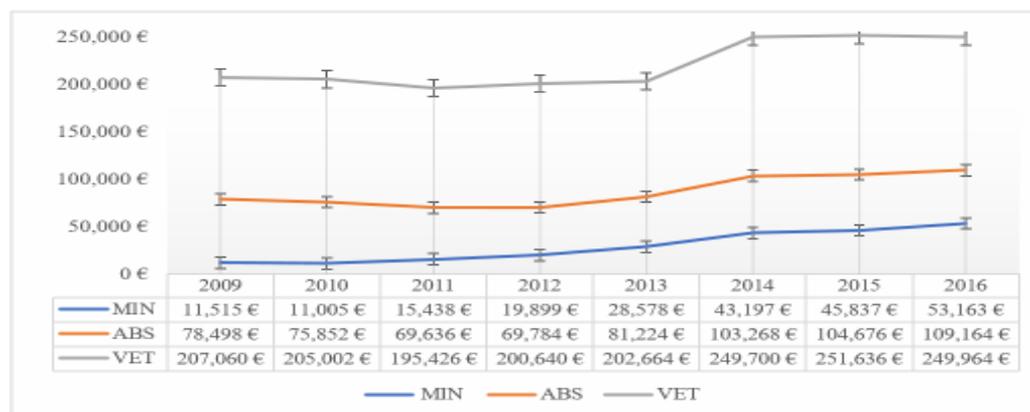


Fig.1. APF income of all the categories in 2009-2016 (APF, 2017).

The total income year by year of all the APF categories (minor, absolute and veteran) is shown in Figure 2. The year with the lowest income was 2011 with 280,500€, followed by 2012 with 290,323€, and 2010 with 291,859€.

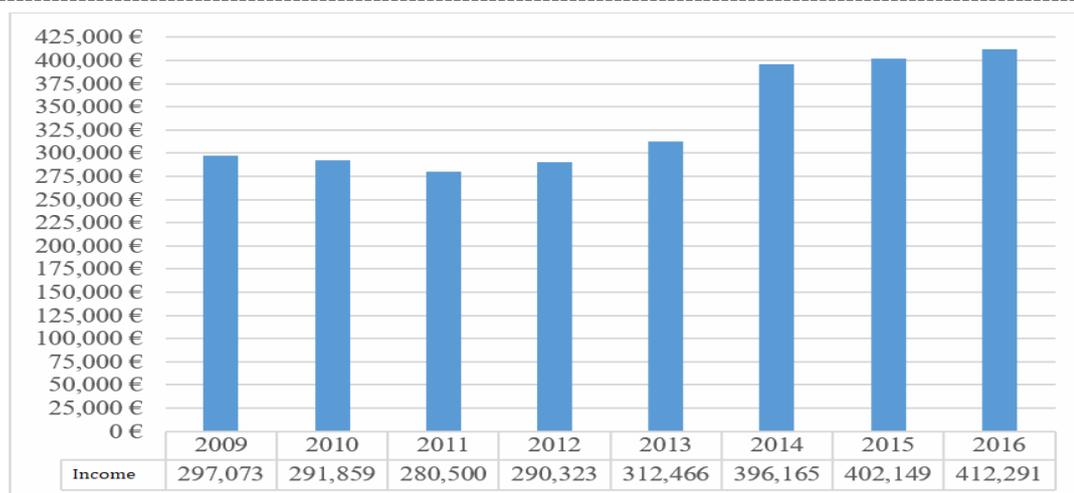


Fig. 2. Total income of the categories by year from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

With respect to the economic contribution of each of the categories, the minors produced the lowest with 228,632€, followed by the absolutes with 692,102€, and finally the veterans with 1,762,092€. When expressed as percentage, the minors, absolutes and veterans contributed 8.52%, 25.80% and 65.68%, respectively (Table 3).

Table 3. Total income and percentages of the total contribution of each of the categories from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

	Minors 2009-2016	Absolutes 2009-2016	Veterans 2009-2016	Total 2009-2016
Contribution in €	228,632€	692,102€	1,762,092€	2,682,826€
Contribution in %	8.52%	25.80%	65.68%	100%

Males generated more income than females in all the analysed years. Furthermore, between 2013 and 2016, the former doubles the latter, except in the veterans' category (Figure 3), where men generated a growth rate of 15.41% and women showed a slightly higher growth rate of 15.56%.

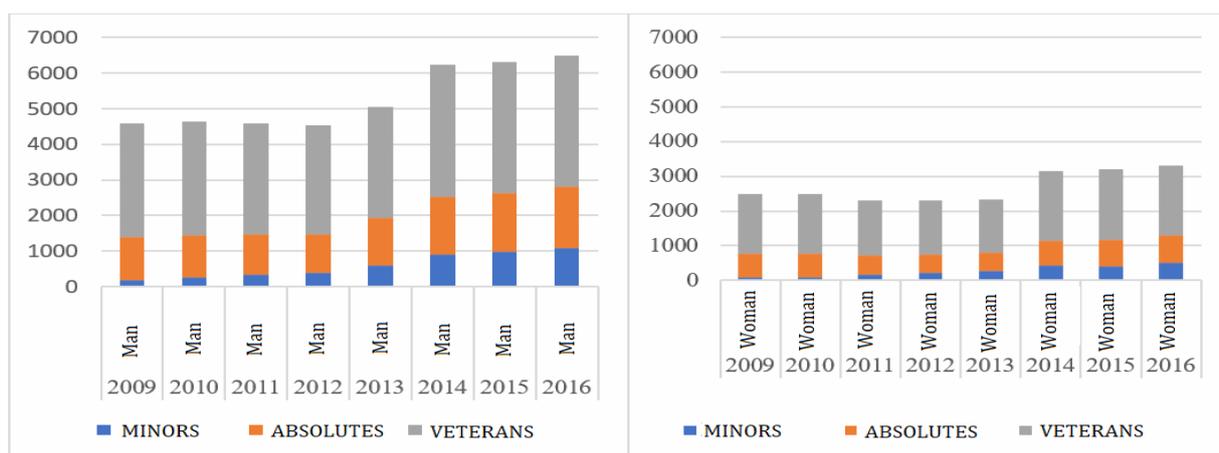


Fig. 3. Number of licences of all the categories by gender from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

Figure 4 show the income of the existing federative licences in each province in all the analysed years. It is worth highlighting the province of Cadiz, whose income decreased slowly, in the absolute and veteran categories; however, the minors showed an increasing line of growth.

The province of Cordoba had an increasing growth in the minors' category; however, only in the year 2015, it had a great loss of licences, recovering in the year 2016.

The province of Huelva did not have any minors' licences between 2009 and 2011, and in the year 2012 it had one licence; this number went up to 19 licences in the year 2013, and reached a total of 95 licences at the end of 2016. In all the other provinces of Andalusia there were no significant changes worth mentioning.

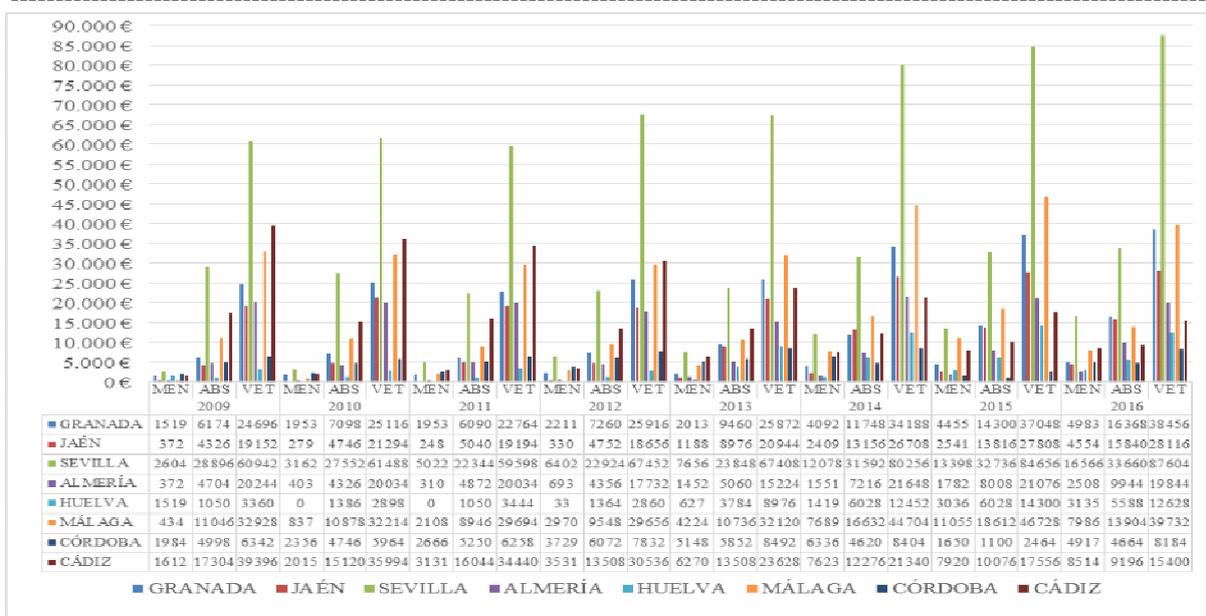


Fig.4. Number of new federative licences by province in the minor, absolute and veteran categories (APF, 2017).

Figure 5 shows crossed data of provinces and categories, detailing more clearly how the number of minors' licences increases from 4% in 2009 to 16.5% in 2016. On the other hand, the veterans' licences decrease from 69.5% to 58.1%.



Fig. 5. Percentage of federative licences in the minor, absolute and veteran categories between 2009 and 2016 (APF, 2017).

Figure 6 shows the income of APF in the absolutes' category, with Seville doubling the income with respect to the other provinces, except Malaga. On the other hand, Huelva had the lowest income; however, it also had the highest growth rate (432.19%). Regarding the income ranking of all the provinces, it can be observed that Seville is number one with 223,552€, followed by Cadiz with 107,032€. Although Cadiz is the second province with the highest turnover for all the analysed years, it also stands out for having a negative growth index (-46.86%).

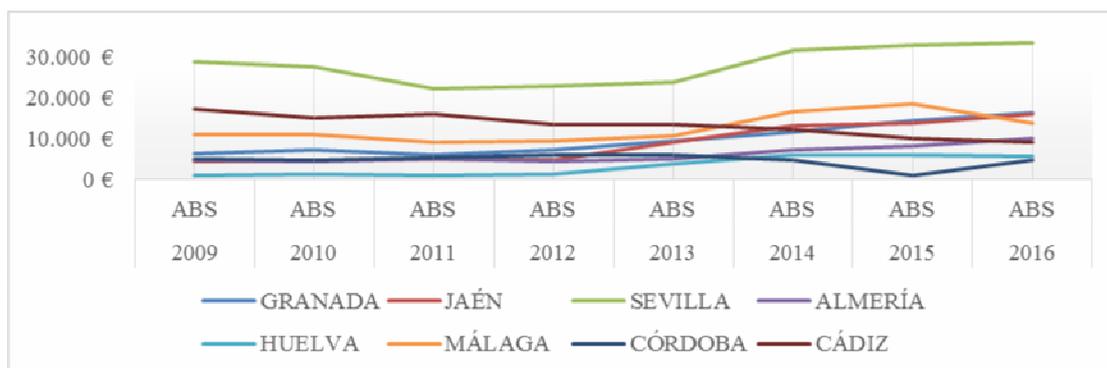


Fig. 6. APF income of the absolutes' category by Andalusian province from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

Figure 7 represents the income of the Andalusian Padel Federation in the minors' category and in each of the provinces. The province of Seville generated the highest income in all the analysed years with 66,888€, followed by Cadiz with 40,616€ and Malaga with 37,303€. The highest growth rate was that of Malaga (1,740%).

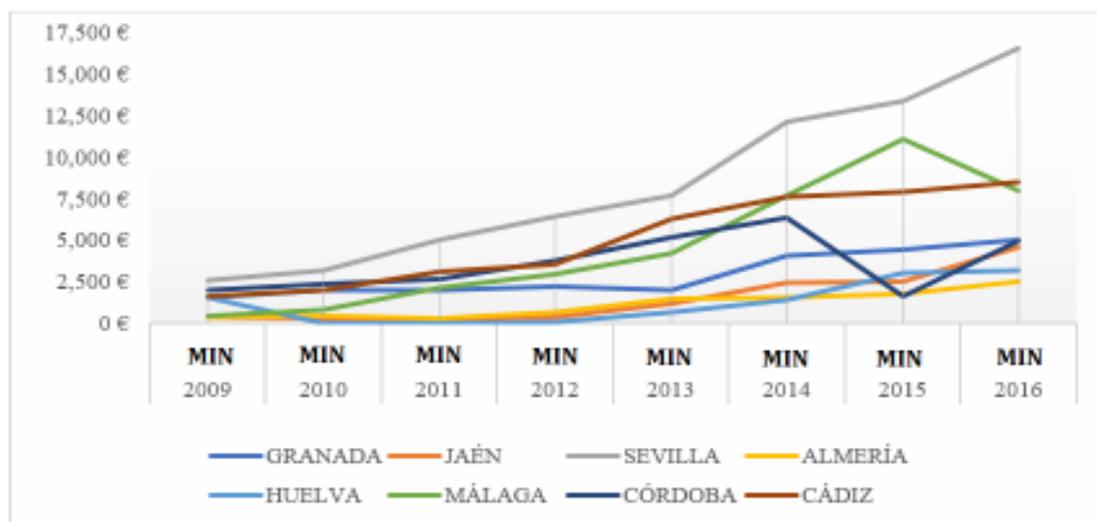


Fig. 7. APF income in the minors' category by Andalusian province from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

Figure 8 shows the data of the veterans' category by province, highlighting that this is the one which contributed the most to the APF, with 1,762,092€. Regarding the income ranking, Seville is at the top with 569,404€, followed by Malaga with 287,776€ and Granada with 234,056€. The highest growth rate is that of Huelva, whose income went from 3,360€ in 2009 to 12,628€ in 2016. Although Cadiz is number four in economic contribution in all the analysed years (218,290€), it is also the province with the highest downturn (-60.91%).

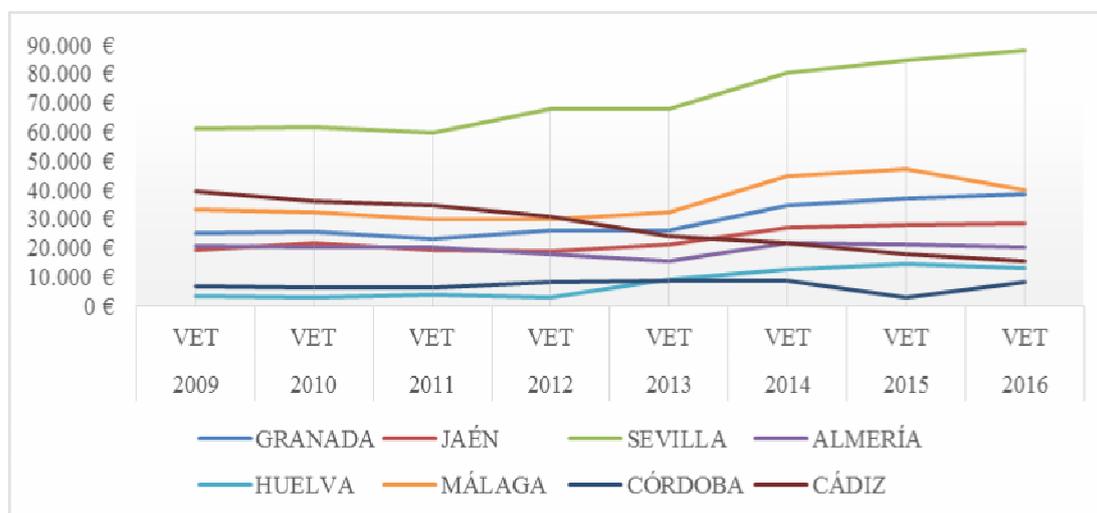


Fig. 8. APF income in the veterans' category by Andalusian provinces from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

Discussion and conclusions.

The results of this study confirm that the income of the APF has increased regarding federative licences throughout the study years.

As can be seen in Figure 9, between 2009 and 2011 the contribution of grants from the NSC to the national federations varied slightly; however, from 2012, the decrease was more pronounced, with interannual drops of 24.85% in 2012 and 29.92% in 2013 (NSC, 2018b). The results of this study are in line with the lowest income of the APF in 2011 and 2012 (Figure 2). Thereby, indicators such as the reduction of grants to the mother federation, in this case the Spanish Padel Federation (SPF), and the federative elections also carried out in 2012, may influence the reduction of income by federative licences.

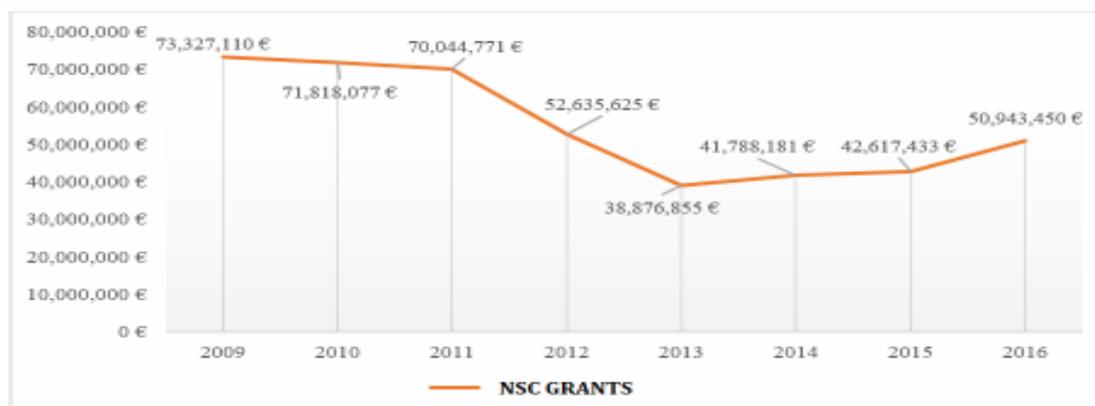


Fig. 9. Annual income from NSC grants to the national federations (NSC, 2018b).

The NSC began to contribute again with higher grants from the year 2014 (Figure 9). These new higher grants are also in line with the increase of income by federative licences in the APF.

With respect to the economic contribution of each of the categories, the minors are in the last position with 228,632€, followed by the absolutes with 692,102€, and then the veterans with 1,762,092€. It is worth mentioning that the growth rate is inversely proportional to the income; thus, the minors' category is the one with the highest growth rate (361.68%), followed by the absolutes (39.07%) and finally the veterans (20.72%). In view of these data, it can be predicted that the minors' category will be increasingly important in Spanish padel (Figure 5).

These indicators seem to be good symptoms since there are more minors interested in this sport, and this fact will lead them to obtain their licence in higher categories in the future. Regarding the results obtained from the absolute and veteran categories, the tendency is not so positive and the numbers only indicate that, in order to improve these categories, several aspects must be tackled to make veterans and absolutes maintain the same interest they had in the first years of this study. Better competitions, more specialised professionals, incentives and prizes to increase participation in competitions may be some of the ingredients to keep growing, although future studies should also focus on determining the demands of these collectives.

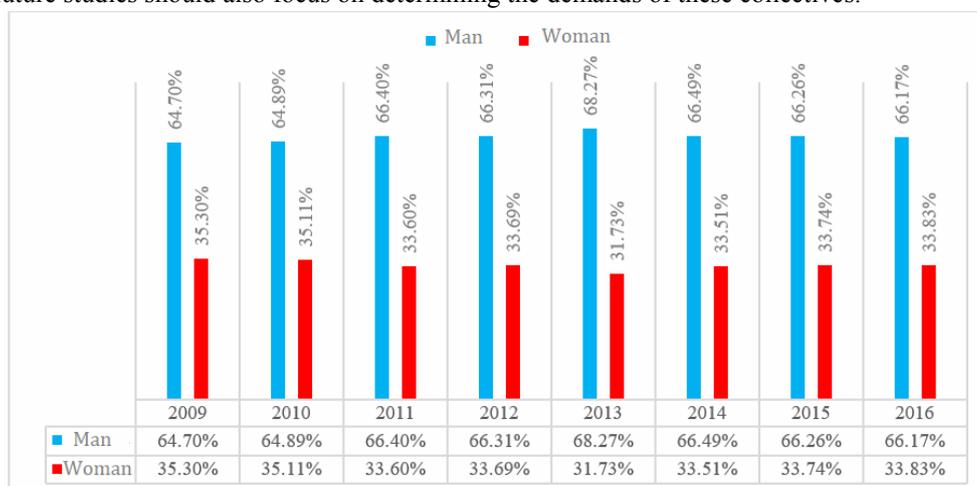


Fig. 10. Percentages of federative licences by gender from 2009 to 2016 (APF, 2017).

On the other hand, there continues to be a great difference between men and women (Figure 10), thus the APF would have to offer more attractive sports services to make female padel in Andalusia increase its income, and also to reduce the difference between genders. These are other potential research lines for future studies.

Female padel in Andalusia has not evolved in the analysed years; in fact, it has decreased from 35.30% in 2009 to 33.83% in 2016. Table 4 shows the percentages of federative licences in other racquet sports (badminton, tennis, squash and ping-pong) and in the SPF, and the difference between genders in the year 2016. It is worth mentioning the small difference (16.80%) between male and female federative licences in the Spanish Badminton Federation (SBF). Squash, with 15.10%, and ping-pong, with 12.30%, are the racquet sports with the lowest percentage of women with a federative licence. It would be interesting to know the type of sports competitions, events and activities developed by the SBF, in order to implement them in other sports, such as padel, with the aim of increasing the percentage of female participation.

Table 4. Percentages of federative licences by gender in racquet sports in the year 2016 (NSC, 2018a; APF, 2017).

2016	Men	Women	Difference
Badminton	58.50%	41.70%	16.80%
Padel SPF	65.00%	35.00%	30.00%
Padel APF	66.17%	33.83%	32.34%
Tennis	71.50%	28.50%	43.00%
Squash	84.90%	15.10%	69.80%
Ping-pong	87.70%	12.30%	75.40%

Future research lines.

In this work, the economic data of the APF were ordered and described. In this sense, it is important to know the cause of these data. Therefore, it would be interesting to know what variables influence these changes and how they do it, by category, province and gender.

Limitations of the study.

In this study, only the economic income obtained from federative licences were taken into account, which represent almost 70% of the total. Other budget items, such as club affiliation, income from teaching, income from the local authorities, registration in competitions, grants, interest income, sponsors and fees, etc., were not considered. Since the data were difficult to obtain, the study was only carried out with the federative licences from 2009 to 2016.

Practical implications for the managers of federations and clubs.

The results and data obtained in this study will help the collective of sports managers to optimise their strategic plans in the short and middle term. These plans will help to improve the financial results. They will also help to focus the sports activities and events on those collectives with greater financial weight on the annual budget and, therefore, they will help to improve the financial return of the investments made.

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