

# para coach

Para Coach is an Erasmus funded EU project positioned to enhance sport coaches learning, mobility and employability.

An initial survey was conducted to understand the current landscape of coaches who coach in disability sport.

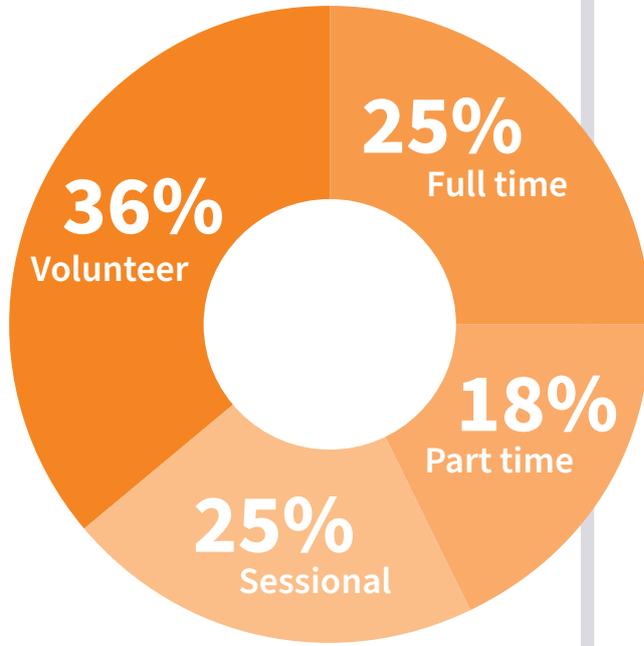
**313 Coaches completed the survey.**  
**This is summary of their feedback.**



# 1

## Blended profession

Workforce breakdown:



Para Coaching could be considered as a blended profession.

# 2

## Lack of a coaching pathway

Analysis of coaches' interviews highlighted the **serendipitous** nature of stepping into coaching.

For most of these coaches, their step into coaching occurred through **'accident'** resulting through association with the sport as an athlete, parent or career.

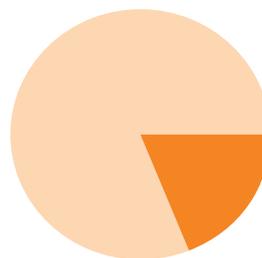


# 3

## Lack of formal coach education



Level 1 - 3%  
Level 2 - 7%  
Level 3 - 9%  
Level 4 - 4%



Only **19%** have received Para specific coach education

# 4

## Lack of consistency across Countries for coach education

Analysis of survey responses showed that there were **differences in the name and level** of coach education qualifications between countries in relation to the European Coaching Qualification Framework (ECQF).

This makes **EU wide comparisons** problematic.

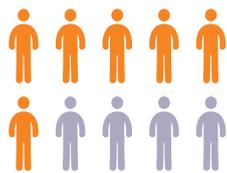


# 5

## Lack of CPD - Continuous Professional Development



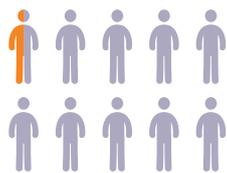
**67%** of coaches have engaged in CPD opportunities.



**56%** of these coaches had engaged in CPD in the past year.



**57%** noted that their CPD did not relate to Para sport.

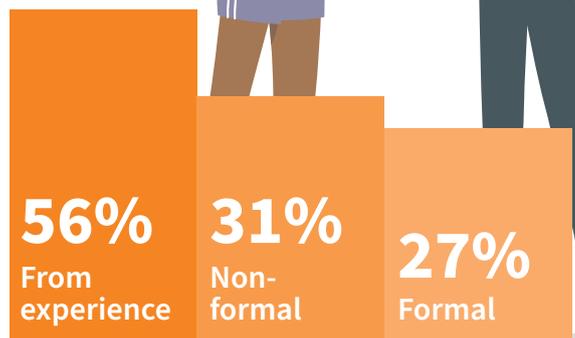
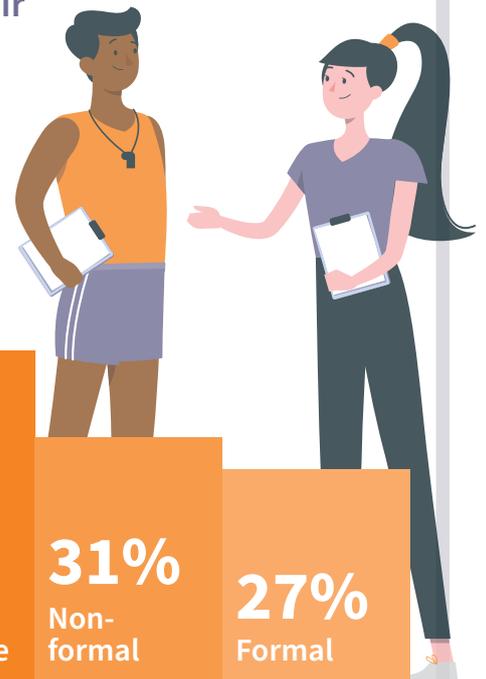


**5%** of coaches alluded to any mentoring opportunities.

# 6

## Reliance on informal learning

Qualitative analysis of follow-up interviews illustrated that coaches **valued learning** from their **peers**.



Most effective learning methods

# 7

## Gaps in knowledge

Analysis of qualitative survey responses revealed that coaches requested the need for knowledge relating to ►

This may further position Para coaching as a **blended profession** in which gaps in knowledge are reflective of **individual**, **contextual** and **domain** level needs.



# 8

## Best practice

Analysis of best practice case studies suggest that pockets of best practice existed in some sporting contexts relating to:



**Integration of coach education**



**Integration of training opportunities**



**Creating new sporting opportunities**



**Person-centered approach to coaching**



**A need for advocacy**



Look out for the coaching framework and free open online course

[www.paracoach.eu](http://www.paracoach.eu)  
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