

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: A BIBLIOMETRIC REVIEW OF INCLUSION IN SPORTS

Olesia Shevchuk¹, Silvio Lorenzetti^{2,3}, Iryna Kohut¹, Viktoriia Marynych¹, Artur Mytko²

¹National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport, Kyiv, Ukraine

²Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen, Magglingen, Switzerland

³ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), Zurich, Switzerland

Abstract. Inclusion has become a fundamental aspect of global social policy, which aims to establish an inclusive environment that supports diverse population groups. It is widely acknowledged that sport serves as an efficacious instrument for the advancement of social well-being and growth. It has the capacity to confer benefits at both the individual and social levels. In light of these considerations, it is imperative to view the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in sports as a crucial cross-cutting theme. Nevertheless, there are still obstacles that impede the participation of certain individuals and groups. The *objective* of this paper is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of scientific publications in the Web of Science Core Collection database to outline the structure of the research field of "inclusion in sports" by identifying leading and insufficiently studied thematic areas in this field. *Methodology.* The Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) database was used as the main source of bibliometric data to create a sample of studies. The search was conducted using the keywords "inclusion," "sports" and the phrase "inclusion in sports," and the keyword "school" was excluded. After checking for relevance to the field of study, removing review articles and early access articles, and removing duplicates, the study sample included 2204 documents for the period from 2013 to 2022. The study was conducted in several stages. Achieving the research goal involved the use of general scientific methods (theoretical analysis and generalization of scientific and methodological literature) and the bibliometric method – scientific mapping. Among the methods used, the citation analysis and the analysis of common words were chosen. To create and visualize bibliometric networks, VOSviewer 1.6.18 was applied. *Results.* The co-word analysis provided valuable insight into the direction and focus of inclusion research in sport. Based on thematic similarity, the studies were grouped into the following clusters: "Participants and Directions of Sports Activities," "Medical-Biological and Rehabilitation Orientation," "Physical Culture and Health Activities," "Adaptive Physical Education," and "Influence of Sports Activities." This shows the most prominent aspects of the topic of inclusion and sports. At the same time, by analyzing the connections between different publications, it is possible to gain a better understanding of the current state of knowledge in the field of inclusive sports. A citation analysis was carried out and key themes represented by the following clusters were identified: "Challenges and Prospects of Inclusion in Sports," "Diversity in Sports," "Inclusive Organizational Culture of Sports Structures," "Adaptive Sports," "Gender Policy in Sports," "Inclusive Model of Physical Education," "Sports as a Means of Social Integration." The analysis of the most cited and therefore the most influential publications in the clusters has enabled the identification of the most significant challenges and issues pertaining to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in sporting activities. Based on the findings of this analysis, priority areas for further investigation have been delineated. It has been observed that several thematic areas of study remain underrepresented, including the training and professional development of specialists. *Conclusions.* This renders further research pertinent, and there is a growing interest in scientific research in this area. Such research will facilitate social integration, reduce discrimination, and overcome social barriers, thereby ensuring a more inclusive, tolerant, and sustainable society as a whole.

Keywords: inclusion, sports, mapping, VOSviewer, clustering, bibliometrics, Web of Science.

Олеся Шевчук, Сільвіо Лоренцетті, Ірина Когут, Вікторія Маринич, Артур Митько НЕ ЗАЛИШАЮЧИ НІКОГО ОСТРІНЬ: БІБЛІОМЕТРИЧНИЙ ОГЛЯД ІНКЛЮЗІЇ У СПОРТІ

Анотація. Інклюзія стала важливим складником соціальної політики в усьому світі, яка зосереджена на створенні інклюзивного середовища для підтримки різних груп населення. Спорт же, своєю чергою, визнаний потужним інструментом сприяння соціальному добробуту та розвитку, оскільки він може приносити індивідуальну та суспільну користь. Світове визнання важливості інклюзії сприяло підвищенню уваги з боку науковців та призвело до виконання численних досліджень у цій галузі. Як наслідок, постало питання про необхідність проведення бібліометричного аналізу для огляду сучасного стану досліджень за напрямом «інклюзія у спорті». *Мета:* бібліометричний аналіз наукових публікацій у базі даних Web of Science Core Collection для окреслення структури дослідницького поля «інклюзія у спорті» шляхом визначення провідних та недостатньо вивчених тематичних напрямів у галузі. *Методи:* база даних Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) була використана як основне джерело бібліометричних даних для створення вибірки досліджень. Пошук проводився за ключовими словами «інклюзія», «спорт» та словосполученням «інклюзія у спорті» та включав ключове слово «школа». Після перевірки на релевантність галузі дослідження, вилучення оглядових статей та статей раннього доступу, а також вилучення дублікатів вибірка дослідження становила 2 204 документа за період із 2013 по 2022 р. Дослідження проводилося в кілька етапів. Досягнення мети дослідження передбачало використання загальнонаукових методів (теоретичний аналіз та узагальнення науково-методичної літератури) та бібліометричного методу – наукового картування. Серед його методів було вибрано аналіз цитування та аналіз спільних слів. Для створення та візуалізації бібліометричних мереж було використано VOSviewer 1.6.18. *Результати:* аналіз спільних слів надав цінну інформацію про напрями та фокус досліджень інклюзії у спорті. На основі тематичної схожості дослідження згруповано в такі кластери: «Учасники та напрями спортивної діяльності», «Медико-біологічна та реабілітаційна спрямованість», «Фізкультурно-оздоровча діяльність», «Адаптивне фізичне виховання» та «Вплив спортивної діяльності». Це показує найбільш помітні аспекти теми інклюзії та спорту. Водночас проведено аналіз цитування та визначено ключові теми, представлені такими кластерами: «Виклики та перспективи інклюзії у спорті», «Різноманітність у спорті», «Інклюзивна організаційна культура спортивних структур», «Адаптивний спорт», «Гендерна політика у спорті», «Інклюзивна модель фізичного виховання», «Спорт як засіб соціальної інтеграції». За результатами бібліометричного аналізу окреслено сфери, які потребують подальшого вивчення. Існує декілька недостатньо представлених тематичних напрямів дослідження, серед яких – навчання та професійний розвиток фахівців. *Висновки:* це зумовлює актуальність подальших досліджень та інтерес до наукових розвідок у цьому напрямі, які сприятимуть соціальній інтеграції, зменшенню дискримінації та подоланню соціальних бар'єрів задля забезпечення більш інклюзивного, толерантного та сталого суспільства у цілому.

Ключові слова: інклюзія, спорт, мапування, VOSviewer, кластеризація, бібліометрія, Web of Science.

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Introduction. Inclusion has become an important social policy issue for governments, organizations, and communities worldwide [66; 69]. The concept has been widely recognized as a means of promoting social justice and achieving equality in education [64; 68]. Governments and international institutions are now focusing on creating inclusive environments that support the learning and development of all students, including those with disabilities or other special educational needs [63; 65]. Inclusive education is becoming a new educational paradigm [72]. This is being achieved by implementing policies and programs aimed at removing barriers to inclusion and by training teachers and other educators to work effectively with diverse groups of students [19; 20]. Additionally, many countries are working to promote inclusive practices in other areas of society, such as employment and housing, to create more just and inclusive communities.

In turn, sports, which is a powerful social phenomenon, can provide a variety of individual and societal benefits. It can promote the strengthening of bonds between people, solidarity, mutual regard, and understanding, as well as respect for the integrity and dignity of each person. The International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity, and Sport emphasizes the ability of sport to promote social well-being by establishing and strengthening community connections and relationships with family, friends, and peers, creating a sense of belonging and acceptance, developing positive social attitudes and behavior, and bringing people from different cultural, social, and economic backgrounds together to achieve common goals and interests [32]. The significant opportunities of sports in promoting inclusive societies were noted at the VI International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sports (MINEPS VI). During MINEPS VI, sports were officially recognized as a tool for achieving 10 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sport can play an important role in achieving SDG 3 by facilitating people to be physically active and improving their health and well-being. SDG 10 focuses on reducing inequality and promoting inclusion for all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic status. Furthermore, this idea is also reflected in several other SDGs such as SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), and SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) [68]. Inclusion should be seen as an important cross-cutting theme that pervades multiple SDGs and is a key aspect of creating a more just and equitable society. As a result, the Kazan Action Plan highlights the need for empowerment and inclusive participation. Inclusiveness is considered not only as a task to be solved, but also as a call to action for the purposeful use of diversity as a catalyst for general practice in sport [71].

At the same time, despite international organizations' recognition of the importance of involvement in sport, the problem of inclusion in sport remains relevant and not fully resolved. There are still barriers that prevent certain individuals and groups from participating in sport, such as discrimination, lack of accessibility, and limited resources. Examples of groups that face challenges of participation in sports include people with disabilities, women and girls, and marginalized communities. Efforts to address this issue

include promoting policies and programs that increase access and opportunities for underrepresented groups and raising awareness of the importance of inclusion in sports.

World recognition of the importance of inclusion has contributed to an increase in attention from scientists and led to the performance of numerous studies in this field. As a result, the question has arisen about the need to conduct a bibliometric analysis to review the current state of research in the field of «inclusion in sports».

To account for the existing system of scientific knowledge, we conducted a preliminary search for bibliometric and scientometric reviews of the field. It was found that these types of reviews are widely represented in the field of inclusion in the educational environment. The authors of the previous research investigated the conceptual structure of the scientific direction of inclusion in education between 1980 and 2019 [39], and identified the leading participants in inclusive education research in the period from 1992 to 2020 [73]. There has been mapped research in the 25 years since the Salamanca Declaration [27], and the most productive authors and main research topics from 2009 to July 2019 were determined [1]. The researchers also presented the intellectual structure of inclusive education between 1999 and 2020 in ASEAN countries [31]. Additionally, they performed bibliometric analysis and content analysis of documents selected for the study «Physical Education and Inclusion» for the period 1993-2019 [35].

However, no scientometric or bibliometric analyses on «inclusion in sport» has been published thus far. Therefore, our study aims to fill this gap by providing a bibliometric analysis of the current state of research in the field of «inclusion in sports». The first stage of the research involved conducting a general profiling of publications in the field of inclusion in sport. This helped to determine the top 10 leading countries, research institutions, authors, and source titles. We used two measures to assess this: the number of publications (research productivity) and the number of citations (impact on the research field). At this stage, we also performed citation analysis and result mapping to identify the main publications in the field of sports in the context of inclusion [49]. The second stage of the research aims to determine the conceptual structure of the research field of inclusion in sport.

Objective: a bibliometric analysis of scientific publications in the Web of Science Core Collection database to outline the structure of the research field of «inclusion in sports» by identifying leading and insufficiently studied thematic areas in the field.

This study will supply a basis for further research and establish a benchmark for the field by determining the structure of the research field and answering the following research questions:

1. What are the leading thematic areas of research in «inclusion in sports»?
2. What areas need further study in the field?

Relationship of research with scientific or practical tasks, plans, and programs. The scientific work was carried out in accordance with the Research Plan of the National University of Physical Education and Sports of Ukraine for 2021-2025. on topic 1.4. Theoretical and methodological foundations for the development of professional, non-Olympic, and adaptive

sports in Ukraine in the context of reforms in the sphere of physical culture and sports (state registration number 0121U108294).

Materials and methods

Method of Study and Data analysis

We applied bibliometric methods [29] to achieve the goal of the study. To focus on the relationships between the components of the study, scientific mapping was applied [70]. Among the methods used, we chose citation analysis [50] and co-word analysis [26]. Co-word analysis was carried out by studying the common use of high-frequency keywords in the sample. Citation analysis allowed us to explore the relationships between publications and to identify the most cited and therefore the most influential publications in the field of study. This made it possible to examine existing and prospective relationships between topics in the research sample while focusing on the content of the selected publications. Both analyses were used to cluster fronts of research in the context of the search query. We combined these analyses to increase the quality and accuracy of the representation of thematic areas in the field.

VOSviewer 1.6.18 was used to create and visualize bibliometric networks. Using the program made it possible to create distance-based bibliometric maps. In the visualization of the network, the elements are represented by their labels (name), as well as by a circle. Each node represents an object. The sizes of the label and the circle of the item are determined by their weight (i.e., the number of times the keyword occurs). The greater the weight of the object is, the larger the label and circle of the object are. For some elements, the label may not be displayed to avoid overlapping labels. The elements are grouped into clusters. A cluster is a set of elements included in a map. The color of an object is determined by the cluster to which it belongs. Lines between elements represent links. By default, no more than 1,000 rows are displayed, representing the 1,000 strongest relationships between elements. The distance between two map elements shows the strength of the correlation between the elements. A shorter distance means a stronger bond [70]. This program helps to provide a visual representation of the analyzed data and facilitates the interpretation of the results.

Research design. The study was conducted in several stages (Fig. 1) to achieve the final goal of the review.

Preparatory stage

This stage acted as a preparation for the data collection and analysis process, including defining the research questions and objectives, selecting the data sources, and identifying the appropriate methods for data analysis.

Data Sources

The Web of Science Core Collection (WoS) database was used as the main source of bibliometric data to create a sample of studies as of December 17, 2022. The WoS database was chosen because it is a widely used and reputable source of scholarly research, containing a wide range of academic journals and conference proceedings in various fields.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

WoS database was explored using the keywords «inclusion», «sport», and the phrase «inclusion in sport», which were combined using the Boolean operator «AND» in the Topic field. To achieve the most accurate results for the

specified topic and purpose, the word «school» was excluded from the search query using the Boolean operator «NOT». 5,189 records were found for the period from 1970 to 2022 from the search. We noticed that most of the publications (87.69%) are from the last decade. This was the reason for creating a sample of studies for the period from 2013 to 2022. Afterward, publications were evaluated to select potential articles for inclusion in the bibliographic review.

Thus, the final query used in the WoS on December 17, 2022, was: (TS=((inclusion AND sport) OR «inclusion in sport» NOT school) AND PY=(2013-2022); Refined By: NOT Document Types: Review Article or Early Access. To ensure that the sample of studies is appropriate to the research topic and to prevent the presence of publications from other contexts that are not relevant to inclusion in sports, the research team also excluded Web of Science Categories that were not relevant to the researched knowledge area. These categories include Water Resources, Urology Nephrology, Thermodynamics, Business Finance, Biodiversity Conservation, Anesthesiology, Acoustics, Zoology, Plant Sciences, etc. We also used the EndNote reference manager to check and remove duplicate documents from the sample of studies. This helped to ensure that the sample is representative and accurate and that the results of the bibliometric analysis are reliable.

Research Sample

As a result of applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria and removing duplicate documents, the research sample consisted of 2,204 documents. The distribution of the publications by year is as follows: 2013 – 79 (3.58%), 2014 – 89 (4.03%), 2015 – 157 (7.12%), 2016 – 194 (8.79%), 2017 – 240 (10.88 %), 2018 – 209 (9.47%), 2019 – 311 (14.09%), 2020 – 346 (15.68%), 2021 – 352 (15.96%), 2022 – 229 (10.38 %). This shows a significant increase in the number of publications in recent years and highlights the growing interest and importance of this topic.

The publications included in the sample are presented in various Web of Science categories. The subject area with the largest number of included publications is Sport Sciences, with 756 publications, which is 34.27% of the total number of publications in the sample. The top 10 subject areas are: Hospitality Leisure Sport Tourism (493), Orthopedics (337), Education Educational Research (266), Sociology (155), Rehabilitation (138), Social Sciences Interdisciplinary (111), Medicine General Internal (80), Psychology Applied (75), Management (72). The results show that the research on inclusion in sport is interdisciplinary and draws from various fields. This highlights the complexity and multifaceted nature of inclusion in sport and the need for a complex approach to research and practice in this field.

The first stage

The first stage of the research involved conducting a general profiling [43] of publications in the field of inclusion in sport. This helped to determine the top 10 leading countries, research institutions, authors, and source titles. We used two measures to assess this: the number of publications (research productivity) and the number of citations (impact on the research field). At this stage, we also performed citation analysis and result mapping to identify the main publications in the field of sports in the context of inclusion [49]. The top-3 of each category is presented in Figure 1.

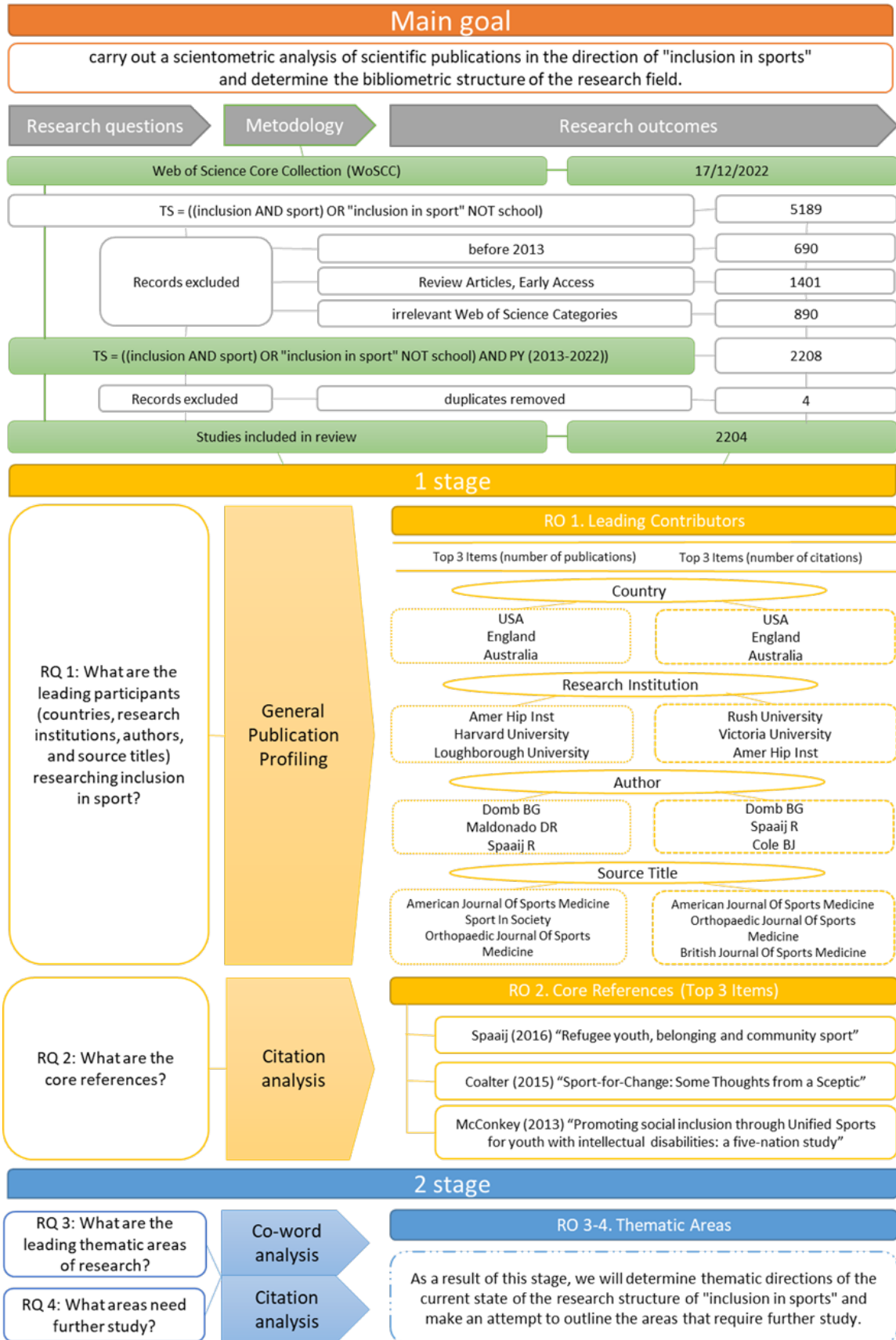


Figure 1. The research design of the bibliometric review of «inclusion in sports»

Source: own research

The second stage

The second stage of the research involves determining the conceptual structure of the research field of inclusion in sport. This stage aims to specify the main thematic areas and key concepts that are being studied, as well as to identify gaps in the existing research literature. The purpose and methodology of this stage correlate with the relevant characteristics of this scientific work. The results of the stage will summarize the current state of research in inclusion in sport, as well as recognize areas that need further study in this field.

Results

Co-word analysis

In order to identify the thematic areas of research on inclusion in sport, a co-word analysis was conducted. The total number of keywords in the sample was 8,032, and at least 5 occurrences had 660 words. For mapping and clustering, keywords with at least 10 occurrences were included. There were 293 such words with 9,074 links (L) and 20,920 of total link strength (TLS). The network is characterized by the presence of 5 clusters, each of them is highlighted by the corresponding color. The network visualization is presented in Figure 2.

Cluster 1 is marked in red on the map. It includes 87 keywords. The two most important keywords in the cluster are «*sport*» (L = 259, TLS = 1793) and «*inclusion*» (L = 194, TLS = 1,433). Other words in the cluster with the most links are: «*participation*» (L = 180, TLS = 778); «*gender*» (L = 163, TLS = 478); «*football*» (L = 163, TLS = 478); «*social inclusion*» (L = 141, TLS = 753); «*women*» (L = 138, TLS = 320); «*experiences*» (L = 127, TLS = 509); «*youth*» (L = 118, TLS = 433); «*education*» (L = 110, TLS = 305); «*diversity*» (L = 105, TLS = 358). The cluster received conditional name «**Participants and Directions of Sports Activities**».

The maximum link strength (87) is observed between the keywords «*sport*» and «*inclusion*». That occurred because these words directly constructed the search query when forming the sample. As the word «*inclusion*» has the greatest interest in studying, in Figure 3 we consider its most significant connections in the inter-cluster meaning.

Results show that within the framework of inclusion in sports studies, authors also pay attention to the problems of its provision when performing any physical «*exercise*,» in «*physical-activity*,» «*physical(-)education*,» «*higher education*» and in general «*education*,» which affects the «*health*» and «*life*» of people. The proximity of the «*education*» and «*teachers*» circles to the «*inclusion*» circle shows a strong connection between these concepts. While the small diameter of these circles (the number of references) and the small number of connections are the result of the exclusion of the word «*school*» in the search query when forming the sample. We also observed a strong correlation with the concept of «*participation*.» As we can see, in the existing publications, the main participants of inclusion are «*people*» («*children*,» «*youth*,» «*adults*») with «*disabilities(y)*,» «*intellectual disabilities(y)*» or those who have special «*needs*.» That means, these «*individuals*» face certain «*barriers*» in «*perception*» of others and «*exclusion*» from the surrounding environment. Such related keywords as «*disability sport*,» «*adapted sport*,» «*unified sports*,» «*games*,» «*paralympics*,» «*special olympics*» reflect involvement of this category of people in sports. However, inclusion applies to a bit wider range of people. Issues related to ensuring «*diversity*,» «*equality*,» and «*fairness*» according to differences in «*race*» («*racism*») and «*gender*» / «*sex*» («*men*,» «*women*,» «*transgenders*») remain relevant. The authors see the solution of the outlined problems in the development of inclusive «*programs*,» the formation

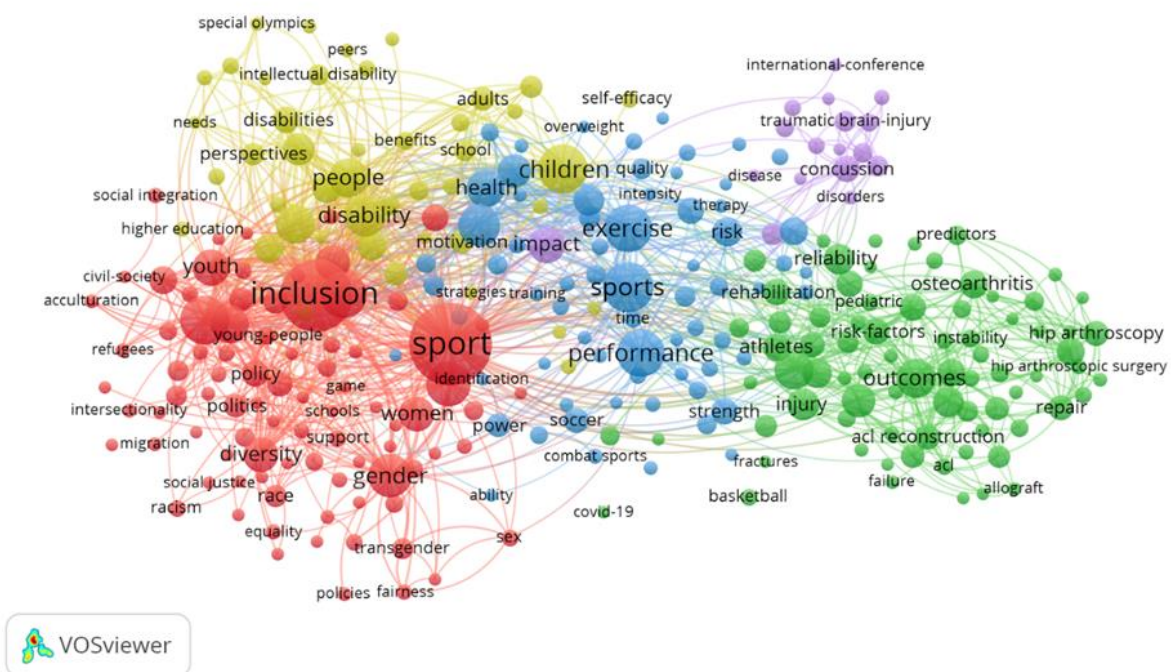


Figure 2. Research directions of various aspects of sports in inclusion context (co-word analysis, network visualization, weights – co-occurrence)

Source: own research based on data sourced from WoS and analyzed with VOSviewer (17/12/2022)

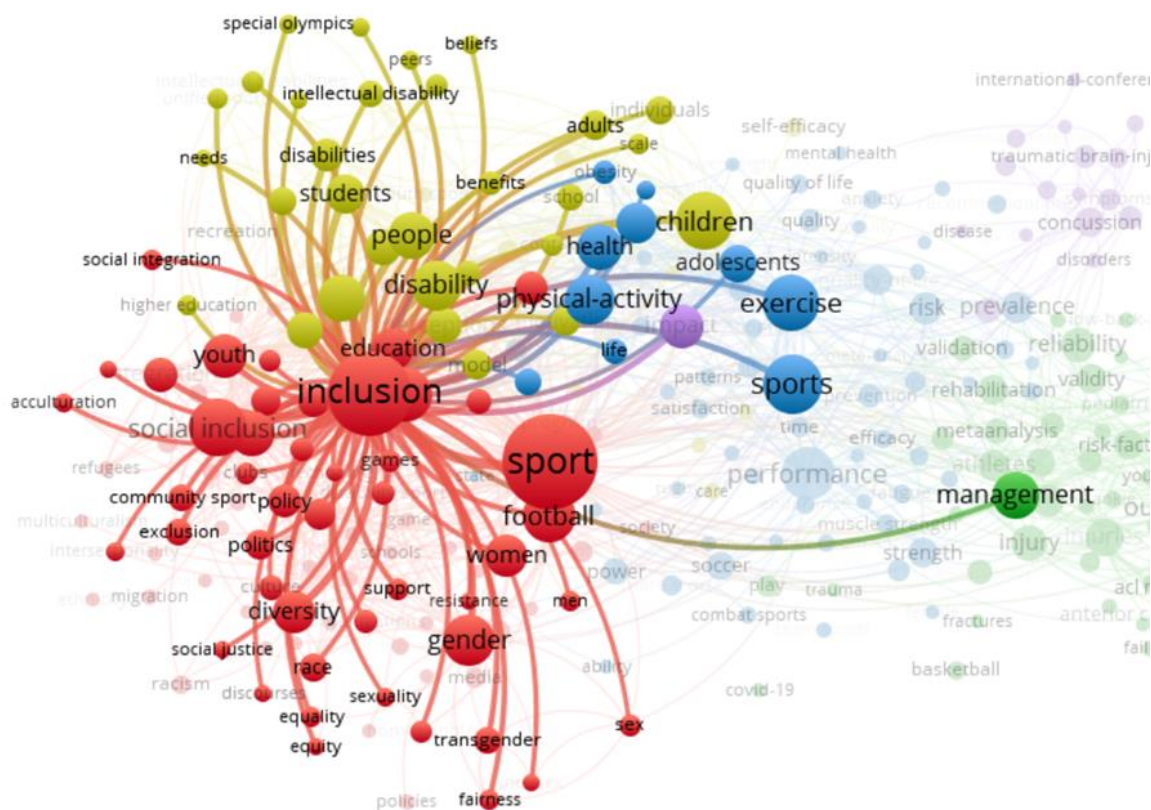


Figure 3. Visualization of data`s relationship by keyword «inclusion» (co-word analysis, network visualization, weights – co-occurrence)

Source: own research based on data sourced from WoS and analyzed with VOSviewer (17/12/2022)

of an inclusive «policy,» the search for «management» solutions, and the involvement of marginalized categories of the population in «sports clubs» and «community sports».

Cluster 2 is marked on the map in green. The 77 keywords of the cluster united with the name of the cluster «**Medical, Biological and Rehabilitation Focus**». The keyword «**outcomes**» (L=144, TLS=493) is the most important word in the cluster. The presence and high importance of the word «**management**» (L=158, TLS=386) in the cluster may indicate that researchers sought management solutions to address problems and consequences. The words «**reliability**» (L=118, TLS=223), «**validity**» (L=111, TLS=230), and «**validation**» (L=91, TLS=137) suggest that the authors of the publications paid close attention to finding reliable and valid methods to improve and verify the results of interventions. Keywords such as «**injuries**» (L=122, TLS=314) / «**injury**» (L=112, TLS=296), «**athletes**» (L=113, TLS=230), «**rehabilitation**» (L=109, TLS=226), «**surgery**» (L=98, TLS=286), «**return**» (L=97, TLS=276) / «**return to sport**» (L=65, TLS=154), «**osteoarthritis**» (L=89, TLS=261), and «**knee**» (L=82, TLS=260) are characteristic of the defined topic of the cluster within the general focus of the studied sample.

Cluster 3 is marked in blue on the map. It contains 68 keywords. The cluster`s analysis indicates that the articles focus on physical culture and health orientation. Within the framework of inclusion in sports, scientists investigate inclusive problems in other forms of physical activity, as seen in the high number of connections in keywords such as «**sports**» (L=200, TLS=613), «**exercise**» (L=181, TLS=679), «**performance**» (L=181, TLS=535), «**physical-activity**» (L=167,

TLS=568) and «**health**» (L=147, TLS=474). Other words of the cluster are characterized by a smaller number and strength of connections: «**adolescents**» (L=139, TLS=344), «**risk**» (L=119, TLS=254), «**quality-of-life**» (L=104, TLS=225), «**strength**» (L=94, TLS=187), «**soccer**» (L=94, TLS=161), «**interventions**» (L=85, TLS=157) / «**intervention**» (L= 82, TLS=137), «**power**» (L=83, TLS=139). The cluster was named «**Physical, Cultural, and Recreational Activities**».

Cluster 4 is marked in yellow on the map. It is named «**Adaptive physical education**». It includes 44 keywords related to research. The most important words in the cluster are «**children**» (L=188, TLS=785), «**people**» (L=142, TLS=597), «**disability**» (L=138, TLS=563), «**perceptions**» (L=109, TLS=285), «**attitudes**» (L=107, TLS=286), «**students**» (L=102, TLS=344), and «**physical education**» (L=103, TLS=408) / «**physical-education**» (L=100, TLS=278). The cluster also includes words such as «**disabilities**» (L=81, TLS=263), «**barriers**» (L=71, TLS=155), «**intellectual disability**» (L=65, TLS=165) / «**intellectual disabilities**» (L=47, TLS=124), «**unified sports**» (L=37, TLS=96), «**beliefs**» (L=37, TLS=65), «**adapted sport**» (L=36, TLS=49), «**special olympics**» (L=33, TLS=72), «**inclusive education**» (L=33, TLS=57), and «**needs**» (L =27, TLS=69). They reflect the focus on adaptive physical education and inclusion for individuals with disabilities and special needs.

Cluster 5 is marked in violet on the map. The name of it is «**The influence of sport**». The top keyword of the cluster is «**impact**» (L=150, TLS=413), which highlights the focus of the cluster on the effects of sports on various factors. Other keywords such as «**recovery**» (L=87, TLS=160), «**symptoms**»

(L=78, TLS=154), «*concussion*» (L=74, TLS=218), «*consensus statement*» (L=55, TLS=95), and «*guidelines*» (L=52, TLS=70) further emphasize this focus. The keywords «*disease*» (L=34, TLS=41), «*traumatic brain-injury*» (L=48, TLS=110), «*disorders*» (L=46, TLS=63), «*sport-related concussion*» (L=46, TLS=102) / «*sports-related concussion*» (L=45, TLS=115) also indicate that the cluster is specifically focused on the impact of sports on brain injuries and related disorders.

Citation analysis. The next stage involved the analysis of connections between materials and their clustering to establish the key thematic areas of research on inclusion in sports. It included publications with at least one citation for mapping and clustering. There were 1,664 such publications, and the number of references per citation was calculated for each of them. However, for clearer visualization, 100 documents with the highest number of references were selected. It turned out that some elements in this network are not interconnected with each other. The largest set of linked publications comprises 95 elements of the system, that were used for visual representation. After the data processing, 7 clusters were formed. Each of them is highlighted in a corresponding color. Density visualization of clusters of groups representing areas of research in this field is presented in Figure 4.

Cluster 1: «Challenges and Prospects of Inclusion in Sport»

Cluster 1 is marked in red on the map. It contains 23 publications that have been cited 439 times (between 1 and 72 times each). The authors of the papers in this cluster focused on issues related to the challenges of inclusion policy and potential solutions to these problems in sport. They looked at topics such as the use of sport as a means of strengthening social capacity and developing healthy communities, as well as how sport management can contribute to social inclusion. These topics are often discussed in relation to the use of sport as a tool for social change and the improvement of community well-being. The authors also showed great interest in identifying and understanding the challenges that sport organizations face

in promoting inclusion and diversity. Thus, the authors of this cluster enriched the understanding of the challenges faced by sports organizations in promoting inclusion, and offered valuable insights and promising solutions to address these challenges.

Cluster 2: «Diversity in Sport»

Cluster 2 is marked in green on the map. It contains 18 publications that have been cited 409 times (from 1 to 89 citations each). The authors of this cluster focused on issues related to the segregation of different ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, and socio-economic groups in sports. As a result, they highlight the low level of inclusion of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers. Barriers and challenges these groups face while participating in sport were distinguished, as well as the potential and limitations of sport as a tool for social integration and acculturation. Overall, the authors of this cluster have contributed to the understanding of the complexity of promoting diversity and inclusion in sport and have offered suggestions for addressing the challenges faced by marginalized groups in participating in sport.

Cluster 3: «Inclusive Organizational Culture of Sports Structures»

Cluster 3 is marked in blue on the map. It contains 17 publications that have been cited 293 times (between 1 and 41 citations each). The authors of this cluster focused on issues related to inclusive sport policy and the challenges of ensuring inclusion in sports organizations. They addressed various topics, including resistance to inclusive practices in community sports clubs, lack of inclusive attitudes among volunteers and management, and criticism of organizations' diversity and inclusion efforts as "speech acts" that "create the perception of 'doing'". The authors of this cluster highlighted the difficulties and resistance faced when implementing inclusive sports policies, as well as the need for more effective and inclusive efforts in sports organizations. They emphasized the complex and multifaceted nature of inclusive sports policy and the need for a more comprehensive and holistic approach to solving the problems of inclusion in sports.

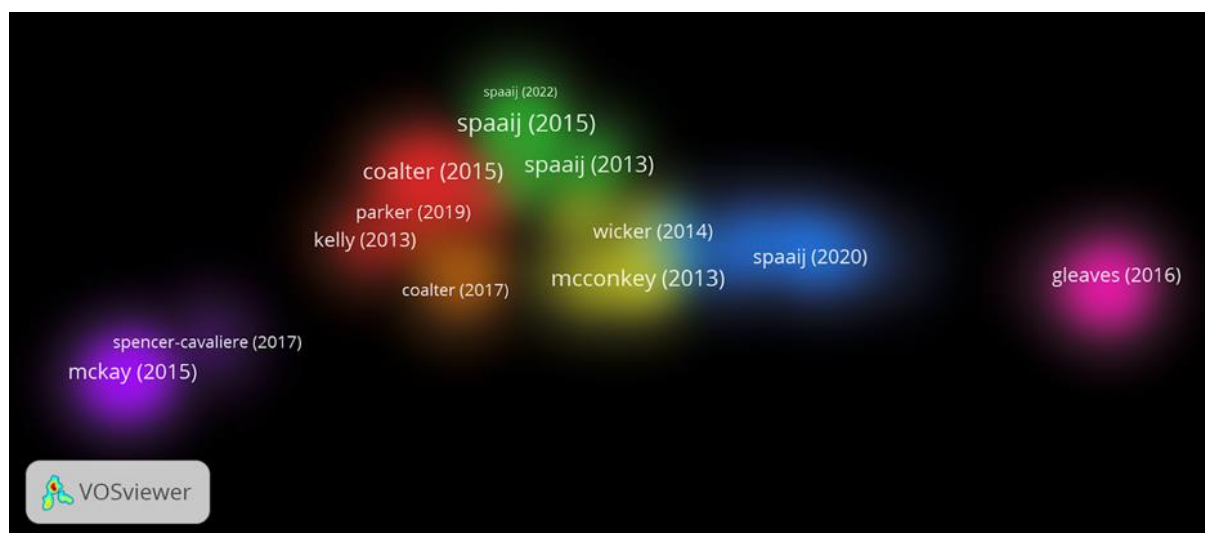


Figure 4. Visualization of data's relationship by keyword «inclusion» (co-word analysis, network visualization, weights - co-occurrence)

Source: own research based on data sourced from Web of Science Core Collection and analyzed with VOSviewer (17/12/2022)

Cluster 4: «Disability Sport»

Cluster 4 is marked in yellow on the map. It contains 12 publications that have been cited 308 times (from 4 to 62 citations each). The authors of this cluster focus on issues related to the involvement of people with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities in sport. The significance and importance of participation in sports and physical education for people with disabilities have been confirmed. There is a focus on the role sports clubs play in the social integration of these people and explore different inclusive sports approaches such as the mixed ability model and United sport. In general, the authors of this cluster have emphasized the need and potential of adaptive sport to promote the involvement and participation of people with disabilities in sport.

Cluster 5: «Gender Policy in Sports»

Cluster 5 is marked in pink on the map. It contains 10 publications that have been cited 131 times (from 1 to 37 citations each). The authors of this cluster focus on issues related to safety, fairness, and participation in sports. A special emphasis of the publications is on gender categorization and its impact on transgender and intersex athletes. The research presents scientific and ethical considerations, as well as the challenges and implications of gender politics in sports for both individual athletes and international policy. Overall, the authors of this cluster focus on issues related to gender in sports, as well as the importance of promoting safety, equity, and inclusion for all athletes. They have highlighted the need for further research and understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by transgender and intersex athletes in sport.

Cluster 6: «Inclusive Model of Physical Education»

Cluster 6 is marked in purple on the map. It contains 8 publications that have been cited 180 times (from 3 to 56 citations each). The authors of this cluster focus on issues related to the involvement of children in physical education, considering disabilities and the possibilities of disability sport. They have addressed various topics such as the impact of awareness programs and educational initiatives on students' attitudes towards inclusion, as well as the importance of the social model and the use of disability sports in physical education. The results of their study have confirmed the importance of programs such as the Paralympic School Day and the Inclusive-T disability awareness program in shaping students' perceptions of disability and their attitudes towards participation in physical education. The authors of this cluster have emphasized the importance of promoting an inclusive model of physical education that considers the needs and experiences of students with disabilities.

Cluster 7: «Sport as a Means of Social Integration»

Cluster 7 is marked in orange on the map. It contains 7 publications that have been cited 71 times (from 2 to 22 citations each). The authors of this cluster focus on the possibilities and limitations of using community sport as a means of social integration in theory and practice. They have examined the different meanings and applications of sport for social integration in different parts of the world, the problems and perspectives related to this topic, as well as the search for additional tools to solve these problems in working with socially disadvantaged youth. The publications in this cluster suggest opening up boundaries in sport to promote development and engagement through interdisciplinary perspectives. Overall,

the authors of this cluster have contributed to understanding the potential and limitations of using sport as a means of promoting social integration and inclusion.

Discussion. Today, there is a growing awareness of the importance of promoting equality and inclusiveness in all areas of life, including sport. Inclusive sports programs can help overcome social barriers to more inclusive societies as a whole. Inclusion in sport may have many benefits for participants, including improved physical and mental health, increased social connections and a sense of belonging, and opportunities for personal and professional development. However, it is important to recognize that promoting equality and inclusion in sports is a complex process and some factors need to be considered, including organizational and management issues, social and cultural contexts, and the needs and perspectives of different groups of people.

Keyword analysis has provided valuable insight into the directions and focus of inclusion research in sports. Based on thematic similarity, the studies have been grouped into the following clusters: «Participants and Directions of Sports Activities», «Medical-Biological and Rehabilitation Orientation», «Physical Culture and Health Activities», «Adaptive Physical Education», and «Influence of Sports Activities». This shows the most prominent aspects of the topic of inclusion and sports.

It is worth noting that the presence of medical-biological and rehabilitation clusters (clusters 2, 5) within the framework of the study of inclusion in sports can be explained from several perspectives. First, playing any sport is accompanied by the presence of risk factors and certain consequences (such as injuries). The issue of reducing the level of injury in sports is of considerable interest to researchers, however, it still remains an unsolved scientific problem. Therefore, the idea of considering inclusion in a broader sense as providing opportunities for learning and development for everyone regardless of characteristics and differences can confirm that athletes with existing injuries also make up an inclusive category in sports. Second, the presence of such words can be considered as a constituent and conditioned concepts within the framework of inclusive categories – athletes with disabilities. Third, the word «inclusion» can be used in other irrelevant contexts: not only as «a policy of providing equal access to opportunities for people who might otherwise be excluded or marginalized», but also as «an action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure» in general. This could determine the presence of a certain number of publications and, accordingly, keywords of the medical profile. Since bibliometric analysis involves the acceptance of a large array of data without careful manual selection by the researcher at the stages of sample formation, all three reasons are likely.

At the same time, by analyzing the connections between various publications, we can gain a better understanding of the current state of knowledge in the field of inclusive sports. A citation analysis has been carried out and key topics represented by the following clusters have been identified: «Challenges and Prospects of Inclusion in Sports», «Diversity in Sports», «Inclusive Organizational Culture of Sports Structures», «Adaptive Sports», «Gender Policy in Sports», «Inclusive Model of Physical Education», «Sport as a Means

of Social Integration». The analysis of the most cited and therefore the most influential publications in the clusters have allowed us to understand the most important challenges and problems related to inclusion in sport.

The authors consider the possibilities and limits of using community sport as a means of social inclusion in theory and in practice [7; 25], their various meanings and applications in different parts of the world [47], and the problems and perspectives related to this topic. In particular, D'Angelo, Corvino, and Gozzoli [55] note 4 main problems associated with using sports as a tool for social integration in Italy: «limited transferability of program outcomes for youth in living conditions of severe vulnerability; high drop-out rates among youth in living conditions of severe vulnerability; limited sustainability of program social workers; lack of sports club management skills». This confirms some limitations of sports programs in terms of social inclusion. Research by D'Angelo, Corvino, Cianci, and Gozzoli [55] aims to find additional tools for solving problems that arise when working with socially vulnerable youth. They have found that people belonging to a multi-professional group is a significant resource for activating reflection, promoting cooperation, and integration of different professions. This creates a positive potential for managing negative emotions, unexpected events, and relationships with young people in the inclusive category. Haudenhuysse, Hayton, Parnell, Verkooijen, and Delheye [5] propose opening up boundaries in sport for development. The challenges of inclusion policy and directions of possible solutions in the papers are outlined by Forde, Lee, Mills, and Frisby [41], Ekholm & Dahlstedt [15], Ekholm, Dahlstedt, and Rinnbeck [17]. On the other hand, Parker, Morgan, Farooq, Moreland, and Pitchford [56] and Ekholm & Dahlstedt [16] consider problem-solving using the example of football as an element of social activity.

Ensuring inclusion in sport at the organizational level is another relevant thematic area of the research topic. Thus, Sherry, Schulenkorf, and Chalip [48], Ekholm [18] focus their attention on how sports management can strengthen the social potential and develop healthy communities towards social inclusion. At the same time, it is noted that interventions aimed at increasing the participation of people with disabilities in sports have had mixed success. This is, among other things, because community sports clubs are resisting political ambitions to change existing structures and develop more inclusive practices [74]. Scholars Spaaij, Knoppers, and Jeanes [53] note the resistance of those in leadership positions to the involvement of marginalized population groups in sports clubs. The volunteer community has also showed a lack of an attitude toward diversity and acceptance. About half of the sample has held indifferent or resistant attitudes toward people with intellectual disabilities [3]. The publication Bury [6] also speaks of dysfunctional inclusion. The author criticizes The English Football Association's Action Plan entitled 'Opening Doors and Joining In' on homophobia in football. According to him, efforts toward ensuring diversity and inclusion are nothing more than mere talk that «creates the perception of 'doing'». Several other authors in their works have tried to study the understanding of integration and limited opportunities by swimming coaches [24; 30], to investigate the perception of support workers of LGBT inclusion in

sports organizations [38], to assess the adoption by sports organizations of an integrated sports policy with consideration of persons with disabilities [10].

Research on the necessity and possibilities of inclusion in sports for people with disabilities, including physical and intellectual disabilities, remains relevant and in demand. The research questions posed by the authors of the publications span different levels: what does participation mean as an aspect of inclusion in general, and what can it mean in sports and physical education in particular [33]; the place and role of sports clubs in the social integration of people with disabilities [51; 57]; disability sport management and inclusive organizational perspectives [40]. Quinn, Misener, and Howe [45] expand the concept of integration in high-performance sport and the integrated model of sport. In turn, Corazza & Dyer [8] consider the mixed-ability model as an approach to the inclusive sport that encourages players with and without disabilities to interact in a general club environment. A study by McConkey, Dowling, Hassan, and Menke [44] presents Unified Sports as a tool to promote social inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities and possible assets for promoting social inclusion in other contexts.

As part of the general focus of research, the problem of inclusion is also considered in the aspect of physical education. The studies investigate the importance of the Paralympic School Day in shaping the perception of disability and adaptive sports [37] and the impact of the Paralympic School Day on students' attitudes towards involvement in physical education [36]. The impact of an awareness program [61], the disability awareness program Inclusive-T [62], and the educational program «Inclusive Sport in School» [28] on students' attitudes have been analysed towards the inclusion of coevals with disabilities in the context of physical education. The results emphasize the importance of the social model and the use of disability and inclusive sport in physical education.

Recently, the issue of gender-inclusive policy in sport has gained relevance. One of the reasons is the increased awareness and visibility of transgender and intersex people and their experiences, particularly in the sport field. This has led to new conversations and debates about how to ensure that sport is inclusive and enjoyable for all athletes, regardless of gender. Researchers focus their attention on addressing issues of safety, equity, and inclusion [12; 13; 42] and general international policy [11; 60] regarding gender categorization in sport. The publications present scientific and ethical considerations [23; 34] regarding transgender and intersex athletes and the women's category in sport [46]. However, Storr, Jeanes, Rossi, and Lisahunter [3] question the common claim that exclusionary practices (homo/bi/transphobia) have been reduced or eliminated in sports settings. They argue that inclusion is not yet fully realized in sports research circles.

This is evidenced by the results of research on ensuring cultural diversity in sport. Publications note the systematic segregation of various ethnic, racial, linguistic, religious, and socioeconomic groups [22]. As a result, refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers have a low level of involvement in sport. On the one hand, the authors claim that sports can be an important and effective platform for young people to get acquainted with society during the resettlement process, and help refugees find their place in the host environment [54].

At the same time, we find a well-founded criticism of the vaunted claims about the ability of sports to integrate new migrants, overcome alienation and construct interculturalism [58]. Dukic, McDonald, and Spaaij [14] summarize that going in for sport contributes to both inclusive and exclusive experiences for its participants. Cultural diversity creates barriers to participating in sport, and the importance of these barriers varies depending on age, gender, and length of stay in the new country [52]. There have been identified such barriers as lack of funds, discrimination, shortage of cultural sensitivity in the sports environment, refugees' lack of knowledge about basic sports services, culturally based gender norms, and family attitudes. To build the inclusive sporting environments, there have been outlined three different models of participation of this population group, problems, and advantages of each. They have included short-term programs for refugee children, ongoing programs for refugee children and youth, and integration into mainstream clubs [4]. In addition, there is a need to inform educators about the inclusive practice to ensure that sport is inclusive and culturally safe [2].

Areas need further study in the field. All in all, research on inclusion in sport appears to be diverse and versatile, covering a range of topics and approaches. However, there are some gaps in this area of knowledge, as there are other important topics and areas of focus that are not represented in the results of any of the analyzes or have been underrepresented in the cluster studies.

Age Inclusion / Intergenerational Sport. This could include research on the participation of different age groups in sport, including older people, and strategies to promote inclusivity for this population, as well as the study of age inclusion in sport at all levels of its organization and strategies for ensuring age diversity. In addition, the studies could be aimed at exploring the role of sport in promoting intergenerational inclusivity, and the possibility of using sport as a tool for building connections between different age groups.

Religion and Sport. Studies on this topic could focus on the role religion plays in shaping the culture and values of sports teams or organizations. Additionally, it may examine how different religions view physical activity and competition and how these views can influence an individual's decision to engage in sports. The extent to which religious beliefs and practices influence a person's participation in sport, as well as strategies for promoting the involvement of people with different religious beliefs in sport, also might be areas of study.

Rural Communities and Urbanization. Researches on this topic could focus on the factors that influence an individual's participation in sport in rural areas and how they may differ from those in urban areas. The study of the impact of urbanization, as well as strategies to promote inclusivity in sports in both rural and urban areas, also might be areas of studies.

Language Barriers. Researches could be related to the exploration of the impact of language barriers on participation in sport and strategies to promote inclusiveness for people who speak different languages.

New Technologies. Exploring the importance of technological advances such as virtual reality, smart clothing, and strategies for their effective use in the context of sport

inclusion (e.g. to overcome barriers to participation such as physical disability or geographic location).

Means of Mass Communication. Exploring the role of mass media, including social media, in promoting or hindering inclusiveness in sport. For example, how media coverage of certain sports or athletes affects the public's perception of those sports and whether that coverage is representative of the diversity of people who play those sports. Finding strategies for their effective use in promoting the principles of inclusion can also be studied.

The Training and Professional Development of Coaches and Other Sports Specialists. Researches on this topic could focus on the readiness of these individuals to carry out professional activities while taking into account the principles of inclusion. This could include assessing their current knowledge and skills in areas such as cultural competency, disability awareness, and creating inclusive environments for all participants. Additionally, strategies for training and professional development can be studied and developed to improve their understanding and ability to promote inclusiveness in their work. This can include providing training on specific topics related to inclusion, such as disability sports, diversity, and cultural sensitivity, or providing opportunities for ongoing professional development.

Competition, comparison of sport performance. Competitions and comparing the performance are an important aspect of sport. Fairness is an essential principle that underpins the integrity of sporting performance and competition. It means that the rules must be observed so that everyone has the same chances. For this reason, many sports have weight classes, gender, categories for age or degree of disability. For far too long, certain groups of people have been prevented from full participation and representation in the world of athletic competition. In recent years, several concepts have been developed for inclusion and for specific championships. However, many sports federations struggle to define fair rules for the inclusion of all athletes. It is important to provide scientific evidence to allow comparability of individual sports performances.

Globalization. Investigating the impact of globalization on involvement in sport, both at the individual and organizational levels. For example, it can be studied how international sporting events affect local communities, and whether these events promote or hinder inclusivity. Also, how globalization is changing the way sport is organized and managed, and the impact it has on participation and engagement.

Legislation and Policy. An examination of the role of policy and legislation in facilitating or hindering participation in sport at both national and international levels. Research on this topic may focus on how government policies and regulations can promote or hinder inclusion in sports. It could include an examination of current laws, policies, and regulations related to sports, and their impact on underrepresented groups, such as people with disabilities, women, or minorities. Additionally, strategies for effectively using government opportunities to promote inclusivity in sports can also be studied. This could include identifying and advocating for changes to current laws and policies that may be hindering inclusion or working with government agencies to create new programs or initiatives that promote inclusivity in sport.

The Intersection of Different Marginalized Identities.

Researches on this topic can focus on understanding the unique experiences of people belonging to multiple marginalized identities, such as LGBTQ refugees of color in sport. Such analyses can also help identify the specific needs and challenges these individuals face and inform the design of targeted policies, programs, and practices that promote inclusion and address the specific barriers they may face.

Interdisciplinary, Cross-industry Perspectives and Comprehensive Studies of Inclusion in Sports. Studies on this topic could involve collaboration between researchers from different disciplines to provide a holistic understanding of the complexities of involvement in sport. Comprehensive analyses of inclusion in sport may also include examining the historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors that shape inclusion and exclusion in sport, as well as exploring the impact of sport on communities and society. These types of studies can provide valuable insights into how to promote inclusion and equity in sport and help identify the most effective strategies for creating more inclusive sport environments for all.

After all, these are just a few examples of the many unexplored areas in the field of sport inclusion. This highlights the importance of continuing to research and identify strategies that promote inclusivity and encourage broad participation in sport, benefiting individuals and communities worldwide.

Study Limitations. It is worth noting the presence of certain limitations that were present during the research. In particular, the dependence of the obtained results on the database of one source – the Web of Science Core Collection database (since the selected database may not cover all available publications in the researched area). Articles that have been published in non-indexed journals, local-level publications, or publications prepared in a language other than English may have been left out of consideration in the study. In addition, we have deliberately excluded review articles from the sample. This is because they do not create new knowledge, but generalize and synthesize existing scientific knowledge on a certain topic. Therefore, we do not consider this a limiting factor of the study. It is also worth noting that we conducted the literature search on December 17, 2022, so it can be assumed that the data for 2022 were not yet final. But the research group believes that works not published by the end of the year will not be able to significantly affect the overall structure of the research field. In addition, it should be noted that the amount of time that has passed since publication affects the number of citations and the TLS value. Our review has spanned 10 years of research, so investigation for any other time frame would have a different structure.

Finally, this study is purely correlational and quantitative in nature, which does not involve in-depth content analysis of articles and interpretation of results. Conducting further research using qualitative methods will allow providing an expanded view and understanding of the topic being studied.

Conclusions. The topic of inclusion in sports is multifaceted and complex. Diversity challenges in sport relate

to the inclusion and representation of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures and identities. This includes issues related to race, ethnicity, religion, language, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status. Promoting inclusion in sport is important as it helps create a more inclusive and friendly environment for all athletes and can lead to a more rich and diverse sporting culture. In this way, it not only helps to combat discrimination and inequality in sport, but can also serve as a model for creating more just and inclusive communities.

Within the available large amount of information, scientific mapping and clustering have contributed to the synthesis and analysis of the relationships between the components of the study. As the first bibliometric review of the structure of the «inclusion in sport» research field, this study reveals existing research trends in this direction. During the analysis, the leading areas of scientific attention in the field of inclusion in sports have been identified, as well as the references and keywords most closely related to these areas.

Co-word analysis has made it possible to combine thematically close keywords into 5 clusters. In the course of the citation analysis, the main references have been distributed among 7 clusters. The findings suggest that there is interest in exploring the challenges and opportunities for inclusion in sport, particularly how sport can contribute to the social integration of people who may be marginalized or excluded. Several authors focus on the medical and biological impact of sport on the physical and mental health of people, including how physical activity can be used as a means of rehabilitation or therapy. A significant amount of research is devoted to the question of how physical education and sport can be adapted for people with disabilities or other special needs. The issue of the diversity of participants and areas of sports activity, as well as strategies to promote participation in sport, is another widely presented topic of research on inclusion in sports. These issues include gender politics in sport, as well as the general inclusive organizational culture of sports structures.

Based on the results of the analysis, we have outlined areas that require further study. There are several possibly unrepresented thematic areas of study. Although the significant role of education and teaching in promoting the creation of an inclusive environment in sport is recognized, research aimed at assessing and improving the level of inclusive competencies of coaches has not been sufficiently represented. The lack of research in this area suggests that the current training of coaches may not be sufficient. Improving the training of coaches on inclusion is necessary, as they play a significant role in creating a culture in their teams and organizations that can promote or hinder inclusion. This determines the relevance of further research and is of interest in scientific research in this direction.

Conflict of interest. The Authors declared that there is no conflict of interest in writing this article.

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ІНФОРМАЦІЯ ПРО АВТОРІВ

Шевчук Олеся Костянтинівна <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6331-8049>, olesia.shevchuk@ukr.net
Національний університет фізичного виховання і спорту України,
вул. Фізкультури, 1, м. Київ, 03150, Україна

Лоренцетті Сільвіо <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8339-8960>, silvio.lorenzetti@baspo.admin.ch
Швейцарський федеральний інститут технологій,
Раміштрассе, 101, м. Цюрих, 8092, Швейцарія

Когут Ірина Олександрівна <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3042-2189>, kogut_irina@ukr.net

Маринич Вікторія Леонідівна <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2784-680X>, wikleon@ukr.net
Національний університет фізичного виховання і спорту України,
вул. Фізкультури, 1, м. Київ, 03150, Україна

Митько Артур Олександрович <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5139-3751>, artur.mytko@baspo.admin.ch
Швейцарський федеральний інститут спорту Магглінгену,
Хауптштрассе, 247, м. Магглінген, 2532, Швейцарія

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Shevchuk Olesia <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6331-8049>, olesia.shevchuk@ukr.net
National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport,
Fizkul'tury str., 1, Kyiv, 03150, Ukraine

Lorenzetti Silvio <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8339-8960>, silvio.lorenzetti@baspo.admin.ch
ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology),
Rämistrasse, 101, Zurich, 8092, Switzerland

Kohut Iryna <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3042-2189>, kogut_irina@ukr.net

Marynych Viktoriia <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2784-680X>, wikleon@ukr.net
National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport,
Fizkul'tury str., 1, Kyiv, 03150, Ukraine

Mytko Artur <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5139-3751>, artur.mytko@baspo.admin.ch
Swiss Federal Institute of Sport Magglingen,
Hauptstrasse, 247, Magglingen, 2532, Switzerland