PROSPECTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS’ BELIEFS ABOUT P.E. TEACHING AND OTHER SPORT-RELATED OCCUPATIONS
Zounhia Katerina1, Hatziharistros Dimitris1, Amoutzas Kiriakos2
(University of Athens1, University of Thrace2, Greece)

Introduction:
Several dimensions have dominated the literature on professional socialization. One of them focuses on the professional life, which students will be entering—the nature of the work itself, the professions as social entities, the environments in which the work is carried out, and the community of practitioners [2]. The present study is grounded in the occupational socialization theory [1] and its purpose was to identify prospective physical education (P.E.) teachers’ career aspirations and beliefs about P.E. teaching (permanent position) and other sport-related occupations such as coach, fitness instructor in private gyms, sport instructor in municipal gyms or technical adviser (contract positions).

Methods:
The subjects were 564 3rd and 4th year physical education students from the Faculty of P.E. and Sport Science of the University of Athens and of the Democritus University of Thrace, Greece. The students completed a 43-item questionnaire indicating on five-point Likert scale, (not at all to very much) the P.E. teaching and the sport-related occupation they want to work in, and their beliefs about: the salary, the perceived difficulties, the unemployment, the job security, the occupations’ perspectives and finally the prestige and attractiveness of the occupations. Multiple linear regression analysis was applied to estimate the relationships between the degree of career desire in each sport related occupation and the independent variables such as salary, perceived difficulties, unemployment etc.

Results:
The students mostly want to work as P.E. teachers (M=4.02 on a 5 point scale). They moderately want to work as coaches (M=3.52) and sport instructors in municipal gyms (M=3.02). Finally, the least they wish is to work as fitness instructors in private gyms (M=2.82) and as technical advisers (M=2.82). The students believe that the salary both of P.E. teachers and other sport related occupations are in a moderate level, and that all the occupations have approximately moderate difficulties, with the exception of coaching, which is considered of higher difficulty. The students consider that the biggest unemployment exists in P.E. teachers’ occupation, however they believe that it has the biggest employment security, while the other professions have moderate unemployment and offer moderate employment security. The students believe that coaching is interesting enough, while for the other occupations they consider that they are of moderate interest. Finally, they believe that all the occupations have a level of moderate prestige and perspectives for professional development.

Discussion/Conclusion:
The dominant preference is for a permanent position in P.E. teaching and there is little interest in contract positions.

This finding is confirmed by Yarrow’s at al. [3] study, which indicates that the most graduates prefer a permanent, full-time position in teaching.

References:

Keywords: Sport Pedagogy, Sports Employment