

Cooperation European Network of Sport Academies



Sports and Activity Planning in a Municipal context - Approaches for the Municipality and Sport Clubs	 Thurs. 17.08.2017	 Akademie des Sports <small>im LandesSportBund Niedersachsen e. V.</small>
	 75 Participants	 Public involvement, use of what already is in place, transparency

Starting situation

Urban development and city planning are among the significant and at the same time complex fields of activity for municipalities, due to demographic changes and changes in the leisure and movement patterns of the population. Green and natural areas play an important role here not only because of environmental aspects, but also as an opportunity for activity and sport. The cooperation event with the European Network of Sport Academies was intended to find out how the local community, sports and citizens interconnect.

This happened



Through participation in the federal competition "Zukunftsstadt" ("The City of the Future"), the city of Bocholt, represented by *Ludger Triphaus* (treasurer of the city of Bocholt), has implemented a sustainable urban development which also has a focus on sport and activity with all citizens.

Reinhardt Uhle, Director of the European Sport Academy in Bocholt, has explained the concrete measures which have already been implemented in Bocholt. E.g. walking coaches for seniors, danc-



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ing for people with dementia or Turkish support assistants for people with dementia. Young people primarily will be encouraged to be active by taking part in cultural festivals, skate workshops or sports tournaments based on their own proposals (e.g. a black-light football tournament).



Regardless of a competition and responding to need, the state capital Hannover, with the close involvement of its citizens, has transformed the district park Linden-South into an inclusive local recreation area offering a new home to sports like basketball, skating and free running. *Gwendolyn Kusters*, from the City Environment and Urban Green-space Department of the state capital Hannover, has been implementing public participation since the beginning in 2013.

The German-speaking Community (DG) in Belgium has carried out a sport development study to determine future needs. According to *Kurth Rathmes*, director of the Department of Sports, Media and Tourism



at the Ministry of the DG, the core elements were a clubs questionnaire, a population survey, expert interviews and so-called sport conversations. This gave rise to a wide range of recommended actions, which are now being implemented. A DG sport-tourism offer developed in recent years, is the Vennbahn. With its 125 km, the Vennbahn is the longest border crossing bike route in Europe and it runs from Germany to Luxembourg via Belgium.

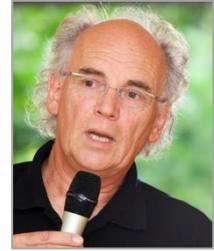


Another international example came from *Jan Oostenbrink*, Intercultural Management and Cross-border Cooperation, who presented the promotion of Buurtsportcoaches as well as the project Sportdorp. Buurtsportcoaches are neighborhood coaches who analyze residential quarters, collect and implement ideas for new activities together with the inhabitants. With the help of the Buurtsportcoaches, the project Sportdorp implements structural activities in rural areas.

Dr. Arne Goering, University of Göttingen, presented the "Sportentwicklungsberatung" ("Sport Development Debate"), a very process-oriented instrument especially for smaller cities and municipalities in rural areas. This project is intended to reach all citizens interested in sports and interest groups in the public to discuss central questions of sport development in the local area. The consideration of sporting facilities, which has often been the focus of sports development planning, takes a back seat here. The consultation seeks rather to enable all the participants to self-organization by arranging and establishing permanent-working work groups, networks and coordination process, including with the support of the sport advisory departments in the sport regions of Lower Saxony.



An element of sporting spaces can be Finnerbahnen. These are running tracks with a special coating which absorbs the force generated while recovering at the same time a relatively large amount of energy and is therefore gentle on the joints. In addition, according to *Prof. Thomas Heinrich*, University of Applied Sciences of Osnabrück, Finnerbahnen can be easily integrated into green areas or club grounds.



Stefan Henn, Institute for Sports Development in Trier, presented a statistic about sports facilities through a sport atlas which digitally represents all the sport facilities in Rhineland-Palatinate according to certain characteristics. The atlas for example records all the places with artificial turf, so that the user can find out where those places are and which clubs use them.

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We took that with us

- The involvement of all stakeholders is inescapable!
- Use existing (sports) facilities with new ideas and alternatives.
- Networking and networked-holistic thinking.



Photos (9): Volker Minkus

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