The Role of Governmental Actors in the Sport Political Infrastructure

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The Role of Governmental Actors in the Sport Political Infrastructure
The high interest of the member States of the UNESCO to participate in MINEPS V in Berlin 2013 reflects the recognition of the potential of the power of Sport to contribute to social and economic development.
The Role of Governmental Actors in the Sport Political Infrastructure

- the role of the Government is highly diverse and analyzing it unfolds a quite sophisticated picture
- impossible to give a uniform statement regarding the influence of the governmental organizations
The different political structures of the countries increase the institutional variety:

- the government responsibility in centralist states is organized on national level (e.g. China and France)

- in federal states like Germany sport lies within responsibility of the regional state governments

- in Belgium sporting issues are a matter of the three language communities.
The level of engagement differs between Ministries or Departments where Sport is mentioned, e.g.:

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport in England
- Ministry of Sport in France

And there are some countries, where Sport is integrated, as for example

- Mexico: Secretary of Public Education
- New Zealand: Ministry of Culture and Heritage
Further Federal Ministries engaged in Sport in Germany are:

(1) Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
    Women and Youth

(2) Federal Ministry for Health

(3) Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

(4) Federal Foreign Office
Funding of sport for all programs and/or funding elite sports

- Ministries and departments finance in most cases a nation-wide sporting organization (e.g. Sport Canada, Brazilian Sports Confederation, Japan Sport Council, Hungarian National Sport Institute)

- and/or the National Olympic Committees and

- in addition regional governments which provide also
Sport for All
- development and improvement of Sport infrastructure
- programs to increase participation
- inclusion of disabled persons

High Performance Sport
- talent planning
- anti-doping instruments
- development of top performance centers
- increase international success (e.g., medal plans for Olympics)
- Health enhancing strategies and programs
- gender policy as well as
- the decrease of economic, social and cultural barriers
  of sport participation of children and youth as well as
- physical education in schools
... the list with tasks are even longer!
Policy or strategic papers, such as for example

- Finland: Fit for Life Program and the Finish Schools on the Move Program (2010-2015)

- Poland: Strategy of Sport Development (until 2015)

- England: “Playing to win” Program

- Japan: Sport Basic Plan “Activating Japan through Sport” (2012-2016)

- Australia: National Sport and Active Recreation Policy
Impact of these programs, strategies and policies

- Lack of surveys and data about the success and failure
- Findings are not always translated into what this means for them.
- For example:
  How much crime and anti-social behaviour can sports interventions help to reduce, to what extent have they prevented young people from becoming not in education, employment, or training?

Strong need for Cost-Benefit Analysis
Conclusion

Governments around the world have difficulties to implement their policies

The right of access to sport was set forth in the 1978 UNESCO Charter of Physical Education and Sport and it was widely accepted – RHETORICALLY!

The translation of this policy rhetoric into practice is needed more than ever

Governments should highlight also their failures and invest more in monitoring and evaluation/analysis