Arctic challenges: How to develop sport in Greenland?

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Brief overview

- Our project: Sport in Greenland
- A brief introduction to a big island
- Organized sport and financial support
- Facilities for sport
- Main challenges
- How to develop sport in Greenland
Sport in Greenland

- Commissioned by the Sport Confederation of Greenland
- First-of-its-kind mapping of sports participation, clubs and facilities
- Background for local strategy and policy development

**QUALITATIVE RESEARCH → QUANTITATIVE DATA**

**CLUBS & VOLUNTEERING**
- Spread and participation in sports clubs?
- Number of volunteers?
- Challenges in recruiting?
- General club challenges?

**SPORTS PARTICIPATION**
- Estimated numbers of active children and adults?
- Most popular activities?
- Barriers to participation?
- Sports club-dropout reasons?

**SPORTS FACILITIES**
- Mapping of existing facilities?
- Primary users?
- What is in demand/what is realistic?

**PRESENTATION AND FURTHER USE OF DATA**
- Final report: November 2015
- Subsequent strategy development
- ‘Year of voluntarism’ in 2016
- Arctic Winter Games, Nuuk 2016
Brief introduction to Greenland

- 57 thousand people on 2 mill. km²
- Under Danish administration since 1813 – almost entirely autonomous since 2007
- 140 sports clubs – a total of almost 10 thousand active members
- Sports Confederation of Greenland from 1953 – strong Danish influence
Organized sport and financial support

- Organized sports strongly influenced by traditional ties with Denmark
  - Football: 2,697
  - Handball: 1,902
  - Ski/snowboard: 1,332
  - Outside of federations: 1,222
  - Badminton: 900
  - Table tennis: 442
  - Volleyball: 334
  - Kayak: 318
  - Sport for seniors: 263
  - Arctic sport: 254
  - Taekwon-do: 243

- Municipalities are the main economic contributors to sport

Indoor team sports dominate over individual and traditional inuit activities

- Government: € 1 million
- National lotteries: € 2,1 million
- Municipalities: € 8,6 million
Facilities for sport

- A total of 44 indoor facilities - roughly equal to DK pr. capita
  - Used by:
    - 79 pct. of clubs
    - 64 pct. of active children
    - 35 pct. of active adults

- Very limited access to other year-round facilities
  - A nationwide total of:
    - three swimming facilities
    - four artificial grass fields
Main challenges

- Numerous barriers and exclusive mechanisms in the sporting landscape
- The geographical realities of the country
- Indoor facilities are bottlenecks and almost exclusively used by sports clubs
- Sports clubs are themselves generally exclusive in their primary focus on competition and lack of local cross-sports cooperation

This is definitely the best sports town in Greenland – we win everything in badminton and the women's football team do well too.

It’s such a shame, that the [other club in the town] closed, because we need them to improve our best players.

Share of sports clubs cooperating with...

- Municipality
- Federation
- Other local clubs
How to develop sport in Greenland

- A supplement to the federation-centered organisation of sport: Local cooperation and competitions need priority
  - Shared volunteers
  - Stronger cooperation
  - Wider palette in clubs’ offers
  - Local events > National champs

- Reap the benefits of strong social cohesion in small societies
  - Event volunteering as a gateway
  - Direct communication

- New facilities
  - and better use of existing ones
  - Year-round access to artificial grass
  - Indoor facilities as activity hubs
Thank you – Qujanaq!

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