

(SP) INCLUDING SPORT INTO SOCIAL INDICATORS

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Introduction

Many decision makers, elected or technicians, in charge with the design and the implementation of the local sporting policies, wonder about the sporting development of the territories they are responsible of. Confronted with an increasingly complex reality, local decision makers need experts to draw up an inventory of sport, and thereafter, to design useful and realistic development projects.

In this perspective, experts have to conceive analytical tools to characterise the level of local sport development, and beyond, to think about a global social sport indicator which allows comparisons to be made between local spaces. We have tested a genuine approach on very heterogeneous territories: an urban area, a rural territory, and a space with mixed characteristics.

Methods

First of all, the method is based on an inventory done in collaboration with experts and actors of local sport. This research goes through three successive phases: the first stage is the identification of the main characteristics of sport through a quantitative approach (survey completed by clubs managers and another one by pupils at school to have a wider perspective than competition). The second stage has to lead to the identification of forces and weaknesses of the territories concerned through a qualitative analysis (face to face interviews with actors of local sport). And the final stage consists in the formulation of new orientations for sporting policies in relation to public local decision markers.

One of the methodological difficulties to overcome, which is in the heart of this presentation, is the establishment of relevant indicators to highlight discrepancies between local spaces, and by comparison, which could be useful for the assessment of local sporting reality. In a wider perspective, this panel of statistics, related to a peculiar sector like sport, could become part of general social indicators, which have to evolve.

Results

A panel of indicators can be calculated for the concerned territory (town, intercommunity) in order to establish the profile of this local space (see the example of a 15,000 inhabitants town close to Paris). These data and usual social indicators complement each other, in a way that living conditions are better known. It is then possible to deal with leisure time and to better understand population's abilities to create social links, in an autonomous manner. According to us, it is a wealth for the community, which is not taken into account otherwise.

Discussion

While this approach is promising, two main issues are arising. Firstly, because of the number of indicators, and as they are not weighted according to their importance, this sporting board is less easy to read and less operational. The next stage will be to sort and classify these data in a way to build an aggregated indicator of sport wellbeing for the concerned territory (Local Sporting Indicator-L.S.I.).

	Sporting data	Sporting indicators	Additional ratios
MEMBERS	% of members in a club of more than one sport	3520	88% of town members
	Clubs' number	40	22% of intercommunity clubs
	Members' number	4000	17,5% of intercommunity members
	Average members' number	100	
	% of the population with a practice		28% of the population
	Females' number	1848	46,2% of town members
AGES	Members 3 to 10 years	632	15,8% of town members
	Members 11 to 14 years	568	14,2% of town members
	Members 15 to 18 years	524	13,1% of town members
	Members more than 18 years	2276	56,9% of town members
MOBILITY	Members living in the town		74,5% of members
	Members from other towns of the intercommunity		14,8% of members
	Members living outside of the territory		10,7% of members
	Présidents living in the town		86% of Présidents
	Présidents from other towns of the intercommunity		7% of Présidents
	Présidents living outside of the territory		7% of Présidents
	Treasurers living in the town		68% of Trésoriers
	Treasurers from other towns of the intercommunity		18% of Trésoriers
SPORTS	Artistic activities	395	9,7% of members
	Outdoor activities	123	3% of members
	Martial arts	508	12,5% of members
	Cycling	64	1,6% of members
	Beginners	49	1,2% of members
	Bowls	73	1,8% of members
	Fitness	501	12,4% of members
	Sports og racket	468	11,5% of members
	Air sports	15	0,4% of members
	Outdoor collective sports	515	12,7% of members
	Indoor collective sports	305	7,5% of members
	Fighting sports	52	1,3% of members
	Basic sports	645	15,9% of members
	Motor sports	86	2,1% of members
	Traditional sports	253	6,2% of members
LEVEL	Affiliated membres	2880	72% of members
	Regional teams	10	21% of teams
	Regional sportsmen	99	30% of athletes
	Elite sportsmen	0	
	National teams	1	
	Grants allocated to the national team	73 000	
FACILITIES	Number of sport facilities	10	
	Number of inhabitants per facility	636	11% : under or over equipment rate
	Number of clubs' members per facility	148	6% : under or over equipment rate
	Clubs in relation with a sport medical care center		4% of clubs

The objective is, in the medium run, to participate to the improvement of present social indicators boards (like the one used by the European Commission, Atkinson et alii., 2001) by including the L.S.I. Beyond, the L.S.I. could be incorporated for the calculation of aggregated wellbeing social indicators, as the Index of Social Health (Fordham Institute for Innovation and Social Policy, 1987).

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