

CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS OBSERVATORIES

idea about how and why the observatories are created and how are they developed that will help on the knowledge management of the sports system.

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Abstract

The spread and scope of new information technologies and increasing Internet access in society calls for new skills in this knowledge society (Castells, 2000). This paper looks at knowledge management by means of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the world of sport, particularly through Observatories of Sport. Specifically, the paper made an analysis of four sports observatories two from Spain and two from France: The Catalan Sports Observatory, Sevilla Observatory of Sport, the Aquitaine Regional Observatory of Sport, and the Lorient Observatory of Sport in Lorient.

The main objective of this study was to look at the process of creation and the working dynamics of the sport observatories.

The methods used for the data collection were semi-structured interviews (conducted to the policy makers, managers and technicians of each observatory).

The main results show that the observatories are created as tool whose main objective is informational (knowledge management, data collection and monitoring of the evolution of sports phenomenon) and pragmatic (support in making decisions in the spheres of competence and evaluating sports policies.).

The Catalan Spots Observatory and the Aquitaine Regional Observatory of Sport are addressed to individuals and organisations involved in the field of sport and the other observatories they are mainly addressed to managers and policy makers.

The tasks developed within the observatories are divided in two main areas: administrative (web maintenance, invoices, requests for permissions, etc.), and investigation (preparation and compilation of reports, development of studies and research). The common denominator that we can observe is that the final institutions that they are involved with the preparation of the studies, reports and research are the Universities.

One of the applications of this study is that having more

References

Castells, M. (2000). *The Rise of the Network Society*, Second Edition. U.S.: Blackwell Publishing.