

The Local Sport System: Future Expectations

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Abstract

Introduction

The Provincial Council of Barcelona is a supramunicipal administration that has as a main mission to offer assistance and cooperation to the municipalities of the province of Barcelona (311 municipalities and more than 5 millions of inhabitants). The Sports Area looks for the improvement of the quality of life of the citizens of the province of Barcelona through three main axes:

- The invigoration of the sport at the municipalities through the sport activities
- The sport facilities that permit the implementation of the above mentioned sport activities.
- The training and research that allows the optimisation of the implementation of the services given in the sport sector.

In order to organize the policies that will be developed along the mandate, the Provincial council of Barcelona has created the Mandate Plan for the period 2008-11. Also, the Sports Area has created its own Mandate Plan with the goal to systematize and organize the actions that will be developed during the mandate.

The Mandate Plan in Sports 2008-11 was a consequence of a participative process:

Project

This participative process was based in 3 actions:

- Strategic reflection: During 2006 and 2007, the Provincial Council of Barcelona implemented a strategic reflection process, called RE SET. This process consisted in the participative collaboration where the staff of the Provincial Council, the municipalities and experts from different sectors reflected with the goal to rethink the institutional role of the Provincial Council of Barcelona in the following years.
- Internal reflection and improvement proposals of the staff of the Sports Area of the Provincial Council of Barcelona through meetings where contributions were given for the improvement of the service offered to the municipalities of the province, and, by extension, to the citizens.
- Sport Councillors meeting of the province of Barcelona: On the 15th October 2007, the Sports Area organized a meeting of sport councillors of the province of

Barcelona with the participation of 94 out of 311 municipalities of the province. Through a specific methodology there were obtained contributions for the improvement of the service given by the Sports Area of the Provincial Council of Barcelona to the municipalities.

Based in these elements and the policy guidelines it was created the Mandate Plan in Sports 2008-11

Results

The strategic goals defined in the Mandate Plan 2008-11 in sports was structured according the following elements:

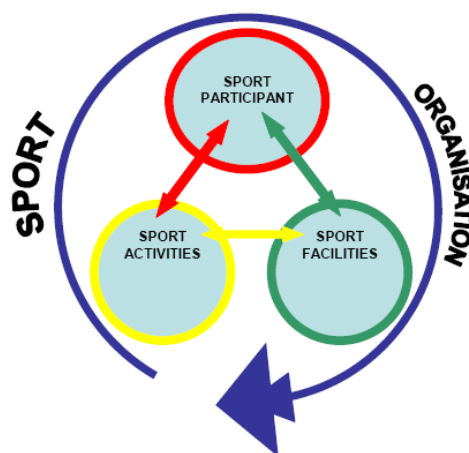
1. Territory
2. Health and citizens wellbeing
3. Education, integration and social cohesion
4. Activities in the urban natural environment
5. Quality of the sport facilities and services
6. Information, diffusion and external relations

The strategic goals are developed at the operational level through an action calendar for each action that will be developed in order to achieve the goals.

These strategic goals and actions are defined according the observed tends of the local sport system during the participative process.

Discussion

These observed tends are structured in the four elements of the local sport system:



Participants:

- "Sportivisation" of the society, increasing the percentage of physical-sportive practise of the citizens.

- To promote the sport as a social cohesion and integration tool (immigrants and handicapped)
- To sensitize the citizenship about the benefits of the sport for the health.
- To make easy the participation of the women in the sport.
- Education in values: participants, relatives, instructors....

Sport activities:

- Progressive offer of physical-sportive activities social orientated and for the improvement of the health
- To consider the collaboration of the local sport sector with the sport business
- To promote physical-sportive activities appropriate for the sport for all.
- Transversal work to design activities in cooperation with other sectors: education, health, tourism, etc.

Sport facilities:

- Territorial planning of the sport facilities according the real needs of the municipalities.
- Conception of the public urban areas as a support of the sport activities and as a generator of networks of social relations.
- Design polyvalent, versatile and sustainable facilities.
- To guarantee the respect of the environment.

Sport organisation:

- To improve the quality of the offer of the sport services.
- Innovation, development and research.
- Training and professionalization of the sector
- To consider the application of new management systems (public companies, foundations,....)
- To promote the collaboration of the municipalities with other public and private agents (companies, clubs, federations, sport councils,.....)

References

www.diba.cat/esports/en