

Thematic Symposium

“Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sport Clubs”

Friday, 8 September 2017; 13:30 to 17:00

Chairs: Siegfried Nagel, Bjarne Ibsen

Topic

Sport policy emphasises the important role of sport clubs in the promotion of social inclusion. Sport clubs bring people with different social and cultural backgrounds together in communities where they can create stable social networks and friendships. However, being a member in a sport club does not automatically lead to good integration in terms of successful interaction and identification with a club. What characterises the clubs that are successful in integrating different groups, and what are the main practices that promote effective social integration?

Volunteers are the most important resource that allow clubs to survive. Through the work of volunteers new members can be included into sport clubs, but new members can also be included through taking roles as volunteers themselves. This makes volunteering relevant not only for sport clubs and members, but also for society, if inclusion in a club represents inclusion in the broader community. However, many sport clubs have difficulties in recruiting and retaining enough qualified volunteers. What characterises the clubs that are successful in recruiting and retaining volunteers, and how can the clubs manage this problem effectively?

In the first part of the symposium Alison Doherty will give a keynote on current concepts and studies of social inclusion and volunteering in sport clubs from an international sport management perspective. This is followed by presentations on interim findings of the research project “Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sport Clubs in Europe (SIVSCE)”, co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, which address the questions above. This comparative study in ten European countries consists of: an overview of sport structures and the role of government in each country; a survey of sport clubs; a survey of club members; and three case study clubs in each country – selected as good examples of promoting volunteering or the inclusion of various under-represented sections of the population. Finally, sport management experts from other continents offer a critical reflection on these research findings.

Preliminary Programme

Time	Topic	Speaker
13:30 – 14:00	Turning a critical lens on social inclusion and volunteering	Alison Doherty
14:10 – 14:15	Introduction	Bjarne Ibsen & Siegfried Nagel
14:15 – 14:30	Understanding differences in sport policy and structures across Europe	Geoff Nichols, Bjarne Ibsen, & Karsten Elmose-Østerlund
14:30 – 14:45	A comparative perspective on sport clubs in Europe	Christoph Breuer & Svenja Feiler
14:45 – 15:00	Social integration in sport clubs in Europe	Bjarne Ibsen
15:00 – 15:15	Volunteering in sport clubs in Europe	Siegfried Nagel
15:15 – 15:30	Promoting social integration and volunteering in sport clubs – Lessons from practice	Szilvia Perényi & Monika Piatkowska
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00 – 16:15	Social integration in Swiss sport clubs – The cases of FC Thun and BC Femina Bern	Jenny Adler-Zwahlen & Julia Albrecht
16:15 – 16:30	“More volunteers in football clubs” – A program of Swiss Football Association to promote volunteers	Benjamin Egli
16:30 – 16:50	A critical view from outside on sport clubs in Europe	Alison Doherty & Tracy Taylor
16:50 – 17:00	Summary: What can we learn from research?	Bjarne Ibsen & Siegfried Nagel