

Study Visit at the Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Federations (OCS- ASF) in the Frame of “Creating a Level Playing Field”

Visiting Partner

- DG Sports – Regional Government of Extremadura

Date and Place

- 21 -22 December 2011
- Ljubljana, Slovenia

Participants

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Cvelbar	Gorazd	Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Fed
Favreau	Annabelle	Regional Government of Extremadura
Gómez Muriel	José Antonio	Regional Government of Extremadura
González-Sandoval	Antonio	Regional Government of Extremadura

I. STUDY VISIT SUMMARY

• Wednesday, 21 December 2011

The first section of the study visit included a welcome by the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and its Secretary General, Tone Jagodic.

First of all, Melanie Strauch, ENGSO, made a short presentation on the objectives of “Creating a Playing Field”, and concretely about the structure of the study visits.

For the first meeting, the Olympic Committee invited a University expert, Gregor Jurak from the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Sport. He was the person in charge to present the participants with the results of the Sport National Programme, from 2000 to 2010.

Especially interesting for the visiting partners was the presentation of concrete data and the explanation of sport management in Slovenia. The practice of sport in Slovenia is surprisingly high, reaching up to 64 per cent of the population practising a physical activity regularly.

Then, Gorazd Cvelbar, Olympic Committee of Slovenia, made a short presentation on the structure of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia, with all the sports organisations involved and their relation with the government and their impact on policies.

Finally, Annabelle Favreau, Regional Government of Extremadura, gave a presentation on the structure of sports in Spain and on how policy strategies are developed at a regional level. She also focused on the three action lines of social inclusion through sport developed in Extremadura.

The first session of meetings ended up with an exchange and questions by the participants. In the evening, the participants of the study visit were invited to the sport event of the year, the “Sportsmen of Slovenia”. During this gala event, the most famous and successful sportsmen of the year in Slovenia were awarded their respective prizes.

• Thursday, 22 December 2011

The second day of the study visit was divided into two parts. First of all, the team met the President and the Secretary of the Sportna zveza Ljubljane, which gathers more than 80 per cent of the sport clubs in the capital and acts as intermediary with the local government. Its activities mainly focus on developing common rules for the clubs, balancing the budget available for all of them, and promoting changes or improvements among the clubs or local sport strategy.

One of the most interesting programmes they develop is an annual open event, which aims at gathering as many people as possible around sport. They try to gather as many sport disciplines as possible as the objective is to raise awareness among citizens.

Then, the visiting partners moved to the biggest neighbourhood of Ljubljana, Fuzine. This part of the town is known for hosting a wide representation of Yugoslavian communities and the youth with a difficult background, with few professional possibilities.

In Fuzine, the Spanish delegation was presented with a specific project which involves a team of 15 social workers. One of them provided an holistic presentation on the actions they develop for

changing the routines of the youngsters and help for their reinsertion.

Especially important in their planning are sporting activities. Some specific sport programmes and training was explained which is organised with these young people.

II. CONCLUSIONS AND EVALUATION

The study visit has reached its objectives and both partners have shared information and knowledge about their projects, with a special interest in the governance of sport and the mechanisms for social inclusion through sports in Slovenia.

The Regional Government of Extremadura was especially interested in the structure and management of sport in Slovenia and the participation of private and public funding in the programmes. They plan to look for further financing to organise a new study visit to investigate in depth the Slovenian system.

Person in charge of the report: Annabelle Favreau, Regional Government of Extremadura