

Sport for Community Development CD - Good practices template

Sport CD project believes that the practice of sporting activities potentiates the communities development, improving also personal and collective skills for life.

This template has the aim to collect good practices of sport realized with an impact on the growth and development of the community itself. Thanks so much for your kind cooperation!

GENERAL DATA

Good practice title: Baghdad Marathon

Organization doing the research: ASD Università Popolare dello Sport

Good practice theme: Sport Activities for Civil Society

Organization responsible for the good practice: ASD Sport Against Violence SAV

Short description (max 1000 characters): All the major capitals of the world have their marathon: opportunities for fair competition and meeting sporting people from different countries; moments of celebration and testimony for Peace and Human Rights. But in Baghdad all this, even today, is just a dream. Our goal is to allow athletes and ordinary citizens of different nationalities, religions, languages, cultures to run freely together in a safe and nonviolent city. The "Baghdad Marathon" is the dream that Iraqi people can regain their future in peace. In short, SAV has trained training, giving impulse to the birth of the first running clubs in Erbil and Baghdad and has supported the organization of several sports competitions in several cities (Erbil, Basra, Baghdad, Mosul) born from the experiences of the International Marathon of Erbil (the 7th edition of which will be held on October 27, 2017) and of the Half Marathon for Peace in Baghdad (next November 25, 2017 will be the 3rd edition)... waiting to realize there also the full Marathon.

Person/s interviewed, and role in the organization: Nicola Visconti, president of SAV

STRUCTURE OF THE ACTIVITY

Type of the activity (is it a course? an Event? etc.): Training courses for sporting operators and organization of sporting events (races 10km, half marathon and marathon)

Duration and structure of the activity (duration in hours, and how the activity is articulated):

The activity is divided into two parts, a theoretical one (training course) and a practical one (organization of the sporting event).

The **course for sports operators** includes a 15-hour training path highlighting:

- a. the value of the sports activity of the race, enabling civil society to regain the streets of the city;
- b. how to plan a city sports event, rapping with the institutions and the network of organized civil society;
- c. the homologation standards internationally.

The **organization of the sporting event** expects:

- a. involvement of citizens through sporting groups already present in the territory, schools and universities, cultural and sporting associations of organized civil society;
- b. organization and realization of the sporting event, generally of one day's duration.

Period (when was realized? do it still exist?): See below, under the voice “Story of the practice”

Beneficiaries (what kind of participants? what age?): Civil Society, any condition and age

Is the activity devoted to everybody? Yes

Do the activity regard a group or the individual? (or a mix?). If it regards a group, how many people? The activity regards groups.

How many participants are involved during one year in the described activity? and how many have been involved (more or less) since the beginning? With respect to training course for sporting operators: about 20 participants for each edition (around 60 people in total). With regard to participation in sport events organized: thousands of people (last edition of the marathon of Erbil about 10,000).

Staff: how is composed the staff? Almost one expert in organizing international sporting events, one expert in international cooperation between civil society actors, two local athletics federation technicians

How many staff members? Four members, anyway – in general - it depends on the number of the group to be formed.

CONTENT OF THE ACTIVITY

Vision (what is your "dream", your main and general purpose?): Let's have a dream: run freely in Baghdad. Run, because we believe sport is synonymous with friendship and loyalty. Liberally, because we want a Iraq finally free. In Baghdad, because want it to return to be "city of peace".

Educational objectives: Educational action for active and aware citizenship.

Story of the practice (how has been created): The project started 10 years ago with the dream of running a Marathon in Baghdad: at that time there was the war and it showed impossible to realize, but we have began to organize sport activities and training for trainers in others Iraqi towns. In particular, Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan become the “general quarter” of our activities: after two meeting with Civil Society activist the first running club has born and at following we realized a 10 km race in 2010. The year after we’ve done the first edition of International Iraqi Marathon in Erbil: since that event every year there is the Marathon in Erbil and last edition 10.000 people ran in the street. At the same time a group of young activist in Baghdad has fund SAVI (Sport Against Violence Iraq) and Baghdad Marathon Committee. Since the last three years we organize with them a race in the streets of Baghdad, involving the Civil Society.

Method and technics

How is articulated the activity? are there any steps? (i.e. first contact; orientation; physical preparation; training; competitions/events; etc.); what are the technics and procedures adopted?

Phase	Technics or procedures adopted
Phase 1	Training and course for sporting operators
Phase 2	Experimentation on the city roads on 10 km race

Phase 3	Organization of half-marathon on the city roads (last 4 edition, in 2016, around 10.000 people involved in Baghdad)
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Do the methods or technics belong to an already codified approach? The training course methodology is a largely consolidated approach of formation for large groups of learners.

Are the methods or technics innovative? if yes, please explain how. Methodologies and techniques are not innovative in themselves: innovative is the context in which they are realized and the intention to use the sporting event to regain the streets of one's own city.

Please, try to reflect on the experience you are narrating in relation to some key aspects listed below...

Sports As Community Development	
A) Emerging and enhancement of a community's resources throughout sports:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the experience here described supported the emersion and enhancement of any community's resource? 	Yes, it has favored the re-emergence of civil society and of the association system submerged and hidden due to the situation of war.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the community's resources related to sports and physical activities emerged and enhanced thanks to the project-activities? 	The activity has encouraged the community to have a greater presence and participation of the female population and also of children and adolescents from the schools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the territory's resources that the project-activity have enhanced? 	Recapture the spaces and places of your city in a pleasant, convivial, and even entertaining situation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which are the resources that should be developed? 	Certainly, the self-organizing and organizational skills of civil society should be developed, even in terms of work in synergy with institutions
B) Active involvement of the citizens in promoting the community's well-being throughout sports:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent in this experience/project, sports and physical activity became an element of involvement for the community members, ensuring their active participation? 	Involvement of the population in organizing an international event at the city level. Living the city from a different point of view than the everyday one. Networking in synergy between institutions, civil society, associations, volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the project supported the emersion of the community's needs and desires in relation to sports? 	Yes, of course: in a city shocked by the war, the need to live the streets again in a collective dimension of shared fun and pleasure is certainly a need, sometimes unexpressed, of all the bands of the population.

C) How can sports help developing community's skills:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did sports became a learning occasion for the community? 	Yes, it is

Impact

What are the benefit of this specific sporting practice on the communities? (in terms of development, social inclusion, skills learning, physical benefits, etc.)

What are the benefit of this specific sporting practice on individuals? Health and mind

What are the benefit of this specific sporting practice on families? Solidarity, good convivence without difference of gender, religion, social condition

What are the benefit of the specific discipline on society? People become owner of their towns

COMMENTS by the researcher

Any strength or weakness points in our opinion.....

Relevant aspects emerged during the interview (any obstacle, discovering, learnings, etc.)

ATTACHMENTS

References, as articles, links, etc.

Photos, video

Other materials

Testimonials (i.e. interviews to participants, families, stakeholders, etc.)