

wjh mulier instituut

# Sport and urban planning (in the Netherlands)

POIN conference 2010

Frankfurt (Germany)

8-9 November

**Remco Hoekman**

*W.J.H. Mulier Institute*

[r.hoekman@mulierinstituut.nl](mailto:r.hoekman@mulierinstituut.nl)



# Towards a sport inclusive approach

- History of sport and urban planning
- Current status / developments
- Overview of recent studies:
  - Sport and physical activity in urban areas
  - Accessibility of sport
  - Financial crisis
  - Local policies
- Implications sport and urban planning



# History of sport and urban planning

- Sport facilities for lower classes – hygiene/ health
- Sport facilities placed outside the build environment
- Development of sport through sport clubs (not PE)
- 1967 Dutch government provides money for facilities
- Functional separation (live/work/recreation/transport)



## Ground pattern

- Separation of sport and (physical) education
- Functional separation – not sport-inclusive
- Ad hoc financing of sport facilities



## Current status

- Sport not part of primary urban planning process
- Instrumental value of sport
  - Medicine – money generator – livability
- Olympic ambitions (Olympic Plan 2028)
  - Sport on national urban planning agenda
  - More and better facilities
  - Increase sport participation AND physical activity



## Sport and physical activity

- High sport participation (NL:64% - EU:46%)
- Increase unorganized/event sport participation
- Level of physical activity high (NL:84% - EU:65%)
- Less physical activity and less sport participation in urban area



## Accessibility of sport

- Highest score on satisfaction sport possibilities (NL:95% - EU:75%)
- Distance to sport facility hardly no barrier
- Choice sport club not based on distance

*However,*

- Shortage of sport facilities (especially in cities)
- Increase in need for facilities in cities
  - Related to population development

→ calls for more prominent position of sport on urban planning agenda



## Financial crisis

- 28% cuts on sport budget and 50% probably
- Cuts mostly related to sport facilities
  - Higher prices for the rental of facilities
  - 48% on new sport facilities
  - 38% on renovation and maintenance of sport facilities



## Local policy

- Sport mentioned in more policy areas
- Within sport policy focus on sport facilities
- Better use of available space for sport
- Shift to activity friendly environment
- Cooperation between policy areas
- Stacking of budgets
- Ambition to do more with less!



## Sport in draft coalition agreement

- “The Cabinet will with the VNG (representing all municipalities) promote how sport and sport facilities can be an integral part of housing district plans in order to improve the livability ”
- “Sport in all housing districts is good for health, as well as for safety.”



# Implications and conclusions

- Sport was not part of primary urban planning process
  - Nevertheless, sport is accessible and well practised
- Sport inclusive approach is near – break with ground pattern
  - Government puts sport firmly on urban planning agenda
  - Instrumental value of sport is widely spread
- Increasing need for multi-functional facilities
  - Cooperation sport and (physical) education
  - Financial need to make better use of space for sport
  - Possibility for clustering as distance is no issue
- Incorporate sport with broader needs for activity friendly environments
  - Shift in policy to sport AND physical activity
  - Public space, physical environment (walkability/cycling lanes/playgrounds)

wjh mulier instituut

**Thanks!**



**Remco Hoekman (W.J.H. Mulier Institute) – [r.hoekman@mulierinstituut.nl](mailto:r.hoekman@mulierinstituut.nl)**