To gain more information about correlates and determinants of sport and physical activity, we did a systematic literature review. The result of this is being presented to a group of experts, who are able to estimate whether these factors are valuable for the Dutch situation and if they are amendable by policy interventions.

In science many theories and models have been described, that explain a part of participation in sports and physical activity. Most of the times these theories focus at intrapersonal aspects, whereby attention for interpersonal or environmental aspects is limited. Additionally, many studies include a subset of factors (such as attitude or peer influence or socio-economic status) without taking them all into account. Models that pay attention to the interconnection of many variables, the so-called socio-ecological models are discussed in theory, but up until now nobody has been able to quantify the different relations.

Policy wishes a Holy Grail: an explanatory model, in which effect sizes and trend of factors at sport and physical activity are clear. Is this possible or does reality need to much simplification?

The impact of structural conditions in communes on sports behaviour of adolescents and young adults in Switzerland
University of Bern, BERN, Switzerland
Contact: claudia.klostermann@ispw.unibe.ch

Young peoples’ sport activity in Switzerland differs considerably depending on the linguistic region. This appears to be based on cultural as well as on structural differences. The question arises how different structural conditions in communes across different linguistic regions of Switzerland cause variations in sport behaviour.

Based on the theory of social action (Coleman, 1990), it is assumed that individual behaviour is not only determined by individual but also by structural and socio-cultural factors in which a person is socially embedded. In two case studies, multilevel data was gathered analysing possible influences of structural factors on sports behaviour. Using an online survey, 15 to 25 year old inhabitants (N = 205) living in a German and French speaking communes were questioned about their sports participation in and outside of their commune, as well as their perception of sport-related structural characteristics in their commune. To collect information about communes’ sport facilities, the sport providers (N = 23) were interviewed. Sport-related characteristics of the communes were also collected through two interviews with representatives of the municipal administration.

As expected, sport participation is significantly lower in the French speaking commune (Chi² (1, N = 205) = 3.84, p < .05). Adolescents and young adults living in the French speaking commune are less satisfied with the sport infrastructure (F (1,135) = 9.65, p < .01) and evaluate the opportunities to be physically active in their commune significantly worse (F (1,144) = 15.33, p < .01) than their German-speaking counterparts. These first findings show the impact of structural conditions in communes on sport participation of adolescents and young people. However, it must be noted that this study is explorative and further communes would need to be examined in order to generalise the results.


Does the domain of work life affect leisure time sport and exercise?
M.P. Pilgaard
The Danish Institute for Sport Studies, KØBENHAVN K, Denmark
Contact: maja.pilgaard@idan.dk

Leisure time sports participation has undergone a remarkable development in Denmark over the past decades; however, sports participation is not equally distributed throughout the population. This paper