

Implementation of sport-based integration programmes at the interface of programme planner and VSCs as programme implementers

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As a direct response to the increased influx of refugees in several European countries during 2015, a large number of sport-based integration policies and programmes were launched by actors inside (e.g., national sports confederations) and outside (e.g., government institutions) sport with the aim of employing voluntary sport clubs (VSCs) as implementers of integrative measures. So far only a relatively small number of VSCs have been implementing such policies and been involved in specific "integration through sport" practices. Taking queue from the broader literature on sport policy implementation (e.g., Skille, 2008), we assumed that problems in "scaling-up" are often connected to inability to adapt centrally formulated policies and programmes to local contexts. Using the theoretical concepts of bricolage and translation (Campbell, 2004), we wanted to explore in more detail how (if any) local adaptations are made. Selecting sport-based integration policies in Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland and conducting 15 problem-centred interviews with decision makers in implementing VSCs allows us to map local implementation against centrally formulated policies and programmes. Preliminary results show, that clubs adapt pre-formulated strategies and networks for approaching refugees to their local context with different strategies. In this context, different adaptation practices of the VSCs can be identified and typologised. These will be analysed in more detail and specified in the conference. Our ambition is to discuss possible implications of bricolage and translation processes for the potentially wider scaling-up of VSCs as vehicles in sport-based integration approaches.