

Abstract

Title: Sport as a Public Service:

Equity and Efficiency of Local Sport Facilities

In the Czech Republic, clubs traditionally played a key role in providing sport facilities. In recent years, the role of local authorities in sport has strengthened. Hence, there have been changes in the management of sport facilities in the context of new trends in public administration and sport participation. The thesis analyzes and evaluates current modes of provision of public sport facilities as the consequence of these changes. The examined issue is narrowed down to the two theoretical concepts - sport equity and efficiency of sport facilities. These are perceived as a part of the performance of sport facilities (*see Liu et al., 2009 or Kung and Taylor, 2010*).

The first part of the thesis aims to test the effect of different forms of management of sports facilities on the sport equity score in the framework of institutional analysis (Houlihan, 2005). On the basis of the original instrument for measuring of sport equity, the survey is carried out. The research sample (N = 193) is made up by the municipalities with extended powers, except for regional cities and Prague. The second part of the thesis has the character of an action research. The author evaluates the application of the NBS: Financial questionnaire to measure the efficiency of sport facilities in the Czech conditions. During both parts of the research, statistical methods (descriptive statistics, ANOVA) as well as other applied methods (input-output analysis, benchmarking) are used to analyze the data.

The results of the statistical analysis indicate significant differences among different forms of management. The best results were achieved by commercial companies and budgetary organizations, while in-house management and clubs scored significantly lower sport equity scores. The findings partially correspond with the results of other works (Liu et al., 2009; Kung and Taylor, 2010), although it is necessary to reflect other intervening factors – historical context, sport infrastructure or different approaches to the measurement of sport equity. Concerning the efficiency of the municipal sport facilities, the NBS: Financial questionnaire comes out as an appropriate tool for measuring the efficiency of the local sport facilities in the Czech conditions.

Keywords: Sport for all; Sport facilities; Public administration; Local government; New public management; Good Governance; Public services; Public service performance; Sport equity; Efficiency; Benchmarking