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The contribution of funding schemes to the popularity of basketball in Lithuania

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Introduction

- Representation of the Lithuanian Basketball Federation (LBF)
- FIBA ranking – TOP 10 countries (February, 2010)
- Lithuania takes 6th place overall and 3rd place among of 5 EU member States
- What is an essence of the phenomenon that the country of 3 mln. population demonstrates such high results?

Popularity of Basketball

- Historical aspect: in 2011 Lithuanian basketball will celebrate its 90th anniversary
- Sociological aspect:
 - Relatively low participation in sport *versus* high participation in basketball
 - Cultural phenomenon
 - National pride
 - Strong network of personalities: former players-current players-businessman

Popularity of Basketball

- Sociological aspect (continue):
 - Other disciplines' attitude towards basketball
 - Study on “National Identity and Basketball” (article IJHS, 2004, vol.21, no.5, pp.762-779)
 - Study on “Basketball Coach Performance Effectiveness” (2009, in preparation for publication)

Popularity of Basketball

- Organizational aspect:
 - Over 70 public sport schools and 3 non-for profit sport schools
 - 8 Leagues: 3 male (1 is professional); 2 female; 1 student; 1 school children; 1 veterans
 - Internal changes in the LBF towards professional management

Funding schemes

- Central government:
 - 24 % of total funding for sport federations was allocated to basketball in 2001 and 40 % - in 2008
- Local government: subsidies to sport schools, clubs, events, infrastructure
- Sponsors:
 - About 0,5 mln. Litas* was accumulated in 2001 – and 5 mln. Litas in 2008

* - 1 euro – 3,4528 litas

Funding schemes

- No lottery funding
- Solidarity mechanisms do not exist formally between top-level and grassroots sport

* - 1 euro – 3,4528 litas

Conclusions

- LBF initiative to collect 0,5 mln. euro for the participation in the World Man Championship in 2010 in Turkey under the statement: “We (LBF) wish to present the nation an event to celebrate” (*M.Balciunas, LBF Secretary General*)
- EuroBasket 2011 in Lithuania

Conclusions

- Are the funding models dealing with existing and potential financial recourses?
- Is this issue something more of a cultural, social phenomenon?
- Current project is an invitation and “pressure” from EU to verify existing funding schemes, share the experiences and realize partnerships in creation the grassroots sport funding models in future