

## **THE FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY SPORTS IN THE FACE OF UNIVERSITY AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

*Keynote speaker (6): Christian WOPP\**

By doing sports, people influence social structures. At the same time, the social structures affect sports and those who practice it. Therefore, I will focus on global social developments before I will address to the development in universities and sports. Towards the end, I will investigate the future of university sports.

A keyword in the description of global developments is globalisation. It means economic internationalisation and dispersion of capitalistic market conditions. I will dwell on some effects of globalisation like the internationalisation of living conditions, an increasing inequality of living conditions or a flexibility of living conditions. These effects of globalisation allow for some forecasts: The continuing growth of population, an increasing lifetime expectation, more women in leading positions or a healthier lifestyle for many people.

The change from a learned to a learning society influences the developments in universities. Some consequences of these processes are the necessity of life-long learning and the acquisition of problem-solving strategies. Because of globalisation, the internationalisation of university structures and degrees will further proceed. The competition between universities will intensify. Attractive sport programs and facilities will contribute even more to the reputation of a university.

The developments in sports are influenced by two antipodal worlds in sports. On the one hand side, we find the world of professional sports, populated by young and able-bodied individuals. On the other hand, we have an expanding “sport for all”, executable by every human being, independent of age and physical ability. The most important intentions of this “sport for all” are health, endurance, fitness, wellness and wilderness.

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The future of university sports is heavily affected by developments in universities and sports. University sports has a dual function: it can be a seismograph, indicating social changes as well as changes in sports, and it can be a test laboratory in which new forms of sports can be tested and evaluated. Against the background of this dual function, university sports can “build a bridge” between those two worlds of sports. Most students develop attitudes and habits towards sports during their studies, which determine their approach towards sports for a lifetime. That is why universities need to provide good sport programs and facilities in order to make sports a natural element of every-day life.

On the one hand, the way how universities will presumably develop within the next years will be depicted, and on the other hand, the possible outcomes will be presented.

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