



Questions in the Sportflash on march 18, 2021

Are the facilities for free even if they will be in such expensive areas?

Oliver: As we are an Independent public foundation we can only support facilities which are accessible to all. The showed examples are all open to the public. Some (e.g. indoor swimming pools) will take a small fee.

Holger: The facilities in the Municipality of Gladsaxe are free to use for all clubs and their members. In ex: Members of the handball club does not have free entrance for the pools – to them it's only free to use the handball hall. For public guests in the pools the price is apr. 5 Euro. for an adult.

Space in cities and residential areas is limited or even no longer available. So how can existing sports facilities used much better, multifunctional and all year round? Like outdoor pools that are closed or not used almost half of the year, as they are not heated and not equipped with a cover.

Oliver: This is a very important question or ambition because it is far cheaper to use one facility fully instead of having to build two. It is a focus for us, that facilities are used all day/all year and it is very different from project to project how this can be solved. Our traditional facilities are not well suited in this regard. A town square can, in winter, be transformed to an ice rink and the sports hall can, in summer, open up and just be a roof ...

Holger: We do run an outdoor swimming pool in one of our complex's as well. It is very old, and today it probably wouldn't have been established. The pool is not heated. In the summertime is used as a very popular place to go for local families. The rest of the year we use it for winter-bathers – maybe a danish phenomenon, where people take a quick dip in cold water, to fresh up the mind and body, It is growing in these years, and we have a mobile sauna, we bring beside the outdoor pool in the winter time to make a complete experience for the winter bathers.

Running tracks are often built combined with soccer fields and other athletics disciplines. In addition, they are often located on the suburban areas and access for teenagers and children through the whole city is very difficult, especially if safe bike paths are not existing. How can they be incorporated into the city in a more integrative way for public usage?

Oliver: If you mean a traditional 400m running track it is very hard to find space within city limits – however this is not necessarily the preferred format for the average runner. A nice soft running surface can be implemented almost anywhere and create a space where movement is allowed and encouraged and add flavor to the city – look at Pippilotta Rists project in Sct. Gallen.

Holger: In these days we are establishing a path for running with light, that increases in level when you use the path. The path is 2 km long, and along the path we have made 15 elements from an OCR-course to built out the functionality of the path and to attract more users – because: people attract other people.

How expensive was your camera system to count people using sports facilities?

Holger: The cameras we use were already installed, for safety reasons. The software what is used to make the pictures to numbers and the dashboard was apr. 5000 Euro + 2 weeks of work from a technician. The video cameras we use has a price of apr. 3000 – 4000 Euro each. In other facilities, where we do not have video cameras, we are going to use another system which make one picture within a certain time schedule – i.ex. half a

hour – transforms the picture to a number and send it to a computer which monitorises the information. This camera is very cheap and pretty effective with a costs level of 200 - 300 Euro a piece. It is a danish product (webitall.dk) evented together with some sports facilities.

Who plans and designs these innovative infrastructures? Are they specialized designers or architects for sport facilities? And how do you make sure those structures are functional and actually work in training?

Oliver : Since our foundation was founded it has been our ambition to introduce high quality architecture into the field. High quality architects do not necessarily have any experience with designing for physical movement, so we combine them with different movement experts (who don't have experience with design) to get the necessary competences for the project. Since the foundation was introduced in 1993 quite a few quality architects are now very capable in this area. However – we work with innovation and the purpose of our foundation is to take risks as well – so sometimes there are reject ideas, that turn out not to be functional for different reasons.

Do you have any experience with double-/severalfunctional Pumptracksites?

Oliver: We do – and they include activities for all “wheel-sizes” (scooters, bmx, running bikes ...) and are even fun areas for playing “tag” games on foot.

Are the 12 million only for the sports facilities? An how high is the level of support? Do you finance the whole project or is it a percentage?

Oliver: In our foundation we support sports-, culture- and outdoor facilities within this amount. The range of support is normally from 15-25 % of total cost – always in collaboration with local project owners.

What do you think is the main reason for the innovative sports facilities? Is it the money from LOA? Or is it something else? :-)

Oliver: A good question which I am probably not the right person to answer ☺ - but still ... A number of factors are in play: In Denmark we have to equally large national sports federations – one with Olympic/elite offset and one with “Sport for all” focus. This has created a need to also include the sports facilities in the definition of the different federations. The federations now have a very close working relationship, so the differences are less apparent these days. We have also had a constant flow of reasearch publicized with focus on the sports participation in Denmark. This research has made it very clear that we could not just keep repeating the old facilities since the participation patterns and preferred activities were changing so dramatically. Added to this – the level of education and competences in local government has risen just as dramatically and they now are just as weelinformed as we are on these matters.