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Project Acronym: LegacieSocialCapGR

Project Full Name: An Evaluation of the Legacies of Sporting Mega
Events on Social Capital in Greece

Marie Curie Actions

Mid-term Report

Period covered: from 01/09/2013 to 31/08/2014

Start date of project: 01/09/2013

Project coordinator name:
Prof. Athanassios Papadaskalopoulos

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Project coordinator organisation name:
PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL SCIENCES-

Mid-term Report

PROJECT MID-TERM REPORT

Grant Agreement number:	302925
Project acronym:	LegacieSocialCapGR
Project title:	An Evaluation of the Legacies of Sporting Mega Events on Social Capital in Greece
Funding Scheme:	FP7-MC-IEF
Period covered - start date:	01/09/2013
Period covered - end date:	31/08/2014
Name, title and organisation of the scientist in charge of the project's coordinator:	Prof. Athanassios Papadaskalopoulos PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES-
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1. WORK PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

Please provide a concise overview of the progress of the work in line with the structure of Annex I of the Grant Agreement.

- A summary of progress towards objectives and details for each task;
- A summary of the progress of the researcher training activities/transfer of knowledge activities/integration activities (as it applies for the MC action);
- Highlight clearly significant results;
- If applicable, explain the reasons for deviations from Annex I and their impact on other tasks as well as on available resources and planning;
- If applicable, explain the reasons for failing to achieve critical objectives and/or not being on schedule and explain the impact on other tasks as well as on available resources and planning (the explanations should be coherent with the declaration by the project coordinator) ;
- A statement on the use of resources, in particular highlighting and explaining deviations between actual and planned researcher-months in Annex 1 (Description of Work)
- If applicable, propose corrective actions.

Work progress and achievements during the period:

A. Summary of progress towards objectives and details for each task

The project, as also outlined in Part B of the proposal, has three key Research Objectives (ROs). Below the progress made for each objective is described in detail.

i) RO1. What are the impacts of sporting mega events on social capital? (Positive or negative)? Do they generate short-term or long-term legacies of social capital?

What was discovered in the course of the project was that there was a lacuna in the literature of a comprehensive review of all existing studies on the question above. Thus, a comprehensive “Systematic Review” has been conducted and is now complete. It reviews the worldwide literature in terms of the concepts and assumptions underlying the nature of ‘social capital’ adopted for the sporting context research. It provides a more precise understanding of its distinctive meanings but also advances knowledge by producing a synthesis of evidence that addresses the impact of sport on development of social capital. In addition, taking a critical approach, this review also identifies some emerged issues from current research and highlights several potential areas for future research. In the research design a national survey is planned, and we are now in the process of designing such survey. A national survey had been conducted in 2003 by a Greek research Centre called “KEPE” (Centre for Programming and Financial Research) and we are now in liaison with them to use their own questionnaires and resources.

ii) RO2. How sporting mega events affect the social capital of specific groups?

a. Volunteers: How certain activities linked with mega events and social capital (e.g. volunteering) affect individuals?

b. Immigrants: To what extent sporting mega events have an impact on the social capital of marginal populations such as immigrants?

With regards to the volunteers, interviews have been conducted of the Executive Board members of the organization called “Continuators – Volunteers of Athens 2004”. We have also planned to conduct focus groups with selected registered members of this organization. With regards to immigrants, some minority groups have been identified in different areas of Attica region. The major political problems and social upheaval with the extremist party “Golden Dawn” who attacked the immigrants (in some occasions they went as far as committing murders) made us very cautious in the way we shall plan any such interviews for this task as we consider of primary importance the Researcher’s protection of Health and Safety.

iii) RO3 refers to knowledge dissemination as an integral part of the research work carried out in the project.

Knowledge dissemination is taken very seriously, thus a series of activities has taken place. More

details are provided below:

Hosting of Workshops

I organized a one-day Workshop with the title “The Role of Sport in the Greek Society and Economy”. It was a joint partnership of the Regional Development Institute (my Host Institute) and the School of International Relations, Communication and Culture as my aim was to create interdisciplinary synergies within the Panteion University. There I presented my preliminary results from the Marie Curie Project. There were also panel debates and the Invited Professors were from diverse academic backgrounds such as history, economics, management, journalism etc. The Workshop took place on the 15th of May 2014 and was attended by a large audience in the central auditorium of the Panteion University.

Conference presentations

1. Chatziefstathiou, D. (2014), The effects of Athens 2004 on Social Capital in Greece: Elevator pitch presentation, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Satellite Event at ESOF 2014, 19-20 June 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark
2. Chatziefstathiou, D. (2013) An Evaluation of the Legacies of Mega Events on Social Capital in Greece, 2nd Global Conference, Sport: Probing the Boundaries, 1-3 November 2013, Athens Greece.
3. Chatziefstathiou, D. (2013) A Contemporary Olympic Discourse. Sport for Development and International Relations, 21st European Association of Sport Management (EASM) Congress, 11-15 September 2013, Istanbul, Turkey.

Publication Outputs

One paper is ready for submission and more ideas are now synthesized for further publication outputs.

My work will be featured in the official bulletin that is disseminated to the Higher Education Institutes of Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Ministry for Science and Technology. I was invited to act as a Marie Curie Ambassador from the Marie Curie Fellow Aleksandar Pajkanovic (who attended my “elevator pitch” talk at the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Satellite Event at ESOF 2014)

Invited talks/ lectures

1. Invited Professor, Baku European Games Organising Committee, Graduate Excellence Programme, Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-25 July 2014
 2. Invited Expert, Olympic Truce Summer Camp, International Olympic Academy, Olympia, Greece, 25-31 July
 3. Invited Lecture, Olympism 4 Humanity Global Symposium, International Olympic Academy, Olympia, Greece, 29 June-2 July 2014
 4. Invited Professor, International Masters in Olympic Studies, Cologne, Germany, 12-16 March 2014
 5. Invited Expert, EU Athletes Dual Career Programme, Brussels, Belgium, 26-28 February 2014
 6. Invited Lecture, Men’s National Greek Volleyball Team, Dual Career Education Programme, ‘Melina Merkouri’ Indoors Court, Renti, Piraeus, Greece, 31 December 2013
- Future Talks in Schedule

- I am honoured to be invited by the European Commission as a Marie Curie Ambassador and present my project at the Marie Curie Fellows’ Master Class on Transferable Skills that will take place at the European Association for International Education 2014 Conference (EAIE), Prague, Czech Republic, 16-19 September 2014
- I am invited as a Panel Member of the Debate Discussion on the topic “Quo Vadis - the Olympic Idea” at the 3rd International Symposium for Olympic Research, University of Mainz, Germany, 6-9 September 2014

- I will present the findings of the “Systematic Review” on social capital and sport at the 22nd European Sport Management Conference, Coventry, UK, 9-12 September
- I am invited to present my Marie Curie project at the Mediterranean Games Education Forum, International Olympic Academy, Ancient Olympia, 7-10 October 2014
- I will present a paper on the history of the Olympics in Athens and the politics involved in the Greek society at the European Committee for Sports History Conference (CESH) Sports in Education from Antiquity to Modern Times, Edessa, 16-18 October 2014

B. A summary of the progress of the researcher training activities/transfer of knowledge activities/integration activities (as it applies for the MC action)

The comprehensive “Systematic Review” was conducted as part of knowledge exchange/ training activities in liaison with the top British University in the field of sport, Loughborough University. More specifically, there were regular conference calls and also live meetings with the Director of the Centre for Olympic Studies & Research, Professor Ian Henry and the Research Associate Dr Shushu Chen. They, together with my Scientist in charge Professor Papadaskalopoulos, formed the panel of experts for the meticulous search of the worldwide literature search.

As part of my training activities we hold regular meetings with other staff members of the Regional Development Institute of the Panteion University (such as Dr. Emmanouil Christofakis, Dr Antonis Rovolis) for discussion and analysis of my data. Such meetings have helped me to meet my core training objectives: 1) Develop in-depth knowledge into urban and regional processes (spatial, economic, social, etc.) to improve the researcher’s understanding of how urban and regional systems “work” and review design concepts (at both macro/regional and micro/neighbourhood scales) which will help her to develop a sophisticated understanding of sporting mega events, social capital and sustainable urban/ regional development; 2) Develop in-depth knowledge in collecting, maintaining, and analyzing urban and regional database; Obtain expertise in engineering an appropriate tool/ index for national surveys (given the institute’s staff expertise in national surveys and particularly in measuring social capital in Greece); 3) Develop further knowledge on the social analysis of sport in Greece.

C. Highlight clearly significant results

- There has been a significant impact of my Marie Curie project at the Panteion University as the Workshop that I organized was the FIRST one in the context of sport in the long history of this university. Although the departments of the university deal with social and political sciences, the subject of sport has been under-researched, thus my work has steered academic debates and interdisciplinary synergies across the university.
- There has never been in Greece a study on social capital and sport, thus this generates a great interest for the data of the project. I have been contacted by several journalists of well-read Greek newspapers who are interested in writing features on the results of the study. Surely this shall happen in second phase of the project once there is a further data collection and analysis.
- I have already collected several statistical data from the Ministry of Sport and such data has never been unearthed before, thus we expect that their analysis will add significant knowledge to this topic.
- Networking with other Marie Curie Fellows can produce great results for the dissemination of knowledge on Marie Curie Actions and my presence at the ESOF 2014 in Denmark and the planned activities for the EAIE conference in Prague and the publication in the official bulletin of the Higher Education Institutes of other European countries, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, certainly move to this direction.

In terms of Description of Work, we do not envisage any deviations from Annex I of the Grant Agreement and we will use the set resources as originally planned.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Comments:

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Please use this section to summarise management activities during the period:

- Project planning and status - from management point of view;
- Problems which have occurred and how they were solved or envisaged solutions;
- Changes to the legal status of any of the beneficiaries, in particular, SME status;
- Impact of possible deviations from the planned milestones and deliverables, if any;
- Development of the project website (if applicable);
- Gender issues; Ethical issues;
- Justification of subcontracting (if applicable);
- Justification of real costs (management costs);
- Other

For 2007 and 2008 calls a detailed description of costs related to management and overhead is requested

Project management:

The project planning has not been particularly challenging as the steps outlined by the REA and the deliverables/ milestones planned in the project proposal have been all tangible and clear. The Fellow had attended a series of Project Management courses in preparation of the delivery of this programme and this has further helped her to develop a clear schedule of work. Progress reports are submitted every month to the Scientist in Charge and the LEAR.

The problems that emerged were not linked with the project per se but with the political instability of Greece and the university issues that the country was called to face. It was an unfortunate coincidence that such issues were heightened during the first three months of the project. Part of the problem was that some individuals were appointed for a temporary contract and then they were replaced by new people who had to be introduced again to the principles of my project. The biggest concern was that the LEAR that was involved in all the preliminary processes (e.g. grant agreement) decided to leave the university. Such administrative problems resulted in delays for clarification of some issues regarding my payment, signing of some forms etc. (e.g. Declaration of Conformity).

The problems were resolved as follows:

1. The Fellow became proactive and got further involved with the project management, such as access to the Participant Portal, to ensure that any necessary deadlines would be met successfully.
2. As LEAR was appointed the Head of ELKE (University Research Finance Office) who had a permanent contract with the University and, even if moved to another office, could still contribute to the project. (all the necessary paperwork for the change of LEAR was duly completed and submitted/ posted)
3. The Fellow made regular visits to the ELKE office and established an ongoing communication with the Project Officer in Brussels to ensure the smooth progress of the project.

The steps mentioned above certainly worked successfully and, in combination with a more stable political situation in Greece, they helped to alleviate any problems and thus there are no outstanding management issues.

Attachments

MC Work Progress and Achievements_Mid term report.docx, MC Management activities_Mid Term Report.docx

The content of this report has been approved by the researcher and the scientist in charge assigned to this project. The electronic submission of this report shall replace their signatures.

This declaration was visaed (signed) electronically by Athanasios PAPADASKALOPOULOS (ECAS user name npapadam) on 03/09/2014