



ISDPA Strategic Planning Sessions

Introduction

The ISDPA strategic planning sessions engaged dedicated discussion on the formation of the ISDPA from the various participants present at the summit. The discussion was passionate and critical of the current state of the sport for development and peace community. The discussion included the capacity of the ISDPA to increase recognition of the field because this area is up and coming both professionally and educationally. From the first day of input, the participants established three groups: Education and Training, Policy and Practice, and Community and Network Building for the second and third day and these groups provided the overall action steps for each area to push the ISDPA forward.

Education and Training

In the group focusing on Education and Training, participants were students and professors, scholars from a variety of university backgrounds whose plan for the ISDPA included a more definitive structure for research in the field. This group focused on membership in the research organization, a supervisory body that they would like to see, and upholding standards for the research being published. Examples of student participation in the ISDPA that they would like to see include Erasmus international study-abroad university students and participants in a Master's degree program. To that end, the Education and Training group also wished to firm up curriculum development in the field of Sport for Development and Peace so that industry standards for the Master's program could be better established. The call for mapping echoed through each group, and Education and Training was no exception: this group would like to study trends and popular

topics within the field's research. Overall, the Education and Training group would like to move towards standardization of the field so that scholars will be presenting their work on an even, well-defined platform.

Policy and Practice

The policy and practice group discussed the establishment of best practices in the field, stating that the ISDPA should provide a platform to use individual data and evidence-based theory for practitioners in the field. Other key discussion points included an integration of individuals, resources and organizations to create a bridge of transformational data in the field. This would also include the ability to provide expert feedback to both professionals and academics, by creating a mechanism to bridge resources between the two to link human and financial capacity to increase organizational function. This would include partnerships and an expansion of membership between the global north and south to increase the diversity of expertise. Finally, through mapping, the Policy and Practice group wished to map current organizations with similar objectives to collaborate information to advance ISDPA. This would include the different cultures and language making programs translation to all stakeholders. Overall, the ISDPA would be able to create standards of good practice within sport for development initiatives, create necessary partnerships to help all practitioners in the field and where possible provide facilitation and feedback to both practitioners and academics.

Community and Network Building

The Community and Network Building group focused on defining the different kinds of actors who would be critical for the organization. Mapping in this group focused on not only actors' relationships with one another but also on joint incentives, interests, research outputs, and resources to be shared. There was additional discussion towards creating regional and local figures in charge of the membership, so as to further organize actors and define specific interests. Along similar lines, the Community and Networking Building group wished to establish a young professionals' committee within the field and also a marketing committee, so as to promote sport for development and peace to a greater audience and eventually provide a larger network! Assigning responsibility for these regional and local infrastructures looks like a firm, tangible next step for the Community and Networking Building group.

Structure

One of the clear next steps that the ISDPA will take is to formalize its structure. Within the three groups that met over the course of the summit, informal conversation took place regarding the framework of this new association. In particular, there was an interest expressed in regional representation, and another strong interest expressed towards a structure that has specific leadership for each issue area. Moving forward, the ISDPA would like to further elaborate on a successful, efficient structure for the community that we are building.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the ISDPA strategic planning sessions were productive and there were several unified realizations. The first is that our next tangible step should be mapping, whether that means delineating specific research lines to pursue or the web of community relations. The next joint conclusion was to identify existing players and organizations in the field that we should bring into the fold of the ISDPA. Finally, much like the general conclusion of the ISDPA Power of Sport Summit, through the strategic planning sessions, there emerged a strong desire to continue clarifying the definition of sport for development. Through this work on defining the field, mapping and expanding our outreach, as well as formalizing the structure of the association, we can have a more comprehensive organization to suit the needs of education and training, policy and practice, and community and networking building all combined.