



# A French classification for physical and sporting activities

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# A classification for physical and sporting activities

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- Why?
  - How?
  - General comments on classifications



# Why ?

● ● ● ●

A starting point:

the necessity to organize the available socio-economic information on sport,

i.e. the need of a common language.



# Why ?



Existing quantitative data:

- surveys on sport practice,
- affiliation to and budget of sport federations,
- sport equipments,
- ...




# Why ?

- 1) Policy makers want figures,
  - 2) statisticians see a need for relevant classification,
  - 3) and for the support from all partners in using the classification at every stage
- ➔ High involvement of all partners in the definition and the promotion



# How ?

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- Crossing two lists (major sources for quantitative data):
    - survey on sport practices
    - single-sport federations

➔ 34 activity families



# How ?

● ● ● ●  
Aim : to obtain « homogeneous » groupings of 34 activity families

⇒ *need to define in what sense*


Socio-economic analysis:

⇒ *seek for socio-economic indicators relevant... and available*

12 indicators



# How ?



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## Type of sport:

- kind of practice: individual / dual /  
in teams
- equipment required: none at all to high  
level





# How ?



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## Demography:

- number of participants
- average age of participants
- proportion of women among participants
- proportion of young people among registered participants



# How ?



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## Performance:

- budget in the professional sector
- number of high level sportsmen

## Organization:

- proportion of registered participants
- federation budgets



# How ?




## Media exposure:

- hours of TV broadcasting
- press coverage in « l'Equipe »



# How ?


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- A methodology of data analysis using an ascending hierarchical classification
  - with equal weighting of each of the 5 themes

gives...

9 classes




# The NPSA

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- Professional sports: football and rugby
  - Semi-professional sports: basket-ball, handball, volley-ball, baseball, field hockey, tennis, fighting sports



# The NPSA

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- Motor sports
  - Individual mass-participation activities: swimming, bike riding, track and fields, gymnastics, snow sports




# The NPSA

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- Equipment-intensive sports: sailing, horse riding
  - Individual sports requiring special equipment: golf, ice-skating, water-skiing, rowing, canoeing
  - Highly organized activities: martial arts, aeronautical sports, fencing, shooting



# The NPSA

- 
- Social and leisure activities: walking, petanque, billiards, badminton, squash, table tennis, dancing
  - Independent leisure activities : fishing, body building, roller, rock climbing, speleology, canyoning, mountaineering, bowling





# General comments

What is classified ?

activity  $\neq$  industry

- this choice sets a limit to this classification for a purely economic approach,
- but is the only satisfactory proposition for the partners.



# General comments

- A list is not a classification:
  - a classification proposes a total splitting of the universe
  - a classification cannot be too much detailed



# General comments

- International comparisons:  
the same method applied in different countries would lead to different classifications  
Is this a good or a bad thing?  
⇒ refers to the question of the objective of the classification...  
and of the objective of the comparison



# General comments



- Comparisons over time:

if the socio-economic conditions of the practice of a given sport change, has it to move to another heading?

⇒ which evolution do we want to measure?

⇒ how to let a classification evolve?