

Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper

Report of the Rapporteur in cooperation with
Alex, Nils, Tom, Dagmar and Sandra

4th November 2023

28th TAFISA World Congress Düsseldorf 2023

Dear Congress participants, as I informed you during the opening ceremony, it was my task to serve as the official rapporteur of the Congress assisted by young staff members of the German Olympic Sports Confederation.



First of all, let me thank you for your support and willingness to share with us your experiences, expectations and impressions from this Congress, which will help us in analysing this event and to pave the way for future events of TAFISA.

Given the broad spectrum of topics that were addressed here in Düsseldorf and the vast variety of formats offered at this Congress it is necessary to structure this report into several sections.

Section 1: The theme of the Congress:
“Sport for All – More together than ever”

In general, very positive comments were made regarding this motto, in particular, in times following the Covid 19 pandemic, the situation of refugees and migrants, natural disasters, wars and conflicts which are shocking us deeply every day. So, the motto is seen as a positive signal, not only for the days of the Congress here in Düsseldorf, but especially for the future and also concerning our aim to bring about positive change world-wide.



Section 2: Main topics of the Congress focused on: Sport for all in the context of fostering physically active lifestyles and social cohesion, health and well-being, equality, inclusivity, media involvement, qualification and leadership, various aspects and approaches how to tackle the climate crisis with the focus on “Sustainable Sport for All” and how sport can foster peacebuilding.

Comments made emphasised the relevance, actuality and appropriate choice of topics. Questions were raised how to ensure follow-up inside and outside the TAFISA “community”. More details concerning topics and key elements will be given shortly.

Section 3: The format and style of the presentations (Keynotes/Plenary Sessions, Panel Discussions, Parallel Sessions, Poster Sessions, House of Commons Debate, Case Study Visits) and additional: Active Breaks)



and start your day workouts, like today Catwalk with Catmosphere. And not to forget the Award Ceremonies which were great moments of the Congress.

Here only some general comments can be mentioned, due to the fact that the formats and styles of presentations were very diverse. Many participants appreciated the different formats offered at this Congress and very positive feedback was given concerning the quality and the high level of detailed information presented by the speakers.

Participants in some sessions were particularly pleased with the interactive lecture style.

Regarding the sport for all case study visits to the Landschaftspark, the Skate Park and the Sport Club Bayer Uerdingen the overall reaction was that this has been a very special opportunity to learn about transformation processes in urban settings, in particular, in the Rhine-Ruhr-area. The set-up and the distribution of information during the field visits was very diverse and this was reflected in the feedback given by the participants.



Let me give you an example:

During the field visit at the German Sport Club Bayer Uerdingen participants expressed their interest to learn more about the German sports system and similar questions were raised during various Congress sessions, e.g. in the context of the

licenses for instructors and coaches within the structure of the German Olympic Sports Confederation or regarding the special event, called “Stars of Sport” (Sterne des Sports), where sport clubs with a special emphasis on social cohesion and inclusion can participate in a competition culminating in a national award ceremony at highest level with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and other important representatives presenting the awards, with a lot of media attention.

Another example of how to motivate people to practice sport is a campaign which started in North-Rhine-Westphalia under the motto “What did I learn in sport” (“Was habe ich im Sport gelernt?”). This campaign combines sport and education!

Since the German Olympic Sports Confederation together with the Land Sport Confederation of North-Rhine-Westphalia are hosting this event, it could be taken into consideration to develop information material in English and other languages which than could maybe also being used at upcoming international events, such as the Rhine-Ruhr 2025 FISU World University Games in two years’ time.

Section 4:

Please, allow me to share a special personal experience with you. Yesterday morning, at 7:00 a.m. I went to the “Start your Day Workout”.

My plan was to watch what was going on and to interview some participants about their expectations. What do you think happened? There was one instructor and two assistants in the room and how many participants?

5 + me, so I stayed there, and I took part in the “Mini TAFISA Games” – a great international experience! Thank you!

Section 5:

Given the existing timeframe it is not possible to reflect on all presentations and topics. However, let me highlight some of the few key words that were already mentioned at the Welcome Dinner.

When asked what the motto of the Congress meant to the panelists these were the words which they selected:

- Solidarity/social cohesion
- Friendship/empowerment for young people to become leaders
- Happiness
- Cooperation/exchange of ideas and experiences
- Health/well-being



From this early beginning additional aspects were presented, in particular, during the opening ceremony with speeches given by:

- Hendrik Wüst (Prime Minister of the Federal State of NRW)



- Wolfgang Baumann (President of TAFISA)
- Danka Barteková (IOC Member, presenting a speech of IOC President Thomas Bach)
- John Wilmoth (Director Division of Inclusive Social Development of the UN)

During the whole time of the Congress until the very last day when the climate crisis was addressed by speakers from governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions important issues were highlighted from different disciplinary and political perspectives.

And finally, experts from different parts of the world addressed the issue of peacebuilding through sports and the importance of partnerships, cooperations and capacity building in Sport for All.

This Congress has truly covered a very broad spectrum of topics and I would like to finally come up with some summarising comments and recommendations.

Section 6:



Let me start with some general comments!

Participants have shared with us very positive feedback concerning the contents and the organisation of the Congress.

Gratitude was expressed to the team, who organised the Congress so well, accompanied by very motivated volunteers. You all deserve a big round of applause!

There was overall consensus that these days here in Düsseldorf were a great opportunity for exchanging experiences, ideas and for networking – in fact, networking was the term that was used very frequently. It was also very much appreciated that the people approached each other in a very open-minded and communicative way, despite differences in cultural, religious and language backgrounds.



Some participants recommended encouraging and making space and time for more in-depth interaction between speakers and speakers as well as between speakers and the audience.

Please allow me to make some specific recommendations based on the feedback which we received and based on our observations.

- Not all participants were familiar with the English language. Therefore, it would be very helpful if speakers would try not to speak so fast. I am aware that it is not always possible to offer simultaneous translation (for financial reasons), so it would help to speak slowly.
- Personally, I love acronyms – these are the first letters of a name of an organisation e.g. UN = United Nations. In order to understand each other it is important that we explain them, e.g. GIZ, ENGSO – these are just examples. Except TAFISA! Of course, everybody here knows what these 6 letters stand for!
- Clarify your definition and understanding of terms, e.g. INCLUSION – is this term solely related to persons with disabilities or is the term based on a broader definition, including dimensions of diversity, e.g. different cultural backgrounds, different genders and many more!
- Wherever possible connect your Sport for All network and activities with the academic community. This can help to provide you with evidence-based information which can e.g. be useful when applying for funding from governments, the corporate sector, foundations and others.



Thank you for your input and for helping us to prepare this report!

Feel free to contact us with additional feedback – you are most welcome!

Let's stay connected! Let's be more together than ever!

Danke – Thank you – merci – muito obrigada - gracias!