

## **Elite sport and universities : 30 years of Topsport and Study at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel**

**De Knop, P., Wylleman, P. & De Brandt, K.**

Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Faculty of Physical Education and Physiotherapy

### 1- Aim

The goal of this lecture is to present the Topsport and Study-organization at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel which has influenced positively the sport policy in Belgium and even in Europe.

### 2- Methods

The method that is used is descriptive but evidence-based. The following aspects of this organization will be explained : the reason why this project started 30 years ago, the development it has undergone, the organization of the system and the support that is provided to top level athletes at the university.

### 3- Results

Results as well in sport as in academia are highlighted, e.g. :

- more than 850 elite student-athletes have followed this program since 1987 (26 new elite student-athletes on average/academic year)
- the academic success is significantly higher than for regular students
- a successful introduction to the labour market (PPP)
- the greatest number of student-athletes at the Olympics.

Furthermore the achievements of the projects in society at large are explained (impact of its research, legal aspects, consultancy, honorary doctoral degrees, ...).

### 4- Conclusions

This project has proven to be very successful and was copied by several other universities in Europe.

### 5- References

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