



**Football academies and their legal
environment in Hungary**

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Proposal Information

The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate how Hungarian football academies operate as educational environment within the secondary education system and we examined their legal environment. The Hungarian football academies, since they were established, have been closely bound to politics, that is to the Prime Minister. We would like to show about the academies structure, aims, and methods and we take a look into the life of the academies. In addition, we would like to compare three football academies with each other in the different research's aspect. We also outline the academies' functions and structures and the relationships to sportpedagogy. Finally, we examined whether any of the sport academies provide opportunities for disadvantaged children. The theoretical background draws upon history and concepts related to Hungarian sport schools and talent development (Lehmann, 2003, 2005, 2011). Furthermore, we analyzed some research's results in abroad (Hagen, 2011; Platts, 2012; Trikalis, Papanikolaou, & Trikali, 2014). We suggest that there are three very distinct types of academies. At present, there are 17 football academies in Hungary. As previously noted, we identified three types of academies.

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The first group is called pro-sport-oriented academies, the second group is called developing academies, and the third group is named parochial support academy. The first aim of the research focuses on-site visits to the academies where we chart the academies' professional occupation and their pedagogic occupation and their legal environment.

Methods

Our first research's method involved the fieldwork and the participant observation, so we had some trainings and team meetings. With respect to methods, we used a questionnaire to seek the views of young footballers in the academies. We analyzed all 88 questionnaires among children of academies (mixed-age classes, from 12 to 19 years old). Interviews were also conducted with the 3 technical directors and 10 coaches from the academies, and we also conducted interviews with football players who lived and improved long ago in some academies. Moreover, we also analyzed various documents, for example, deed of foundation, some curriculum, HFA, Act on Public Education, Sports Act, and homepages. Although we analyzed all interviews, we used Kvale's book (2005).

Conclusions

We found significant differences between the three academy groups. The pro-sport-oriented group has a developed infrastructure and the highest qualified coach base. For example, these academies have the most sportsgrounds and staff. The parochial support academy's operation has a parochial structure. This academy has a similar image as developing academies. The developing academies' structure is similar to the pro-sport-oriented academies, but these academies do not have sufficient facilities; coaches do not have the highest-level qualification and these academies do not have sufficient resources. This academy's category has the most academies in Hungary. We analyzed the interviews and obtained some results, for example, satisfaction of Technical Directors and special attention to education. We arrived into some conclusions about the research. The first is that serious professional work at the academies. A lot of coaches talked about our motivation: the love of football. All people cooperated for the focus on the common goal. This research provides a new analysis of coaches and other members of sport academies, and provides insights into the lives of young football players. We examined the legal environment of the academies and the laws and regulations that are relevant to their existence and operation. We would like to find out at what level these institutions were defined in the various documents (HFA, Act on Public Education, Sports Act). At the end of our survey, we provided a brief description of the three academies that we had examined earlier in more detail. Our results suggest that football academies are still underdefined in the various legal regulations and other documents, despite some initiatives that were taken earlier.

Keywords: sports, Hungarian football academies, sportpedagogy, young footballers, coaches

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