



**Orienteering
Germany**

orientierungslauf.de

Open access to orienteering: Proposal for an Erasmus+ project

Achim Bader (GER)
Ingrid Okkenhaug (RYDC)



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

History of the project

- **First ideas spring 2016, meeting in Falun**
- **Presentation of the project in Strömstad autumn 2016**
- **Activities died out afterwards (difficulties to find an coordinator, no interest by German DTB)**
- **Restart summer 2018 (interest by DTB, coordinator)**



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Problems and Ideas

- **Orienteering is a lifetime-sport. But only a few young competitors take over responsibility to organize training and events and to qualify for organizing international events.**
- **Only some social groups participate in orienteering sport.**
- **Orienteering does not integrate groups with all Educational, cultural and ethnic backgrounds.**
- **In urban regions local orienteering events for everyone and training possibilities seldom exist and are difficult to organize.**



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Objectives, Part 1

Encourage involvement of young orienteers:

- **Increase and strengthen the voluntary competence for organizing orienteering events (local, national and international level)**
- **Support the mobility of volunteers for competence sharing**
- **Support competence sharing between generations**
- **Promote the benefits of being a volunteer**
- **Keep young orienteers as volunteers**



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Objectives, Part 2

Make orienteering accessible:

- **Take orienteering closer to people**
- **Spread the idea of easy maps for everyone interested**
- **Increase the participation in orienteering of different social groups (age, educational, ethnic and cultural background)**
- **Work together with partners who do not have any sport tradition as background**

(Schools are well known. We have experiences for instance with the zoo in Dresden, local authorities in social focal points and even a hospital.)



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Objectives, Part 3

Increase awareness about orienteering

- **Local authorities**
- **Politicians, sports politicians**
- **Environmental organisations**
- **Land owners, hunters**

(This part is well known to everyone, it is not new but still important.)



**Orienteering
Germany**

orientierungslauf.de

Outcomes – our vision, 1

- **Three to four international courses per year for up to 20 young orienteers. Contents: all aspects of organisation on different levels based on available training tools including the organisation of at least two orienteering events or projects in one of the Erasmus-countries.**
- **Vision: Young orienteers will be involved in the organisation of orienteering on all levels at home and in other countries on a long term, leading to an European volunteering organisation network.**
- **We could think about a certificate!**



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Outcomes – our vision, 2

- **All our activities aim at attracting new people for our sport.**
- **Why not spread the idea of orienteering as a grassroots sport without focusing on gaining new active orienteers?**
- **This is state of the art in other sports:
Companies spend money for football shirts, volleyball nets and balls for non-organized groups – without thinking of new champions.**
- **Develop and test examples of best-practice for orienteering as a grassroots sport. Focus is on long term co-working with different organisations.**



**Orienteering
Germany**

orientierungslauf.de

Outcomes – our vision, 3

- **Forming a group for political work for orienteering on an European level**
- **Exchange of different experiences**
- **Looking for new alliances**

For instance: In Germany the organisation of forest owners (private, state, communities) starts to be interested in co-working with sports as orienteering.

Some information about Erasmus+, 1

DTB was successful with 3 Erasmus+ projects, one is still running

What can we learn?

- **A project has to have outcomes for all of the partners and on a European level.**
- **It has to be innovative (do not try to get money for well-known activities).**

For instance: You have some nice school orienteering material, this is our input – it will not work.



**Orienteering
Germany**

orientierungslauf.de

Some information about Erasmus+, 2

- **All organisations applying have to be well established, for instance they have to give information about the number of employees working for them.**
- **Persons who represent their organisation have to be employed by the organisation!**
- **All partners have to be active. For instance they are responsible for work-packages. (Worst case: You have to give back the money!)**



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Some information about Erasmus+, 3

- **All topics have to be coordinated in detail. You have to write about the same action in different chapters without any variation.**
- **All actions have to be well spread geographically. Example: DTB nearly failed because they planned all the meetings in Frankfurt – cheap and near the airport.**
- **Germany is willing to take over the organisation. (This does NOT mean we are willing to write the application alone!)**

It is a lot of work and you are not sure if you will succeed!

Some information about Erasmus+, 4

- **People deciding about our project will not be enthusiastic orienteers (probably).**
- **From this point of view spreading the sport together with non-sport partners, integrating different social groups could be thought as the official leading idea.**

But:

As mentioned above we have a lot of plans, maybe they have to be well hidden in the application.



**Orienteering
Germany**
orientierungslauf.de

Plans

First step:

- A group of European countries join in this project
- Application for Erasmus+ in spring 2019

Second step:

- Positive outcomes should lead to the second larger project based on the results of the first step.
- (Experience shows that a successful project makes it quite easy to establish a new project.)