

1. Genesis of the program 'Extra Impulse Paralympics'

At the end of 2002, Mrs. Terpstra (at the time a member of the Second Chamber for the VVD) took the initiative in the Dutch parliament to argue in favour of additional financial means. She intended to use these means for the development and stimulation of sport in developing countries. For the member of government responsible for development cooperation had left less room for sport as a means in, and a goal of development cooperation. Former Olympic medal winner and top swimmer Erica Terpstra convinced a large fraction of the Second Chamber. As a result, Mrs. Van Ardenne (at the time State Secretary for Development Cooperation) decided to make one million euro available for the development of sport in the least developed countries. National Commission for international cooperation and sustainable development (NCDO) has carried out this fund.

2. General results of the fund

Since the summer of 2003, NCDO has requested several Dutch organisations to present project proposals. At the time, NCDO had conversations with NebasNsg and NOC*NSF, the most important Dutch umbrella organisations with regard to sport, as well. A number of sports organisations argued that the fund 'Extra Impulse Paralympics' was set up too late, which would make it more difficult to obtain good results¹. Moreover, some feared that a focus on the Paralympic Games could lead to insufficient attention for all the other sports levels.

Partly because it was impossible to spread the available funds over a longer period, an ambitious alliance is set up with the partners. This concerns especially those partners who wished to actually contribute to the participation to and presentations during the Games in Athens with their sports projects. They were confronted with less equipped or functioning national unions, with sometimes rigid rules and *wildcard* systems of the International Paralympic Committee. The partnership between the Dutch League for Adapted Sports – NebasNsg -, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and Respo DS-DI, which was initiated by the latter, fortunately offered new possibilities. Furthermore, the various EIP-partners were able to see eye to eye when it was useful for practical reasons.

The following organisations received subsidy of the Fund 'Extra Impulse Paralympics' in the period 2003-2004²:

<i>Name organisation</i>	<i>Title of the project</i>
<i>Complete name</i>	<i>Involved country/countries</i>
SPGN <i>Stichting Promotie Gehandicaptensport Nederland</i> <i>(Foundation Promotion of Sports for the</i> <i>Handicapped People The Netherlands)</i>	<i>Symposium 'The Fine Art of Adapted Coaching'</i> <i>Cameroon, Ethiopia*, Guinea, Tanzania*,</i> <i>Uganda*</i>
NebasNsg, Respo DS-DI en IPC <i>Nationale Bond voor Aangepaste Sporten</i> <i>(National League for Adapted Sports), Recreational</i> <i>Sports Development and Stimulation-Disabled</i> <i>International, International Paralympic</i> <i>Committee</i>	<i>The Athens 2004 Paralympic Games Special</i> <i>Initiative</i> <i>Cape Verde*, Ethiopia*, Ghana*, Kenya*,</i> <i>Pakistan*, Rwanda*, Tanzania*, India*,</i> <i>Uganda*</i>
Terre des Hommes	<i>'De Handicap Voorbij – Aangepaste Sport in</i> <i>India (Beyond the Handicap – Adapted Sports in</i> <i>India)</i> <i>India*</i>

¹ The request was often made if one should not focus on the Paralympic Games of 2008 in Beijing. NCDO hopes and thinks that EIP will definitely have an impact on Beijing.

² The execution of a few projects will continue up until 2005.

SCORE Europa <i>Stichting Sports Coaches Outreach Europa</i> <i>(Foundation Sporting Coaches Outreach Europe)</i>	<i>Jane Mandeau to Athens 2004</i> <i>South Africa*</i>
DIR	<i>Ondersteuning aangepaste sport in Ethiopië</i> <i>(Support for adapted sports Ethiopia)</i> <i>Ethiopia*</i>
KNLTB en ITF <i>Koninklijke Nederlandse Lawn Tennisbond,</i> <i>International Tennis Federation (Royal Dutch</i> <i>Lawn Tennis League)</i>	<i>Wheelchair Tennis Silver Fund in Sri Lanka,</i> <i>South Africa, Indonesia and Bolivia</i> <i>Bolivia*, South Africa*, Sri Lanka*, Indonesia*</i>
KNVB <i>Koninklijke Nederlandse Voetbal Bond (Royal</i> <i>Dutch Soccer League)</i>	<i>'Extra Impuls Paralympics' in Suriname</i> <i>Surinam*</i>
Peace Flame Foundation	<i>Documentary: No Limits</i> <i>Bosnia-Herzegovina*</i>
FASD <i>Foundation for African Sport Development</i>	<i>Oorlogsslachtoffers in de schijnwerpers (War</i> <i>victims in the spotlights). Amputee Soccer Team,</i> <i>Sierra Leone</i> <i>Sierra Leone, Liberia</i>
GLAM <i>God Loves Albania Ministries</i>	<i>Sport en Integratie Project in Albanië (Sport and</i> <i>Integration Project in Albania)</i> <i>Albania*</i>

* Means that this country was a country of previous preference or is now a partner country within the Dutch policy for development cooperation.

The total fund was exhausted in the course of 2005. Partly because of this reason, two requests were not granted.

Setting up projects in the least developed countries and/or in countries with which the Netherlands has a sustainable development relationship has been very successful³. The emphasis here is on Africa and Asia, while two countries in the Balkan region and in two Latin American countries projects are being financed as well. Only the project of FASD focuses on countries (Sierra Leone and Liberia) that fall outside of the structural policy of the development cooperation as it is executed by the Dutch government. Because it concerns two countries that belong to the very poorest of the world and where, due to violent conflicts, additional attention for handicapped people is especially necessary, there was the incentive for the Extra Impulse Paralympics to support this project without question.

Partly due to the special effort of NebasNsg, Respo DS-DI and IPC in this area, a good representation of female athletes within the 'EIP-delegation' at the Games will be present.

The once-only financial impulse surrounding the Paralympic Games has stimulated Dutch organisations within the sectors development cooperation and sports to devote long-term attention to the position of handicapped people and handicapped athletes in developing countries. For instance, by supporting (sports) projects in developing countries and/or by informing the supporters.

³ In a previous period these countries were named preference countries. In the policy of the current minister they are labelled partner countries. India was a preference country but is currently not a partner country anymore.

The results of Extra Impulse Paralympics during the Paralympics:

- In total, thirty athletes have participated in the Paralympics through EIP. They were either not going to be considered for participation, or they would not have been able to prepare as well.
- These athletes came from twelve different countries, with which the Netherlands has a bilateral development relationship.
- For four countries (Surinam, Ethiopia, Cape Verde and Ghana) this was their first time they participated in the Paralympics.
- Even though thirty is not a very high number in comparison to the total of thousands of participating athletes, the athletes still left an impression: on Dutch athletes, the Dutch sports audience, and on league directors of the Dutch leagues and of the IPC.
- The medal score of the EIP team is especially good: three medals in a team of thirty participants means that ten percent of the EIP participants won a medal.
- Participating in the Paralympic Games also provided media attention for the athletes and for the adapted sports in the concerned countries.

It is not only the top group that profited from the available funding. For NCDO and the partners also stimulated the practising of sports by handicapped people from developing countries on the whole, that is sports in general. However, money has also been invested in the reconstruction of sports organisations for handicapped people, in the advancement of expertise for the adapted sports and in the bridging of the gap between adapted sports and sports for people without restraints.

The over thirty athletes, who have been able to participate in the Paralympic Games in Athens thanks to 'Extra Impulse Paralympics', represent all handicapped people in developing countries who play sports or would like to play sports but are still unable to. We should not forget that the unequal division of prosperity in the world is also visible in the sports world. In order to illustrate this point, the following example: in the Netherlands we are not or barely satisfied if we win 22 medals at the Olympic Games, while India, with a population of 1 billion people, has to make do with one medal. This is why an extra impulse is needed for the adapted sports in developing countries. The athletes have also become ambassadors who can continue the fight for good and equal access to sports possibilities in their own countries.

Handicapped people in many developing countries are confronted with several obstacles: besides their handicap, there are cultural taboos regarding handicaps and there is a lack of facilities for handicapped people. NCDO's partners have booked appealing results within a very short period. Thanks to Extra Impulse Paralympics and its partners, Surinam, Ethiopia, Cape Verde and Ghana were represented during the Paralympic Games for the first time. The participation of countries such as Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Sri Lanka received a relatively huge impulse because of the Extra Impulse Paralympics. Moreover, Extra Impulse Paralympics gave a qualitative impulse to a few participants from India and South Africa.

The results of the Extra Impulse Paralympics with regard to general sports:

- EIP has influenced about 25 countries in some way or another.
- In various countries the expertise of coaches and trainers, of directors and administrators, and of teachers and caregivers has been improved by way of different projects. In total, approximately 150 to 200 people have been reached this way through these projects. This concerns among others: India, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Cape Verde.
- In some countries, games are organised and competitions are set up, for instance in Ethiopia and Surinam.

- The reconstruction of sports organisations for handicapped people and the institutional development of these organisations are stimulated, for example in Ethiopia, Albania and Bolivia.
- Handicapped people are stimulated to participate in sports, and have been perhaps given more confidence due to positive advertising in the media: many countries, in particular Ethiopia and Bosnia Herzegovina. This is being worked on in Liberia and Sierra Leone as well.
- Handicapped children have come into contact with the adapted sports, especially in India.
- Research and networking have led to increased knowledge on the position of handicapped sports in certain countries like Ethiopia and India.
- Sporting materials have become available in Surinam, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, South Africa, Bolivia and Ethiopia. Facilities have been improved in other ways as well in for example Albania.
- Educational institutions in developing countries have been made aware of the importance of and the possibilities for sports for handicapped people.
- Cooperation between Dutch organisations and developing countries has been stimulated in countries such as Ethiopia and Cameroon.

3. Paralympic Games and participants

Under the enormous pressure of time, five projects – Terre des Hommes, NebasNsg, Respo DS-DI and IPC, Foundation SCORE, KNVB and KNLTB and ITF – have been guided to qualification of and adequate preparation for the Paralympic Games in Athens. A group of thirty-two athletes managed to qualify – sometimes through the very last possibilities (the so-called backdoors). In this way organisational problems in the Netherlands and abroad were overcome and the demands of the IPC-system needed to be met. On top of that, there was collaboration with less dynamic national leagues. It concerns the following ‘winners’:

Name:	Partner Organisation:	Country:	Discipline:
1. Irene Acen	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Uganda	athletics
2. Mwanaidi Rashidi Ng'itu	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Tanzania	athletics
3. TBD	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Tanzania	athletics
4. Akobasenga Olive	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Rwanda	athletics
5. Nkundabera Jean de Dieu	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Rwanda	athletics
6. Kiros Tekle Redae	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Ethiopia	athletics
7. Artemisa Helen Gomes	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Cape Verde	athletics
8. Paulo Cesar Tavares	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Cape Verde	weight lifting
9. Botsyo Nkgeb	NebasNsg,	Ghana	athletics

	RESPO and IPC		
10. Ronald Mirare	NebasNsg, RESPO and IPC	Kenya	athletics
11. Nir Bahadur	Terre des Hommes	India	shot-putting and discus- throwing
12. Surjeet Singh	Terre des Hommes	India	shot-putting
13. Shyamal Raju	Terre des Hommes	India	discus-throwing
14. R.T. Prasanna Kumar	Terre des Hommes	India	javelin throwing, long jump and high jump
15. Malathi K. Holla	Terre des Hommes	India	shot-putting and discus- throwing
16. Devendra Devendra	Terre des Hommes	India	hop, step and jump and javelin throwing
17. S Rajarathinam	Terre des Hommes	India	long jump and hop, step and jump
18. Yadvendra Vashista	Terre des Hommes	India	shot-putting
19. G. Venkataravanappa	Terre des Hommes	India	javelin throwing and discus-throwing
20. C. Raghu	Terre des Hommes	India	high jump
21. Farman Basha	Terre des Hommes	India	weight lifting
22. Rajinder Singh	Terre des Hommes	India	weight lifting
23. Jane Madean	Foundation Score	South Africa	shot-putting and discus- throwing
24. Berty Silva	KNLTB and ITF	Sri Lanka	wheelchair tennis
25. Jayalath Manatunga	KNLTB and ITF	Sri Lanka	wheelchair tennis
26. Yasin Onasie	KNLTB and ITF	Indonesia	wheelchair tennis
27. Agus Sugiharto	KNLTB and ITF	Indonesia	wheelchair tennis
28. Victor Joppie	KNLTB and ITF	South Africa	wheelchair tennis
29. Adrian Hubbard	KNLTB and ITF	South Africa	wheelchair tennis
30. Melaica Tuinfort	KNVB	Surinam	shot-putting and wheelchair racing
31. Andre Andrews	KNVB	Surinam	shot-putting and wheelchair racing

The athletes were all very happy with their participation. For many it was their first time. The most remarkable winner of the EIP-team was the Indian javelin thrower Devendra. He won India's first gold medal at an Olympic or a Paralympic event, where he even set a world record for javelin

throwing. Besides that, the athletes managed to win two bronze medals; one for power lifting and one for athletics.

Never before shown: A gold medal winner from India

"What he did, we Have Never Done Before"

It's a commendable achievement for a 23- year old athlete to have broken his own World Record and won a Gold medal in his first participation in the Paralympic Games. Simultaneously completing his Bachelors in Arts and pursuing a Masters in Political Science is praiseworthy too, but he certainly may not be the first to do so. However, Devendra has achieved something that nobody from his country has ever achieved before. He became the first Indian ever to win an individual Gold medal in either the Olympic or the Paralympic Games. The Paralympic Village Pulse spoke to him on what it feels like to be where he is right now. "I was just overjoyed to be here and grateful to my country and the National Paralympic Committee for giving me this opportunity. They had put their faith in me and I am glad that I have lived up to their expectations." Soft spoken, but exuding an ardent fervour and passion as he spoke, Devendra mentioned, "When I carried the Indian flag during the Opening Ceremony, I said to myself, 'I want to hear the Indian national anthem being played during the Games.'" A prophetic thought, indeed.

During 10th grade he took up this sport since he felt it would be best suited for a one-handed athlete. His rise from then on has been nothing short of meteoric. In a short span of time, he went from school athletics meetings to being the State champion, National champion, British Open Champion, Busan Asian Games champion and now Paralympic Champion, including with a world record to boot. He attributes his success to a number of people but foremost to his Mom. Besides preparing his favourite home cooked food, his mom ensures he religiously adheres to his daily routine and training regimen and also is a huge source of motivation for him. Amar Singh, the Chef de Mission of the Indian contingent, had predicted a day before that Devendra would win a medal. "Our boys did not lack skill but I felt that they just needed to be motivated and made to believe in themselves. That is all I have been doing from the word go and thankfully it has paid dividends. Seeing him on the podium was one of the greatest moments of my life. I just could not stop crying realising that what The Indian contingent had a celebration in the Paralympic Village to mark Devendra's achievement and set the tone for many more felicitations to come as he heads back. Recalling his feelings that night, Devendra mentions, "I was so overwhelmed, I could not even sleep. It took some time to sink in and realise what I have done" However, he is not content to rest on his laurels. He has his sights set firmly on the next Pacific Games and the World Championships in 2006 and then on the ultimate return: The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. He exudes confidence, as he mentions, "I want the youth of my country to think that if I can do it, they all can also do it. Rest assured, India will not have to wait another 100 years for their next individual Gold medal."

From: <http://www.athens2004.com/ParalympicPulse/27-9-2004/printthepulse.pdf>, Paralympic Village Pulse, Issue nr. 6 Life (issue of Athens 2004)/ Text: Neelay Bhatt

The official result of javelin throwing F44/46:

Javelin Throw - F44/46

WR 59.77 DEVENDRA IND Birmingham 17 AUG 2003

PR 53.58 SCHIEDEK J. GER Atlanta 24 AUG 1996

Rk	Bib	Name	NPC Code	Date Of Birth	Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	Result
1	1532	DEVENDRA	IND	10 JUN 1981	F46	59.47	56.41	58.08	58.58	61.36	62.15	62.15 WR
2	1188	GAO MJ	CHN	23 NOV 1980	F44	54.07	55.57	55.50	53.22	54.48	X	55.57 WR
3	1211	WANG DC	CHN	16 JUN 1973	F46	51.59	51.47	53.29	53.78	55.54	52.29	55.54 PB

From: <http://www.athens2004.com/en/ParalympicResults/paralympics>

It is not only the group top athletes that have profited from the available fund. NCDO and the partners have also invested in the stimulation of the practising of sports by handicapped people from developing countries in general, that is in general sports, as well as in the reconstruction of sports

organisations for handicapped people, in the advancement of expertise concerning adapted sports and in the bridging of the gap between the adapted sports and the sport for people with no restrictions.

4. Projects within the fund Extra Impulse Paralympics

The following pages will provide a comprehensive description of the 'Extra Impulse Paralympics', the partner organisations with the main details and a description of the financed projects.



Stichting Promotie Gehandicaptensport Nederland (SPGN) in Roermond
(*Foundation Promotion of Sports for the Handicapped People The Netherlands*)

In cooperation with: NebasNsg

Project title: Symposium 'The Fine Art of Adapted Coaching'

Period: November 2003

The project

In the weekend of November 2003, SPGN organised a symposium for 51 participants. The symposium was on the coaching and the guiding of adapted top athletes. Experienced speakers from the (adapted) sports world were present. The program focused partly on the participation of coaches from developing countries. The EIP-subsidy was specifically used to finance the participation of eighteen coaches from five developing countries. It concerns coaches from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Tanzania and Uganda⁴.

The result

The expertise of eighteen coaches from five developing countries in the field of guiding handicapped athletes, especially of top athletes, has been improved. By way of a buddy-system, foreign coaches were coupled to Dutch colleagues during the symposium. This leads to positive reactions as well. One of the Dutch coaches was invited to set up a clinic sit-volleyball for African trainers in Cameroon.

About SPGN

SPGN is a Dutch organisation dedicated to the handicapped sports. SPGN collects funds and very frequently organises major events. Previously, SPGN has organised for example the World Cup table tennis and in 2006 the organisation will set up the triple world championship volleyball for handicapped people (standing volleyball for men, sit-volleyball for women and sit-volleyball for men) in Roermond.

Website: www.spgn.nl

⁴ Because of problems that occurred during the process of visa obtainment, three invited participants from Nigeria could not be present.

Terre des Hommes in The Hague

Project title: 'Beyond the Handicap – Adapted Sports in India'

Local partner: Terre des Hommes India and Indian National Paralympic Committee

Period: September 2003 up until May 2005

The project

Terre des Hommes has organised several competitions for handicapped athletes in India, among which the selection competitions for the Paralympics in Athens. Terre des Hommes has, together with other organisations (governments, NGO's, educational institutions), studied possibilities and organised activities to further stimulate the adapted sports in India. Moreover, handicapped children from Terre des Hommes projects were involved in the sports activities and stimulated to participate in sports. The expertise with regard to the adapted sports of actors in the field of care and education and of actors in the field of sports has been further improved by this project.

The result

The expertise on and support for adapted sports has grown on various levels of those involved. Sports activities and facilities for handicapped children have been improved. A number of competitions have been organised in India. India has participated in the Paralympic Games with a large and well trained team. Twelve of the athletes of this team profited directly from the facilities made available by Terre des Hommes. One of these twelve athletes, the javelin thrower Devendra, gave an exceptional and a historical performance by becoming the first Indian in history to win a gold medal at an Olympic or a Paralympic game. He did so by setting a world record. Terre des Hommes wishes to continue to devote attention to the adapted sports in its projects and is considering projects in this field in Tanzania and Bolivia.

About Terre des Hommes

Terre des Hommes Nederland is a development organisation that dedicates itself to the position of children in developing countries, by way of for example governmental funding. To this end, Terre des Hommes initiates and supports projects in a number of countries.

Website: www.terredeshommes.nl

Anecdote:

The top athletes appeared to be a real role model for the handicapped children. They increased the confidence of the children. During the sports day, the children participated in a workshop of a Dutch handicapped top athlete, Annet Roozen. The children were very enthusiastic. At the end of the day, a child told the Terre des Hommes coordinator: 'I may be handicapped but I do not feel handicapped'.



SCORE Europe in Amsterdam

Project title: 'Jane Mandean from South Africa to Athens 2004'

Period: September 2003 until September 2004

The Project

This project enabled a better preparation and training of a renowned handicapped athlete - Jane Mandean from South Africa. She won a bronze medal at the Paralympics in Sydney. Besides, she has been actively involved in sports for disabled persons in the slums of South Africa for years. Jane Mandean is an important role model for disabled persons in South Africa and even far more for disabled women. She combined a job and top sport despite her handicap. The project also provided Mandean and South Africa with means to make technical aid available for adapted sports in South Africa.

The Results

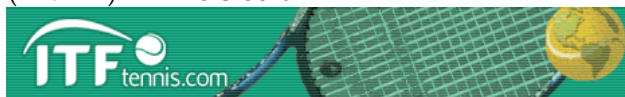
A South African participant was aided in her preparation of, and participation in the Paralympics. Partly due to a 'disappointing' distribution relating to her physical handicap Jane Mandean did not equal or improve her former good records. She is still determined to keep on working for handicapped sportsmen and sportswomen in her country.

About SCORE Europe

SCORE Europe is a member of the organisation SCORE. This South African organisation focuses on sports as a means and goal for development cooperation and puts this into practice through projects in several countries in the south of Africa.

Website: www.scorefoundation.nl

Royal Dutch Lawn Tennis Association (KNLTB) in Amersfoort



and the Wheelchair Tennis Committee of the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)**
Project title: 'Wheelchair Tennis Silver Fund' in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Indonesia and Bolivia
Local partners: sports associations and tennis associations in the countries concerned
Period: November 2003 until December 2004

The Project

The wheelchair committee of the ITF has supported (potential) participants to the Paralympics of Sri Lanka, South Africa and Indonesia in their preparation, via training and international competitions, for the qualification in the Paralympic Games and in coaching. Besides this the expertise of trainers and coaches in these countries and Bolivia was enhanced through workshops and exchange. ITF stimulated comprehension among disabled persons in the concerned countries through clinics. In Bolivia the project also supported the institutional development of a national association for adapted sports. Furthermore, sports equipment was made available.

The Results

Six sportsmen (from South Africa, Sri Lanka and Indonesia) and three coaches have participated in the Paralympics with the support of this project. Trainers, assistants and the sports framework have also been educated and enthused, among others by the participation of foreign top wheelchair tennis players in exchange programs. In Bolivia a national association for adapted sports is being developed.

About KNLTB and ITF

The KNLTB is one of the Netherlands' biggest sport associations. Moreover, the Netherlands is also leader in the area of international wheelchair tennis. This translates not only into medals but also in (personal) involvement in the development of wheelchair tennis all over the world. The ITF and its Wheelchair Tennis Committee have set up a very professional organisation in this adapted sport. With the Silver Fund Program wheelchair tennis sports is being stimulated and developed in many developing countries.

Websites: www.knltb.nl, www.itfwheelchairtennis.nl



Dutch Association for Adapted Sports (NebasNsg) in Bunnik



and **Recreational Sports Development and Stimulation – Disabled International (RESPO DS-DI)** in Heerenveen

In cooperation with: the **International Paralympic Committee (IPC)**

Project title: 'The Athens 2004 Paralympic Games Special Initiative in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Ghana en Cap Verdi'

Local partners: national Paralympic committees of Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Ghana en Cap Verdi

Support: special logistic and organisational support by DIR

Period: January 2004 – September 2004

The Project

Objective of the project was to enlarge the enduring possibilities and influence of disabled persons in developing countries. This would mainly be done by stimulating development of national paralympic committees and by participation of disabled athletes from developing countries to the Paralympic Games. Sport development by educative seminars, experimental methods of teaching, sport training and competitions was held in mind. Countries which had none or few participants to the Games in 2004 and which had a committee being developed were involved in the activities. Due to time pressure the project focused on two sports for which qualification was still possible: athletics and power lifting. Five seminars, focused on training of athletes, trainer-coaches and directors were organised of which three took place in Ethiopia in cooperation with DIR. Athletes who qualified could get extra support. The project not only prepared the sportsmen, but it also made participation in the qualifying competitions possible and it requested wildcards.

The Results

Two of these sportsmen achieved a bronze medal (in athletics and power lifting). In total, 81 persons - coaches/trainers and directors/administrators – obtained support by means of expertise enhancement. In nine countries sport for disabled persons was given a new impulse in a special way. Moreover, new cooperation networks developed, for example in eastern Africa as the East African Development Group and in the Netherlands between DIR, and RESPO DS-DI and between RESPO DS-DI and NebasNsg. During the public meeting of the EIP in Athens a director of IPC called the project an example for the future.

About NebasNsg, RESPO DS-DI and IPC

NebasNsg is the umbrella organisation for Dutch sports for disabled persons. In most sports NebasNsg still has an active role in competitive sports, although it tries to delegate most of the responsibility to specific sport associations. NebasNsg has a coordinating function, stimulates sports practice for disabled persons in the Netherlands and also works for, for example, expertise development for adapted sports. RESPO DS-DI is an independent international organisation having its main office in the Netherlands. It works for development and stimulation of sports on all levels and practice for people with a handicap in developing countries, focusing on social and physical rehabilitation. In 2005 RESPO DS-DI transforms in cooperation with the CALCO-department of Professional School in Windesheim into RESPO International. IPC is the general international umbrella organisation for adapted sports.

Websites: www.nebasng.nl, www.respo.org en www.paralympic.org

Anecdotes:

- At the first meeting IPC-folders with pictures of handicapped sportsmen were displayed. There was no answer of the participants to the question what struck them about the pictures. When they were told that there were only white handicapped sportsmen in the pictures, the African and Asian participants replied: 'That's the way it always is. What can we expect?'
- A Pakistani participant said, in a reaction to the project presentation: 'I was expecting less, but it is more'

DIR in Amsterdam

In cooperation with: RESPO DS-DI

Local partner: Ethiopian Paralympic Committee (EPC), several Ethiopian organisations for disabled persons and schools

Project title: 'Supporting adapted sports in Ethiopia'

Period: December 2003 until June 2005

The Project

This project focuses on the support and development of a sport association for adapted sports in Ethiopia. DIR has done basic research on the situation of adapted sports in Ethiopia. It supports and facilitates in cooperation with experts the education of trainers and other sports frame. The project supplies sport materials, stimulates the spread of information on adapted sports focusing on handicapped persons but also on politicians and the general Ethiopian public. As a means of stimulation competitions were organised between regions.

The Results

The project has produced a useful report on adapted sports in Ethiopia. EPC, the Ethiopian association, has been supported and professionalized. Possibilities for regional structures are improved. The attention for sports for people with a disability has been extended, which makes it possible to work on improvement of the possibilities. Attention was paid to the topic on national television several times, among others in a very renowned talk show. Disabled sportsmen become more active and participate more in sport initiatives. Also in school attention for adapted sports has increased. Most focus is paid to sports on all levels. Furthermore, due to the project a partnership has developed between an Ethiopian educational program and a Dutch professional school (Windesheim in Zwolle), which focuses on the development of expertise concerning adapted sports in Ethiopia.

About DIR

DIR is an Ethiopian-Dutch organisation with roots in both countries. DIR has projects and programs which pay attention to the situation and support of Ethiopians in the Netherlands – like an Ethiopian radio-broadcast -, educates about Ethiopia in the Netherlands and executes development projects in Ethiopia.

Website: www.dirnet.nl

Anecdote:

Up to three times the whole of Ethiopia has seen and heard on national television what the purpose is of sports for disabled persons and what the role of DIR is. It is special how many different groups from *grassroot* to the Department of Sport and Culture and further to Dutch experts have cooperated in this project. The basis for further development and permanent cooperation has been laid out.



Peace Flame Foundation in Hilversum

Local partner: Peace Flame House Bosnia Herzegovina

Project title: 'Documentary: No Limits'

Period: May 2004 until January 2005

The Project

The Peace Flame Foundation produced a television documentary on adapted sports in Bosnia Herzegovina. The documentary followed a specific Bosnian male sit-volleyball team – a potential golden medal candidate – both in their preparation and during the Paralympic Games in Athens. In the documentary a link was made to the Dutch female sit-volleyball team. The objective of the documentary is to overcome the gap between regular and adapted sports, to raise awareness about sports for disabled persons in Bosnia Herzegovina and to stimulate sport practice by handicapped people in this country.

The Results

A nice documentary was produced and broadcasted nationally on Bosnian television. Also in other shows, such as talk shows, attention was paid to the topic. The documentary will also be shown in the Netherlands on RTV Utrecht.

About Peace Flame Foundation

The Peace Flame Foundation was founded to support the reconciliation and renovation of Bosnia Herzegovina. This Dutch private organisation supports among others media projects in Bosnia Herzegovina in order to reach its objectives. The Peace Flame Foundation was founded in 1994 by Fred Matser who, during the Olympic Winter Games in Norwegian Lillehammer, remembered that 10 years ago the Games took place in the, by war wrecked, Bosnian capital city Sarajevo. He then took the initiative to bring an Olympic peace flame from Lillehammer to Sarajevo in the company of thirteen golden medal winners.

Website: www.peaceflame.org

God Loves Albania Ministries (GLAM) in Huizen
Project title: Sport and Integration Project in Albania (SIPA)
Period: December 2004 until December 2005

The Project

God Loves Albania Ministries (GLAM) focuses much on rehabilitation of disabled young people. The young people themselves came with a request for sporting possibilities. With this project the disabled youngsters themselves will promote adapted sports in several parts of the country, among disabled persons but also among directors and sport associations. Through a campaign, lobbying, information services, the organisation of competitions and support of the framework adapted sports will have to further develop in Albania.

SIPA focuses on:

- Identification of disabled persons who want to practice sport actively;
- Organisation of sport possibilities and training camps;
- Setting up regional associations;
- Training of coordinators, trainers en coaches;
- Contacting international organisations for adapted sports;
- Setting up a national training centre for adapted sports in Marikaj;
- Setting up an administrative organization for adapted sports in Albania; and
- Integration of adapted sports institutions with churches, local government and organisations for disabled persons.

In the long term the project will lead to participation in the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008 by Albania.

The Results

The project has started at the end of 2004. In the meantime a coordinator has been appointed and de first promotional activities have been carried out.

About God Loves Albania Ministries

During the first years after the opening up of the country Albania, between 1991 and 1993, the Dutch missionary Gesina Blaauw focused especially on urgent aid and the handing out of aid products. When first aid was given, it appeared that disabled Albanians were being totally ignored by their own people. Thus Gesina's work altered. She now focused more on support and stimulation of disabled children and young people, so they would find themselves accepted in the Albanian society. Gesina Blaauw founded GLAM for her religiously inspired work and she works with several donor organisations.

Website: www.godlovesalbania.org

Anecdote:

Elton is 27 years old. The first three years of his life he spent in a hospital. The diagnosis was: polio. Until he turned sixteen Elton did not have a wheelchair. He looked after his brothers and sisters when his parents worked by dragging himself on his hands through the house. Now he has a wheelchair and he visits the centre in Marikaj. He controls the Albanian and English language (speaking, reading, writing). He is an enthusiastic member of the wheelchair basketball team and in December 2004 he won a tournament for the first time.



Federation for African Sports Development (FASD) in Tilburg

Local partner: the British aid organisation Action for children in conflict Sierra Leone and the Single-Leg Amputee Sports Club (SLASC)

Project title: 'War victims in the spotlights. Amputee Soccer Team, Sierra Leone'

Period: December 2004 until December 2005

The Project

In this project FASD's objective is a direct increase in the number of practitioners of adapted sports in Sierra Leone, by, among others, making adapted sports and soccer known for people that lack a limb in Sierra Leone and Liberia. FASD wants to raise awareness and realise a positive view on adapted sports and on people with a disability in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The (only) existing Amputee Soccer Team of Sierra Leone assists in this by a promotional tour through the country. FASD will support the expertise of coaches and assistants of sportsmen and sport teams and it will make the backing-up of at minimum five sport teams by educated coaches possible. The project will have its sway in the neighbouring country Liberia. Locations for practicing sports will be developed.

The Results

The project has only started in December 2004. Therefore, no results are known yet.

About FASD

FASD is an organisation which focuses on the setting up of sport development projects in Africa. Next to this FASD functions as an intermediary between parties requesting projects and recognized development organisations, sport organisations and the private sector in and outside of the Netherlands.

Website: www.fasd.nl

Anecdote:

Every Saturday morning the Amputee Soccer Team comes together for the weekly training on the beach of Freetown. Still, the FASD, during their first visit, could find no soccer players on the beach. Every first Saturday of the month public life in Freetown freezes due to 'cleaning day'. Although the team members prefer playing soccer over cleaning, they have no choice as there are no buses at those mornings to bring them to the beach.



Royal Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) in Zeist

Local partner: the Surinam Soccer Association

Project title: 'Extra Impulse Paralympics' in Suriname

Period: April 2004 until December 2004

The Project

The project 'Extra Impulse Paralympics' in Suriname' was executed by the KNVB Academy and the Surinam Soccer Association. They were focusing on founding a soccer competition for disabled persons in Suriname. Here, attention was paid to the instructions of the referees and of assistants and volunteers, to the organisation of the tournament, and to promotion among the Surinam population. The project was an investment into Surinam soccer infrastructure. It backed the purchase of sport materials and expertise enhancement by means of organizing workshops for volunteers (for example referees). The KNVB Academy delivered two internships. Furthermore, the project supported participation of a Surinam delegation to the Caribbean Games in Jamaica (July 2004) and to the Paralympic Games of 2004 in Athens.

The Results

The Surinam soccer competition for mentally disabled persons will start in the middle of 2005. The KNVB Academy has also supported adapted sports in Surinam in cooperation with Surinam sport organisations. This is done not in the least by the first participation of Surinam at the Paralympic Games by two athletes. It is also notable that Surinam participated with the youngest athlete and that the athletes were able to improve their personal records markedly. In Athens they first encountered special aiding equipment such as 'a vaulting buck' which is used by wheelchair athletes at, for example, putting the weight. At arrival back in Surinam the delegation was welcomed by the First Lady of Surinam, Mrs Venetiaan. Surinam was extremely proud of the performance of the athletes. This appeared amongst others from the amount of media reactions and from the fact that the welcoming of the delegation by Mrs Venetiaan was broadcasted live on national television. The ultimate goal, improvement of acceptance and integration of disabled persons in Surinam, was very much aided with the possibility to take part in the Caribbean Games and the Paralympic Games and with the realisation of the soccer competition for disabled persons. The attention paid by the media was another help.

About KNVB

The KNVB is the biggest Dutch sport organisation. The KNVB has an international academy from which sport development in general and soccer development in particular in developing countries are being promoted. In this respect, the KNVB works amongst others in Surinam, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia.

Website: www.knvb.nl