

Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



# ***'Sport is a popular tool and sector in the discussions on Integration and Intercultural Dialogue'***

Mogens Kirkeby, president  
International Sport and Culture Association

[www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)

info@isca-web.org



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***From a political point of view – sport - in terms of its structures and settings, is often referred to and preferred as an important solution to the major challenge of creating intercultural dialogue and enabling integration-processes in societies.***

***However, the popularity and the preferences for using sport in this context is not always enough to secure successful interventions and results.***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**1 Introduction**

**2 Conceptual Consideration**

**3 "Passion vs. Evidence"**

**4 Status of Intercultural Dialogue in Europe**

**5 Political wishes vs. practical implementation**

**6 Recommendations**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

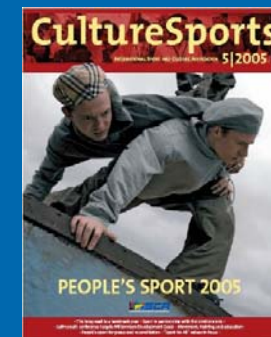
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



International umbrella organisation for sport  
and popular culture – founded in 1995

125 member organisations with focus on  
“sport for all”.

[www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)



## Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*

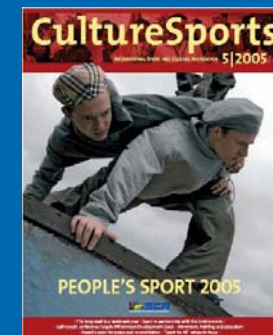


### The overall aim:

To assist the *demanded* development of the organisations and institutions governing Sport for All.

### Major societal challenges:

- Economic stagnation
- Public Health
- Ageing populations
- Integration and Intercultural Dialogue
- Climate and environmental changes



[www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)





## Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



### Access to :

- Knowledge based partnerships: health and fitness, facility management, sport and environment, senior activities, children activities, badminton, etc.
- Leadership training - youth, adults; volunteers and employees
- Open international sport events for individuals, teams, clubs – all age groups
- Lobbying for 'sport for all'



**ORGANISATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**SHARING DIVERSITY:  
National Approaches to Intercultural Dialogue in Europe**

**[www.interculturaldialogue.eu](http://www.interculturaldialogue.eu)**

**See background paper of this speech and other initiatives of  
International Sport and Culture Association**

**[www.integrationthroughsport.org](http://www.integrationthroughsport.org)**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## *Conceptual Considerations*





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## ***The five dimension of the intercultural dialogue:***

- The verbal dimension***
- The non-verbal dimension***
- The global dimension – values, point of views***
- The social dimension - codes, norms and rules***
- The individual dimension – personal competences and experiences***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***Sport does not create an Intercultural Dialogue - by itself!  
It takes more than the physical activity - to facilitate a useful and  
valuable Intercultural Dialogue.***

***It takes :***

- ***- an objective beyond the sport activity***
- ***- an educative perspective***
- ***- and a set up where the educative perspective is transformed  
into action***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## ***Learning / Education and Sport***

- ***Education for sports***
- ***Education by sports***
- ***Education through sports***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



	<b>Education for sports</b>	<b>Education by sport</b>	<b>Education through sport</b>
<b>For what?</b>	For the sport activity	For a good cause	For life
<b>More precisely for:</b>	Soccer, aerobics, outdoor life, walking	Fitness and public health National resurrection, social integration	<b>Personal development and social learning</b>
<b>The way is</b>	Specialized Technical	Sectoral Functional	<b>Cultural, existential Relational</b>
<b>The goal is</b>	Inside activity .Becoming better  My success	Outside activity Functioning better Political goal	<b>Between the humans Living better (‘School for life’) Our trust</b>
<b>What comes out of it</b>	Individual competences	Social welfare	<b>Enabling, empowerment</b>



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## *Passion vs. Evidence*





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***I have tried to live without sport,  
- it was terrible 5 minutes!!***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***Do'ers – Politicians – Bureaucrats***

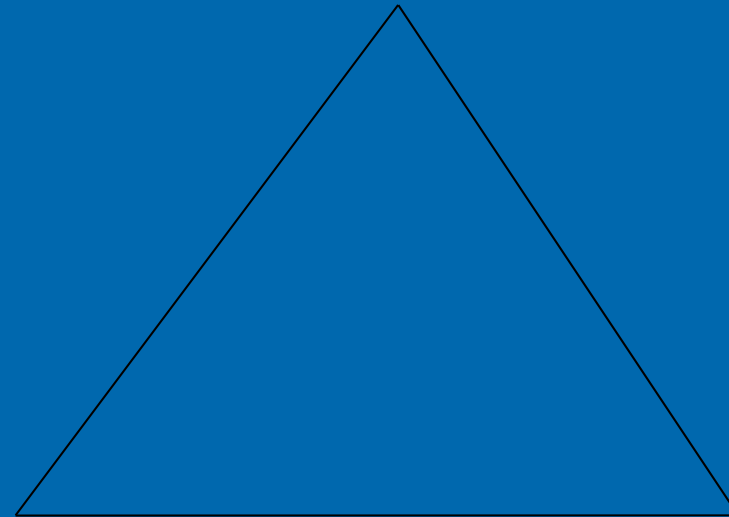


Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Politicians**



**Do'ers**

**Bureaucrats**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?  
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***Politicians***

***Bureaucrats***

***Do'ers***



# Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

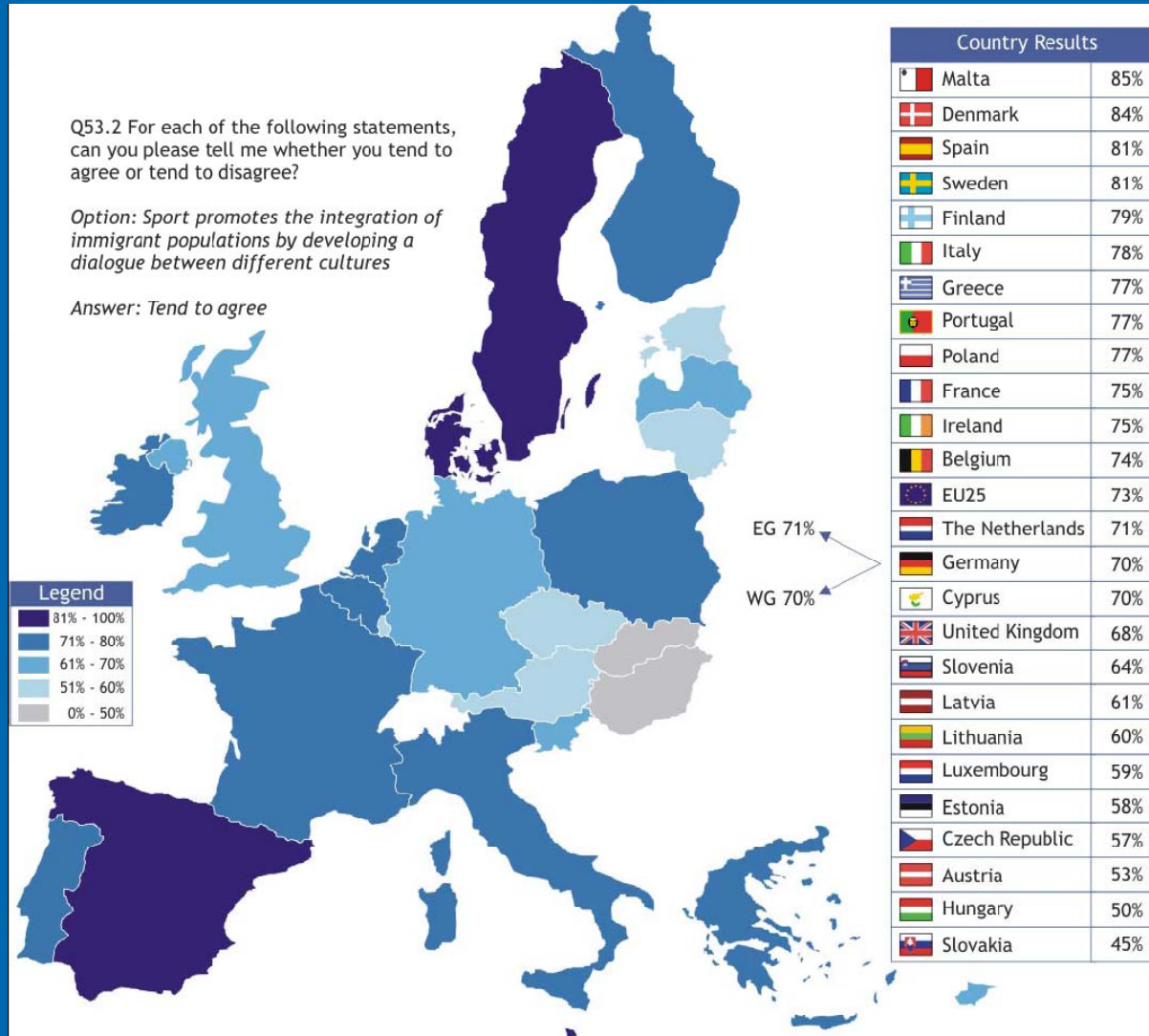
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



Q53.2 For each of the following statements, can you please tell me whether you tend to agree or tend to disagree?

*Option: Sport promotes the integration of immigrant populations by developing a dialogue between different cultures*

*Answer: Tend to agree*



**Almost three in four European Union citizens (73%) view sport as a means of promoting integration of immigrant populations**





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***"The role of sport in promoting social integration, in particular of young people, is widely recognised. Sport is a recognised social phenomenon.***

***Sport creates conditions for political democracy and is instrumental to the development of democratic citizenship. Sport enhances the understanding and appreciation of cultural differences and it contributes to the fight against prejudices. Finally, sport plays its part in limiting social exclusion of immigrant and minority groups."***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## *Status - Intercultural Dialogue through Sport in Europe*



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**A status** of Intercultural dialogue / integration through sport:

1. The interventions and activities are mainly being planned and implemented at micro level - a local and national level - without an overall strategy or policy.
2. The interventions and outcomes are often described through “good practices”.
3. Civil society organisations such as sports clubs, with its voluntary based structures and commitments, are often the settings in which the intercultural interventions are being implemented.
4. Focal points of the interventions are often “challenge oriented” (social inclusion or anti-racism), and/or “target group oriented”.
5. The “intercultural learning dimension” is mainly based on non-formal and informal learning settings and processes.



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## *Connection between political wishes and practical implementation*



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Is the popularity among politicians and citizens, of sport as a tool for integration, transformed into relevant actions?**

**2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, but how did the European Union and Council of Europe actions look like?**

**Can we identify synergy between:**

- National Action plans - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- European Commission interventions - Flagship projects
- European White Paper on Sport
- Council of Europe – White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue
- European Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Council of Europe)





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Is the popularity among politicians and citizens, of sport as a tool for integration, transformed into relevant actions?**

**2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, but how did the European Union and Council of Europe actions look like?**

**Can we identify synergy between:**

- **National Action plans - European Year of Intercultural Dialogue**
- European Commission interventions - Flagship projects
- European White Paper on Sport
- Council of Europe – White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue
- European Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Council of Europe)



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## National Action Plans:

Very few mention explicit sport and its organisations as important stakeholders .

A number of countries mention sport very briefly – often as looking for “ambassadors” of the year.



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## National Action Plans - Ireland

**Sports provide a key vehicle for intercultural dialogue and interaction. The Football Association of Ireland has recently employed an intercultural officer and is developing an intercultural action plan as a consequence of the National Action Plan against Racism. As part of the Year, other sporting bodies in Ireland will be encouraged to develop similar initiatives building on this good practice.**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## National Action Plans - Sweden

Sports is an important arena for social contacts in which nearly all kinds of people can meet. Sports can be said to play a key role for intercultural meeting and dialogue. The Swedish Sports Confederation is the umbrella organisation of the Swedish sports movement.

There are a number of special programs pertaining to sports for immigrants in Sweden and international exchange is very important to Swedish sport.

The policy on international relations is that sport shall act as an international means of contact and shall show respect for human equality, and the Swedish sports movement shall have exchanges with other countries irrespective of their political systems and of whether Sweden maintains normal diplomatic relations with them or not.



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## National Action Plans - Austria

The synergies that EURO 2008 and the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue create, provide an opportunity to sensitise the wider public towards values inherent in both football and intercultural dialogue: fair play, team, spirit, mutual respect, tolerance, learning how to lose or to win, etc.

“fan embassies” will serve as central meeting points, service centres and information exchange points run by fans for fans.

### Integration and Sports

Within this initiative the Austrian Integration Fund aimed at the integration of migrants and refugees granted asylum into established sports associations in Austria. Sport is seen as one of the most efficient ways to foster mutual cultural understanding and to reinforce language skills. Efforts to pursue the current activities as well as the development of further projects in this field are planned for 2008.



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Is the popularity among politicians and citizens, of sport as a tool for integration, transformed into relevant actions?**

**2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, but how did the European Union and Council of Europe actions look like?**

**Can we identify synergy between:**

- National Action plans for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- **European Commission interventions - Flagship projects**
- European White Paper on Sport
- Council of Europe – White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue
- European Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Council of Europe)





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## EYID 2008 – Flagship projects

The European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 was launched in Ljubljana 8 January. At the same time seven 'Flagship Projects', supported by the European Commission were highlighted and promoted.

None of the 'Flagship Projects' has a starting point in one of the most popular and widespread civil society sectors - the sport sector.



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Is the popularity among politicians and citizens, of sport as a tool for integration, transformed into relevant actions?**

**2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, but how did the European Union and Council of Europe actions look like?**

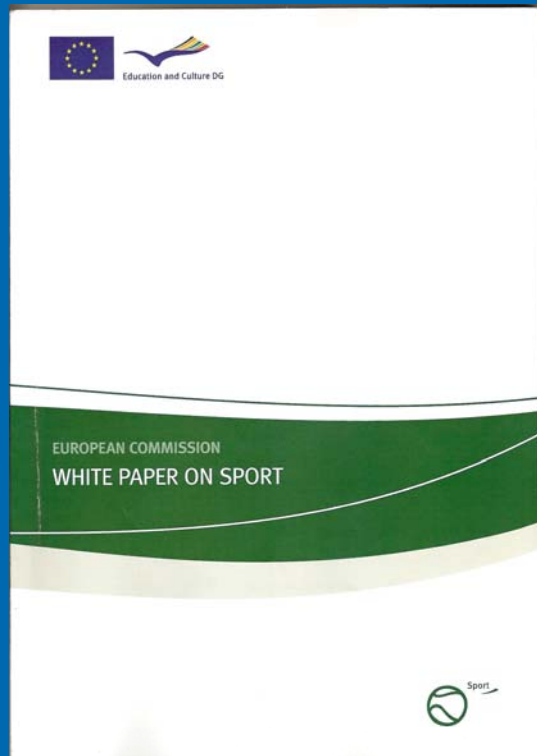
**Can we identify synergy between:**

- National Action plans for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- European Commission interventions - Flagship projects
- **European White Paper on Sport**
- Council of Europe – White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue
- European Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Council of Europe)



## Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



### The "societal role of sport" reflects the significance of sport as a social phenomenon

- Enhancing public health through physical activity
- Fight against doping
- Enhancing the role of sport in education and training.
- Promoting volunteering
- Using the potential of sport for **social inclusion, integration** and equal opportunities
- The environmental challenge



# Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



**Is the popularity among politicians and citizens, of sport as a tool for integration, transformed into relevant actions?**

**2008 was the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, but how did the European Union and Council of Europe actions look like?**

**Can we identify synergy between:**

- National Action plans for European Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- European Commission interventions - Flagship projects
- European White Paper on Sport
- Council of Europe – White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue
- European Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS Council of Europe)





## Sport and Intercultural Dialogue - assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue "Living Together As Equals in Dignity"

- Refers to the importance of civil society organisations. Give one example of sport (football).
- In the 58 selected good practices **none is sport related projects**. Sport is not a theme in the Compendium.

## EPAS – European Partial Agreement on Sport

- Priorities to be defined!!





Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?  
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



***Politicians***

***Bureaucrats***

***Do'ers***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*

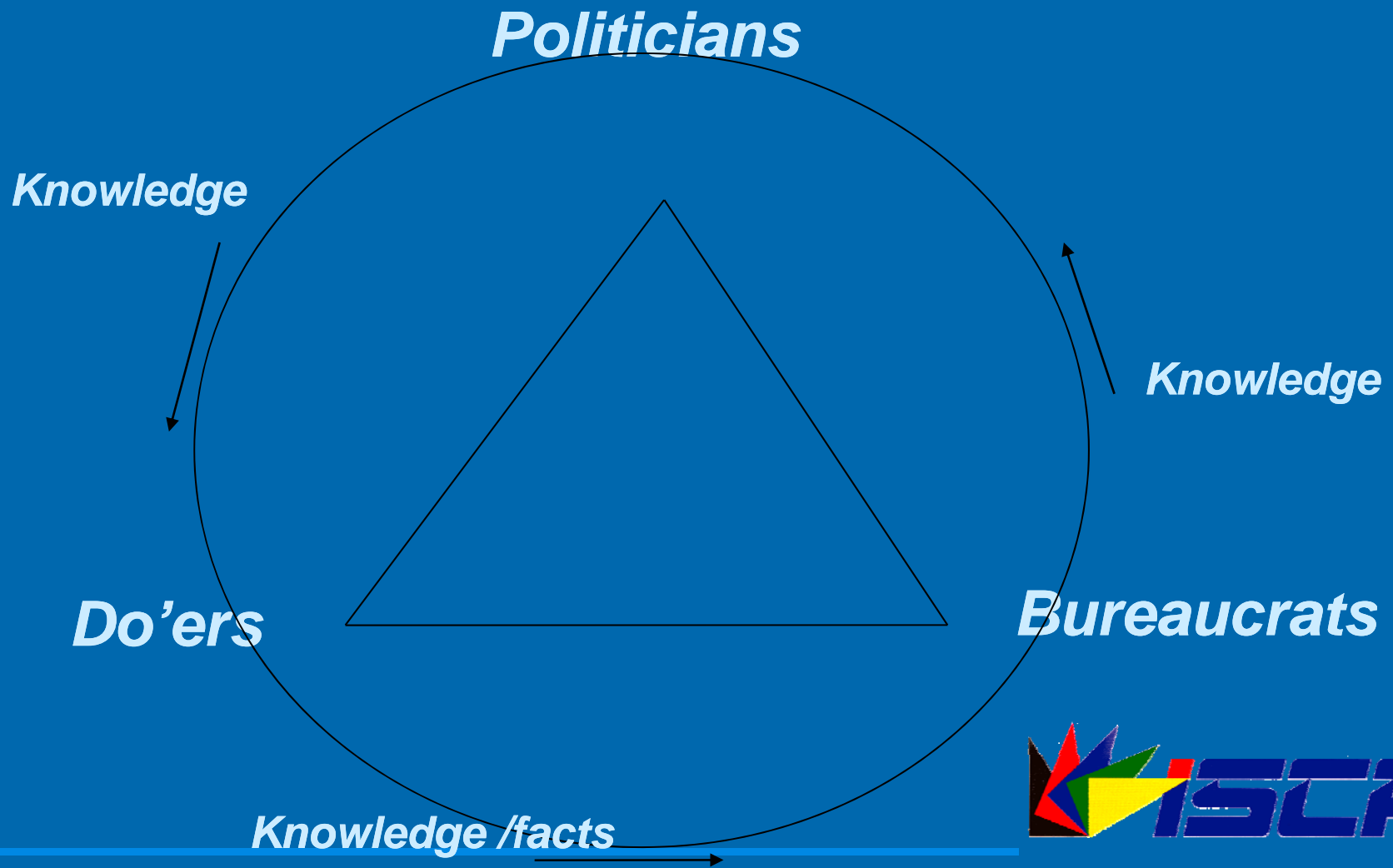


***”Not Proven”***

***(not guilty and not innocent)***



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?  
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



## Intercultural dialogue through Sport - **Recommendations:**

**(Very) Long-term commitments are needed**

**The involvement should go beyond the “critical mass”**

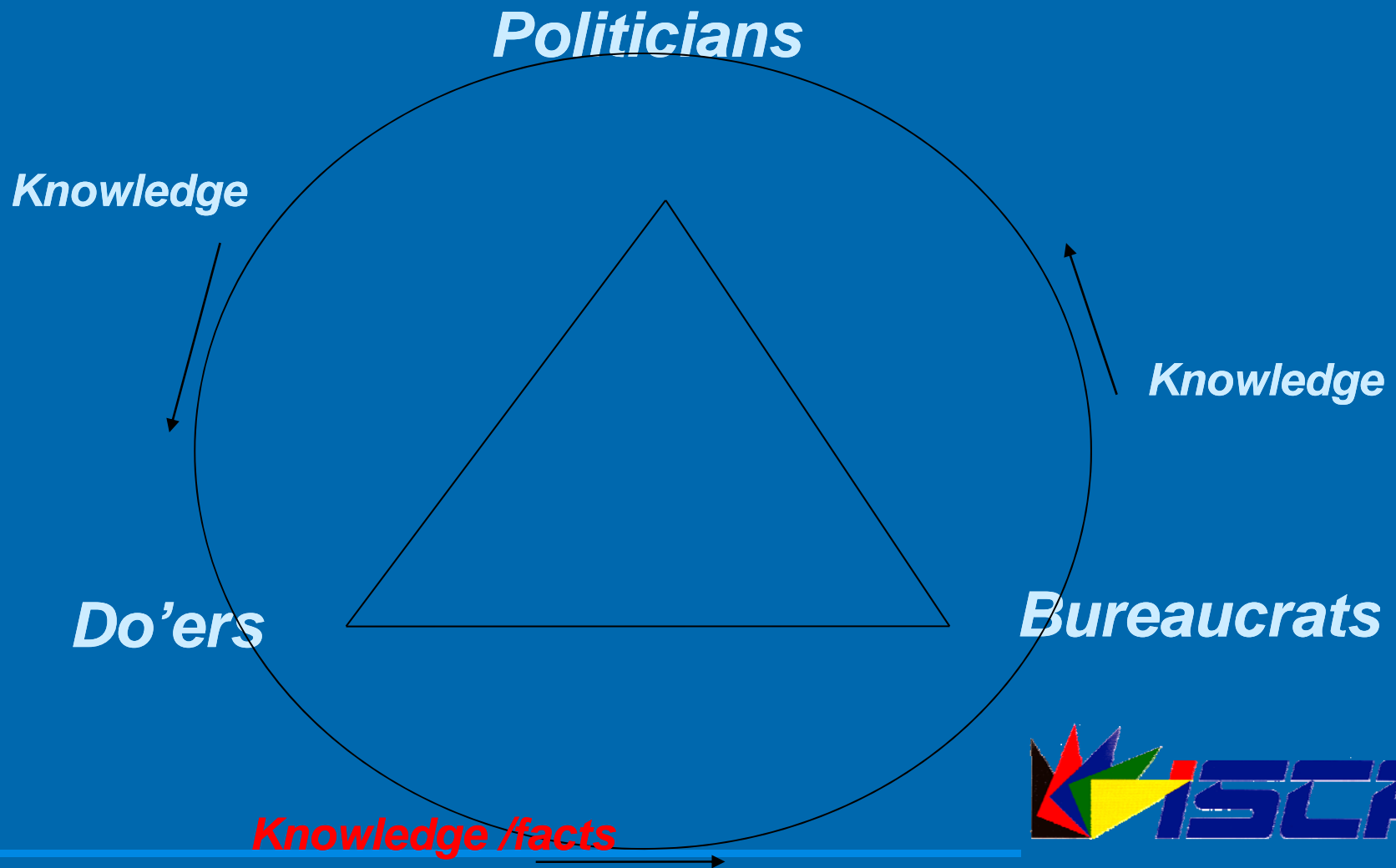
**Be realistic about the short-term and long-term goals - unrealistic goals are de-motivating**

**Partnership is preferred instead of solo interventions.**

**If possible create a comprehensive national plan and support programme with scientific support to do'er, political and bureaucrat levels**



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?  
*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



Sport and Intercultural Dialogue -  
assumptions or valid facts?

*Languages meet sport, Trieste 16-17 October 2009*



*Thank you!*

[www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)

