



Federal Institute of
Sport Science



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Sport

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Disability Sport: Professionalization, Talent Identification and Development; Opportunities for Professionals and Volunteers

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Disability Sport

Andrea Eskau

**Area of Expertise: „Paralympic Sports“ Federal
Institute of Sport Science**

Top Paralympic athlete

**Participation in five Paralympic Games
Winner of 9 Paralympic medals (6 gold medals)
in three different sports (Handbike, Biathlon
and Nordic Skiing)**

Winner of 21 world championship titles



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Professionalisation – Why

- Performances are improving rapidly
- Growing media attention
- Growing financial expenses
- Improvement of performance can only be achieved by optimizing a large number of components (technological developments, innovations in movement and exercise science, utilization of sport psychology concepts)

The Federal Institute of Sport Science supports the German Paralympic sport in all these areas!

For more information visit: www.bisp-s



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Importance of the Paralympic sport

Significant increases:

- **Support provided by the National Paralympic Committee Germany**
- **Media interest (145 h TV broadcasting of the Paralympics 2016, over 20 million viewers)**
- **Political Appreciation (increasing financial support by the government: 1.5 million Euros more in 2017)**
- **Interest from potential sponsors**

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Talent identification – scouting - development

Increasing requirements influence the scouting and the talent development!

Individual talent depends on the type of disability:

- **Disabilities with limited sporting possibilities (Tetraspastics)**
- **Favourable or unfavourable handicaps for certain sports and sports classes**
- **Some sports exist exclusively for certain handicaps (e.g. Goalball, Rugby)**



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Talent scouting can be approached in different ways.

- disabled children and adolescents
- adults after illness or accidents

**Implementations in Germany:
Day of Talents, Try-outs, Training for talents,
Trainer for talents**

Problems:

- Not enough talent exchange between different Paralympic sports
- Costs of adaptive sports equipment very high, must be available for loan
- Support depends on success
- Talents need support/guidance (often location-dependent)



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Inclusion in sports

Inclusion in sport - each person can choose a sport according to his or her individual preferences and should be empowered to participate independently.

Inclusion:

- **Participation without structural barriers**
- **Participation without communication barriers**
- **Participation without emotional barriers**

Inclusion should be reflected in thinking, acting and language, appreciation and recognition!



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Inclusion in associations – Best practice

International Triathlon Union

Paralympic athletes are well-integrated in international events of the International Triathlon Union (World Cup, World Championships). They start in their own sport classes.

Effects:

- High quality of the events from an organizational point of view
- Increased perception (spectators, media coverage)
- Perception and recognition by non-disabled athletes



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Thank you!

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