

CHAPTER THREE

THE IMPACT OF SPORTS TOURISM  
IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
OF SOME SPANISH CITIES.  
A REVIEW OF THEIR SPORTS AND TOURISM POLICIES

NURIA NEBOT GÓMEZ DE SALAZAR, CELIA LÓPEZ-BRAVO AND  
CARLOS ROSA JIMÉNEZ

**Abstract**

The purpose of this research is to analyse how sports and tourism strategic planning have contributed to the urban and territorial development of some Spanish cities and tourist destinations in the Mediterranean area. This paper delves into the relationship between sports, city design and tourism. To this end, a review has been developed of some of the Spanish urban, tourist and sports policies that incorporate this relationship and may be a reference for other administrations and policies. The work is divided into two approaches: the analysis of integrated sports policies in different Spanish urban areas which include urban conditions, as well as tourist policies with urban and territorial implications. The results obtained from this analysis provide, therefore, information about which are the public spaces that favour informal sports practice, how they influence the visitors and the local population and what is their impact on local economies. From these integrated urban, sports and tourist policies as examples of good practices, a classification of public outdoor spaces that favour informal sports practice is established for urban and natural environments. **Keywords:** informal sports activities, public space, sports policies, tourist policies, urban development.

**1. Introduction**

The classification of the sports activity according to the place where it is carried out distinguishes between formal and informal sports practices. In both cases, the scenario may be the public space. However, the formal practice is always carried out in specific equipment for this sports use, such as the conventional sports facilities or open spaces specifically designed for the practice of a certain sports (sports tracks, skate parks, bike lanes, etcetera). In the case of informal sports activities, these take place in different kind of environments. The characteristics of these environments are analysed in this research in order to understand which are the main conditions that promote the spontaneous appearance of the sports activities on the public space.

This sportive reason for the use of urban space increases the “vitality” of public space, which is a key aspect for the quality of life of a city, and therefore for its tourist attraction. As the urban planner Beltrán Rodríguez states, a network of vital public spaces implies some benefits for cities, such as the increase of social interaction, greater diversity and equity, the increase of social capital, lower crime rate, reinforcement of sense of belonging and sense of community, more attractive places and greater respect for the environment (Beltrán Rodríguez 2016).

From this point of view, a clear relationship between the quality of public urban space, urban planning and sports practice is established. This hypothesis has been argued in previous studies collected in the literature review in the first part of the paper. This relationship can also be identified in the mature tourist environments where sports activities on the public spaces become a strategy to improve and diversify the tourist offer, as well as it is being used to improve and renovate the public urban space and the natural environments of tourist destinations.

In this sense, it is important to study what model of city and public spaces promote sports activities and the arrival of “active” sports visitors to our cities and tourist destinations. With this objective, some sports plans of specific Spanish cities and their urban involvement as well as some tourist policies, planning policies and their sports strategies in mature tourist destinations have been analysed.

## 2. Relationships between Urban Planning, Sports and Health

According to data from the Global Health Observatory (GHO) of the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 80% of the Spanish population in 2020 will live in cities. From a global perspective, it was in 2010 that the WHO encouraged cities to value the urban planning discipline as essential for public health, highlighting the concept of urban health. Some months later, in November of the same year, the World Forum on Urbanization and Health was celebrated in Kobe, Japan. However, there are few policies that highlight the relationship between urban planning and health. The case of the Government of England stands out at the European level. This has a unit (in the National Health System) – the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) – that is dedicated to the study and management of sustainable urban development. Policies that promote sports in the cities strengthen the sense of identity of local communities and promote social cohesion, as shown by Misener and Mason in their study of sporting events (2006).

In the case of Spain, the examples of some Andalusian cities and the case of Barcelona city stand out. The first of them have materialised the obligation to submit certain urban planning instruments for health impact assessment through the approval of Decree 169/2014 of December 9<sup>1</sup>; the second one has also promoted healthy urban development through initiatives such as the Barcelona Institute of Global Health's "Urban Planning, Environment and Health". The objective of this institute is to apply rigorous scientific tests, tools and indicators to enhance healthy environments. Sports strategic plans have been developed in many Spanish cities. These instruments analyse and show, with different levels of success, the current situation of the practice of physical activity in cities as well as collect specific strategies to meet the needs and demands of people in relation to sports activities. The following cases highlight initiatives of the Basque community [A], the Andalusian community [B] and the cities of Madrid [1], Barcelona [2], Valencia [3] and Granada [4]. All case studies correspond to sports policies that promote the relationship between urbanism and sport.

[A] In the case of the Basque Country, although not a strategic plan, the "Mugiment program" (Gobierno Vasco 2018) is very interesting. It is a common initiative of the Department of Education, Language Policy and Culture, Employment and Social Policies and Health of the Basque Government to create a more active society. This programme makes available to a citizen information about the places where people can practice sports through the use of a mobile app (sports facilities of the community are identified and geolocated on a map).

[B] The Andalusia region has developed the Strategic Sports Plan of Andalusia 2008–2016 (Consejería de Educación y Deporte de la Junta de Andalucía 2008) and the Sports Facilities Master Plan. Both of these and the Community Sports Law<sup>2</sup> agree that each municipality must have its own local plan. While virtually all mid-scale municipalities have drawn up a plan, the only provincial capital that has developed this plan is Granada, which will be studied in this article.

[1] Madrid. The initiative "Madrid sports in the street 2017–2018" is being developed within the current Strategic Plan for Sports Base 2013–2020 (Ayuntamiento de Madrid 2013) of the Department of Sports, City of Madrid. This action promotes four activities that can be performed outdoors. One of these activities – the walking action – is included in the European Project "Walking People" in which the Autonomous University of Madrid participates.

[2] Barcelona. Strategic Sports Plan of Barcelona 2012–2022 (Ayuntamiento de Barcelona 2012) is an ambitious project divided into 6 Master Plans. TROBA'T programme includes an action called "Walk the City" that relates sports practice with urban heritage routes, and it proposes an interesting initiative of "Activated Parks", areas in which sports activities take place.

[3] Valencia. After eight years of the last Strategic Plan for Sports 2010 of the Municipal Sports Foundation of Valencia (Fundación Deportiva Municipal de Valencia 2010), this document is still remarkable as an innovative plan which considers not only conventional sports facilities but areas and urban spaces for the practice of sports activities. The River Turia garden acquires a high importance in the sports programme as a sportive infrastructure that crosses the whole city.

[4] Granada. Something similar happens with the Local Sports Facilities Plan of the Department of Sports, City of Granada, 2006 (Concejalía de Deportes Ayuntamiento de Granada 2010). This plan, in addition to planning actions on existing conventional sports facilities or planned facilities (p.10), proposes actions in what it calls "areas of activity" or urban spaces for the practice of sports activities in the city.

Cases [3] and [4] concerning Valencia and Granada, despite having been planned some years ago, represent a new understanding of the city as a container of sports activities and the public space as new sports facility or infrastructure. These plans consider and analyse conventional facilities and urban spaces in the same level of study in order to assess the situation of sports in a particular city. Therefore, they are subsequently analysed in the following part of discussion and results.

---

<sup>1</sup> Decree 169/2014, December 9, which establishes the procedure for Health Impact Assessment of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. Chapter III, Evaluation of the impact on health of urban planning instruments (p. 19).

<sup>2</sup> Law 5/2016, July 19, of Sports in Andalusia.

### 3. Promotion of Tourism related to Sports activity

The relationship between both activities is of great importance as it is written in the collaboration agreement adopted by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1999, in which both institutions stressed the need to coordinate actions and efforts between the two sectors. There are several studies of academic interest that collect and analyse the relationship between tourism and sports (Higham 1999); (Brent and Ritchie 2002). According to the latest data handled by the Spanish Statistical Office, 10.1 million foreign tourists visited Spain for sports reasons in 2016. In the specific case of the Costa del Sol tourist destination, this figure represents 8% of international tourists received (Extremera 2016).

The promotion of tourism linked to the sports offer constitutes a strategic line on the rise. The sports activity is present in many of the Spanish tourism management plans, and it enhances the creation of brands for its promotion: Turismo Deportivo Aragón TDA, Sports Tourism Agenda of Seville, Sport Destination Costa del Sol Plan, etc. In addition to its economic impact (with an annual income of 2,000 million euros from sports tourism according to Tourespaña 2014) and the diversification of the tourist offer, sports allows to promote active tourism destinations, promotes a healthy and respectful tourism and finally, favours the renovation of the public urban space and natural environments in mature destinations as in the case of Costa del Sol.

An active sports tourist is one who visits a place to practice a certain sports. Formal sports are a source of best-known tourist attraction in many cities, either for participation in scheduled events or access to high-performance centres. It is highly increasing the number of travels related to the practice of sports outdoors in attractive areas (trails, greenways, waterways, roads, etc.). In addition, there are statistical data that reveal the potential of sports as a tourist attraction for visitors from other Spanish cities to coastal destinations, which would mean support to avoid the seasonality in these destinations. In the case of the Valencia community, 29.4% of the national tourists who visited it in 2016 carried out sports activities compared to 14% of foreign origin, according to data from the Valencian Tourism Agency. In the same way, some of the main reasons for choosing Costa del Sol as a leisure tourist destination include golf activities and sports events, specifically nautical events and the realisation of routes according to 2015 data of the Tourist Observatory of Costa del Sol (Observatorio turístico Costa del Sol 2015).

Urban and territorial actions developed to promote tourism and active tourism in leisure destinations have resulted in an attraction for tourists as well as for local communities. This is already understood by different administrations, as it can be seen from their tourism policies and sports strategies. Below are some examples of interest in the different levels: [1] state, [2] regional and [3] local level.

[1] At the state level (Table 3-1), the National Horizon 2020 Tourism Plan (Ministerio de Industria Turismo y Comercio del Gobierno de España 2007) develops the main challenges of the Spanish tourism strategies. This establishes the Spanish tourism products to be promoted, and it focuses on the promotion of sports tourism and specifically on the following sports: golf, nautical practice, skiing, health/wellness and rural and active tourism.

**Table 3-1. Main active Tourism [T] and Sports policies [S] and strategies in Spain (National level). (Authors, 2018)**

Plan		Healthy urban [U] or natural [N] environments planning
[T]	National Horizon 2020 Tourism Plan	[N] Develops <b>beaches</b> as tourism infrastructures
		[N] Defends <b>natural resources</b> to promote sports tourism
[S]	National Plan for Physical Activity and Sports (2010–2020)	[U] [N] Considers sports facilities as <b>open public spaces</b>
		[U] [N] Encourages <b>unconventional urban spaces</b> for the practice of physical activity

[2] Within the framework of the autonomous communities (Table 3-2), the tourist planning of the Andalusia region is of great interest. The Strategic Plan of Marketing Tourism Horizon 2020 (Empresa Pública para la Gestión del Turismo y Deporte en Andalucía 2016) establishes a series of actions in line with the General Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Andalusia Horizon 2020 (Andalusia 2016). Both consider the products of active tourism – health/wellness, nature and sports tourism (hiking, cycling, yoga, tennis, golf) – as new fields of opportunity in the diversification of products. Both propose promoting non-seasonal consolidated products such as golf or nature tourism.

**Table 3-2. Main active Tourism [T] and Sports policies [S] and strategies in Andalusia and Basque Country (Autonomous Communities level). (Authors, 2018)**

Plan		Healthy urban [U] or natural [N] environments planning
<b>Andalusia</b>		
[T]	Strategic Plan of Marketing Tourism Horizon 2020	[N] Promotes <b>nature</b> and sports tourism (hiking, cycling, yoga, tennis, golf) as new fields of opportunity in the diversification of products
[T]	General Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Andalusia Horizon 2020	
[S]	Law 5/2016 of Sports of Andalusia	[N] Considers the <b>natural environment</b> as a <b>sports facility</b> when used as a means for sports practice
<b>Basque Country</b>		
[T]	Basque Tourism Strategic Plan 2020	[N] Emphasises <b>sustainability</b> , creates connections with the Department for Environment
[S]	Mugiment Programme	[U] [N] Provides <b>geolocation</b> of sports facilities

Tourism Strategy Conference held in Torremolinos in November 2012 has become a key milestone present throughout the tourism planning process initiated by the Ministry of Tourism and Commerce of Andalusia. Working groups were organised for discussing about major products of the region including a specific group on Sports tourism. The findings of the working group Sports Tourism highlighted the need for innovation to adapt to the new requirements of demand as well as a sustainable approach in the creation, use and management of the supply of sports tourism (Meneses Cabrera 2014).

In the case of the Basque Country, the Basque Tourism Strategic Plan 2020 (Gobierno Vasco 2014) integrates the promotion of active tourism as an initiative linked to business strengthening in order to adapt the current model to new sectors and tourism. Undoubtedly sports tourism contributes to local job creation and support for small businesses. An example is the case of the Aragonese Association of Sports Tourism, TDA (Turismo Deportivo Aragón, n.d.). This association integrates a network of more than 40 companies of the three Aragonese provinces, and it develops more than 40 different sports activities. Its web platform is very innovative and allows the user to access the type of sports activities by geographic area or by type of activity (water, snow, terrain and air).

[3] At the local level two case studies, the city of Barcelona and the Costa del Sol mature destination, are proposed (Table 3-3). The interest of both cases is based in the approach to tourism planning, focusing not only on promoting and attracting a number of tourists but other aspects and implications such as spatial, social or mobility among others. The document Tourism Barcelona 2020, a collective strategy for sustainable tourism (Arias 2017), is a reference document. This strategic plan addresses, according to the report, the key challenge for managing the tourist city instead of managing the tourism in the city. One of the most interesting approaches is the fact of relating tourism and territorial strategy of the city. Barcelona's plan promotes actions – such as to enhance the sports agenda – linked to economic local development and territorial management.

Finally, the case study of Costa del Sol as a tourist destination in Spain, include the Tourism Retraining Plan Costa del Sol, Qualifica Plan (Andalucía 2007) the first plan of tourist regeneration at the international level. It has promoted diversification and product differentiation, specifically, with the creation of complementary active tourism. The plan considers the promotion of sports tourism facilities and the promotion of emerging products such as health tourism. One of the major contributions of this strategic plan is to work on the territorial, urban and infrastructural level (p. 71), addressing tourism development from a complex approach where tourism growth is compatible with other uses and activities. It is not a question of improving the supply quantitatively but rather of raising the overall quality of actions as a whole. Therefore, given the nature of innovation of this plan along with other actions and initiatives developed in the tourism area, it is proposed as a case study for discussion in the following section.

**Table 3-3. Main active Tourism [T] and Sports policies [S] and strategies in Barcelona and Costa del Sol (Local level). (Authors, 2018)**

Plan		Healthy urban [U] or natural [N] environments planning
<b>Barcelona</b>		
[T]	Tourism Barcelona 2020	[U] Manages the tourist city instead of managing the tourism in the city
[T]	Strategic Sports Plan of Barcelona (2012–2022)	[U] Promotes sports in green public spaces
		[U] Promotes joining sports and urban heritage
<b>Costa del Sol</b>		
[T]	Tourism Retraining Plan <i>Costa del Sol, Qualifica</i>	[U] [N] Prefers renovation than expansion
		[U] [N] Promotes not territorial extension
		[U] [N] Revitalises city centres
[S]	Local Plan of Sports Facilities	-

#### 4. Aims and methods

The main objective of this research is to delve into the relationship between sports, city design and tourism. To this end, a review has been developed of some of the Spanish urban, tourist and sports policies that incorporate this relationship and may be a reference for other administrations and policies. Sports policies and tourism policies which include urban conditions have been identified and analysed.

The review of the urban content of the most interesting strategic plans and sports policies in Spain has led us to study the cases of sports plans of the autonomous communities of the Basque Country and Andalusia, as well as some cities such as Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Granada. From this first review, the objective is focused in two contrasting cases: Valencia as a “venue” city and Granada as a cultural city. From the tourism point of view, the analysis has been developed in three different scales: the Spanish national scale with the National Plan Horizonte 2020, the autonomous one through the cases of Andalusia and the Basque Country, and the local one emphasising the tourist places of Barcelona and the Costa del Sol area (Malaga).

The results obtained from this analysis provide, therefore, information about which are the public spaces that favour informal sports practice, how they influence the visitors and the local population and what is their impact on local economies. From these first integrated urban, sports and tourist policies as examples of good practices and from the results obtained from the analysis in Malaga coastal area, a classification of public outdoor spaces that favour informal sports practice is established for urban and natural environments.

### 5. Towards integrated policies for sports, tourism and urban design

#### 5.1. Sports policies and urban conditions

The study of non-conventional sports facilities mentioned above in the cases of the strategic sports plans of Valencia and Granada encloses all those spaces that favour the outdoor exercise of sports, usually made in places of public property where local administrations are responsible of maintenance as they do not have fixed management personnel like conventional sports facilities. The specific case of the city of Granada even refers to the concept of “system” when mentioning sports facilities of different nature within the city (Concejalía de Deportes Ayuntamiento de Granada 2010). This means the local administration and its sports plan consider the territorial component at the time of analysing the city. Specifically, it differentiates the current status and the proposal of its sports facilities, distinguishing between Conventional Sports Facilities and Non-Conventional Sports Facilities. It also establishes a classification in Singular Installations and the Activity Areas for this practise.

The organisation of the Singular Sports Facilities duplicates the organisation made for the Conventional Facilities, focusing its objectives on the integration of this type of facilities in the public spaces of the city, as well

as promoting the use of the physical environment for the practice of specific activities. These facilities, both existing and scheduled, include skating areas and circuits located on boulevards, ring roads, canals and bike lanes.

The Organisation of Sports Activity Areas is established based on their classification according to types, characteristics, urban or rural location, etcetera; the existing areas of activity and those that have been programmed are analysed, even when they go beyond the municipal boundaries. Both types are divided into equipped or not equipped. The existing Urban Activity Areas include urban parks and boulevards. Outside urban areas include “peri-urban” parks, trails and outdoor spaces of a linear nature.

The territorial implication of this System of Facilities translates into a great connection of planned equipment with the urban and metropolitan public spaces, influencing the creation and development of new zones of the visitors reception center and of new tourist strategies. With the exception of very few public spaces, most of these facilities are located outside the historic city centre, which implies a diversification of attractiveness in less congested areas where, in many cases, the treatment of public space has been less cared about. These actions promote the accessibility of these areas and their tourism management motivated by the empowerment and qualification of their public space.

At the same time, it is observed that, in the search for a dynamic tourist model for Granada, the Tourism Plan of the city – led by the Junta de Andalucía, the City Council and the Provincial Federation of Hospitallers – advocates the establishment of cultural routes and historical paths, as well as for the empowerment of the lesser-known areas of the city. These routes are also used as tools to address the problems of tourist flows suffered by the city.

In the case of Valencia City, infrastructures for large sports events have been an important factor of urban and tourist development. The city has developed up to 16 infrastructures, including stadiums, large pavilions and unique spaces supported by the Sport Strategic Plan of the City of Valencia (Fundación Deportiva Municipal de Valencia 2010) which have involved large urban operations. If the cultural reference of Granada city (the greatest sporting attraction is located in the Sierra Nevada area) has focused on a sports strategy based on small public performances, Valencia has followed an urban policy trying to differentiate itself under the slogan “city show” based on the celebration of important sports events. The consolidation of a brand or image of the city had as its main character the Turia River, the sports infrastructure with the longest route in the city due to the change of the course of the river. The main objective of these investments has been to turn it into a sports tourism destination under the control of the city of Barcelona (Del Romero Renau 2010).

In this way, the renovation of the environment of the port on the occasion of the America’s Cup meant the renovation of this degraded urban layout. This operation was quite controversial due to the use of public funds for the practise of a sports activity reserved for a very specific public of high purchasing status. The “opening” of the port was led by the privatisation of part of the land and the exclusion of the nearby neighbourhoods of Cabanyal and Malvarrosa. These areas of the city had serious problems of social exclusion, crime and a lack of qualified public spaces, so the need for urban renovation was clear. However, even though the sports event has been held twice, the area became semi-abandoned, and a strategic plan was drawn up. This plan involved renting the infrastructures in the form of concession and rental regime that would reduce the Valencian Administration’s debt after the huge urban operation. All these conditions show the need to understand and think these great sports events from the local population’s interests, not only for the visitors’ ones. In many cases, these infrastructures are abandoned instead of being incorporated as a qualified public space within the city.

## **5.2. Integrated Tourism policies and natural landscape**

The study of Costa del Sol as a destination of a major tourist and sports development at the same time make this place a learning and testing laboratory which enables conclusions to be drawn regarding the territorial, economic and social implications of sports and active tourism. Tourism development is backed by 10.6 million tourists received in 2015, according to data provided by the Provincial Tourism Board. Regarding its sports development, Costa del Sol is, for many years now, a leading tourist destination for golf, but it has also much experience in managing nautical tourism and recreation. Currently Costa del Sol is a candidate for European Community Sport, an award given only to those sites that promote sports. The interest in this sports development is evident as it can be seen in the renewal of brands such as Sports Plan Malaga destination that promotes sports market destinations.

The Qualifica Plan, a Retraining Programme of destinations on the Costa del Sol of Andalusia (Andalucía 2007), is committed to a new model based on renovation against new extension – supporting an economic development but not territorial extension. One of the premises is to coordinate with other figures and plans affecting planning and land management as the Costa del Sol Occidental Territorial Plan (Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía 2018) which will be discussed later. The Qualifica Plan highlights two strategies: [1] to revitalise the city centres and tourist areas for their ability to generate activity and new facilities and [2] to diversify and differentiate tourism products providing new values such as active tourism and sports among others.

[1] The first of the strategies includes landscape integration policies in the area through renovation programmes

on river parks, for example. It also includes policies for the renovation of beaches, through programmes on maritime corridors and programmes for promoting landscape trails or bike lanes. Finally, it enhances the renovation of urban spaces. From these actions, it can be identified how most of the proposed actions are located on the coastal strip, in natural environments such as the rivers, as well as in the urban environments of the municipalities. Interventions in natural areas are highlighted such as the riverside park of Fuengirola River, a river park in the town in which sports and leisure facilities have been built, allowing navigation of small boats on a stretch of 1 km as well as other sporting activities, trips, bike paths, etcetera. This place is now used by the local population and tourists, and it has become a performance reference that could be followed in other rivers of the coast and have a direct social benefit.

[2] The second strategy is aimed at product diversification with new values such as creating complementary services related to active and sports tourism. Tourist sports facilities are planned – allocating nearly 10% of the budget for the development of the plan – as well as some emerging products such as creating a golf school, golf club products and marine activities (Andalucía 2007). The most relevant territorial planning within the area of study is the Master Plan of Costa del Sol, POTCSO (Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía 2018) in the process of being approved, after the annulment of the previous plan by the Supreme Court in 2015. Coordination mechanisms have been established between this Master Plan and the previously mentioned Tourist Renovation Plan for reaching common goals and strategies.

Some of these strategies can be found in the current draft plan which has maintained the main ideas of the previous one, such as creating a coastline corridor or consolidating the water paths along the coast. The proposal map included in the Master Plan includes a project for a territorial green system in which the main elements constitute the coastal corridor, water roads, parks outside the city and recreational trails. It also proposes a system of facilities outside the urban areas with a large number of sports complexes.

It is worth referring to the project of the Coastal Path of the province of Malaga, led by Malaga Provincial Council, which aims to connect the entire coast of the province, over 180 km. This connection will link the existing structures (boardwalks, paths and trails) and build new connections. The “Senda” itself is an important tourist resource that connects areas of high natural and heritage value (connects up to 42 watchtowers along the coast or the Phoenician deposits of Velez Malaga), and it has already become a sports infrastructure of great success in terms of visitors. The coastal path project includes as an important objective to make an economic impact and to enable local employment. A study of the Provincial Government indicates that the operation of the infrastructure can provide 270 jobs every year. In addition, it has already allowed the renovation of public spaces of great natural value for both tourists and residents.

### 5.3. Informal Sports and Public Spaces

Informal sports practice is, generally, an activity of local citizens. However recently, some places arouse the interest not only of citizens but also of visitors, because of their heritage, cultural or environmental values. These are called active tourists. The results of the analysis of integrated urban and sports tourism policies confirm some of the conclusions gathered in the study of Magrinya and Mayorga (2008) on the main public spaces likely to become informal sports facilities and at the same time add some new areas for spontaneous sports activity. Two main categories have been established distinguishing between urban and natural environments.

In the urban environment, six kind of public spaces have been characterised: parks, squares, road infrastructure, areas around sports facilities, abandoned areas and heritage routes. In coastal natural areas, another six types of environments are distinguished: beaches, seafront promenades, river parks, trails, natural parks and heritage routes as described below.

In the urban environments:

- The park. It is the central element for spontaneous urban sports practice. Parks can associate the possibilities of the square and the formal sports facilities due to their configuration of public outdoor spaces. They can also improve environmental quality caused by the use of vegetation.
- The square. According to their nature as hard or soft squares (depending on the materials used in their design), the squares are places that can host active and passive activities, where locals and visitors can meet each other. Depending on their design, they usually accommodate sports activities at their central space and other passive ones like walking or resting on their perimeter area.
- The road infrastructure. This type of element has the ability, according to its longitudinal, branched or circular morphology, to boost physical activity around it. It is usually associated to its longitudinal dimension (running) and to the residual spaces related to the ring roads depending on their accessibility (improvised skateparks).
- The environment of sports facilities. The sports spaces are usually attractors of other spaces of sports practices around them (volleyball, basketball, BMX circuits, etc.).

- The abandoned space. Spontaneous appropriation of disused spaces is a common practice as a result of the lack of qualified public space in some areas such as historic city centres. The sports uses usually appear in empty plots, riverbeds (not occupied by water), parking lots, arcades without use, zones of new construction not yet inhabited, etc.
- The heritage itinerary. Cultural heritage assets become a factor of attraction for the development of physical activities like walking or running. The banks of the rivers, the maritime borders or the monumental routes and appropriately connected historical sites promote the use of public space as a sports space associated with the image of the city. This appeal has been used by many municipal sports policies, as seen in the cases of Barcelona or Madrid in previous sections of this paper.

In the natural environments of the coast (such as coastal tourist destinations):

- The beaches. They become important centres of sports activity in the tourist destinations of the coast; their size, materiality and the presence of the sea promote a wide variety of activities either on the sand, such as volleyball, soccer, shovels, or running, or on the water, such as sailing, surfing, wind surfing, diving and others.
- The seafront. It is the most important public space in coastal tourist destinations as it becomes the place where local population and visitors can meet. Its configuration as a space of relationship and proximity to the sea make it a very attractive place for sports such as skating, walking, running, etc..
- The river parks. The environmental quality of these areas, as well as their linear character make these main sports infrastructures very comfortable for walking, running or as a bike path. Some of them also allow the practice of water sports such as sailing, canoeing, etcetera.
- The trails. In the same way as in the case of the road infrastructure, its longitudinal condition and the environmental and natural quality of its routes encourage physical activity and active tourism.
- Natural parks. Exceptional environments for sports and outdoor activities in general. They allow the promotion of nature tourism and active tourism.
- Routes of environmental and/or cultural heritage interest.

These typologies of public spaces in both urban and natural environments are used in a different way by the local citizen and by active and passive tourism. Some of them are configured as meeting points of the different users. All of them favour the practice of informal sports activities as elements of a sports infrastructure and social relations system.

## 6. Conclusions

The review of the main tourism-sports policies in Spain shows a timid panorama when it comes to integrating urban and territorial aspects in tourism and sports planning to which regional and local initiatives have been progressively added. The study highlights some of these integrative policies as references, in the future, for administrations and institutions that address the necessary interrelation between the city, sports and tourism. Case studies such as the city of Granada or Valencia are a sample of the benefits that these policies provide to urban environments, tourists and especially to local communities.

With regard to the future of urban planning in Spain, there is no doubt about the importance of tourism as an essential economic sector to which sports seems to join in some destinations, diversifying the existing tourist offer and perhaps as an alternative to overloaded urban centres. In destinations with high tourism development, such as the Costa del Sol case study in Malaga, it is important to reconcile interests and objectives of urban and territorial planning with tourism strategies and measures to be implemented.

The detection of urban elements and natural environments that can be used for informal sports practices gives clues about the future of sports and urban planning in Spanish cities. Although it depends on numerous factors such as topography or climate characteristic of each city, this exercise gives rise to common concepts such as infrastructure, green space, border space, connectivity, water elements, urban voids, etc.

## Acknowledgements

This research has been supported by the Strategic Chair of Emerging Technologies for Citizenship, University of Malaga and Malaga's Town Hall. It has also been supported by the Institute Habitat, Tourism and Territory from the University of Malaga and Polytechnic University of Cataluña.

## Declaration of interest statement

This research has been developed by the authors inside the framework of the Institute Habitat, Tourism and Territory, IHTT. It has been presented at the International Research Network in Sport Tourism Conference (IRNIST) at Lille in 2018.

## References

- Andalucía, Consejería de Turismo y Deporte/Junta de. 2016. 'Plan General de Turismo Sostenible En Andalucía'. 2016.  
<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/PGTSAH 2020 Volumen II Consejo Gobierno.pdf>.
- Andalucía, Consejería de Turismo y Deporte de la Junta de. 2007. 'Programa de Recualificación de Destinos En La Costa Del Sol Occidental de Andalucía'. 2007.  
[https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/web/Bloques\\_Tematicos/Calidad\\_Ambiental/Prevencion\\_Ambiental/evaluacion\\_ambiental\\_planes\\_y\\_programas/maplanqualifica.pdf](https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/web/Bloques_Tematicos/Calidad_Ambiental/Prevencion_Ambiental/evaluacion_ambiental_planes_y_programas/maplanqualifica.pdf).
- Arias, Albert. 2017. 'Turismo 2020 Barcelona. Una Estrategia Colectiva Para Un Turismo Sostenible'. 2017.  
[https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/turisme/sites/default/files/turismo\\_2020\\_barcelona.pdf](https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/turisme/sites/default/files/turismo_2020_barcelona.pdf).
- Ayuntamiento de Barcelona. 2012. 'Plan Estratégico Del Deporte de Barcelona 2012-2022'. Barcelona.  
<http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/esports/es/observatorio-del-deporte-y-de-la-actividad-fisica-de-barcelona>.
- Ayuntamiento de Madrid. 2013. 'Plan Estratégico Para El Fomento Del Deporte de Base 2013-2020'. Madrid.  
[http://www.madrid.es/UnidadesDescentralizadas/UDCMedios/noticias/2013/11Noviembre/27Miercoles/No\\_tasprensa/Deporte/ficheros/J Plan Estratégico del Deporte Base 2013-2020.pdf](http://www.madrid.es/UnidadesDescentralizadas/UDCMedios/noticias/2013/11Noviembre/27Miercoles/No_tasprensa/Deporte/ficheros/J Plan Estratégico del Deporte Base 2013-2020.pdf).
- Beltrán Rodríguez, María. 2016. 'La Importancia de La Vitalidad Urbana'. *Ciudades: Revista Del Instituto Universitario de Urbanística de La Universidad de Valladolid* 19: 217–35.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.24197/ciudades.19.2016.217-235>.
- Brent, Daryl, and Adair Ritchie. 2002. 'The Growing Recognition of Sport Tourism'. *Current Issues in Tourism* 5 (1): 1–6. <https://doi.org/The Growing Recognition of Sport Tourism>.
- Concejalía de Deportes Ayuntamiento de Granada. 2010. 'Plan Director de Instalaciones Deportivas Granada'. Granada, Spain.  
<http://www.pmdgranada.es/?seccion=planificacion&pagina=planlocal>.
- Consejería de Educación y Deporte de la Junta de Andalucía. 2008. 'Plan Estratégico General Del Deporte de Andalucía 2008-2016'. <http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/educacion/consejeria/sobre-consejeria/planes/detalle/11740.html>.
- Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio de la Junta de Andalucía. 2018. 'Plan de Ordenación de La Costa Del Sol Occidental. Borrador o Programa'. Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Conservación Del Territorio. Junta de Andalucía. 2018.  
[http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal\\_web/web/temas\\_ambientales/evaluacion\\_integracion\\_planificacion/evaluacion\\_ambiental/evaluacion\\_planes\\_programas/planes\\_ordenacion\\_territorio/plan\\_or\\_denacion\\_territorio\\_costa\\_occ\\_malaga/borrador.pdf](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/medioambiente/portal_web/web/temas_ambientales/evaluacion_integracion_planificacion/evaluacion_ambiental/evaluacion_planes_programas/planes_ordenacion_territorio/plan_or_denacion_territorio_costa_occ_malaga/borrador.pdf).
- Empresa Pública para la Gestión del Turismo y Deporte en Andalucía. 2016. 'Plan Estratégico de Marketing Turístico Horizonte 2020'. 2016.  
<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/turismoydeporte/export/sites/ctc/.galleries/Planificacion/Plan-marketing-turistico-2020-12012017.pdf>.
- Extremera, Fran. 2016. 'El Turismo Deportivo Ya Genera El 8% de Las Visitas Foráneas a La Costa Del Sol'. *La Opinión de Málaga*.
- Fundación Deportiva Municipal de Valencia. 2010. 'Plan Estratégico Del Deporte de Valencia'. Valencia.  
<http://www.fdmvalencia.es/es/la-fundacion/documentos-legales/plan-estrategico/>.
- Gobierno Vasco. 2014. 'Plan Estratégico Turismo Vasco 2020'. 2014.  
[https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/uploads/attachments/4680/Plan\\_Estrategico\\_Turismo\\_Vasco\\_2020.pdf?1401262827](https://www.irekia.euskadi.eus/uploads/attachments/4680/Plan_Estrategico_Turismo_Vasco_2020.pdf?1401262827).
- . 2018. 'Mugiment: Proyecto Para Lograr Una Sociedad Vasca Activa'. 2018.  
<https://www.euskadi.eus/salud-deporte/web01-a2kirola/es/>.
- Higham, James. 1999. 'Commentary - Sport as an Avenue of Tourism Development: An Analysis of the Positive and Negative Impacts of Sport Tourism'. *Current Issues in Tourism* 2 (1): 82–90.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/13683509908667845>.
- Magrinyà, Francesc, and Miguel Y. Mayorga. 2008. 'Diseñar La Ciudad Para El Deporte En Los Espacios Públicos'. *Apunts. Educación Física y Deportes* 1 (91): 102–13.  
<https://www.raco.cat/index.php/ApuntsEFD/article/view/300084>.
- Meneses Cabrera, Cristina. 2014. 'Plan Calidad Turística de Andalucía 2014 2020'. 2014.  
<http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/turismoycomercio/publicaciones/143472232.pdf>.
- Ministerio de Industria Turismo y Comercio del Gobierno de España. 2007. 'Plan Nacional de Turismo Horizonte 2020'. <http://www.tourspain.es/es-es/VDE/Documentos Vision Destino>.

- Misener, Laura, and Daniel S. Mason. 2006. 'Developing Local Citizenship through Sporting Events: Balancing Community Involvement and Tourism Development'. *Current Issues in Tourism* 9 (4-5): 384-98. <https://doi.org/10.2167/cit263.0>.
- Observatorio turístico Costa del Sol. 2015. 'Observatorio Turístico de La Costa Del Sol- Málaga 2015'. Malaga.
- Romero Renau, Luis Del. 2010. 'Dos Décadas de Urbanismo-Espectáculo En España: Los Grandes Eventos Como Motor de Cambio Urbano'. *Boletín de La Asociación de Geógrafos Españoles* 53: 309-27. <https://bage.age-geografia.es/ojs/index.php/bage/article/view/1203>.
- Turismo Deportivo Aragón. n.d. 'Asociacion Aragonesa de Empresas de Turismo Deportivo'. <http://www.tdaragon.com/es/inicio>.