



WINTER SPORT CAMPS

GUIDE FOR ORGANIZERS



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INTRODUCTION

The main aim of the project “Winter Sport is Coming” was to promote winter sports as physical activity and as an educational tool to support social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, and European citizenship among young people from different backgrounds by developing and implementing Winter Sports Camps. From a long-term perspective, the project aims to increase the participation of young people in Winter Sports.

This publication is one of the output of the project, illustrating the project, the methodologies used as well as good practices collected from other sport organisations. It provides examples and models for other NGOs and Sport organizations how to organize winter sport camps for young people with fewer opportunities and promote winter sports.

There were several activities and meetings during the project duration:

- kick-off meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia (April 2019)
- research on existing national and European Winter Sports good practices (May-August 2019)
- preparation of Winter Sports Camps (September – November 2019)
- mid-term meeting in Italy (November 2019)
- Winter Sports Camp in each country (January – March 2020, February – April 2021)
- preparation of publication (February – June 2021)
- final meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria (June 2021)

Main activities of the project were Winter Sport Camps. We created and organized various models of Winter Sports Camp in 4 countries for different target groups. Camps include elements of non-formal education methods and can be implemented by other sports organizations in the future. The description of the camps and our recommendations for future camps are in the chapter 1. We have also identified and analyzed good practices in this field - winter sports camps organized in the past in the countries of the organizations involved in this project (Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Slovakia) and other EU countries. Good practices can be found in the chapter 2.

The project was developed by the partnership of organisations from Slovakia, Italy, Bulgaria and Croatia.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECT:

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SLOVAKIA



INTRODUCTION ABOUT WINTER SPORTS

There are currently around 100 open ski resorts during the winter season / depends on the year and snow conditions. Most of them are located in the north part of Slovakia in the High Tatras, Low Tatras or National parks Velka and Mala Fatra.

The best known and the largest ski areas are Tatranska Lomnica, Jasna, Strbske pleso, Rohace – Spalena Dolina, Vratna Free time Zone, Velka Raca Oscadnica, Park Snow Donovaly, Martinké Hole, Malino Brdo, Bachledka Ski & Fun, Ski park Kubinska Hola, Jahodná, Šachtičky and many others.

Due to quite good possibilities – either many ski areas or geographical and weather conditions – there is generally quite high interest among the public to practice winter sports – particularly sledding among kids and skiing among youth and adults.

There is at least 1 ski camp organized during the elementary school (in the age of 12-13 usually) and 1 during the high school.

Slovak government introduced in 2015 new regulation to encourage kids' physical activity, particularly those from socially disadvantaged families. There is a 150 eur contribution for each kid that wants to participate in ski or snowboarding camp. In last 3 years, around 271 thousand of kids got this possibility and it was around 41,3 million spent from the government budget. This measure contributes to equal chances to try practice winter sport and increases the incomes of the hotels and hospitality industry and general tourism in Slovakia.

Another financing instrument for tourism development was introduced by the government last year and is intended for long-term employees in larger companies or institutions that can get 55% of their vacation in Slovakia reimbursed by the employer (e.g., 500 eur for accommodation spent – 275 eur will be reimbursed afterward). This measure can also influence the decisions of Slovaks to spend winter vacation and practice winter sports in Slovakia.

In addition, some schools or centers of leisure time activities in the municipalities where are suitable snow conditions also organize ski courses after school.

However, young people get the introduction and the possibility to try during those ski courses, but many stop practicing after. We realized the survey and collected 77 responses from young people between 16 – 30 years old. Almost all of them - 76 tried some winter sport before – mostly skiing, ice skating or sledding and 74% participated in skiing camp before either during elementary or high school. However, only 63% keep practice some winter sport regularly (skiing or snowboarding).

78% of respondents would like to participate in some winter sports camp in the future and to learn the various sport, e.g., snowboarding (28 votes), skiing (25), cross-country skiing (8), hockey (6), ice skating (5), ski touring (4), curling (2), sledding (2), dog sledding (1), biathlon (1). We also found out that they would be willing to spend between 100 – 500 eur for one week of winter sports camp – on average 216 eur.

Therefore, we see the need and potential to organize winter sports camps due to not enough opportunities to learn other winter sports, due to the camps organized only for kids and youth in the schools. In addition, there were several Facebook groups created recently where people search for friends/partners to practice winter sports with / to travel together, share costs, accommodation and time together.

DESCRIPTION OF WINTER SPORT CAMP

Winter Sports Camp for 20 people between 18-35 years old – foreigners living in Slovakia and Slovaks together was organized in March 2020. It was several days event, where participants learned skiing and snowboarding together.

The aim of the event was to allow participants to meet people from different backgrounds, countries, and cultures living in Slovakia and learn various winter sports together. Learning the winter sports was based on mutual sharing and exchange of knowledge since most of the locals know at least the basics of those sports. Besides learning winter sports, in the afternoons, they had various getting-know each other activities, teambuilding games, interactive competitions, building a snowman, hiking trip and exploring nearby nature. In the evenings, they had an opportunity to explore each-others music, dances or food and drinks. Winter Sports Camp was one of the activities of the project “Winter Sport is coming”.

Winter Sports – skiing and snowboarding are among the most popular sports for Slovaks and are an essential aspect of our culture. Thus, the idea to enhance intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and foster rejection of stereotypes through Winter Sports were very unique and efficient. It allowed to create positive interaction and cooperation among young people from different backgrounds to contrast the roots of discrimination and racism phenomena and reinforce interpersonal skills like fair-play, equality, or teamwork.

The project aimed to fill an existing vacuum in using Winter Sports as a tool for inclusion. The main innovative feature compare to other existing practices lies in focus on Winter Sports as tools of education, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue for the youth. This example can be used and multiplied by other entities either as one day or several days event.

Very positive feedback from participants gained through anonymous questionnaires or public reviews on social media make us encouraged to organize similar camps in the future.

“First time on a Project organized by ADEL and I absolutely recommend it. “Winter Sports Camp” was an incredible experience with amazing trainers, organizers and people.” Jess

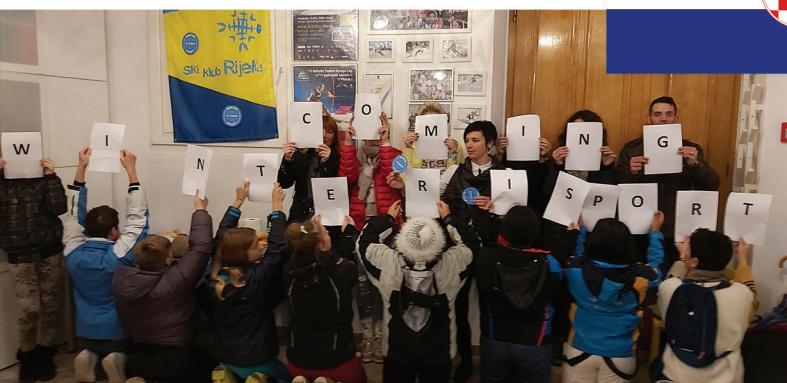
„Getting to know new people and learning how to snowboard/ski was an unforgettable experience in Krpacovo – Nizke Tatry. a big THANK YOU ADEL Slovakia for making this possible. Not only did I make new friends, but also got to get away from the everyday-life stress and relax as I enjoyed the company of amazingly talented people. As a foreigner living in Slovakia got to say 10/10 super recommended! Can't wait for future projects! “ Andres

„Recently I've joined winter sports camp organized by “ADEL Slovakia” in Low Tatras, TBH the experience was so much better than I expected!! In 4 days only thanks to the teachers “Vlada, Viliam and Juraj, I learned how to Ski and snowboard . BIG THANKS to everyone behind this project and I hope to see you guys again in another opportunity.” Adel



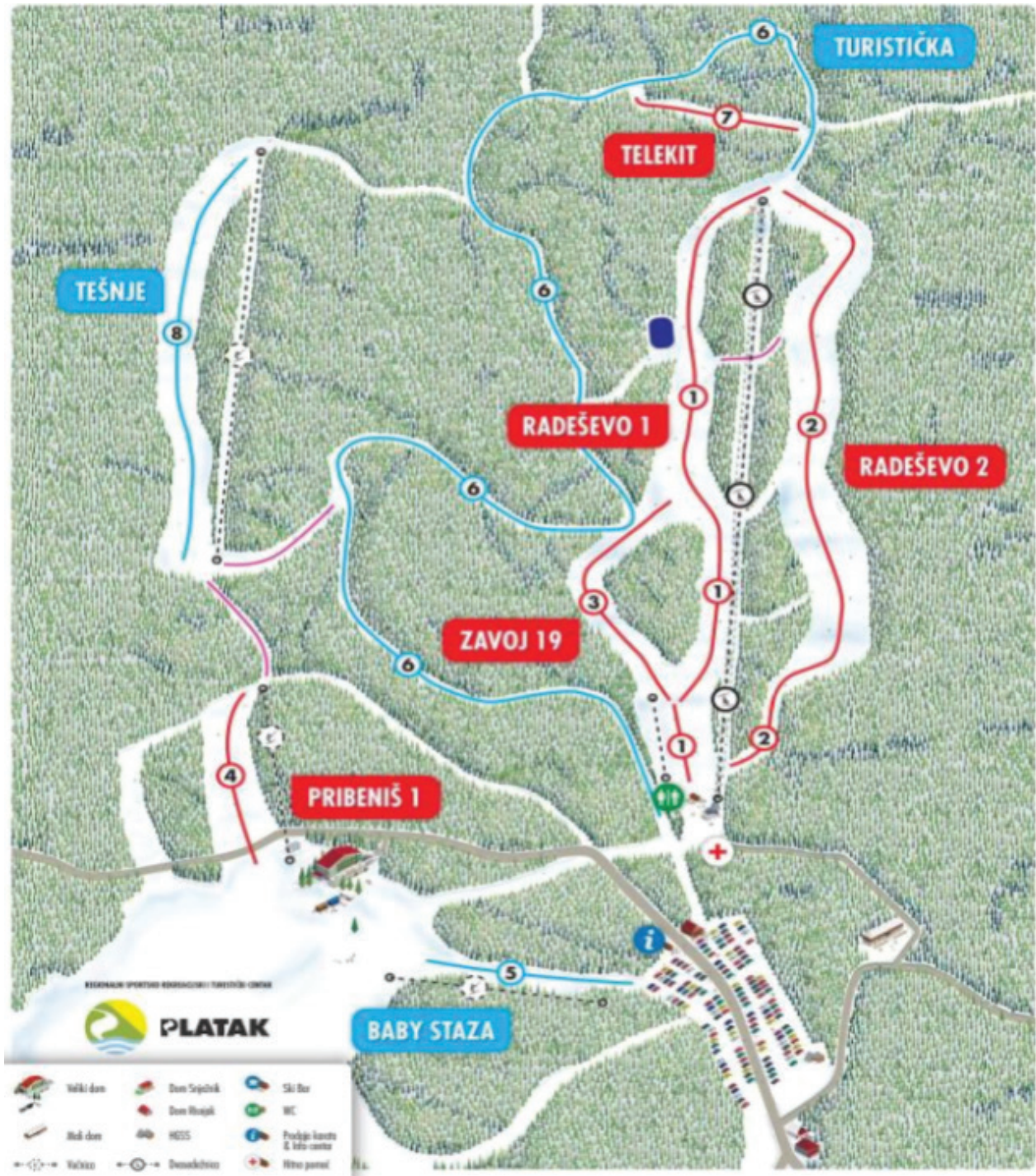


CROATIA



INTRODUCTION ABOUT WINTER SPORTS

Croatia's main ski areas are Sljeme and Platak. The camps are usually organized on Platak, a small family ski resort located near Rijeka, in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. From the top of the ski lift (1363 meters), you can enjoy the stunning views of the Adriatic Sea and islands of Krk, Cres and Lošinj. The ski resort is located in northern Croatia, east of Rijeka, and provides 8km of fairly groomed pistes and offers many opportunities for recreation and relaxation throughout the year.



Ski lifts: 1 chairlift for 2pers., length 910 m, 3 J-bar lift : 270m, 360m, 620m. Top lift: 1363m
Vertical drop: 252m. Bottom lift: 1111 m; Terrain Parks: 1; X-Country: 10km

In a pleasant renovated ski center Platač, children enjoy a well-balanced and safe holiday experience, which allows them to master skiing. Children will feel comfortable and well looked after by highly qualified, some are former ski race, competitive staff.

More information about the resort:

<http://platak.hr/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHSI08fFTpY&feature=youtu.be>

The biggest weakness is the low altitude of the ski resort; however enough is invested in infrastructure, and we expect more ski days next winter seasons.

There is generally high interest in youth and kids in our region. From 35 respondents, only 8 of them have not dealt with any snow sports yet, and 28 of them often practice sports in the winter and the same number of respondents would gladly participate in winter sports camps. Respondents provided different responses in price, with the range of 60 to 300 eur per person, which is the amount they are willing to pay.

In the region, the leading and the only ones dealing with the topic are the following winter sports clubs: SkiGuru, ERIK ski school, Little Ant, DIVER, CARVING Club, RI FUN ski and snowboard club. There are other clubs which are not so active. In the following few pages, we describe some of them more into details.

DESCRIPTION OF WINTER SPORT CAMP

Rijeka Ski Club organized a ski school on Platak for those who can least afford sports activities like skiing. 13 children attended the ski school. With the Center for the Culture of Dialogue and its leader Sandra Grozdanov, cooperation was provided. A targeted group of children was ensured, primarily those living in poor socio-economic conditions and unable to afford sports and recreational activities such as skiing. Through a five-day stay at Platak and a ski school, children did have the opportunity to develop motor skills, stay in the snow, learn to ski and strengthen their confidence, all with the instructors and professors of kinesiology from the Rijeka Ski Club.

Departure was from Rijeka at 8:00 in front of the Ski Club Rijeka, arriving on Platak 8:30, renting and inspecting equipment. Duration of ski school from 9:30 to 14:30 (5 hours). Lunch 2:30 pm-3:30pm. Rental of equipment. Last day organization and skiing competition on the Radeševo ski lane. Competition duration 50 min. The rest of the day exercising a ski technique.

The program includes transportation between Rijeka and Platak – Rijeka, all-day skiing school, ski pass, equipment rental, final sports competition, graduation, full board at the boarding house, breakfast, lunch and dinner, supervision, guiding and organizing trips. We have provided complete ski equipment for children from the financial assistance of this project.

We had a chance to take the kids to the Ski World Cup competition in Croatia, called the Audi FIS Ski World Cup “Snow Queen Trophy” 2020, which took place at the Sljeme Ski Resort in Zagreb, on Saturday 04 January 2020, in the slalom for women, and on Sunday, 05 January 2020, in the slalom for men. Member of our ski club “Rijeka” representative Ida Štimac participated in the competition, so the experience was even more fabulous!





BULGARIA



INTRODUCTION ABOUT WINTER SPORTS

Bulgaria is a country with traditions in winter sports and is among the popular European destinations for winter tourism. The country has several ski areas which offer excellent conditions for skiing, snowboarding, ski running and other winter sports. The total length of the ski slopes in Bulgaria exceeds 210 kilometers. All ski runs are equipped with modern chair and cabin lifts, as well as tow lifts. Bulgarian winter resorts have always been a popular destination for skiing and other winter sports. We have 60 ski zones and resorts, primarily situated in the high mountain's parts of Rila, Pirin, Rhodope and Stara Planina mountains. Our most popular ski resorts with good ski infrastructure are located in Rila, Pirin and Rhodope mountains. The main ski areas are Bansko, Pamporovo, Chepelare, Borovets and Vitosha. The highest slopes have a height of 2,600 meters above sea level, and the maximum displacement reaches 1,630 meters. The facilities and the developed infrastructure of the complexes guarantee excellent conditions for sports throughout the active winter season, which is usually from December to the beginning of April. The most significant benefit of Vitosha mountain's ski zones is that they are situated very close to the Bulgarian capital-Sofia and you can even reach it with public transportation from the city center. Due to that fact, many people are interested in practicing ski and other winter sports. Bulgaria's most popular winter sports are: ski, snowboard, cross-country, backcountry skiing, free-style/freeride ski and snowboard. The biggest ski resorts are situated in National parks and due to that fact, it is difficult to renovate and upgrade the facilities because of ecological measures and the government is trying to develop sustainability by changing the law.

In Bulgaria, there are many opportunities for children to learn to ski. Almost every kindergarten, school and university are providing courses and camps in the mountains. During the past few years, Bulgaria has had a problem with overweight children and working people. According to the government's statistics, only 6% of the working Bulgarian citizens practice some sport.

The Bulgarian government is looking for a solution to the problem by developing a program for solving the issue in the period 2017-2021, measures taken by the National program for reforms in implementing the strategy "Europe 2020". Also, the perception of the role of the sport like an essential factor for human progress and the indispensability to make it possible for people to practice sports. The target of the politic in this sector is the gradual integration of different social and age groups to the active and healthy life. The children and young people, including disabled people and children, have priority in these programs. Another target is the achievement of high sport training in the sports schools. By participating and the achievement of high ranking places of the students in the local championships, international competitions, world cups and Olympics games. Bulgaria invests a lot of funds in the renovation of the winter infrastructure to be a host of the Youth Winter Olympics games in 2025. The fascinating combination of great nature and good sports facilities attract thousands of visitors every year. These conditions are suitable not only for professional and amateur skiers but also for European and world competitions held on the Bulgarian winter resorts' slopes. Every year Bulgaria is a host to different World or European ski cups. The Ministry of youth and sport provides extra money for their realization and the funds are increasing every year. Not only competitions but exhibitions and congresses are hosted by the country too. In 2018 the International Interski congress took place in Pamporovo, Rhodope, when the best ski instructors of Bulgaria participated. The event contributed to the popularity of winter sports by providing lessons to more than 130 children from the local municipalities Smolyan and Chepelare and allowing them to learn directly from the best instructors.

DESCRIPTION OF WINTER SPORT CAMP

In the period 09 – 14 of February 2021, in the mountain resort of Borovets, Bulgaria. Borovets resort is one of the largest ski centers AND the oldest mountain resort in Bulgaria. It is situated at 1,300 meters above sea level on the northern slopes of Rila Mountain, about 70 kilometers from Sofia city.

Bulgarian sports development association organized Winter Sports Camp for 20 people between 18-35 years old. Participants in the Camp were young people with disadvantaged backgrounds and limited opportunities. The participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the magic of snow sports, try different snow sports such as skiing, snowboarding, and participate in several NFE sessions.

Aim of the Winter Sports Camp was to provide the opportunity to participants to meet people from different cities with different backgrounds and levels of education living in Bulgaria and to get acquainted with the assistance of experienced experts in the field of winter and snow sports with various winter and snow sports together.

Learning the winter sports approach was based on lectures, discussions, question and answer sessions, video sessions and presentations by experienced speakers, different practical sessions, outdoor winter sports practice, winter sport contest, final evaluation, and first steps in skiing and snowboarding. In their free time, the participants had the opportunity to participate in various NFE sessions, mountain trips, and exchange good practices, ideas, and impressions from winter and snow sports. Participants had the opportunity to meet Bulgarian athletes in skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and biathlon, from whom they received various and valuable information.

During the winter sports camp, the following sports and training sessions were held - team building activities, how to survive in the mountains, rules and behavior during snowstorms and heavy snowfall, first aid, introduction to informal learning, first steps in winter sports, theory and practice in alpine skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing by experienced and proven experts in winter sports. The focus of the program and training sessions was to encourage the attitude and motivation of young people to participate in winter and ice sports and, at the same time, explore the educational dimension of winter sports.





ITALY



INTRODUCTION ABOUT WINTER SPORTS

Regarding Winter Sport in Italy, there are so many sports performed (as physical activity or in free time) or watched during the winter. Some are very popular in Italy and differ significantly from summer sports practiced, especially those on the beach.

The significant distinction we need to make right away is between sports that are watched by television (or live at events) and those that people like to take part in the foreground. Starting from the sports that are watched and not practiced, we can find a huge favor for ice hockey, represented mainly by the National Hockey League's - NHL championship. However, Italy has its own championship and in recent years it has more and more fans getting closer to this world of sports. Among the sports that take place on the ice, we also find Curling (similar to bowling but on ice) and figure skating or speed skating. In Italy, figure skating is also well-known thanks to skater Carolina Kostner, winner of the bronze medal at the Sochi Olympics.

Not only winter sports on ice but also snow sports. In this particular category, instead, among the favorites in Italy, we find the ski jump (using trampoline and jump), the ski with speed descent, the ski march, the downhill alpine skiing and the snowboard, or the snowboard which instead of standing on the sea waves takes place on the snow. We find skiing in its various forms and categories in pole position among the sports that are practiced for physical activity, sports or simply out of curiosity. Many facilities in Italy will allow you to try some winter sports.

In general, winter sports in Italy are struggling while being tried by the people. It is due to the fact that the Italian people still prefer to watch or practice the most "common" sports that take place throughout the year, such as football, tennis, basketball and volleyball. However, winter sports are developing, and many people's curiosity is increasing thanks to the Winter Olympics (also played in Italy) and similar events.

There are 5,824 km of slopes in Italy: the ski areas are served by 1,767 ski lifts. In Italy, you can ski in the impressive and spectacular Dolomite region to the east, in the north-western Alps, try the 2005 Olympic stations of the Milky Way, or in the Apennines but also ski on Etna in Sicily, an active volcano. In fact, Italy has the widest variety of mountains in Europe thanks to the particular extension and conformation of the territory.

The slopes start from Sicily with Etna going up the Apennine ridge and the Maritime Alps, culminating then with the Alpine Arch in Friuli Venezia Giulia up to the borders with Slovenia in the Julian Alps. While worldwide, Italy does not immediately come to mind as one of the ski destinations compared to, for example, Austria and Switzerland, our locations are absolute world-class in all respects. The Italian ski resorts are located mainly in the mountainous areas of northern Italy that border France, Switzerland and Austria.

Located on the southern slope of the Alps, Italian ski resorts have an 80% chance of proper weather during the winter. We can state that skiing in Italy is sometimes like being in two (or three!) different countries. German and Austrian cultural influences are prominent in the Dolomites and French culture creeps into the Aosta Valley. Generally less expensive than Switzerland and Austria, Italian ski resorts are also known for their relatively uncrowded slopes. The ski resorts are generally not far from numerous airports, which makes transit easy.

Another advantage is that the beautiful cities of Rome, Florence, Milan and Venice are never far away for skiers coming from abroad. Italy, therefore, offers a wide range of options in more than 200 ski resorts. The Italian ski resorts can be located in numerous regions, including the Dolomites, the Veneto, the Brenta Dolomites, the Aosta Valley, the Ortler Skiarena, the Alta Valtellina, the Milky Way, the Apennines.

DESCRIPTION OF WINTER SPORT CAMP

Participants who come from rural areas had the opportunity to practice various activities and winter sports.

For example:

Getting to know each other and icebreaking games

Cross country skiing – explanation of basic technic and practice

SNOWSHOEING - explanation of basic techniques, snowshoe walking in a dedicated course
Various leisure activities in the snow - walk in the snow, snowman competition, homemade sleigh, thermoregulation.

Before & After online activities

MVNGO organized two online meetings with the participants of Winter Sports Camp. The goal of the PREPARATORY MEETING was to introduce the project, its aims and goals and the Winter Sports Camp program; to provide practical information; and answer participants' questions.

The goal of the CONCLUSIVE MEETING was to gather feedback from the participants regarding practical matters; to go through what participants learned; to provide an overall evaluation of the Winter Sports Camp.

MVNGO thanks Erasmus+ for the financial support in organizing the project WINTER SPORT IS COMING; the staff of Bielmonte Ski Club for providing equipment, technical explanation and support in general; all participants to the Winter Sports Camp in Bielmonte for their enthusiasm!



RECOMMENDATIONS

TARGET GROUP

We have decided to organize winter sport camp for diverse group of young people with fewer opportunities. Each country and partner selected another target group. However, our common recommendation is to start recruitment at least 2-3 months in advance, create cooperation with organization that actively works with your selected target group, attend events where your target group gather to promote them such an opportunity.

Ensure to select participants that are quite fit or at least used to do the physical activity of quite vigorous intensity. Winter sports are physically challenging and, most of all, usually requires a physical effort that needs to be kept constant for a significant amount of time. Even a simple hike in the mountains can be challenging: it is quite long in time; you can take a break, but there is usually no way to stop halfway through, so you need to get to the end of the activity.

ACTIVITIES and METHODOLOGY

You can plan camp in different ways – e.g., focus on 1 or 2 sports or mix various sports . In case of more sports, although they will not learn really how to do it, they will „experience“ something exciting and might learn it more later. Sports can be Skiing, Snowboarding, Cross-country, Ski-touring, Ice-skating, Sledding, Curling, Bobsledding, Biathlon, Tubing etc. You can also choose popular sport among the public, what can also increase the motivation of participants to learn the basics of the sport. It is possible to organize winter sport camp also in the city without slopes. You can consider various sports, for example: Ice-skating, Sledding, Curling, Bobsledding, Ski and snow simulator, Roller skis, Hockey ball etc.

In case of mixed group of young people (beginners and more advanced), those who are more advanced with winter sports can be teachers as well and share their knowledge and help others with learning. During Slovak camp, it helped to build stronger and very friendly connections among participants.

Make sure to alternate physically challenging sports (cross-country skiing, snowboarding, etc.) with mildly intense activities that concern physical effort. If participants are children/teens, it may be a good idea to include some games: snowman making, snowballs fight, sledding, rope pulling. If participants are adults, it is possible to include „theoretical“ activities in which participants are provided with useful information related to all sorts of aspects concerning winter, winter sports, mountains, risks encountered in the mountains, etc.

Examples of other sport/moving activities mixed with some interactive methods:

- Snowball bottles or adapted paintball
- Building snowmen or other specific snow figurines
- Building igloo shelter
- Orienteering games either on foot or snowshoes
- Treasure hunt or some tasks in the groups to be achieved, either on foot, snowshoes or cross-country
- Rides in different styles – e. g. carnival, retro (then some rewards for the most interesting, most funny mask, etc.)

- Competitions among teams (e.g., downhill on made unconventional objects, alone or in the groups)
- Hockey or other team sport in different roles – person with some disability, poor person, migrant and then playing in their positions
- Wildlife tracking
- How to search for avalanche victims with tracker beacon
- Tug of war on the snow
- Scavenger hunting (e.g. creative session where participants can take turns in hiding and searching the ice cubes)

Examples of other activities inside after sport:

- Quiz about winter sports
- Learning about Mountain Rescue (you can invite somebody from Mountain Rescue Service)
- Study visit of some club or other institution related to winter sports
- Video shooting of doing winter sports – and then later analyzing what was done well/not so well, how to improve, etc.
- Watching and analyzing some sports of professionals
- Theoretical exploration
- Intercultural evenings (if foreigners, presenting each-others countries through food and drinks)
- eco and health focused activities
- Cooking together

PLACE

We recommend choosing a smaller ski resort – lower price, but also empty slopes. In addition, possibility to get discounts and support small and medium enterprises.

PERIOD

It depends on the location and country, but generally, we recommend to organize camps between December – March. Keep in mind that January is usually the coldest month of the year, but it is suitable for winter sports. Lastly, don't wait too long either as March can be a tricky month for winter sports. Even in Slovakia, at the beginning of March it was lack of snow and low temperature what did not allow us to practice some planned winter sports (cross-country and ice-skating).

Generally speaking, it can be a sort of gamble because it may snow early in November or late in March, or it might not snow at all (as it has often happened in the past few years due to climate change) – though, people that are used to „live“ the mountain are already well-aware that it requires flexibility as weather changes fast and sometimes it can hamper (or even impede) practicing winter sports.

LOGISTICS:

You should be prepared to be flexible. Weather can change radically from one day to another.

Make sure to arrange and prepare skiing and snowboarding equipment one day before the start of the activities

Prepare contracts with the accommodation or rent equipment company as soon as possible.

Make specific medical insurance in the mountains for participants.

EQUIPMENT and CLOTHES

Besides ski, boards, etc. – very specific types of equipment needed for some winter sports – it is crucial that all participants wear appropriate clothes. Winter sports are practiced outdoor, so it may rain or even snow, and you do not want to be wearing boots that are not waterproof, and spend the whole day in wet socks. Being comfortable in your clothes is also the most basic way to ensure safety! Especially children, but not only, when wearing uncomfortable clothes (either because boots are too tight or socks got wet), get distracted – which can be dangerous in the mountains.

However, as we experienced during the preparation of our camps, many kids and young people from our target groups did not have proper clothes to practice winter sports. Solution can be clothing collection, since many people have at home clothes they don't wear or their kids grown up (this we organized in Croatia). Another solution can be just borrowing clothes.

SAFETY

The safety of the participants is the most important matter for these activities. For on-snow activities such as skiing and snowboarding, it is crucial to choose the right skis/snowboard for a participant, which can be picked by stiffness, length and width. For more advanced participants, the skis/snowboard can be longer; however for the less skilled and motorically capable participants, shorter and lighter skis/snowboard will enable them to have easier movements on the slope and learn the technique faster.

On the other hand, a group leader must inspect the skis/snowboard for rust, sharpness and adjust the bindings to secure maximum safety on the slope. Rusty edges can cause uneven pressure points and cause the participant to be unstable, which can cause the participant to lose motivation and risk injury. Similarly, dull edges can cause the participant to slide off the course, especially during hard-packed snow conditions. Thus, if the skis are rusty or not sharp enough, a group leader must search for another pair of ski/snowboard for a participant.

GENERAL ATMOSPHERE

Sports activities for youth are designed for physical and mental health building and sustainability. Therefore, participants must feel positive energy while performing a variety of activities. It can be achieved through the playful environment, where youth feel productive and have a strong desire to include such activities in their everyday lives willingly. Outdoor winter sports activities can be challenging due to severe weather; thus the organizer should be well aware and prepare participants for non-favorable conditions by providing adequate equipment. The number one outcome should be to see happy and smiling faces everywhere.

CONCLUSION

Winter sports are an innovative opportunity for young people to learn from the nature how to take care of their health through outdoor sports and physical activities. However, it should be taken into account that winter sports are economically challenging for young people with fewer opportunities, therefore support from state funded programs or other donors could be option how to include them more in the winter sports.



GOOD PRACTICES

We have identified and analyzed good practices in this field - winter sports camps already organized in the countries of the organizations involved in this project (Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Slovakia) or other EU countries.

During the analysis, we have chosen good practices and considered those based on general definition - a practice that works well, is successful, brings good results or has a positive impact and therefore, it might be shared and recommended to others and recommended.

Data collection was based on online research. Additional information (if needed) was also received from email communication or phone contact with organizers of those camps to get all necessary details.

In the next chapter, you can find 4 brief reports from each country – good national practices identified. At the beginning of each country chapter, there is short summary of good practices found and analyzed its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of further involvement in non-formal education.

GOOD PRACTICES FROM SLOVAKIA

Many skiing camps are organized particularly by schools due to grants provided by the government. There are also many organized by ski resorts themselves or travel agencies organized in Austria or France. In this publication, we have chosen and described more innovative and unique camps either by their program or by involved target group.

Some camps combined some educational activities with skiing. Mountain Rescue involved, besides sports activities, also education about rescue activities and first aid. Winter Eco Camp with environmental education and creative workshops – upcycling.

Ski mountaineering is becoming more popular. Therefore some camps focused on this sport and snowshoeing and spending several days in the mountains (Outward Bound, Muraria or Winter Camp).

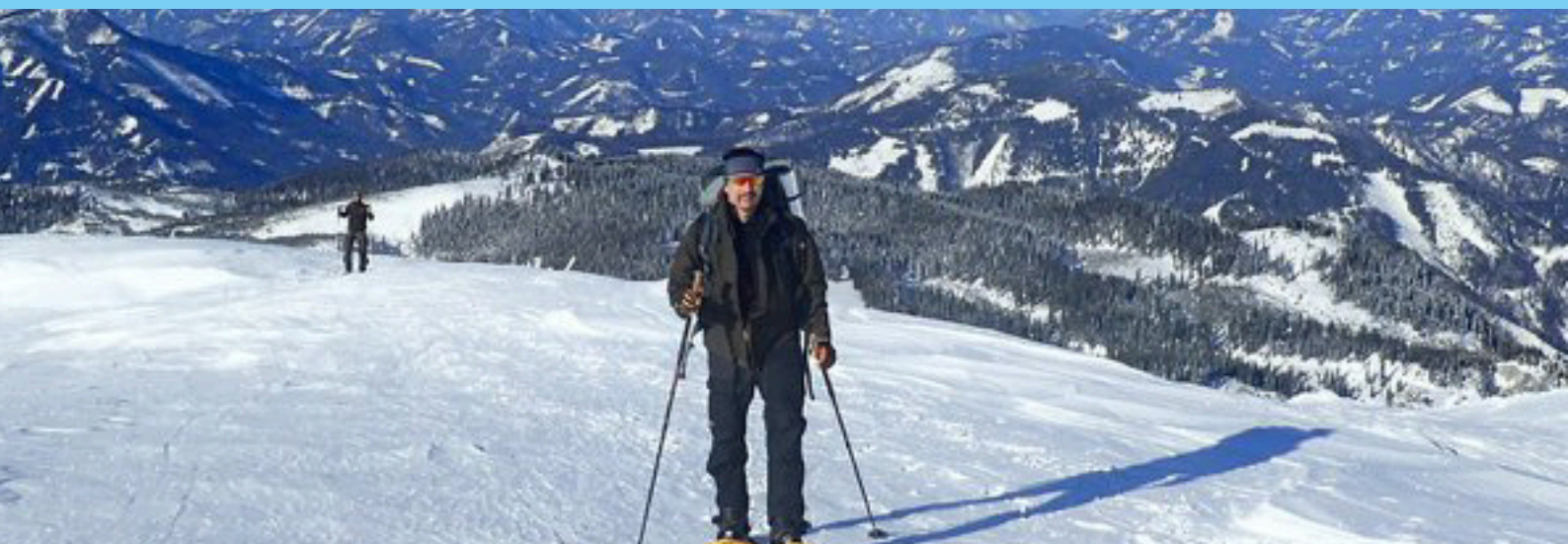
Onkocamp and Ockolandia involve kids with fewer opportunities – from orphanages or a cancer diagnosis and organize particularly winter leisure time activities, for example, snowball battles, rope pulling, building a snowman, sledging etc. Big Snow Jam connects parties, fun and sport.

Prices of those camps depend on the sponsors and target group, but vary between 0 – 600 eur approximately.

Bellow, you can find detailed description of the camps.



Name	Winter Expedition
Location	In Slovakia or the Alps
Description	<p>Outward Bound Slovakia regularly organizes various winter expeditions, for example - winter crossing the ridge of the national parks Low Tatras or Velka Fatra on skialps and then skiing downhill on the slopes or snowshoeing. Those expeditions last 3-4 days and are led by professional, experienced instructors. Besides several days tours, they also organize one-day adventures on ski shoes, various levels difficulties – e.g., for families with kids.</p> <p>There is always a minimum of 7 people for each expedition and the price depends on the number of people.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Before the expedition itself, they learn how to behave in the winter terrain, estimate the weather, get involved in such a journey, or practical instruction of using avalanche technique.</p> <p>This expedition is also an interesting example for self-development as the group is in the middle of “nowhere” and participants depend on each other. They have to set out the route, prepare food, spend the night in a self-built igloo, tent or burying themselves. They have to overcome challenges - cold, discomfort and physical fatigue. They have a chance to improve diverse soft skills like teamwork, communication or trust.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	It is the innovative format of practicing sport, learning how to “survive” and also a tool for personal development.
Weaknesses	There is required better physical activity of people and preparation before is needed too. The age limit is for people over 18
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but with professional instructors with several years of experience.
Website or contact details	http://www.outwardbound.sk/



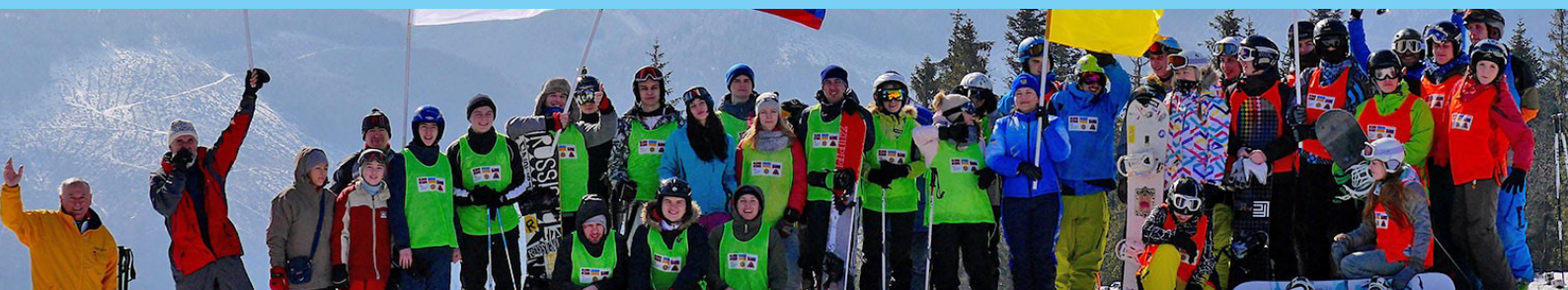
Name	Mountain Rescue Camp
Location	House of Mountain Rescue, Vratna Dolina, Slovakia
Description	<p>The camp is designed to educate children and youth about physical activity in the mountains, rescue activities and first aid. They want to build a relationship and a positive attitude of kids towards nature, know the mountains, move there safely, and most importantly, help save lives. Based on the information on their website – their mission is – “We do not fill children with free time, we open them the world where there is no indifferent help to others, where deeper values prevail. We teach them life skills that can once be worth of gold. Our camp children are small rescuers who want and can often help better than many adults.”</p> <p>Camp is organized regularly each year for kids between 8 – 15 years old.</p>
Methodological Approach	There are various types of activities organized - skiing, workshops about health and safety in the mountains in winter, mountain rescue practice, snow games, indoor competitions, film screenings with mountain themes,
Success or Innovation Factors	It's a unique idea to combine – winter sports and mountain rescue education-and very much necessary for youth to know.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	There is a need to cooperate with the Mountain Rescue centers or professionals with relevant experience.
Website or contact details	http://taborhorskejsluzby.sk



Name	Big Snow Jam – The Original Czech and Slovak Ride Festival
Location	Different locations of the Alps
Description	<p>Camps for young Slovaks and Czechs who like skiing and/or snowboarding and want to practice, improve and meet other winter sports lovers.</p> <p>There are several tours each winter organized for hundreds of people in each term. Camp is promoted as a combination of winter sports and fun – concerts, parties, and the possibility of meeting new people.</p> <p>Camps are intended for young people in general without any age restrictive limit and from Slovakia and Czech Republic they are basically intercultural, but no English skills are required as languages are very similar.</p> <p>In addition, during the Easter holidays, they organized camps also for families and kids.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>There is no strict schedule, but generally, there are sports activities in the morning and later in the evening there are more leisure-time activities like concerts, parties, wellness, etc.</p> <p>Instructors are present during the camp too and there is also the possibility to improve participants skiing and snowboarding skills and various freeride workshops, competitions, and rides in different styles – e.g., retro, carnival, and bikini.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>The price of the camp is quite affordable, around 300 – 400euros what includes transportation by buses from Slovakia and the Czech Republic with several stops, accommodation in shared rooms and ski passes.</p> <p>Camps are organized each year from 2011 already. There is growth in the number of camps organized and also in the number of people who participate.</p> <p>There is 89% satisfaction based on information written on their website.</p>
Weaknesses	For people who are not very party-oriented, those camps might not sound very interesting.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, there is a possibility and potential to organize such a camp in other places or by other organizations as a very easily implemented model – fun and sport can be attractive for most young people.
Website or contact details	http://www.bigsnowjam.sk/



Name	Winter Camp Bachledova Dolina + Snowboard Camp Krasiya and Dragobrat
Location	Bachledova Dolina, Slovakia and Krasiya, Dragobrat, Ukraine
Description	<p>3 winter camps were organized as part of the project “International youth sports partnership” - cross-border cooperation project between Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway financed by EEA grants.</p> <p>There were several other, also summer sports activities and camps organized during 2 years project.</p> <p>Camps were for groups of around 30 young people, aged 16 – 30 years old, from Slovakia, Ukraine and Norway.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Cams were organized in cooperation with several institutions – sports clubs, universities and NGOs.</p> <p>Besides learning and improving their skills in skiing or snowboarding and competitions, there were in the evenings always some activities like – games, teambuilding activities, hikes, typical Goral wedding, disco, barbecue, visiting aquapark etc.</p> <p>There was included the intercultural aspect of non-formal education as well.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>It can be considered as successful or innovative due to various reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cooperation and involvement of various stakeholders, - several camps organized – possibility to learn from previous camps and implement some changes during following camps, - funding from EAA grants. <p>Participation was for young people for free as organizers got funding from EAA grants.</p>
Weaknesses	Camps did not continue next winter as they depend only on external funding.
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://www.surfclub.sk/sk/projekt



Name	Winter Onko-Cardio Camp
Location	Various places around Slovakia(e.g. Liptovska osada, Gejdak)
Description	<p>Children's Hope Club organizes each year winter camp for kids with a cancer diagnosis and other cardiovascular diseases which are between 6 – 18 years old.</p> <p>It is for kids for free thanks to the finances from League against Cancer and also thanks to the collected funds from Daffodil Day.</p>
Methodological Approach	Various programs and activities - snowball battles, rope pulling, simulation games, hockey on the snow with tennis ball and many more
Success or Innovation Factors	Camp can be considered innovative due to its target group and great idea of sharing with kids in such an unfortunate situation.
Weaknesses	There is less skiing or other sports activities.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but there is a need to cooperate with hospitals or other organizations that unite parents of kids with cancer.
Website or contact details	https://www.kdn.sk



Name	Snow Camp
Location	High Tatras (Skalnate Pleso/Rocky Mountain Lake)
Description	<p>One night spent in the tent at an altitude of 1751 meters above sea level. Special adventure event starts in Tatranska Lomnica. There is a ratrak machine that takes people to Skalnate pleso, where they have to dig a pit, build their tents, and prepare food and beverages. The outside temperature is far below zero, therefore as mentioned on the website of the organizer – <i>“it is a scenario of many adrenaline movies and night you never forget”</i></p> <p>The event is regularly organized several times each year for people over 18 years old.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Snow Camp is supervised by a professional instructor and people learn more about safety and rules during such camping. Unusual sleep is provided by thermo-sleeping bags that are resistant to temperatures as low as -29 ° C, special mats and tents designed for extreme conditions.</p> <p>People also get tea, one piece of instant food and a gas bomb that have to be initiated and prepare some food.</p> <p>There is also an evening program and screening movie about mountains in the Gallery nearby, breakfast in a hotel nearby and the cable car back to Tatranska Lomnica.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	It is innovative because it is adventurous and short. People can get the opportunity to overcome temperature challenges and enjoy nature, nice views, snow, and have fun.
Weaknesses	<p>It is quite expensive – for only one-night event – the price is around 130euros (rent of equipment included).</p> <p>There could be more physical activities included – e.g., some hike or snow-shoeing around.</p> <p>There is some program in Gallery in the evening, also breakfast in the hotel nearby, therefore it is not authentic.</p> <p>It is a short event, only one day.</p>
Opportunity for future use	There is the possibility to implement such an activity, particularly in several days' long camp – one night spent outside.
Website or contact details	https://www.vt.sk/zazitky/apres-ski-high-tatras-all-season-fun/snow-camp-1819/



Name	Winter Eco-Camp in Regetovka
Location	Regetovka
Description	<p>This camp for kids was an unusual due combination of various winter sports and funny activities and competitions outside of environmental education and creative workshops.</p> <p>The camp was organized by Environmental Education Center Kosice (SEV Kosice) during the spring holidays in 2006.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Various activities were organized outside during the day – sledding, snow-ball battles, sleigh slalom, snow igloo building, sledding on some unusual object, observing animal tracks in the snow and various other physical activities.</p> <p>Later in the afternoons or the evenings, there were creative workshops - production of recycled paper and preparation of interesting products from it, pot decorated with decoupage technology, hand-painted and batik t-shirt and other things.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Camp can be considered innovative because besides winter sports activities; there were also eco and enviro activities included in the afternoons and evenings.
Weaknesses	<p>Based on the information online, most probably camp was organized only once.</p> <p>There were more funny physical activities involved, not sports as skiing, snowboarding etc.</p>
Opportunity for future use	There is the possibility and potential to implement such a camp in other places and by other organizations. The main requirement - basic knowledge about environmental protection and recycling principles.
Website or contact details	https://www.enviroportal.sk/clanok/zimny-tabor-na-regetovke



Name	Ockolandia – kid camps
Location	Tajov, Slovakia
Description	Winter camps for kids from orphanages from various parts of Slovakia are organized each winter from 2013. There are various activities prepared - building snowman, sledging, swimming, hiking, games, competitions, carnival etc.
Methodological Approach	education through sport, non-formal education, experiential pedagogy
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Ockolandia organizes camps regularly – in winter and also in summer. Around 3000 kids already took part.</p> <p>Kids are from orphanages, a large share of kids belongs to the Roma minority who would never get such a chance to participate in this camp (this one is for free for them). It is really admirable that organization manages to arrange sponsoring and organize such a camp regularly to bring them those opportunities.</p>
Weaknesses	There are primarily leisure-time physical activities, not sports like skiing included. Most probably, it would require even higher financial resources for the rent of equipment and instructors.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but there is a need to have experience of work with this target group or cooperate with some experienced youth workers. In addition – a higher budget might be required.
Website or contact details	http://www.ockolandia.sk



Name	Winter Camp “Journey through Winter”
Location	Velka Fatra National Park
Description	<p>Plusko NGO is focused on nature outdoor education and experiences. Besides other activities, they also organize winter camp.</p> <p>The first 3 days are spent snowshoeing, passing through various mountains, sleeping in the tent outside. After, there are few days “resting part”, staying in one place where there are various outdoor competitions organized and “to think about your values”.</p> <p>There is max. 18 people who are over 18 years old.</p> <p>Camp costs around 155euros, but there is also possible to apply donations for young people from a disadvantaged background.</p>
Methodological Approach	There is also 2 months online preparation – individual and group challenge and regular email communication compared to other camps.
Success or Innovation Factors	Camp is organized already several years from 2013.
Weaknesses	Good physical condition is needed.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but with professional and experienced instructors.
Website or contact details	https://zimnykurz.sk/



Name	Muraria – mountain programs for personal development
Location	High Tatras
Description	<p>Organization Muraria organizes mountaineering and ski mountaineering courses, teambuilding adventure-based activities in the mountains or psychotherapy training.</p> <p>They also organize mountains training specialized for kids or whole families or expeditions in other countries.</p>
Methodological Approach	adventure-based learning, non-formal education
Success or Innovation Factors	It can be considered innovative as organizations work constantly, offering various sports courses and events regularly and cooperating with companies providing them with teambuilding sports activities.
Weaknesses	There is less social media promotion and graphic materials online and potential to develop it and promote more
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but only in cooperation with experienced instructors.
Website or contact details	http://www.muraria.sk/



GOOD PRACTICES FROM CROATIA

All winter sport camps in Croatia have in common:

Starting with their first turns in a BEGINNER – CAMP, mastering parallel skiing in an IMPROVER – CAMP, through to skiing moguls, off-piste and variable terrain in a TECH – CAMP. Each camp is offering coaches - highly qualified, experienced and passionate about skiing. All coaches are internationally qualified skiing professionals, and many of them have ISIA certificates.

The number of children in the skiing camp depends on the skiing techniques already learned by each child. The optimal number for one ski instructor is 10 children. Although sometimes teachers take more children, which leads to questionable learning quality. These camps work with children from 7 to 15 years. Although some work with pre-school children also every week of the main winter season.

The very important aspect is how to arrange the arrival of children at camp. All camps we analyzed have on the same day also scheduled the maintenance of the camp. Camps are organized on several principles. There is an option for children to have organized driving every day from Rijeka to Platak (30 mins). There is an option for their parents to bring them to Platak. For those coming from distant areas, there is a possibility of sleeping in an accommodation unit on the Platak. The difference from camp to camp varies on the price of this offer. The pricing difference is purely related to travel and accommodation expenses. For example, the skiing day without travel and accommodation expenses can be 250kn/day, while the all-inclusive program can be around 425kn/day.

The second main methodological approach is in time spent offering learning programs per day. Some offer programs with three hours of skiing a day, which is positive because the child does not lose concentration and provides optimal learning. Some camps are organized on daily lessons, from 9 am to 4 pm as ski lifts work.

From our long experience,, we would recommend that the best for a child be driven every day on Platak and have a camp lasting from 9 am to 4 pm. Parents are at work in that period and such a methodological approach suits them best.

Bellow, you can find detailed description of the camps.



Name	Camps organized by Ski Club Rijeka
Location	Platak
Description	<p>Camps organized by Ski Club Rijeka give children opportunities to see different parts of Ski area Platak and learn about the mountain environment.</p> <p>The ski camps organized by the Rijeka Ski Club are organized on Platak and the Italian ski resort Sexten. There has been no large organization of ski camps on Platak for several years. However, there are about 150 skiers in Sexten. It is the largest winter skiing camp in the Ski club organization in which all members of the club and all interested participants are invited. There is one teacher available at the ski resort Platak, while Sexten employs 10 ski instructors and two coaches.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Club is based on the following pillars of success:</p> <p>SAFE: Our ski teachers come with years of experience, making safety the top priority. EDUCATIONAL: At the end of each day of camp, we hope that each child walks away having learned something new. FUN: Our camp will make learning skiing fun and engaging through games, unstructured play. INCLUSIVE: Skiing is for everyone. We strive to create an inclusive winter environment for children from all backgrounds. EXPERIENTIAL: Our camp should be designed to be hands-on, where problem-solving and thought-provoking challenges are presented daily. CHILDREN DIRECTED: Camp should be flexible, providing the space for students to find and explore their passions with winter nature outside of set curriculum and schedules. EMPOWERING: The camp's main goal should be that at the end of the day, children are inspired and empowered to make a difference in the environment they are located.</p> <p>These innovations include a way of learning that expands the horizon of winter sports and promotes other winter sports.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>The winter camps, which are organized and run by the ski club Rijeka has the advantage that other clubs do not have – they are the only club in the region that is a competitive ski race club. So if a children have competitive abilities, they direct them and encourage them to continue in that direction.</p>
Weaknesses	<p>Ski Klub Rijeka is a sports organization with semi-professional athletes; thus these side activities might be distracting towards the core business of the club. The club is always looking to improve the value of these camps; however, the activities require lot of involvement of the personnel involved in the ski racing program.</p>
Opportunity for future use	<p>Of course, this camp can be implemented somewhere else. The necessary conditions are snow and expert guides dealing with this task with pleasure and expertise.</p>
Website or contact details	http://ski-rijeka.hr/

Name	ALPINE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL
Location	Platak, one was held in Slovenia due to bad weather conditions
Description	<p>This alpine mountain school camp has a mission to make awareness part of the general education in the Alpine region. Mountain skiing is an increasingly popular sport because it combines hiking and skiing. People of all ages can handle this winter sport. Following age and knowledge, the terrain and the mountain area, sport is practiced and adapted. Ski guide instructors explained the basics knowledge and skills needed to move outside of the landscaped lanes/ off the slopes. How to deal with alpine dangers. Participants learn how to search for avalanche victims with tracker beacon, probe, and shovel. How to improve skiing skills in so-called technique and terrain courses. In camp, they can learn about the equipment they use.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>The camp took place on 3 separate weekends. The theoretical part of the school was done in a presentation hall in a mountain hut and included a section on the history of that sport and the people who developed it. The lecture was led by an experienced mountain skier from Croatia who also skied the world-famous peaks. The theoretical part covered areas on meteorology in winter conditions also.</p> <p>Camp participants learned how to repair equipment in the event of incidents on the ground, patch skis, read a map, and apply it in reality; how to walk on azimuth, how to make sleds with skis in case we need to transport an injured partner. Presented was an airbag backpack as an individual “add-on” accessory; how avalanches occur and what causes avalanches. Swiss and Norwegian snow cross methods were presented. An avalanche of hazards is being learned in five scales. Furthermore, it is presented how each hazard scale looks in reality.</p> <p>The Slovenian Mountain Rescue Service presented the search methods to us. Moreover, in the end, all the students wrote the test and showed the knowledge learned in the field.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Mountain skiing is developing; people are going to the mountains much more than before. This winter sport is a combination of hiking and skiing and such educational camps are above all desirable. The mission of these camps is to act preventively and safely while practicing mountain skiing.
Weaknesses	The biggest challenge – what if there is no snow and particular winter conditions. Winter conditions are unpredictable and this campsite needed an excellent forecast for the weekend that planned field exercises could be carried out.
Opportunity for future use	A camp like this is needed to be achievable in other places and through other organizations.
Website or contact details	http://www.avalancheacademy.com/courses.asp

Name	Ski Guru
Location	Platak and Italy (e.g. Folgaria, Andalo, Kronplatz)
Description	<p>SkiGuru was founded in 2014 and specializes in the organization of creative winter programs in which they focus on the importance of teaching skiing skills with an innovative, fun and interactive approach.</p> <p>They organize daily ski schools in Platak and ski tours in Italy for different target groups regardless of age or ski background – individuals, business partners, kids, and youth.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>All activities are organized in small groups led by experienced staff following current kinesiological and pedagogical standards.</p> <p>During the multiple-day camps – participants can also enjoy Adrenaline Park, play board games, knowledge quizzes, sing karaoke and dance with animators.</p> <p>During the camps for pre-school kids, they also organize upon completion of the program celebration in the main town square with diplomas and medals for all participants, as well as music and wine for moms and dads.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	They also organize camps for whole families or only camps during the weekend, which can be practical for those who cannot spend the whole week out of work or school. There is high interest since camps for January were already taken in October.
Weaknesses	Group activities are more prosperous for the organization but are not entirely qualitative for individual participants. Every child needs some hours of individual lessons. However, individual approaches can be quite expensive.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, particularly idea of camps for entire families are interesting and innovative.
Website or contact details	https://skiguru.info/



Name	Erik Ski School
Location	In various ski resorts in Italy (e.g., Canazei, Predazzo) or Austria (e.g., Malnitz)
Description	<p>Erik Ski Team was founded in 1993 and nowadays consists of around 40 ski teachers from all around Croatia.</p> <p>Nowadays, they organize ski camps or ski weekends and a professional ski school for all ages, skill levels, and targeted skiing techniques, which includes competitive skiing and snowboarding already.</p> <p>They also organize ski races, which are accompanied by professional measuring equipment and all other accessories. Their organized skiing, socializing and competition services are also used by some of the largest companies in Croatia.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Activities are organized in groups led by experienced staff following kinesiological and ski instructing standards.</p> <p>Besides their home hill, Platak, participants often can join the ski school on international ski resorts such as Kronplatz and Sexten in Italy.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Erik Ski School is one of the first ski schools that started practicing winter camps abroad, with organized accommodation and side activities. The ski school successfully implemented its methods and involved many participants throughout almost 30 years of operations. The brand is well recognized in the Croatian skiing scene for its innovative yet professional approach.
Weaknesses	One can recognize the weakness in their mass approach, where they lose the quality of the work since they are not a “boutique” ski school. Many ski schools face this issue, where the individual approach is somewhat neglected for the purpose of mass involvement.
Opportunity for future use	Although, it is interesting that initially a ski school organization also organizes snowboard camps.
Website or contact details	http://www.erikski.com



Name	Diver Sport Center
Location	Kronplatz
Description	<p>Croatian club operates over 30 years with Croatian and Slovenian Ski Teachers and Trainers in the Italian ski resort – Kronplatz.</p> <p>They have ski and snowboard schools for all ages of skiers, from the youngest (5 years) to seniors, and ski-kindergarten for kids under 5.</p> <p>In addition, individual arrangements and team-building programs can be prepared</p>
Methodological Approach	Besides ski teaching, animators prepare diverse, funny activities. For guests looking for “après-ski” fun, they organize daily socializing with local music and wine; a Diver Tombola party and a competition with medal ceremony on the last day.
Success or Innovation Factors	Diver is an innovative ski school and camp organizer with many successful camps in the past. They created a well-recognized brand for the core service of ski instructing they provide, where people know what to expect for the price they pay.
Weaknesses	The broad spectrum of disciplines and activities might steer the organization away from the qualitative approach in this niche business. It is very challenging to have skiers and snowboarders of all ages organized in the same camp, affecting the quality of service provided.
Opportunity for future use	Yes
Website or contact details	http://www.diver.hr

In addition, there are some other standard ski and snowboarding schools, very similar to those described above, e.g., Mali Mrav (<http://www.mali-mrav.hr/>) or Carving Team <http://www.carving.hr/> Ri-Fun Snow & Surf (<http://rifun.weebly.com/>).

There are fewer camps organized in Croatia due to less winter sports opportunities, but a more extended summary is provided by partner organizations in this project focused on advice towards practical aspects of organizing camps due to a lot of their experience in this field.



GOOD PRACTICES FROM BULGARIA

Bulgarian ski federation, the government and some private organizations try to show the beauty of winter sports to children with physical, financial and mental disabilities. They make winter sports affordable for them by organizing events, programs and camps, held in different mountains and ski resorts. Summary of the good practices identified:

ParaKids – for children with a physical disability, free one day program, social initiative;

Ski school Steve- social initiative, adaptive skis for disabled people;

Bulgarian Ski Federation, “Learn to ski”- 4 days free courses for children (6-10 years old);

“The mountain is ours too”- charity event, ski/snowboard, children;

National tours- professional ski instructors, good base, equipment included, education, affordable prices;

Samokov municipality and Borosport- free access for children;

“Atmosphere sports”- five-day program, learning to ski in small groups (4-6), break during the weekend;

Machirski camp- works with logopaedic kindergartens, 4 hours a day with transport included;

Winter University - 3-day camp, age group 18+, competition;

Board academy - ski/snowboard, fun games, transport and food included.

Bellow, you can find detailed description of the camps.



Name	ParaKids
Location	Bansko, Bulgaria
Description	Children with physical disabilities were skiing in Bansko. On the slopes, they used special facilities to enjoy the thrill of winter sports. The initiative is ParaKids, a winner for 2017 in CHANGE - NOVA's largest socially responsible initiative.
Methodological Approach	<p>Children with disabilities have used special facilities that have enjoyed the thrill of winter sports. The aim is to adapt to children with physical and mental problems. To show that there is always a solution to the problem and a solution as long as there is a desire.</p> <p>According to ski teacher Yanko Popov, this also affects children's mental health and physical condition. <i>"As you can see, the children are thrilled; we manage to create an atmosphere for them to touch the snow,"</i> he says.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Children with disabilities have shown that there are no impossible things to do. Seven children took part in the winter camp over Bansko. Through the initiative, they can touch the winter sports and the beauty of the mountain.</p> <p>Facilities with which children with disabilities descend resemble a sled. They are easier to balance and once advanced, children can descend at a higher speed.</p> <p>"There is real skiing downhill that adapts to the terrain and resembles the feeling of emotion by alpine skiing," said Boyana Kotzeva from ParaKids. Parents share the joy of the initiative. "Children feel very well and feel relieved that their situation does not make them sit, they see things from a different perspective, they feel a kind of involvement," one of them, Radoslav Gerginov, says.</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	<i>"Sport affects all aspects of human health, physical health, psycho-emotional and social and, in fact positively, the sport combines all these three things,"</i> added Boyana Kotzeva of ParaKids. They expressed hope that more cities in Bulgaria will organize camps for children with disabilities because this is one of the sure ways to feel maximum involvement.
Website or contact details	https://www.facebook.com/parakids.bg/



Name	Adaptive Ski
Location	Pamporovo, Bulgaria
Description	<p>Children with physical disabilities were skiing in Bansko. On the slopes, they used special facilities to enjoy the thrill of winter sports. The initiative is ParaKids, a winner for 2017 in CHANGE - NOVA's largest socially responsible initiative.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>An adaptive program for both physically and mentally disabled is available at the ski school. With support from sponsors, volunteers and projects, they strive to offer private lessons and equipment at a nominal fee.</p> <p>Their services are available, but are not limited to those who have the following disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in development; - Spinal cord injury; - Child Cerebral Palsy; • Amputation; - Spina bifida traumatic brain injury; - Muscular dystrophy; • Down's syndrome; - Multiple sclerosis; - Autism or Asperger's syndrome; - Post Polio or stroke and others. <p>They strive to involve as many people as possible with problems and disabilities to experience the enjoyment of this sport and to feel the need of this society and environment. It's unbelievable to feel when you see a young man when he goes to Sit Ski and enjoys being a little kid of the pleasure he has enjoyed. This makes them strive to develop and bring more joy to the disadvantaged.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Skiing and snowboarding provided a sense of freedom that is difficult to imitate in other sports. Skiing is a fantastic sport for people with disabilities or visual physical impairments as it helps to develop balance, fitness, confidence, motivation and social skills. Simply put - skis are skiing!</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	<p><i>In all schools worldwide, donor campaigns, sponsorship, and volunteer organizations play a crucial role in the development of this activity.</i></p>
Website or contact details	http://www.skischoolsteve.com/contacts.html



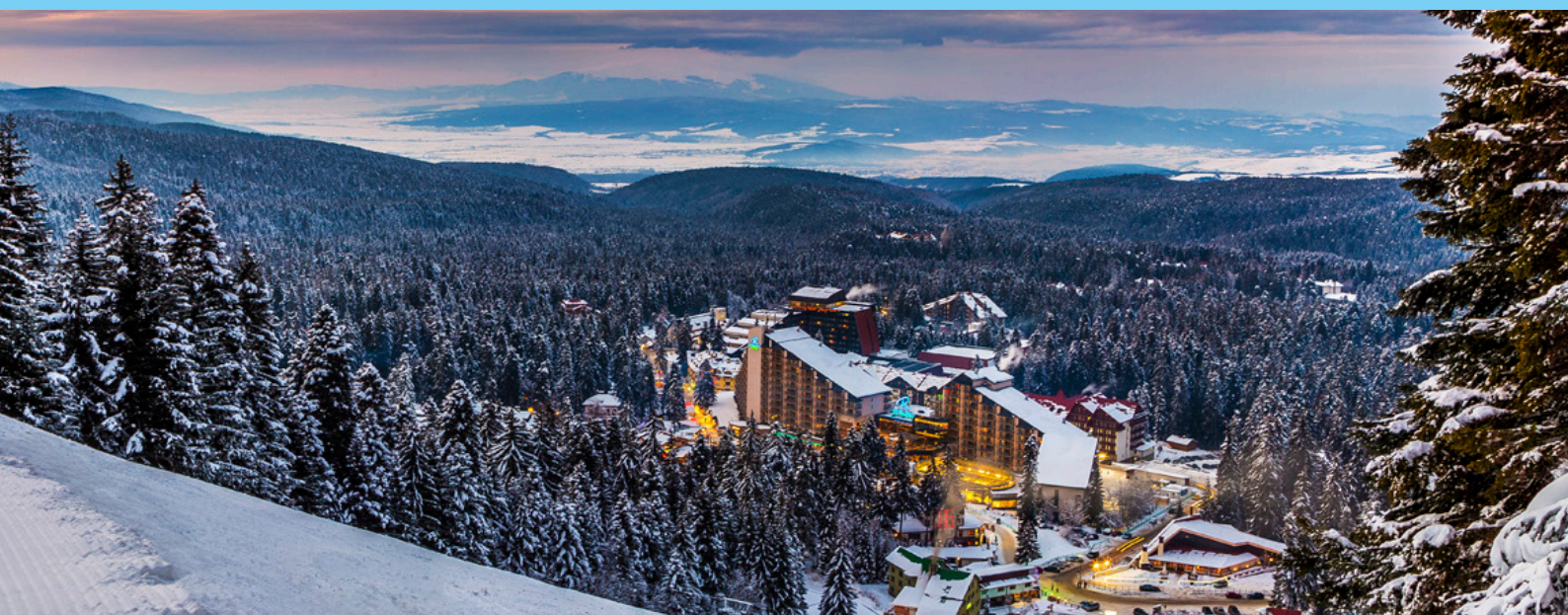
Name	Learn to ski
Location	Vitosha, Pamporovo, Borovets, Bansko
Description	<p>During the six years of "Learn to ski" (Bulgarian Ski Federation project), more than 14,000 children have passed through it. Free skiing lessons are available for all the participants within 20 hours (4 days) and are carried out according to a prepared schedule for their implementation. Camps are organized in different locations, for example Pleven, Bansko, Pamporovo, Borovets, Vitosha, Rodopi park etc.</p> <p>Yearly they are expanding the geography of the cities involved in the program, which is very enjoyable. It is good to have such programs that involve mass sports and children's training in the case of skiing, because that is how they teach them to get out of the classroom so that they can feel the thrill of sports, to love the mountain.</p>
Methodological Approach	More than 500 kids continued training and are already participating in the competitions of the Bulgarian Ski Federation in the age groups 6 to 12. Traditionally the target group of the project is children of I-IV th grade (age 6 -10 years). The total number of children participating in "Learn to ski" each year is about 3000.
Success or Innovation Factors	The project also involves the participation of disadvantaged children to integrate them with and through skiing.
Weaknesses	Implementing this program involves a lot of funds and without the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Education and Science and sponsors and all the resorts involved, this could not happen. The accommodation and food are also not included in the program.
Opportunity for future use	<i>Implementation would require a lot of funds and it would be possible only with implementation of many stakeholders and clubs.</i>
Website or contact details	https://www.bfski.com/article/146



Name	The mountain is ours too
Location	Pamporovo, Chepelare, Bulgaria
Description	<p>Charity training on snowboarding and skiing for children from Smolyan and Chepelare, whose parents can not take them to the mountain. Municipality of Chepelare and Smolyan Municipality helped organize the children's holiday.</p> <p>Ski and snowboard instructors worked with them free of charge, and the children were equipped with ski and snowboarding of local stores.</p> <p>The training was a three-day winter holiday for disabled children from Chepelare and Smolyan, organized by Restaurant "Black Horse" - Pamporovo. Chepelare was attended by 24 children from the Vassil Dechev Secondary School.</p>
Methodological Approach	The organizers urged children to write or draw their own experiences of the holiday. The authors of the best performers received gifts. A charity auction was organized for the children's drawings and the collected funds were provided to "House for Children Deprived of Parental Care" - Shiroka Laka.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Students were delighted and happy to learn to ski and snowboard. During the training, they also received a warm lunch (again donation from local restaurant).</p> <p>After completing the ski and snowboard training, all children received certificates and additional gifts.</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	<i>The charity idea is entirely from the restaurant and the ski store - "Black Horse". Everyone who has been involved in the initiative is determined to continue to develop it in the future by expanding activities to help children in unequal situations.</i>
Website or contact details	http://chepelare.org/?page=pages&id=691



Name	Borosport with free access to the ski facilities of Samokov
Location	Bulgaria
Description	This practice is due to the desire of the municipal leadership to create better conditions for the development of winter sports in the local sports clubs. The signed agreement provides free access (lift pass) to the skiing facilities on the municipality's territory during the ski season for children, students, athletes and their educators, teachers and trainers. It contributes to the development of the mass sport.
Methodological Approach	By providing children with free access to the ski facilities of this municipality, incl. and by introducing the requirement of an animator (teacher, educator, etc.), uninterrupted active winter sports activities are provided for the children from the municipality, which in turn led to overcoming the problem with the low motor activity of the teenagers, practicing sport, social exclusion, etc. Investing in adolescent sports is an investment in their health and is expected to lead to improved quality of life in the future.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>The practice is innovative in terms of the approach used to overcome the (financial) restrictions on the use of winter sports facilities - all children get access without formalizing the process through applications, mediating a municipal structure, etc.</p> <p>The practice participates in the competition under the Program of Good Practices in Local Self-Government in Bulgaria 2016/2017 and was nominated for a prize.</p>
Weaknesses	This free pass is only for children, citizens of this specific municipality-Samokov, who will be skiing in Borovets.
Opportunity for future use	<i>It is definitely replicable in other countries and areas.</i>
Website or contact details	http://www.flgr.bg/bg/innovations/?iid=2246&fbclid=I-wAR3sMq3uLvblAEffrZ3J81O57zAYDy-PVbLQ8zIAjtYDFPUsJhCAcsmflhs



Name	Winter University
Location	Borovets, Bulgaria
Description	<p>THE UNIVERSITY WINTER GAMES AND THE WINTER UNIVERSITY are held in Borovets resort every year and are organized by the National Student Council and the Academic Sports Association. Since 2009, over 2210 students from Bulgaria and the Balkans have participated in the project. Contests were held in several disciplines, and a lecture on sports was also held. Not only in Bulgaria, after the completion of the Winter Games in 2010, the Organizing Committee set itself the next goal of organizing a Balkan Winter Sports Festival, Balkaniada, which aims to involve students from the Balkan countries of Serbia Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece and Turkey.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>There are various disciplines:</p> <p>SKI ALPINE DISCIPLINES - there are two ski slopes in the discipline of giant ski slalom - men and women. In the first round, everyone starts according to the starting number. A second run starts all finishes in the first round, with the top 30 racers starting in reverse. The rest will start in the order of ranking from the first round.</p> <p>SKI RUNNING - it is held within 2 days in two disciplines. First, freestyle discipline with a mass start. Men 5 km and women 2 km. Second discipline mixed relay (2 x x 2km - female + 2 x 5km - male).</p> <p>SKI RALLIES (450m) - performing in the freestyle discipline on a terrain.</p> <p>SNOWBOARD - giant slalom - men and women in two rounds. In the first run, they all start according to the starting number. The next rounds the same procedure as ski alpine.</p> <p>SLEDS - it takes 350 meters with slalom poles. Each team is composed of 2 competitors regardless of gender.</p> <p>STAFFET - It takes 650 m with slalom poles and 5 posts. Each team is composed of 5 competitors regardless of gender.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Winter University is a social project aimed at creating conditions for active dialogue between higher education student communities through their participation in training, seminars, sports and cultural events, uniting them to work together to develop mass student sports, education and intercultural values.</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	<p><i>Students aim to promote mass amateur student sport among students, as well as to attract more active people involved in sports, culture and social activities at universities, and that can be applicable everywhere.</i></p>
Website or contact details	www.winter.npss.bg

Name	Board Academy
Location	Bansko, Bulgaria
Description	Board Academy is a sports academy that finds skiing and snowboarding talents and helps them develop, organizes a children's camp in Bansko. Small skiers and boarders train together.
Methodological Approach	<p>By making the most of the time on the ski track, Bord Academy camps aim to develop and improve children's skiing or snowboarding skills. The Board Academy provides you with the necessary transportation, accommodation, meals and individual child-care insurance.</p> <p>In addition, the avalanche course during which children are introduced not only to the dangers of the mountain, but also to the rules of the ski slope and possible measures to be taken.</p> <p>Winter camps are suitable for experienced skiers or snowboarders and advanced skiers. Leisure around the skies is filled with fun games, entertainment evenings, or other sports such as swimming, table tennis and ice skating.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	The Board Academy team has already conducted more than 100 children's ski/snowboard camps. It provides children with unforgettable experiences, dear memories and new friends.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	boardacademy@gmail.com

sample photo



Name	Atmosphere Sports - Ski school
Location	Vitosha Mountain, Sofia, Bulgaria
Description	In the Atmosphere's ski garden, the little guys are trained by ski instructors with a transparent approach and attitude towards children. Considering the weather conditions in the mountains during the winter, the age peculiarities and the physical capabilities of the small skiers, they offer diverse courses and lessons for beginners and advanced learners of all ages are tailored to current ski and snowboard training trends.
Methodological Approach	The children learn to ski in a small group of 4-6 children with one teacher who trains them and takes care of them throughout the day. The lessons are held in the Aleko ski area of Vitosha Mountain, where they have a cozy mountain base. Suitable for beginners and children who are already younger than 4 years old. Courses start every Wednesday and end on Tuesday next week, with Saturday and Sunday kids having a break. During the day, two activities take place for 1 hour and 30 minutes, with a lunch break for food in between. Ski training is provided only on children's tracks and lifts.
Success or Innovation Factors	Ski & Snowboard School Atmosphere has been operating in the Aleko ski area of Vitosha already since 1999. They strive to observe good international practices and requirements in the areas of activity in which it operates. They continuously increase their professional qualifications and participate in the exchange of experience with other organizations.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://asport-bg.com/ski_snowboard/ski-gradina/



Name	Machirski camp
Location	Vitosha Mountain, Sofia, Bulgaria
Description	Machirski sport started its activity in 1998, initially as a ski and snowboard school, and in the summer months as a mountain school. The family has been associated with the development of ski sport in Bulgaria and has contributed to the development of alpinism, ski-alpinism and tourism in Bulgaria. Three masters of alpinism, hiking, skiing, ski-climbing and rock climbing champions, and the great love for Bulgarian nature, are the basis for the creation of Machirski sport. Their ambitious goal is Aleko Konstantinov's motto, "Get to know the homeland to love it" to reach the hearts and senses of young people.
Methodological Approach	<p>They have been working for many years with the Sofia logopaedic kindergarten, where children have various diseases and work very successfully with them. They come to skiing and hiking. In recent years, Machirski Sport has decided that some of the terrains can be adapted and further protected for children with more severe disabilities because it is not fair to be different and not allowed to touch the emotions of snow sports. At this stage, their support is expressed in the fact that whenever the children come, they will always be provided with terrain to practice and help them to board the facilities.</p> <p>Skiing and snowboarding are 4 hours a day, with 45 minutes of lunchtime.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Machirski Sport is one of the leading companies in mountain tourism and snow sports. They managed to turn the forgotten Vetrovala area and Ophelies area into one of the most favourite places for practicing snow sports for these years. Thanks to its favorable location - sheltered in the woods - Vetrovala and Ophelia ski centers offer excellent conditions for initial training and refinement for all ages
Weaknesses	This type of camp can be expensive for some people.
Opportunity for future use	Yes
Website or contact details	https://machirski-sport.com/en/contact-us/



Name	Kids ski camp: THE SPIRIT OF BEING ON THE SKI, MOUNTAIN AND SPA
Location	Razlog Region/ Dobrinishte, Bulgaria
Description	<p>They offer good conditions and services in one package: high category hotel accommodation and transport, a rich sporting and entertainment program, qualified ski instructors and professional animators.</p> <p>The organization offers a flexible package which includes: transportation to and from Sofia; 4 overnights in hotels in the region of Razlog; full board, snacks, tea and water; twelve students - leadership; provided transportation from the hotel to the runway; small group training - for beginners and advanced learners; equipment; ski lift pass; race and obtaining personal diplomas for young skiers; medical Accident Insurance.</p>
Methodological Approach	They introduce to the children the most popular winter sports or perfect their abilities. The children are trained on one of the two slopes (depending on the winter conditions and the skills of the children): Kulinoto ski track or Bezbog ski slope.
Success or Innovation Factors	Their experience in working with children and knowing the specifics of children and tourism helps them select and negotiate the best conditions in their most suitable facilities for their clients to offer rich excursion and animation programs.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes
Website or contact details	http://www.nationaltours.bg/detski_turizam/ski-lageri-national



GOOD PRACTICES FROM ITALY

During our research about Winter Camp, we identified 3 main categories of Camp:

1. Camps organized by the owners of hotel/hostels/venue;
2. Camps organized by Winter Sports Clubs, present actually in the mountains;
3. Camps organized by schools, especially in Low season.

The third kind of activity is the most popular and affordable for youngsters, as a first touch with the winter sport.

There is a lack of Winter Camps organized by educational agencies because of the high cost of the activity (accommodation, transportation, ski rental, etc.)

In Italy, winter disciplines represent an elite sport. Hence, the families who can afford them for their children usually prefer a “family trip” for their first experience, of course, with professional instructors' support.

Some particularities that can be taken as suggestions/tips:

- The synergy between public/private sector: for example, try to involve local Touristic Promotion Agency to include this activity in its ordinary service to promote;
- Offer not only “normal” winter sports, but try to combine them with educational/training activities (language course, team building activities, soft-skills development exercises, etc.)
- In the case of children, try to involve also parents in the activity (also describing them which possibilities their children have to continue the disciplines after the activity);
- Consider „characterize” the service to distinguish from other camps (for example no device, no junk food)

So, in Italy, there is a possibility to offer a different kind of Winter Camps, not to compete with the existing camps during the high season, trying to combine the promotional needs/willingness of the different kinds of stakeholders:

- Sports clubs, providing professional sports instructors;
- Hotels, providing accommodations;
- Promotion touristic local agency, supporting the promotional and communicational activities.

Bellow, you can find detailed description of the camps.



Name	Giocampus neve
Location	Alpe Cermis (TN)
Description	The camp is intended for kids between 9 - 14 years old and there were various ski, skating and non-formal activities organized.
Methodological Approach	Sports activities with instructors (ski lessons of 4 hours per day) in the morning and games/social activities with educators in the afternoon.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>The advantages of the camp are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced staff (13th edition already); • Dolomites location; • Public/private synergy; • Many shifts (7 weeks); • Process (600 and 400 eur)
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes, no particular venue requirements.
Website or contact details	https://www.giocampus.it/it/news/giocampus-neve-2018-pronti-via/

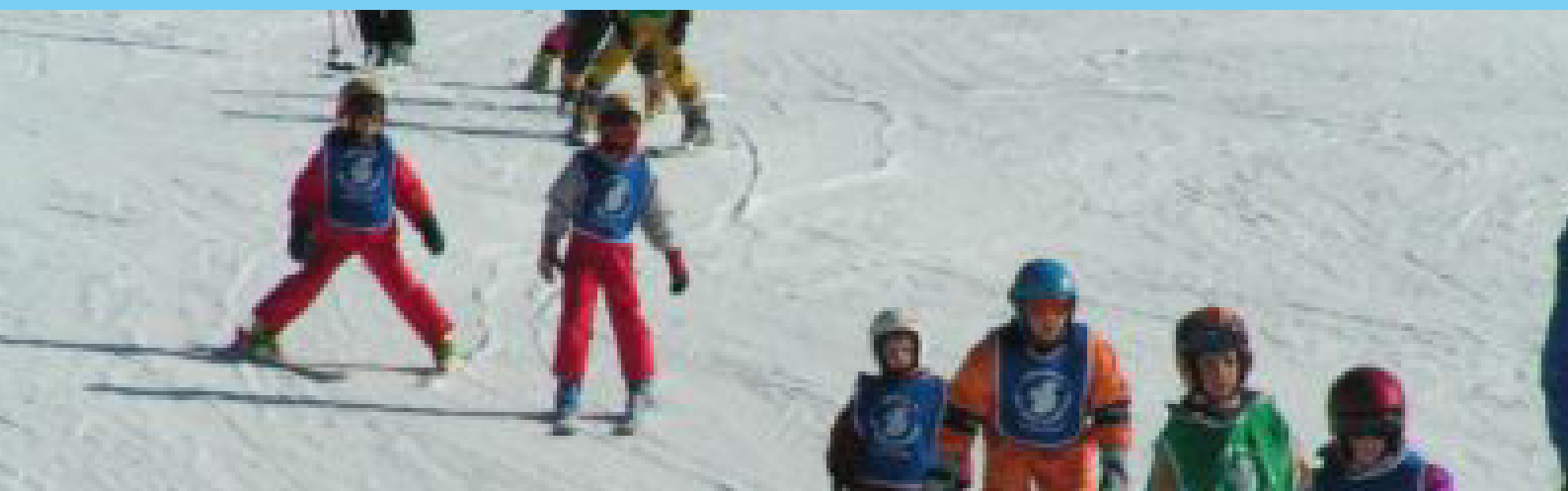


Name	Campo Gulliver
Location	Taleggio Valley – province of Bergamo
Description	<p>The camp is intended for kids between 8 – 13 years old. There are various sports, outdoor, survival and team building activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excursions in the mountains surrounding the Campo to discover the natural environments changed by the change of season; • Knowledge and cataloging of local plant species to learn about their properties and possible uses; • Recognition of winter animals, their methods of adaptation and traces, the cast of their footprints; • Observation of the celestial vault full of new constellations to be discovered; • Mimicry game to make yourself invisible and live in silent nature; • Orienteering with a map.
Methodological Approach	Non Formal Education. Coach and tutor facilitating the activities with a final debriefing.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Advantages of the camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper location; • Close to Bergamo and Milan; • Affordable price (280 or 320 eur) with some discounts.
Weaknesses	No “real” winter sports.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, no particular venue requirements.
Website or contact details	https://www.campogulliver.it/

sample photo



Name	Casa degli Scoiattoli
Location	Smarano – Val di Non (TN)
Description	<p>The camp is intended for kids between 6 - 14 years old. Various sport activities are organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking in search of animal traces and orienteering; • Ice skating; • Trekking with snowshoes; • Snowboard; • Sledges; • Mini bob. <p>Activities prepared are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitable for developing interpersonal relationships and communication while enhancing the child's autonomy and sociality; • able to stimulate their imagination and creativity; • able to enhance their characteristics and strengthen self-confidence in the acceptance of existing limits.
Methodological Approach	<p>Kids have an opportunity to develop the autonomy, learn and develop their soft skills.</p> <p>They use the different sports facilities on different days and times according to participants requests and needs.</p> <p>The activities are held in different locations.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	An organization of the house, the campus and the services functional to their needs
Weaknesses	High price (between 750 or 820eur)
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is applicable.
Website or contact details	http://casadegliscoiattoli.it/campi-invernali/



Name	Snow Camp
Location	Nevegal
Description	<p>The Snow Camps are holidays in the snow combined with „the white week“ where the traditional study is banned. Learning a foreign language (English or other languages) takes place in a playful way.</p> <p>The remaining hours are dedicated to numerous snow activities under the guidance of English animators. Sport activities are for example: Skiing, Ice-skating, Alpine ski.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>The Snow Camps want to educate young people through games, spontaneity and enthusiasm. The words, the structures, the songs, absorbed in a natural context, constitute the young to achieve true mastery of the language in future years.</p> <p>They provide possibility to adapt the educational project to schools and companies.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	The ski courses are led by a team of professionals from the Nevegal Ski School who know how to organize the various groups of the kids with professionalism and availability.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Feedback from mother of one participant: <i>“Thank you very much. The experience was very positive for Giacomo; surely it will be repeated next year (hopefully also for 15 days) and probably during the next winter. ...Expressing my heartfelt congratulations on your competence and ability to manage young students, I send my best regards.”</i>
Website or contact details	http://casadegliscoiattoli.it/campi-invernali/

sample photo



Name	Settimana Bianca – campus
Location	Lizzola (Bg)
Description	<p>The camps are organized for kids between 8 – 15 years old.</p> <p>Sport, skiing and lots of fun in a multicultural environment where the languages that are spoken, ranging from Italian to English, from Spanish to French.</p>
Methodological Approach	The program is studied in detail and even the animation is designed to naturally connect children to the mountain with topics such as the dangers that the mountain can hide, practical orienteering exercises, meteorology and nivology lessons, botanical excursions, practice with the avalanche trained dog and many others.
Success or Innovation Factors	Multicultural educators and sport instructors and participants from all over Europe.
Weaknesses	Quite high prices (780 eur) + 40 eur for renting sport equipment.
Opportunity for future use	Yes it replicable.
Website or contact details	http://www.mastio.it/



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Opportunity for future use	Yes it replicable.
Website or contact details	http://www.mastio.it/

sample photo



Name	VACANZE NATALIZIE
Location	Colere
Description	<p>The camp is organized for kids between 14 – 17 year old.</p> <p>They spend the days in contact with nature, trying in every way to experience the mountain environment.</p> <p>They find endless ways to be together, confuse, have fun, play – various outdoor sport activities, ski etc.</p>
Methodological Approach	Non-formal education
Success or Innovation Factors	Interesting innovation factor: no junk food and no devices are allowed.
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it replicable.
Website or contact details	http://www.oratorionembro.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Va-demecum-Colere-2018.pdf



Name	SMILE CAMP
Location	AltoSangro
Description	<p>The camp is intended for kids between 4 – 18-year-old.</p> <p>The winter camp program is based on learning skiing techniques for beginners and, for the more experienced, the chance to perfect their skills. Winter camp offers a specific program of sports and activities directly related to the territory, where kids have opportunity to live a fantastic and fun experience, also experimenting with disciplines such as sledding and snowboarding.</p>
Methodological Approach	The day includes moments dedicated to skiing sports interspersed with recreational and recreational activities.
Success or Innovation Factors	Staff with experience and specific training (16 hours), recognized by AICS
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it replicable.
Website or contact details	https://smilecamp.it/



Name	SPORT ACADEMY
Location	CERRETO LAGHI (RE)
Description	<p>The camp is for kids between the age of 8 – 14.</p> <p>Winter Sport camp includes (ski and snowboarding, snow bike, skating) animation activities with professional educators and English laboratories.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Methodological approach includes the following aspects: Sport + Animation + Study</p> <p>There is mix of educators and sport instructors, 8 participants for 1 educator.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Organizers provide also reimbursement before 30 days from the official start and transport from Florence.
Weaknesses	Prices (440,00 eur for 4 days)
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	http://www.sportacademydagostino.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/POST-FB-2.jpg



sample photo

Name	WINTER CAMP SPORT & ENGLISH
Location	Chamonix Mont Blanc (not in Italy, but organized by Italians)
Description	<p>The camp is organized for kids between 7 – 16 years old.</p> <p>Diverse activities like: ski, freestyle, snowboard, dog sledding, English complete immersion or animation activities.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>The campus is organized by Country Language School, an Italian language school, and WeFun, an association specializing in organizing sporting events.</p> <p>For years, they have been promoting campuses for children and young people to combine the practice of English with numerous sports disciplines related to the mountains, in Italy and France.</p> <p>This SPORT & ENGLISH campus aims to provide children with a weekend of mountain sports and English in a unique international context in Europe.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	Combination winter sports and English / Long weekend
Weaknesses	Prices (395 eur)
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://countrylanguageschool.eu/winter-camp/



Name	PREMIUM KID
Location	Verbier (not in Italy, but organized by Italians)
Description	<p>Campus is intended for kids between 7 – 17 years old, where they can play sports and language courses in an extraordinary context. A chalet in wood and stone welcomes children mountain experiences winter on the snow skiing, snowboarding and ice skating.</p> <p>Courses are in English, French, Spanish and German. The official language in the center is English and all the staff is native speakers, but being localized in a center in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, therefore kids have the opportunity to speak French too.</p> <p>Skiing, Ice skating, Snowboarding, Hiking, trips to the foot of the perennial glacier, educational excursions in Lausanne, Bern, visits to the Olympic center, CERN, to a production factory del Gruviera and chocolate - all in a context of friendships from more than 70 nations from around the world.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>It is included 8 hours a week of optional English, French, German or Spanish language courses instead of after-ski entertainment activities.</p> <p>The participants are divided into 3 age groups with programs specifically dedicated to that age group.</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>Different offers according to the age (7-11; 12-14; 15-17)</p> <p>Many shifts (8/12 – 27/4) – 7/10/14 nights</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://www.premiumkid.it/proposte/inglese-sulle-alpi/



GOOD PRACTICES FROM OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Name	Jeunes diplomates France
Location	Megeve/France
Description	<p>Jeunes diplomates is a European camp for children and teens from 7-17 years old worldwide. The camp gives children the opportunity to develop their linguistic skills, discover new activities and learn about other cultures.</p> <p>During the winter camp, participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - follow an intensive academic program (in the mornings): English or French as a foreign language. Max 8 students per class. Varied resources used (theatre, role-playing, interactive whiteboards, excursions) - take part in winter sport lesson: 6 half days of skiing or snowboarding
Methodological Approach	They use multiple intelligences in their teaching methods. One of Jeunes diplomates' missions is to help campers discover their inner strengths and use their resources to their advantage.
Success or Innovation Factors	They have 20 years of experience organizing camps.
Weaknesses	The price is too high (1-week program without accommodation - 1450 Eur).
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	http://www.jeunes-diplomates.com/en/



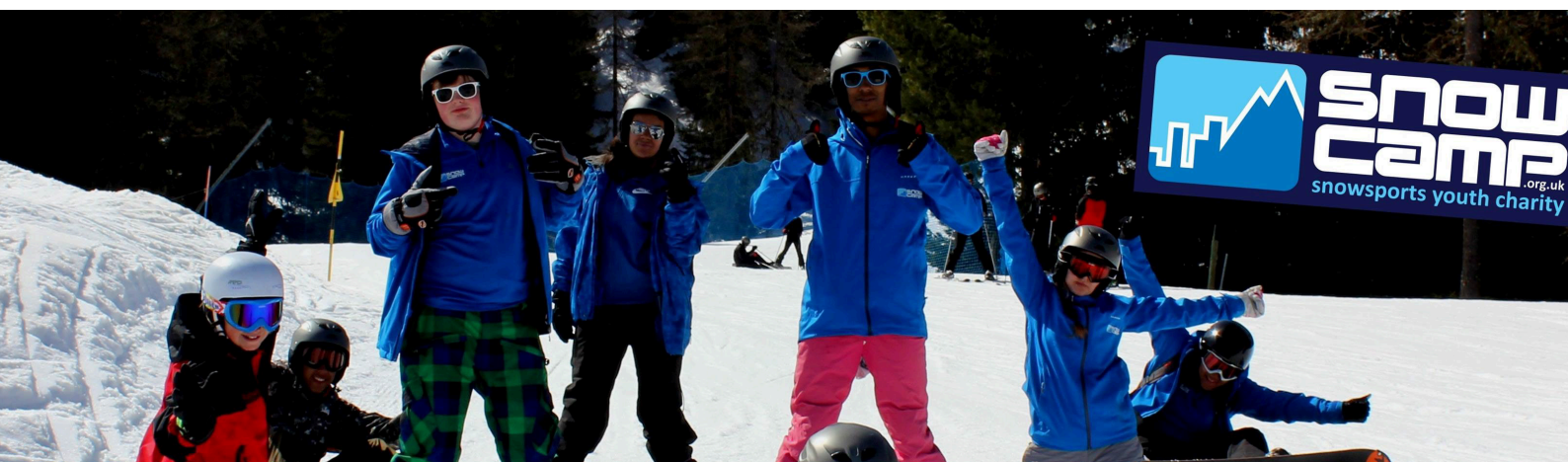
Name	Laajis Urban Outdoors
Location	Jyväskylä/Finland
Description	<p>Laajis-Laajavuori ski resort and Adventure park Laajavuori is located under 4 kilometers from Jyväskylä city center. Under Laajis name, they have Urban kitchen restaurant and Outdoor Hostel, smoke sauna, ski resort, Adventure park, Personal training Studio and Urban Caravan.</p> <p>Laajis has a selection of winter activities where is possible to choose 5 winter experiences for the winter camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-country skiing; • Sled hill sliding; • Winter fat bike trip; • Skiing; • Snow skating; • Snowshoeing safari and campfire on lean-to; • Observation tower, ski jumping hill.
Methodological Approach	Based on Teaching by the ski school teacher. They are providing different activities, but it must be chosen in total of 5 activities.
Success or Innovation Factors	Various programs and activities that provide participants opportunity although not learn, but at least experience various sports. Close to the city center.
Weaknesses	Three days camp cost 475 Eur and includes 2 nights at the hostel, meals and 5 chosen winter activities for 3 days (for Finland can be still good price)
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://www.laajis.fi/en/winter-snow-camp/



Name	Snow Camps Europe
Location	Kaprun/Salzburg-Austria
Description	<p>Snow Camps Europe; an organization specializing in booking winter sport camps and private lessons. With a passionate approach, following their 3 fundamental values, QUALITY, PERSONAL & UNIQUE.</p> <p>The camps are designed for different topics. (Topics: Ski camps, Ski-explorer, Ski-Solo, Ski-50+, Ladies-Only, Free Style, Off-Piste)</p> <p>Ski camps: Every week of the main winter season;</p> <p>Ski-explorer are organized in 5 different Resorts: Kitzsteinhorn, Maiskogel, Zell am See, Saalbach-Hinterglemm, Maria Alm;</p> <p>Ski-Solo (Beginners and Advanced camps) ;</p> <p>Ladies-Only</p> <p>Prices are between 700-900 Euro/pp</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Guiding and teaching by experienced, licensed instructors and guides;</p> <p>Training in small groups;</p> <p>Personal and tailormade approach</p> <p>includes organized social (evening) activities</p>
Success or Innovation Factors	They have just started recently, although the various models of the camps have potential to attract people to learn and practice winter sports.
Weaknesses	They are quite new.
Opportunity for future use	Yes, there is a possibility and potential to organize such a camp in other places or by other organizations
Website or contact details	https://www.snowcampseu.com/camps/ski-camp/



Name	Snow-Camp Charity
Location	Hemel Hempstead/England
Description	<p>Their mission is to engage inner-city young people through skiing and snowboarding to provide life skills training, nationally recognized qualifications, and work experience to increase their motivations and aspirations, enabling them to gain employment in the snow sports industry and beyond.</p> <p>2-days Beginner Courses</p> <p>Snow-Camp programs offer inner-city young people (13-21) the opportunity to progress from beginner skiers and snowboarders right through to becoming qualified instructors and their journey starts with our First Tracks Program.</p> <p>They are only working with youth projects and youth service providers to recruit young people to our programs. Program costs start at £85</p>
Methodological Approach	Young people are taught how to ski or snowboard by qualified instructors and Snow-Camp apprentices and volunteers, as they are the best role models to demonstrate to the new young people what they can achieve with the charity.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>The owner of Snow-Camp Charity was a Youth worker before started to run the company in 2003.</p> <p>They have received already many awards. You may see https://www.snow-camp.org.uk/who-we-are/</p>
Weaknesses	N/A
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://www.snow-camp.org.uk/



Name	True Nature Sweden
Location	Gällivare – Lapland/Sweden
Description	<p>In this winter training, they focus on surviving in extreme weather, extremely low temperature in natural and wild environments. Duration is 7 days (from November to April).</p> <p>The program is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The three survival fundamentals, the basic needs and knowing which ones to prioritize • Fire - how to build it? With what? Different techniques • Shelter - how to build it? With what? Different types for different environments and climates • Food - what to eat? Where to find it? How to prepare it? • Water - where to find it? How to collect it? • Plants: edible, toxic, medicinal • Wildlife-tracking, danger, silent walk, team hunting (no killings in the course) • Trapping - set traps network (no killing) • Fishing - fish traps, night lines etc. • Climatic zones and how to cope with them • Orientation - map reading, nature reading • Encampment - tools, kitchen equipment, efficiency and use of nature. • Introduction to long term survival skills • Moving - how to move in heavy snow? • First aid - some easy tricks to master. • Survival in the group: Leadership.
Methodological Approach	They are proposing teaching that will provide techniques, tools, and confidence in participants' knowledge and abilities to react correctly when a survival situation comes.
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>They operate already from 2016.</p> <p>Other activities provided: Survival courses; Northern lights; Sauna; Igloo; Nordic activities à la carte</p>
Weaknesses	Its not exactly focused on winter sports, more on hiking and surviving in winter (although it can be useful for all practicing winter sports).
Opportunity for future use	Yes, but with professional instructors with several years of experience.
Website or contact details	https://www.truenaturesweden.com/

Name	Crazy Camp Switzerland
Location	Valais, Switzerland - Central Switzerland
Description	<p>The camp is organized for around 15 people. People ski or snowboard together. In addition, there are other activities co-organized by host, but also participants themselves (for example: Guided yoga and meditation sessions)</p> <p>All food is vegan and cooking is done by the group and for the group.</p>
Methodological Approach	<p>Not professional teaching or method. Information from the website of the camp:</p> <p><i>"In the daytime, we will be skiing or snowboarding. This is individual activity, but we will do some things as a group also. In previous Crazy Snow Camps, it turned out that the participants enjoy shredding the slopes together, teaching each other some ski/board skills, etc."</i></p>
Success or Innovation Factors	<p>They started camps organizing in 2011.</p> <p>Interesting concept – co-organizing.</p>
Weaknesses	It is not suitable for complete beginners.
Opportunity for future use	Yes it is replicable.
Website or contact details	https://www.crazycamp.org



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