Press release

Multi-sports fields represent a major social issue.

Agorespace, the historical leader in this concept and its inventor back in 1989, will soon be turning 20 and celebrating its 3,000th multi-sports field. That wonderful idea, "Bringing Men and Sports together is to bring Men together", has come a long way, and it is easy to see today how innovative it remains, and how big a factor it is in social well-being and public health issues.

Proximity sports, a matter of public health and social well-being:

Everyone knows how important practising sports is to health, particularly when it comes to excess weight (The importance of physical activity in preventing overweight problems – see PNNS, the French National Healthy Nutrition Plan from the mangerbouger.fr campaign by the INPES, the French National Institute for Prevention and Education for Health), but also in terms of developing self-confidence and youth morale.

Proximity sports are similarly seen to have a positive impact on the social fabric and on the way people live together (CNDS directives – the CNDS (French National Centre for Sports Development) is an agency founded by the Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports with a mission to support the practising of sports by all kinds of people, means but particularly to contribute in land settlement for sports, targeting as a priority young school children and those living in underprivileged neighbourhoods).

There are testimonials such as that from agent Paul Hawkins of the Baltimore Police in Maryland, who stated in a report written 2 years after an Agorespace had been installed in an disadvantaged neighbourhood, that: "Thanks to the multi-sports field, young people have regained a place within the community; Agorespace helps the young develop physically, mentally and socially." So there are multiple instances in France and worldwide (close to 3,000 Agorespace have been installed over almost 20 years) highlighting the drop in violence and incivility noticed throughout areas equipped with multi-sports fields, thanks to the field in itself but also thanks to the methods and commitment of the Agorespace Company (a commitment contract to support and educate future young Agorespace users through involving them and fostering their sense of responsibility).

Developing open-access and proximity daily sports practice – in accordance with public policy as expressed by city officials and the Ministry of Health, Youth and Sports – assumes increased access to sports facilities for a wider range of people, and closer to their living space. In 1989, Agorespace created the open-access, multi-sport field concept and now we have close to 3,000 Agorespace up and running, every one a positive experience, every one an attractive, lasting and quality facility designed for sports experienced in a spirit of health, sharing and fun.

The Agorespace is designed so that every youth may have fun performing great sports moves, learning and developing his self-confidence (fields adapted to the young, height-adjustable basketball hoops, "game-partner" fences that bounce the balls back into play, genuine nets in the goals, genuine sports flooring, etc.). Practising sports implies accepting common rules of play, and Agorespace has developed exclusive multi-sports line markings that are easy to understand and clearly visible, helping play by the rules even as one learns them. Practising sports in open access means the venue must be very safe and secure, to ensure total physical safety for the young. Agorespace has developed its fields paying special attention to avoiding hazardous situations (wooden slats pointing in such a way as to prevent one's limbs getting stuck and preventing anyone from scaling the pediments, injury-proof materials) and to promoting a conflict-avoidance "ambiance" (soft, friendly materials, fields that are easy to share, cropped angles to avoid jammed situations, etc.).

To Agorespace, sports are a humanistic language, fostering relationships and understanding between human beings. A true Esperanto of mind and body, practising sports helps go beyond cultural and generational differences without ignoring or erasing them. Sports are a vital element helping human beings understand each other. In that way, they act as a barrier against gang rivalry, promoting the sharing and inclusion of all within a spirit of mutual respect, the surpassing of oneself, sharing. With multi-sports fields, society as a whole benefits.

AGORASPACE®
a place to live our passion for sport!

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Creating leisure sports facilities never means selling “land by the square metre”. It means defining a community’s needs for its youth and for all; it means programming the right quality equipment with respect to all of the community’s constraints; it means support to empower the facility’s entire launch. Young people represent the future of our communities and the future of our world. They must be encouraged to practise sports daily, and for close to 20 years now, Agorespace has been doing day by day its share of this mission, of this vocation: “to provide the greatest number of people with ever more open-access proximity venues to live together through sports.”

Agorespace in a few figures (2009)

- Close to 3,000 equipped sites in Europe and worldwide
- Installations in over 35 countries
- Over 85,000 hours worked by young people on our fields
- Over 1,500 youth meetings held
- Over 45,000 young participants in the Agorathlon Challenges
- Agorespace® was the driving force behind the following certification standards:
  - NF 52901 French certification standard regarding proximity sports facilities
  - EN 15312 European standard regarding open access sports facilities
    (EN 15312 cancels and replaces NF 52901)
- The AGORESPACE AB2 range was developed with the support of the French Ministry of Finance and Industry.

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