

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF WORLD WINTER UNIVERSIADES AND THE OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

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Abstract

The history of World Universiades is not thoroughly covered in the national historiography. Due to the fact that student sports is an integral part of the International Sport Movement and can be considered as an important training stage for the Olympic Games, analysis of this issue is quite actual.

Introduction

Evolution of the amount of sports presented at the World Winter Universiades and the Olympic Winter Games is seen in Figure 1. During past 50 years the amount of sports in the programme of the World Winter Universiades grew at 240%. Nowadays the programme of the World Winter Universiades is almost similar to the Olympic Winter Games programme. World Winter Universiades are considered to be an important stage for the Olympic Winter Games and World Winter Universiades.

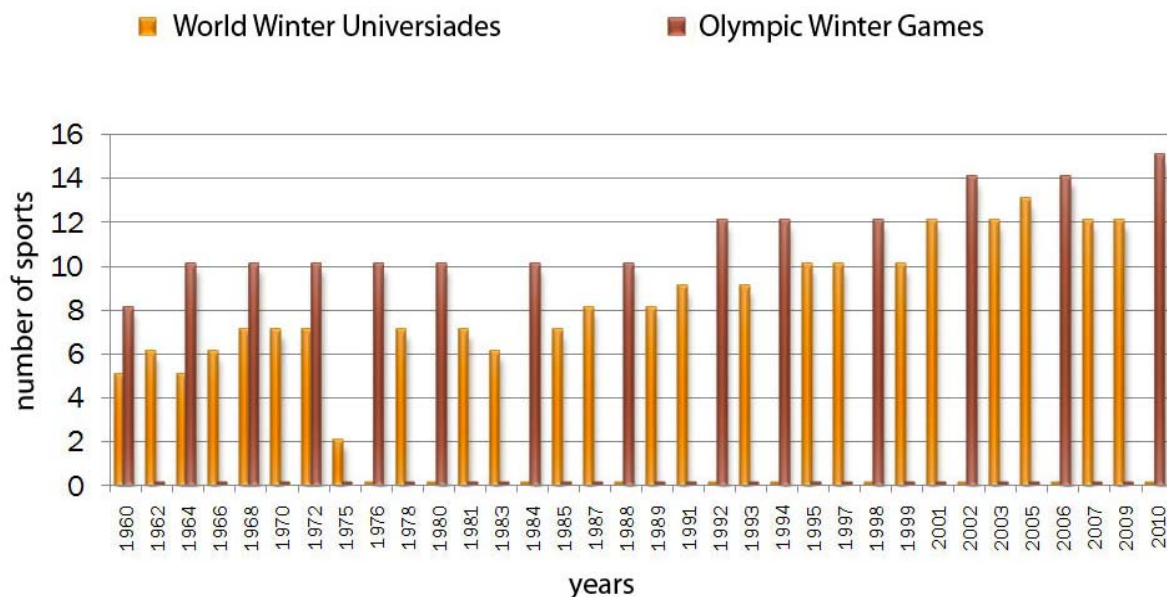


Fig. 1 Comparative analysis of the programme of World Winter Universiades and the Olympic Winter Games

The data of the graph, reflecting the amount of sports presented at the Olympic Winter Games, proves that the amount of these sports tends to increase, with its peak in 1998 (Nagano, XVIII Olympic Winter Games). That year curling, women hockey and snowboarding were included. The amount of sports grew twice from 1960 – from 4 to 7. This can be explained by the fact that even though the programme included biathlon for men and speed skating competition for women added, Squaw-Valley did not have tracks for bobsledging and luge built, which resulted in cutting the amount of sports.

From 1998 the amount of sports was 7 and this figure remained the same until 2006.

Comparative analysis of sports in the programme of World Winter Universiades on the graph shows definite decrease in the index in 1975, which was caused by the fact that 8 Winter Universiade was held in Livigno, Italy, and the programme included alpine skiing and cross-country skiing. Starting from 1991 and until the present time a serious increase in the amount of sports has been noted.

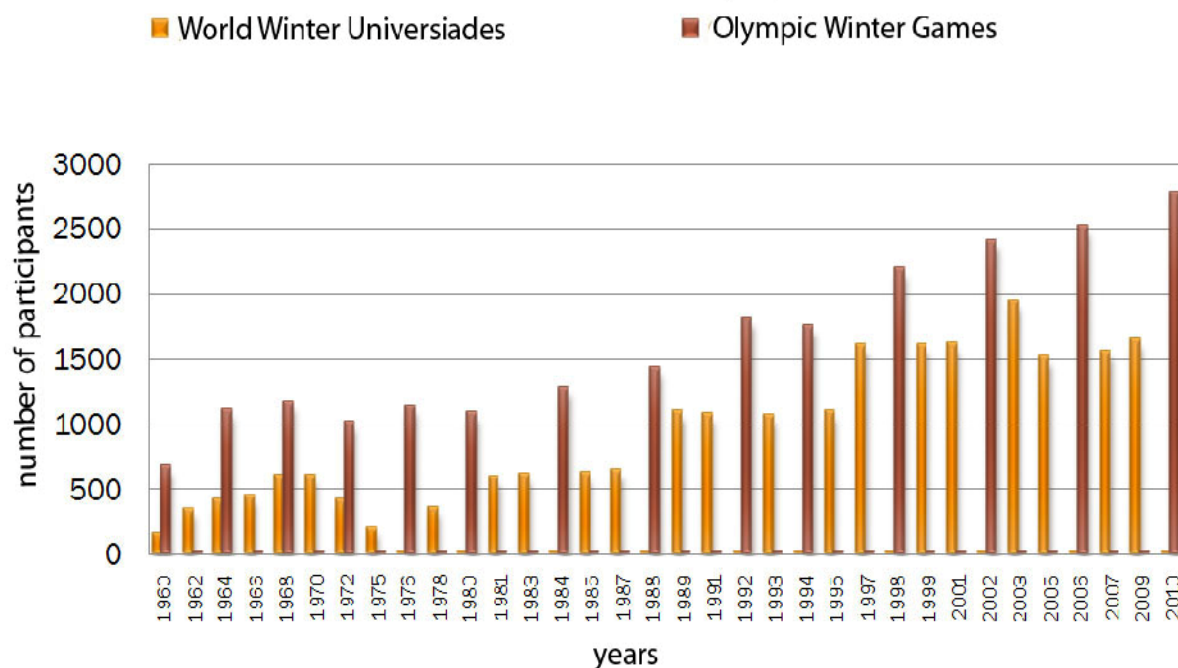


Fig. 2 Comparative analysis of the amount of competitors of World Winter Universiades and the Olympic Winter Games

Analysis of the amount of participants of the Olympic Winter Games and World Winter Universiades shows that growth index of the amount of competitors of the World Winter Universiades is not as stable as the one for the Olympic Games.

While comparing the highest index points of the amount of competitors of the mentioned competitions, we note that the Olympic Games have a priority: over 2766 people in Vancouver versus 1935 at the World Winter Universiades in Tavrizio, Italy.

Even though there is general growth of the indices outlined in the graphic, there were still several recessions there. They were in 1972 and 1980. The Olympic Games of the 1972 were the first Olympic Winter Games, which were held in Asia. Besides they followed the decision of the Head of the IOC Every Brendidge to forbid professional athletes to participate in the Games. But it actually was applicable to only one skier – Karl Shranc (acting Olympic champion at that moment) and the Canadian ice hockey team.

In the following years the ncreaseinf the amount of sports and widening of the geography of the Games ended up in the increase in the amount of competitors against the background the

leap of the amount of participants of the XVI Olympic Games. This can be explained by expanding of the competition programme owing to including short-track, freestyle and biathlon for women. The leap was as well caused by the increase of the disciplines, as the programme included curling, women hockey, snow-boarding, skeleton, Alpine combination.

A certain decrease took place in 1975, which was caused by the fact that 8 Winter Universiade was held as the International Universities Skiing Competition. However, there were 191 athletes from 15 countries of the world. Beginning from 1989 there is a tendency to the increase in the number of participants. The most visible one took place in 2003, which is understood as World Winter Universiades considered as a pre-stage for the Olympic Winter Games in Torino. Athletes from 50 countries were expected in Tavrizio, but the Academic Sport Association of Israel cancelled their participation in the Universiade-2003 without explaining any reasons.

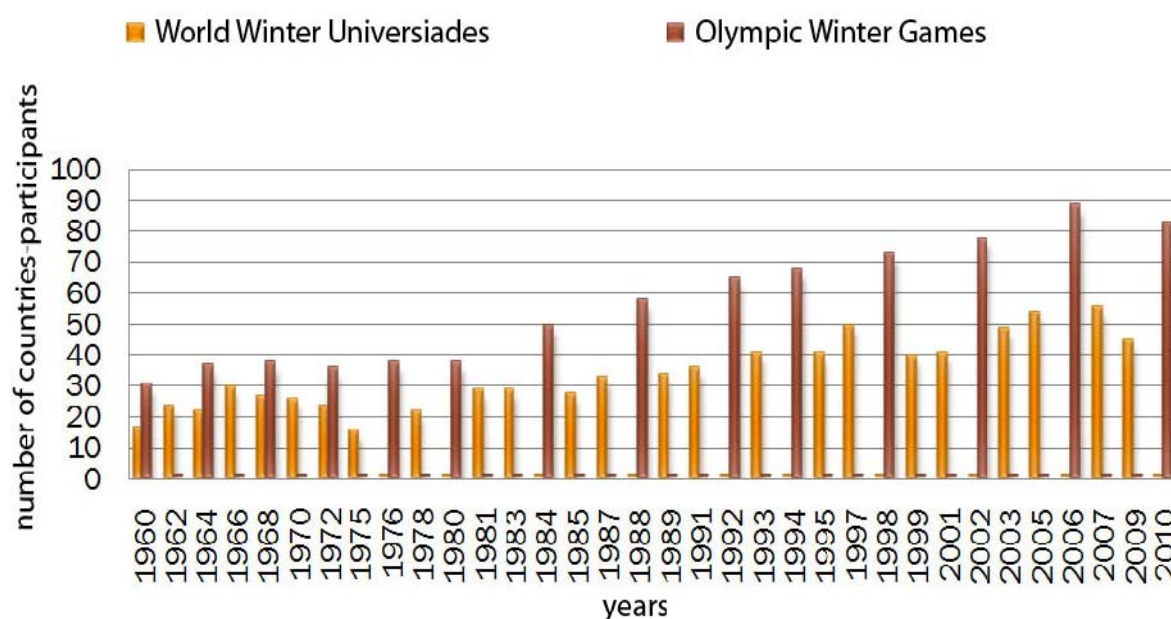


Fig. 3 Comparative analysis of countries-participants of World Winter Universiades and the Olympic Winter Games

Analysis of the amount of countries-participants shows that this amount has permanent tendency to growth. It is also important to outline that similar to the Olympic Games, there are only countries approved by FISU since 1959. This graph shows us smooth growth of the amount of countries-participants. One of the reasons is that in the late 80s – early 90s, a lot of new countries have become independent states. The maximum number of countries-participants was registered at the Olympic Winter Games in 2006 – 88 countries. The growth since 1960 (16 countries) and 2009 (44 countries) was equal to 275%. The latest Winter Universiade had the highest number of countries-participants. The record high level was set at Torino, Italy in 2007 – 55 countries. In comparing the number of participants of the Olympic Games and International Universiades – the differences is 30%. Also, increase of participants of the Olympics is more stable.

Some Vancouver and Torino Olympic Games champions participated in Universiades before the Olympics. They are: biathlon – Anna Bogaliy-Titovec (2001), Olga Zaitseva (2001), Ivan Cherezov (2001, 2003); skiing – Evgeniya Medvedeva-Arbuzova (2001), Natalia Baranova-Masalkina (1997), Evgeniya Medvedeva (2001), figure-skating Irina Slutskaya (1999), curling – Yana Nekrasova, Kira Ezech, Olga Zharikova – participants of Winter Universiade of 2003.

Conclusion

Analysis and conclusions based on the results of the research may be used as additional basis for better understanding of development of student sport and the role of World Winter Universiades as an important stage in the process of preparation for the Olympic Winter Games. Our research is limited by chronological frames which are established as - starting back in 1960 – when 8 Olympic Winter Games took place – and till the present time.

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SROVNÁVACÍ ANALÝZA ZIMNÍCH UNIVERZIÁD A ZIMNÍCH OLYMPIJSKÝCH HER

Historie světových univerziád není v národní historiografii podrobně zpracována. Vzhledem k tomu, že studentské sporty jsou nedílnou součástí mezinárodního sportovního hnutí a mohou být považovány za důležitou přípravnou fázi na olympijské hry, je analýza tohoto jevu velmi aktuální.

VERGLEICHSANALYSE DER WINTERUNIVERSIADEN UND DER OLYMPISCHEN WINTERSPIELEN

Die Geschichte der Universiaden, die Weltspiele der Studenten, wird nicht explizit in der nationalen Geschichtsschreibung bearbeitet. In Hinblick darauf, dass der Studentensport ein unverzichtbarer Bestandteil der internationalen Sportbewegung ist und als eine wichtige Vorbereitungsphase für die Olympischen Spiele gesehen werden kann, ist die Analyse des Phänomens sehr aktuell.

ANALIZA PORÓWNAWCZA UNIWERSJAD ZIMOWYCH I ZIMOWYCH IGRZYSK OLIMPIJSKICH

Historii światowych uniwersjad w narodowej historiografii nie poświęca się szczególnej uwagi. Ze względu na fakt, że sporty studenckie są nieodłącznym elementem międzynarodowego ruchu sportowego i można je traktować jako ważny etap przygotowania do olimpiady, analiza tego zjawiska jest sprawą bardzo aktualną.