

This is SNAFA

SNAFA and THENAPA - National report, Sweden

A Swedish Network of Adapted Physical Activity (SNAFA) was started in 1996 and has established a Swedish secretariat at the Wigfors' Institute, Halmstad University. The Institute conducts research in areas relevant to social welfare as well as adapted physical activity (APA). Research into the situation of disabled people and other vulnerable groups is a major part of the Institute's activities. The Institute is part of the School of Social and Health Sciences.



In 1997 the network was more formalised, and the first meeting was held at Halmstad University. The meeting discussed adapted physical activity in connection with education and research on different university and school levels. The SNAFA has nearly 450 members today and organises annual meetings and conferences at Halmstad University. The University is a member of EARAPA and the EMDAPA-program. The members receive information about APA and the THENAPA-project four times a year. THENAPA is also linked to SNAFA's new website.

The THENAPA project (Thematic network, educational and social integration of persons with a handicap through adapted physical activity) was discussed during a meeting of SNAFA's educational board at the Stockholm University College of Physical Education and Sports (20/3-2000). It was also included in the programme of the SNAFA-conference (30-31/10-2000) at Halmstad University. The theme of the conference was: Children-Movement-Sport and Disability.

Information about THENAPA was presented during a conference in Bollnäs of Sports for the Disabled (8-9/3-2000). The conference resulted in a co-operation with the Swedish Sports Development Centre for the Disabled in Bollnäs, which is linked to Stockholm University College of Physical Education and Sports. Co-operation has also started among the universities, resource centres and schools that have education and research in APA. The responsible persons have been informed, and a meeting was organised during the SNAFA-conference in Halmstad.

Five universities started to provide courses in APA. Halmstad University will have a one-year specialization course in APA in the new Sports Science programme starting in autumn 2000 (60 ECTS) and an obligatory course in APA (7.5 ECTS) in Physical Education and Health. The THENAPA project was discussed during a Nordic intensive course on APA in Beitostølen, Norway (29/8-3/9-2000), sponsored by the Nordic Council of Higher Education (NORDPLUS) and co-ordinated from Halmstad University. APA and the THENAPA-project were mentioned in a couple of articles in the autumn 2000 issue of The Journal of Swedish Sport Research, whose theme was 'Sports for the Disabled'.