

## **ABSTRACT**

The main aim of this research is to get a better knowledge, from a social and organizational point of view, of Spanish foundations that had their patrimony bounded to public good in the issue of sports and physical activity. The research aims as well to make a contribution to social and scientific discussion on the roles, features and future perspectives of Spanish sports foundations.

It is not possible to find specific studies about sports foundations, so in fact it is difficult to know how many are, how and where they develop their task, whom they work for, or the resources they have. Moreover, there is a lack of a solid scientific background on sports institutional framework and its entities. This research would be facing an unknown field of work but for the existence of some general studies on foundations and sector groups on which we have relied at some length to approach the investigation.

As a consequence, the specific goals of this paper are to create a documental database of Spanish sport foundations. This database is due to be useful and easily updated when necessary. The paper also aims to describe the main characteristics of Spanish sports foundations and find out if there are significant differences among them, according to their descriptive features.

The methodological design used to approach the objectives and to verify the hypothesis is based on the analysis of several documents, as well as on a survey performed for this research. The statistical and content analysis and subsequent interpretation allowed to reach the goals of the investigation and also to verify the formulated hypothesis.

Sports foundations are a recent development, no older than 20 years old. The growth rate has been increasing greatly, amounting in 2004 to 180 Spanish sports foundations identified and entered in a database created for this research. They were mostly founded by individuals, although there are progressively more foundations created by corporations.

**Key words:** sports foundations; physical Activity; sports organizations.