

## **Cultural and Social Affairs**

Catalonia has a long and rich history when it comes to sports. It was the birthplace of Spain's very first sports federations back in the 20th century, which led to Catalan sports federations participating directly in international competitions before its Spanish counterparts.

More recently, it held the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games which were a resounding success and had an enormous impact across the territory.

Today, Catalonia boasts a strong social fabric that extends into the sports sector, where hundreds of thousands of people volunteer their time and effort in local sports clubs and associations. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers everyone has equal opportunity to participate and benefit from sport.

On a general level, sports in Catalonia has helped reduce social inequality, bridge the gap between different cultures and serves as an educational tool at the same time. Not only that, but the millions of people who do sports in Catalonia represent significant savings for the national health service. Savings that have been estimated to be between 150 and 300 euros a year per person.

Recently, however, ineffective legislation has been hindering sports from delivering the value it can. You can learn more about this (in Catalan) by heading over to: http://sortimaguanyar.cat/