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From Small to Great

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL GYMNASTICS
IN SMALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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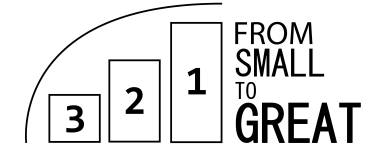
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Background

- First contact: Sports for Children (Mr. Stefan Groothuis)
- Zerin Emic visits Flik-Flak: ‘My Professor must see this!’
- Almir Atikovic visits Flik-Flak
- Arno (ISLGS) and Jorlan were invited at the International Science Conference in Ljubljana
- Almir and Jorlan to write a proposal for the Erasmus+; that could give us the opportunity to meet foreign friends, learn from each other and expand the network
- September 26: proposal was granted

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-OGKGmxSbw>

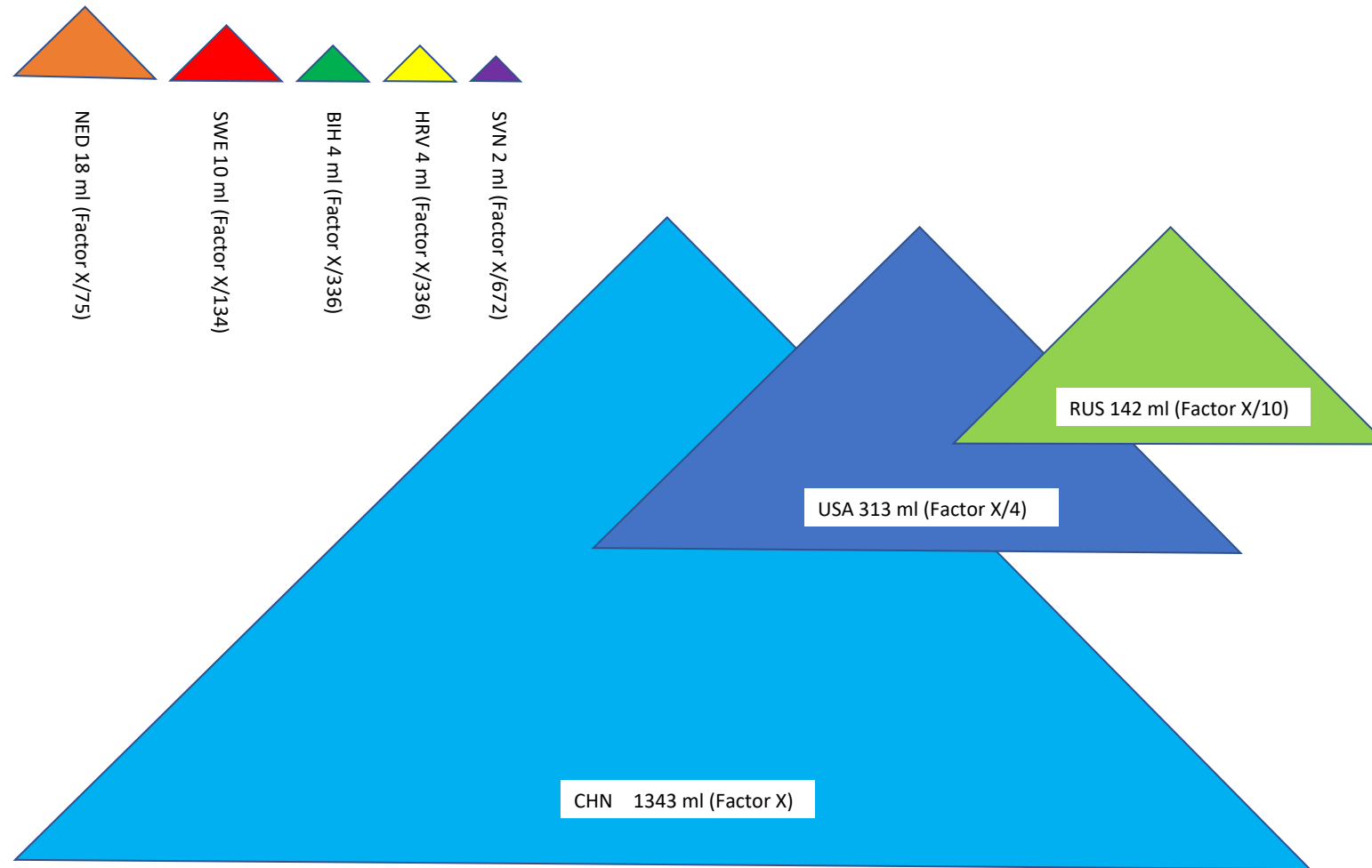
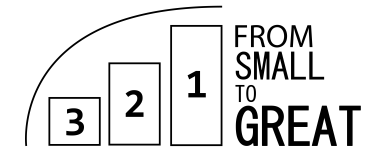


Motivation

- Many European countries are trying to find their own unique way to cope with talent development and high-performance sport that match with their own culture
- There is a big difference between:
 - a) Countries with a large population and an excess of talented athletes
 - b) Countries with a small population and just a few talented athletes
- How does the fact that we are small effect the choices we make concerning talent development and the practice of high-performance gymnastics?
- What can small countries learn from each other in their way to perform?
- What are opportunities and what are treats when we want to learn from large countries?



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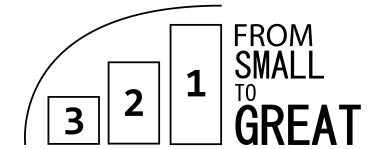
Results for the FIG AG WC Glasgow 2015 WAG Team Qualifications

Ranking	Country	Population	Ranking	Ratio NED
1	USA	321.368.864	2	18,96
2	Russian Federation	142.423.773	4	8,40
3	Great Britain	64.088.222	8	3,78
4	China	1.367.485.388	1	80,69
5	Italy	61.855.120	9	3,65
6	Japan	126.919.659	5	7,49
7	Canada	35.099.863	11	2,07
8	The Netherlands	16.947.904	14	1,00
9	Brazil	204.259.812	3	12,05
10	France	66.553.766	7	3,93
11	Belgium	11.323.973	15	0,67
12	Germany	80.854.408	6	4,77
13	Romania	21.666.350	13	1,28
14	Australia	22.751.014	12	1,34
15	Republic of Korea	49.115.196	10	2,90
16	Switzerland	8.121.830	16	0,48



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GDP per Capita

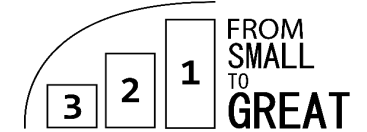


Ranking	Land	GDP per capita	Ranking	Ratio NED
16	Switzerland	67.560	1	1,40
8	The Netherlands	48.222	2	1,00
1	USA	46.381	3	0,96
14	Australia	45.587	4	0,95
11	Belgium	43.986	5	0,91
10	France	42.747	6	0,89
12	Germany	40.875	7	0,85
6	Japan	39.731	8	0,82
7	Canada	39.669	9	0,82
5	Italy	35.438	10	0,73
3	Great Britain	35.334	11	0,73
15	Republic of Korea	17.074	12	0,35
13	Romania	14.400	13	0,30
2	Russian Federation	8.694	14	0,18
9	Brazil	8.220	15	0,17
4	China	3.678	16	0,08



SELECTION strategy/system

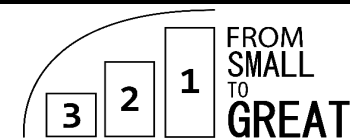
COMPETITION structure



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	JUDGEMENT strategy	SUPPORTING systems	OTHERS
Board/staff/management			
	How important is it to have judges on international level?	How is support organized on clublevel?	Wat is the role of Olympic commitie in your country?
	What is the influance of international networks?	How is the support organized on federal level?	
	Are their countries who are in advance?		
Coaches/trainers			
		What about the responsibilities and autorities?	
		Relationship between coach and experts	
Experts			
	How much can we change the body in direction of judges preferences?		
Athletes			
		Who pay the bills from athletes concerning medical support?	
Others			



Theses

- A large country can send just one member for the jury; every small country can also send one member for the jury
- A small country has too little gymnasts on top-level to generate enough data for significant research results
- In a small country you can not organize a profitable competition for gymnast. There are not enough high level gymnast for an attractive event.
- A country with a small population generates less income from taxes. Sometimes the money is just too little to support a national team
- In a small country you need a focus on certain sports; there are not enough people to diffuse the attention
- A small country is limited in their their medical specialties because of a lack of casuistic; in a small country a case can be exceptional. In a large country it is maybe less exceptional
- If you have less talents you can not afford to loose a lot of them. What does that mean for all aspects of talent development ?



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Thanks for your attention!
