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**“Traditional Wrestling - Promoting Traditional Wrestling For Cultural Tourism and Local Development”**

### **Summary of the book**

The TRAWECU project was born from various and multiple encounters between groups of wrestlers from different countries motivated by the transmission of social practices such as wrestling and traditional sports. Many of these meetings are now partly organized through the AEJeST network, the European traditional sports and games association created in 2001. We can also add the FILC, the International Federation of Celtic Wrestling.

It is especially from 2014 that significant meetings have been organized, following the vote by the European Parliament, in 2012, of a text asking "the European Commission to support indigenous sports and games which are part of the rich cultural and historical diversity of the European Union, symbolizing its motto 'United in diversity'". The Parliament drew a particular attention to the support for popular festivals that host these activities.

However, the motivation of the actors of the TRAWECU project is that it is always possible to reverse a delicate situation from the moment when we know the explanation of the problem and that a certain freedom is left to the actors in order to build solutions.

This implies indoor sport practice of course, and for people who do not want competition, leisure practice outside of championships. This leisure practice is close to the festive spirit that still accompanies many traditional wrestling competitions during the summer local festivals, and of course those which can be offered in the school programme in the areas concerned by the different styles.

But the various actors of traditional games and sports (federations, associations, museums, sports clubs, etc.) must be prepared and trained in order to better collaborate with the other entities involved in cultural tourism and local development. Indeed, it is time to develop strategies to integrate traditional sport into the active leisure offered by the various players in tourism linked to sustainable development.

The motivations for this project are expressed in the first part of the book. The second part describes the projects implemented by the various partners or examples of experiments already carried out.

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