

## SPORTS TERRITORY AND HERITAGE IN THE SOUTH REGION / PROVENCE - ALPES - CÔTE D'AZUR

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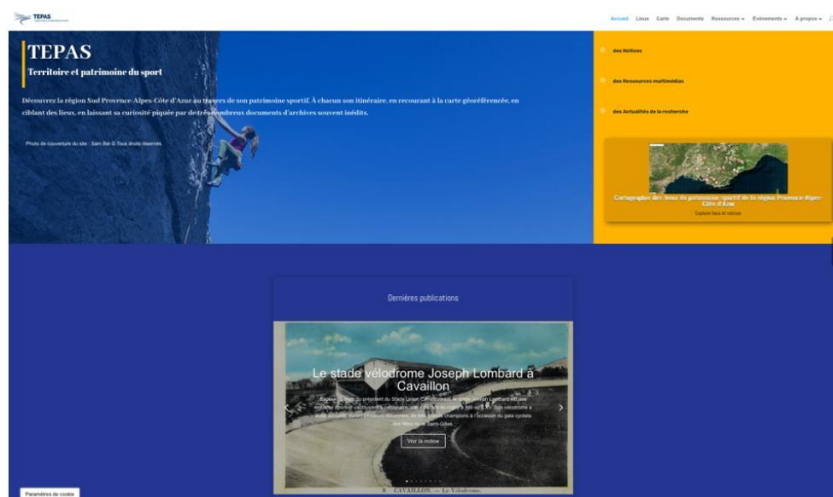
On the occasion of the fourth International Seminar on Sports Archives, we are pleased to introduce you to the program «Territori i patrimoni de l'esport» (TEPAS) a la Regió Sud / Provence -Alpes - Côte d'Azur ('Territory and heritage of sport') (TEPAS) in the Southern Region / Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur which has brought the House of Human and Society Sciences of the Southeast (Côte d'Azur University) and the Mediterranean House of Human Sciences (Aix Marseille University - CNRS). The program, which has the support of the regional authorities, is part of the action scientific «sports and society» of the national network of the houses of human sciences, and it is developed in cooperation with the departmental and municipal archives of the region.

Since the 19th century, the South Region / Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur has been an ideal place for the development of sports activities. The economic growth and openness to the world of Marseille or Nice have had a chain effect that has benefited the entire region. Sailors, shopkeepers, merchants, workers of foreign companies and even tourists have spread the practice of sport, the vast majority born in England. English sports have spread throughout the region at the same time that they have gradually relegated traditional games, which are less regulated, and also gymnastics, which is less fun. An elitist activity that has spread to all social classes. But sport goes beyond a practice that keeps spreading. It has become part of the mass culture, through the celebration of sport shows produced and broadcasted by the media and which gather crowds. It has also been a question of power, where it plays an important role in shaping identities, mainly territorial ones. In fact, certain areas, according to their topography, have produced specific cultures, while sports practices, in all their diversity, have left their mark on the territory. Sport becomes a privileged observatory of the transformations that occur in urban and natural territories, between the sea and the mountains in the Southern Region / Provence - Alpes - Côte d'Azur.

However, the association of heritage and sport is not obvious. However, the fashion around heritage as well as the extension of its concept to include places and objects of everyday life allows the sporting fact to be included. Buildings, equipment, natural sites, instruments and objects for practice, but also writings, photographs or artistic representations make up the far-reaching sport heritage. If the question of selection and conservation is the subject of great debates at the crossroads of cultural, scientific and political spheres, the question of promoting sporting heritage remains unresolved.

How can it be introduced? Under what conditions should access be promoted and for what purposes?  
 How can it be restored in its historical context? What are the economic risks, in particular, from the point of view of territorial development?

To answer these questions, since 2012, the TEPAS program organizes annually, «the sporting heritage meetings» in Nice and Marseille, where researchers meet with heritage conservators, representatives of local authorities, journalists, sportsmen, managers and artists, to develop a fruitful dialogue.



Since 2017, the TEPAS program has been developing a digital platform (<https://tepas.mmslh.fr>) that identifies, contextualizes and values the regional sporting heritage in its diversity (sports facilities, natural spaces or urban spaces that have marked the history of sport). On the website of TEPAS, we find very well illustrated news with archival documents, which allow the body of sports fans to walk from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Alpine regions to discover racetracks, velodromes, bowling alleys, golf courses, tennis facilities, stadiums, gyms, nautical centres, motoring circuits, ice and ski slopes, places to practice rock climbing, paragliding or BTT... without forgetting the statues, steles and other commemorative plaques. The TEPAS website allows you to navigate using a referenced GEO map, with the added feature whereby you can search through locations or documents using keywords. The collaboration method developed with heritage and sport institutions will be presented at the conference.

The TEPAS website also provides access to exhibitions held by partner organizations, on the history of sport in the region and beyond. It also facilitates access to the latest publications and news about the history of sport in the region.