

PROPOSAL FROM THE GREEK GLIDING COMMITTEE FOR THE CREATION OF A COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Proposal

It is proposed that a Country Development Working Group be created with the purpose of assisting in the development of gliding in countries with emerging soaring movements.

The working group will endeavor to:

- Provide a framework for assistance to the development of soaring movements which have not fully matured.
- Promote the enhancement of gliding's infrastructure base around the world.
- Encourage contact between pilots from developing and advanced soaring movements.

Discussion

The development and growth of the gliding movement is a strategic priority for the IGC. The Committee's work towards that goal, with the creation of the Grand Prix format as well as the IGC Strategic Improvement Plan, are proving to be a key efforts in ensuring the future of our sport.

Part of that strategy is to look at what can be done to develop new audiences for soaring, both in terms of demographics as well as geography. Within this context, it is important to address a group of nations which offer significant promise for cross country flight, but have yet to develop their gliding movements to their potential.

Through the proposed Working Group, the IGC would be able to assist NACs in individual countries with the expertise and networking required to surpass common hurdles that stand in the way of a developing a mature gliding movement with a critical mass of cross country pilots. By creating a framework for development, the IGC could harness resources available through its members to create a plan of action that would act as a catalyst for growth, engaging countries to participate in this process.

In parallel to this goal, the Working Group should promote the development of gliding's infrastructure in places of particular interest for cross-country flight, where such base is currently wanting. This could be instrumental, not only for the development of local soaring, but to enhance the range of options available to glider pilots around the world. Ease of access to glider airfields for foreigners, as well as the availability of supporting infrastructure is the basic prerequisite for encouraging pilots to go fly in other regions of the world. By introducing new, practical, destinations for our global membership and promoting the idea of glider tourism, we can broaden the demographic appeal of our sport. This is a development strategy that has worked successfully for a number of sports.

Key to the realization of the above targets will be the exchange of knowledge and experiences between glider pilots from different nations. Two-way movement of glider pilots between developing and advanced soaring nations should be encouraged by establishing contacts and facilitating the practicality of such visits. The IGC can take advantage of its networking powers and its ability to promote and sanction events to energize this process.

In working to achieve these objectives, the Committee is in the unique position of being able to mobilize the collective knowledge and human resources within the gliding movement to create a framework for growth of our sport. While the FAI cannot on its own bring about radical change, it can engage countries which have not up to now been actively involved in the workings of the IGC, by offering them something relevant to participate in.

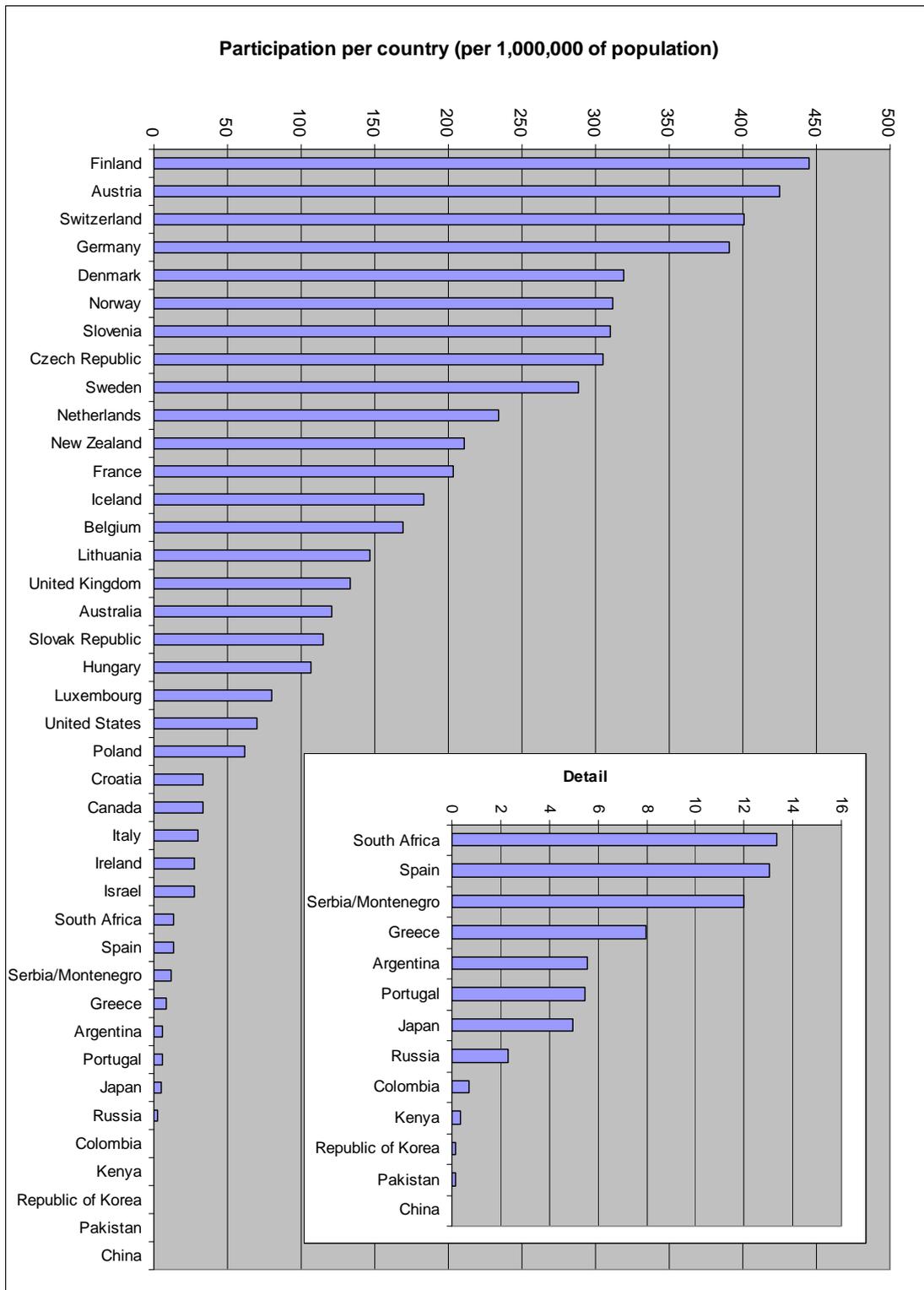
The task at hand requires a significant effort to be expended in terms of networking, analysis and planning. It is therefore proposed that the most effective way of attacking this issue would be the creation of a dedicate team which would seek out practical approaches to the defined strategic goals. This would be the task of the proposed Working Group.

Appendix

The following membership statistics are included:¹

- Figure 1 -- Participation per country (per 1,000,000 of population)
- Figure 2 -- Glider pilots per country
- Table 1 – Membership numbers per country

¹ Membership statistics are from the World Membership Report for 2006 (figures for 2006). There is no data for the following IGC member countries: Bulgaria, Chile, F.Y.R.O.Macedonia, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Latvia, Mexico, San Marino, Turkey, Ukraine.



**Figure 1 – Participation in gliding as a factor of population.
Numbers are pilots per 1 million of country population.**

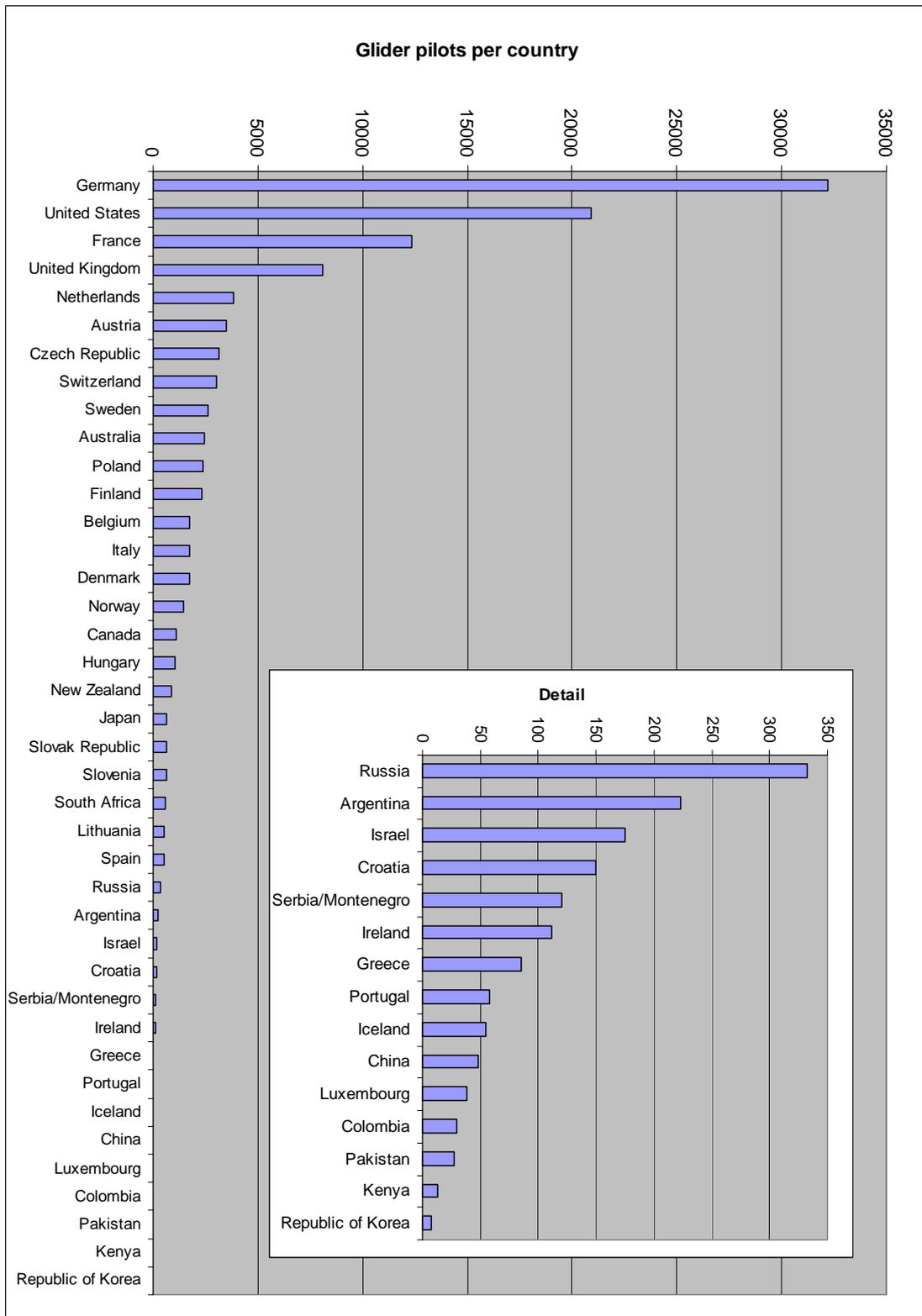


Figure 2 – Glider pilots per country

Country	Pilots (2006)	Rank per pilots	Rank per participation
Germany	32229	1	4
United States	20899	2	21
France	12375	3	12
United Kingdom	8079	4	16
Netherlands	3857	5	10
Austria	3481	6	2
Czech Republic	3121	7	8
Switzerland	3018	8	3
Sweden	2600	9	9
Australia	2444	10	17
Poland	2362	11	22
Finland	2329	12	1
Belgium	1760	13	14
Italy	1742	14	25
Denmark	1738	15	5
Norway	1437	16	6
Canada	1101	17	24
Hungary	1063	18	19
New Zealand	861	19	11
Japan	630	20	34
Slovak Republic	624	21	18
Slovenia	624	22	7
South Africa	590	23	28
Lithuania	527	24	15
Spain	526	25	29
Russia	333	26	35
Argentina	223	27	32
Israel	175	28	27
Croatia	150	29	23
Serbia/Montenegro	120	30	30
Ireland	112	31	26
Greece	85	32	31
Portugal	58	33	33
Iceland	55	34	13
China	48	35	40
Luxembourg	38	36	20
Colombia	30	37	36
Pakistan	27	38	39
Kenya	13	39	37
Republic of Korea	8	40	38
Bulgaria	-	-	-
Chile	-	-	-
F.Y.R.O.Macedonia	-	-	-
Georgia	-	-	-
Guatemala	-	-	-
India	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-
San Marino	-	-	-
Turkey	-	-	-
Ukraine	-	-	-

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