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NON-MEGA SPORTING EVENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE 2022 MEDITERRANEAN GAMES ON THE SOCIO-URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF ORAN CITY

Abstract: This article explores the Mediterranean Games as non-mega sporting events (NMSE), with a focus on their impact on urban development of host cities, in this case the city of Oran. It examines how the city leveraged the event for infrastructure, tourism and local economic growth. The initial hypothesis suggests that the Games acted as a catalyst for significant investments that promoted sustainable urban development. Through an exploratory analysis, the study investigates socio-spatial and territorial impact from the bidding phase to the post-event period. Findings reveal that, while not comparable in scale to the Olympics, the Mediterranean Games significantly influenced Oran's urban and social development, generating major urban projects and encouraging international cooperation and cultural exchange among participating nations.

Key words: non-mega sporting events, Mediterranean Games, Oran, catalyst, sustainable urban project, impact, pre-event, post-event

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Introduction

As part of the Olympic movement, the Mediterranean Games embody the ideals of multiculturalism and universalism. Held every four years, these regional games represent the most significant multi-sport event for Mediterranean countries after the Olympics, uniting nations across diverse cultures, religions, and languages (Adami, 2004; Kilcline, 2008; Belmaati Cherkaoui, 2022). Since their inception in 1951, the Mediterranean Games have grown in size and popularity. The first edition in Alexandria brought together 10 countries and 13 disciplines. In 2022, the 19th edition in Oran gathered 26 countries in 25 disciplines across 24 venues (CIJM, n.d.). The evolution of the Mediterranean Games as major sporting event has made them tools for addressing Geopolitical, urban, economic, social, and environmental challenges (Fallacara & Stigliano, 2020; Belmaati Cherkaoui, 2022; Amara, 2023; Suchet, 2024). Particularly for cities in the southern Mediterranean, encouraging infrastructure modernization and urban development. The competition among these cities to become hosts, reflects a paradigm shift, where prestige is no longer reserved for countries with a long tradition of organizing major competitions. Politicians compete to host these events due to the potential benefits they believe they can bring to the host city, region, and country. This rise of the Mediterranean Games is interpreted in different ways. Some see it as a sign of «catch-up» or «emergence» of these countries on the world stage, while another perspective emphasizes the use of sports events as a potential tool for sustainable urban development. In a context where rapid urbanization in southern Mediterranean cities poses several challenges, the Mediterranean Games could be seen as an opportunity to address some of these challenges.

However, it is interesting to note that it was only in the 19th century that major sports events were established as significant moments shaping the development of cities (Liao & Pitts, 2006; Gold & Gold, 2016). The 1960 Rome Summer Olympics provided the first paradigm of modern Games as catalysts for major urban changes (Liao & Pitts, 2006). Cities are no longer passive vessels serving Olympic performances, the delivery of Olympic sites as key elements of urban intervention has given way to a broader urban planning program. Since then, large-scale sports events have become a pretext for triggering large-scale urban improvement and shaping the planning policy of host cities. This catalyst effect for urban development (Chalkley & Essex, 1999), leading to regeneration and modernization of built and natural spaces (Azzali, 2017) is one of the main reasons cities justify colossal investments in organizing major sports events and gaining public support. According to (Hiller, 2000), a large-scale sports event is something that must be understood in its urban context as an urban event, rather than something that is parachuted in and then disappears. It is an urban activity, generated and promoted by urban forces, and has lasting urban consequences. They represent decisive moments in the evolution of cities, creating new initiatives and structures.

Academic research tends to prioritize mega-sporting events MSE (Summer and Winter Olympics, FIFA World Cup, Commonwealth Games) (Müller, 2015), over non-mega ones NMSE (Zawadzki, 2020), due to factors like limited media coverage, lower economic impact and alignment with current research priorities (Taks, 2013, 2016; Oshimi & Yamaguchi, 2023). However, the belief that bigger events are always better is increasingly challenged, as the high costs of mega-events often outweigh long-term benefits (Ferrand &

Chappelet, 2015). In contrast, (NMSE) the smaller version of MSE (Taks, 2016), can have a significant impact on local communities (Djaballah et al., 2015; Taks et al., 2015). Taks (2016) highlights that there are more (NMSE) globally than (MSE), which operate within a globalized, competitive environment, which can potentially reduce their impact. She suggests that the future is in Non-mega sport events. Moreover, in less developed countries, such events can contribute significantly to local development, strengthen regional identity, and enhance community well-being (Djaballah et al., 2015; Taks et al., 2015).

Our research calls for further exploration of NMSE like the Mediterranean Games, focusing on their role in the sustainable urban development of host cities, such as Oran in 2022.

Material and methods

Reading, analysis and review of the master plan and reports

The review of the Oran 2022 Mediterranean Games master plan aimed to understand the objectives set by the authorities. The analysis was supplemented by the examination of reports from various Oran directorates, including DUAC, URBOR, DJS, DTA, OPGI, and DTP, covering different scales of urban planning, from micro to macro. Through this process, key variables were identified, such as urban development (housing, road infrastructures, sport and transportation infrastructures), urban mobility and transportation, the preservation of old buildings, tourism development, the use of sports facilities, and environmental initiatives, including (cleanliness, public spaces, and green spaces).

Media data collection phase

At the same time, media data was collected, including press articles, television reports and blogs, with the aim of understanding the media perception of the Games, providing an additional context for the analysis.

Analysis and interpretation of collected data using QGIS software

The use of QGIS software for mapping was pivotal in identifying major urban transformation zones based on the collected reports and data. This tool also allowed the precise visualization and interpretation of urban changes, particularly focusing on the Miloud Hadfi Olympic Complex and its surroundings, which received significant attention from public authorities. By applying a diachronic approach, the study analyzed urban transformations in this specific zone from 2015 to 2024.

Online survey Phase

A random sample of 180 residents from Oran was selected to evaluate the perceived impact of the Mediterranean Games on the city. The survey focused on variables related to the perception of urban transformations, identified during the data collection process, specifically targeting sectors affected by the event in Oran's urban context. These variables included old buildings, sports infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, sports tourism, public spaces, environmental initiatives and residents' quality of life. These variables shaped the survey questions, which were organized into three phases: before, during, and after the Games. Conducted through social media between June and July 2024, the survey enabled broad and spontaneous participation from the Oran population.

Data analysis with SPSS software

In this survey, SPSS was used to analyze the collected data on urban variables. SPSS facilitated statistical analyses, including repeated measures ANOVA, and created clear visualizations to interpret perceptions rated on a Likert scale.

Study area: Oran, a future metropolis in the heart of the Mediterranean

Oran, "El Bahia" the radiant, is one of Algeria's most emblematic cities that occupies a special place in Mediterranean history due to its strategic geographical position. Founded by the Andalusians in the 10th century, it was successively under Spanish, Ottoman and French domination before becoming Algerian after independence in 1962. Today, Oran is Algeria's second-largest city after the capital Algiers, and plays an essential role in the national economy (URBOR, 2015).

With its rich cultural and historical heritage, Oran has always been a great sporting city, the Club «Athlétique Liberté d'Oran», founded in 1897, was the first omnisports club on the African continent (Comité Olympique et Sportif Algérien, 2015). The city covers a wide range of disciplines, and is a major national and international sports hub. The city's sporting infrastructure reflects its history: Ahmed-Zabana stadium, Habib-Bouakeul stadium, Hammou-Boutlélis sports palace, tennis courts, racecourses and Olympic swimming pools.

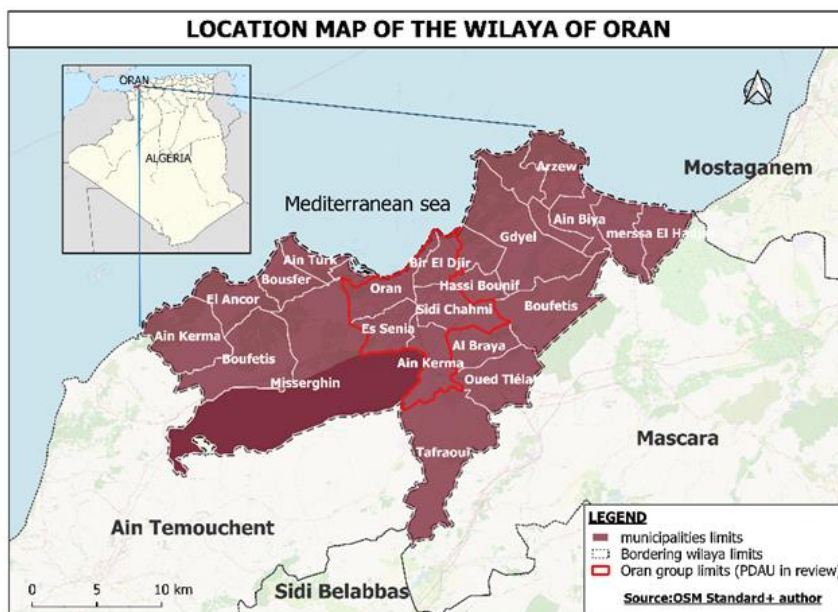


Fig. 1. Location map of the wilaya of Oran (Source: OSM Standard, Authors 2024)

Planning for the Oran 2022 Mediterranean Games

Olympic planning must be considered almost synonymous with urban planning". Through (pre event phase (bid phase, preparation phase), event phase and post-event phase) of the Olympic cycle (Hiller, 2003, 2006).

The pre-event phase: The bid for the 2022 Mediterranean Games

After the Algiers Mediterranean Games in 1975, Algeria waited 40 years to host this major sporting event again. In 2015, in competition with Sfax, Oran was designated the host city of the 19th edition of the Mediterranean Games 2021 by the International Mediterranean Games Committee (ICMG) in Pescara, Italy (postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19). This choice was greeted with enthusiasm, putting an end to a long period of frustration, particularly after the failure of the bid for the 2017 African Cup of Nations. Hasni Mibarbache, vice-president of the Oran municipality, described the event as a "great celebration of youth" (Abane, 2015). Unanimously supported by the country's highest authorities. What's more, successive Algerian governments have incorporated the games into their programs. The city of Oran also enjoyed the support of Arnold Schwarzenegger, former governor of California and co-founding president of the NGO R20 (Regions of Climate Action). A few days before the ICMG General Assembly, he tweeted to his 3.5 million followers: "My 2 passions in 1: sport and environment: good luck Oran for the 2021 Mediterranean Games". This support strengthened Oran's bid.

Strategy for hosting the Oran 2022 Mediterranean Games

While the main goal was to promote sport, urban planning and infrastructure modernization were also key.

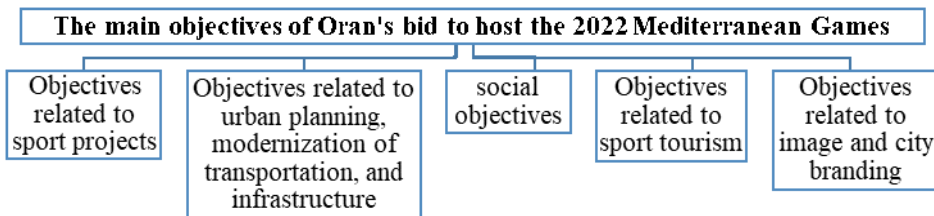


Fig. 2. summary diagram of the main objectives of Oran's bid for the 2022 MG (Source: 2022 Mediterranean Games master plan)

Preparation phase: Mediterranean Games 2022, the city of Oran and urban transformations

Hosting the Mediterranean Games in 2022 involved various initiatives to prepare the city, here is a summary of the main projects and initiative. *Operations in Oran Groupment including 5 municipalities (Oran, Es-Senia, Bir El Djir, Sidi Chahmi, and Ain Kerma)* (URBOR, 2015).

Sport infrastructures

According to a report prepared by the Youth and Sports Directorate (DJS, 2022), several sports facilities in Oran were *rehabilitated* and *modernized* for the Mediterranean Games. Among these: Hammou Boutlélis Sports Palace, Es-Sénia Equestrian Center, Saint Hubert Tennis Center, Ahmed Zabana Stadium, and other key infrastructures.

New facilities were also built, such as *Miloud Hadfi Olympic Complex*, which includes a main stadium with 40,000 seats, water basins, an athletics stadium, and a multisports hall. Imagined and designed by *Origin* agency (formerly ATSP). According to its designers, this project represents "a snapshot of a country opening up to the world" (Hugron, 2022).

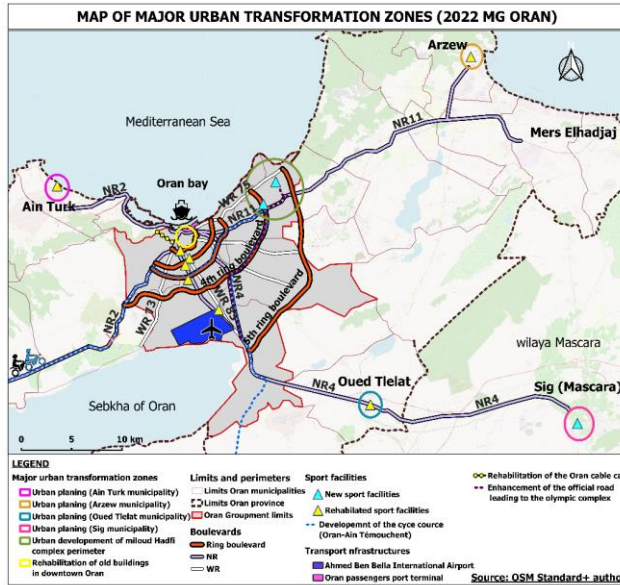


Fig. 3. Map of major urban transformation zones in preparation for 2022 MG (Source: OSM Standard, Author 2024)

Mediterranean Village, a new district (39 ha), has been built to accommodate participants. It offers beds, residential areas and sports facilities. Mers El Hadjadj stadium, was equipped with synthetic turf and stands for 5,400 people, used for football training.

Urban planning of the area dedicated to the Games

According to the (Direction de l'Urbanisme, de l'Architecture et de la Construction, 2019), It included Rehabilitation and creation of boulevards to improve traffic flow and accelerate urban development. New boulevards have been created to link the NR11 to the WR75, and a fifth ring road has been constructed, which also served as a venue for a time trial race. Projects for cycling paths were planned around the sports complex to promote cycling. Only one of these paths has been realized. To improve traffic flow and ensure the safety of road users, traffic lights have been installed at 15 intersections in the city. Sidi Bachir district underwent urban transformations induced by the preparations for the Games, with efforts to restructure and beautify the eastern access to the city, in the district efforts were made also to re-sorb substandard housing by constructing 1600 social housing units.



Fig. 4. Olympic swimming pool photo (Source: <https://origin.archi/complexe-olympique-doran/>)



Fig. 5. Photo of the Miloud Hadfi Olympic stadium (Source: Author, 2024)



Fig. 6. Miloud Hadfi Olympic City (Source: <https://origin.archi/>)

Diachronic analysis of the perimeter around Miloud Hadfi Olympic Complex and Mediterranean Village

Our diachronic analysis, covering the period from early 2015 to early 2024, (from bidding to post event phase) reveals that the perimeter around Miloud Hadfi Olympic Complex and Mediterranean Village received heightened attention and underwent the most significant urban transformation compared to other parts of the city. It has seen a notable acceleration from 2018, marked by an intensification of work and a significant increase in the pace of change between 2020 and 2022. This transformation testifies to the resolute commitment of the local authorities to ensure the success of this international event, indicating a clear desire to rapidly modernize and improve this strategic area. However, between 2022 and 2024, the pace of change slowed, and the momentum seen before the Games did not continue at the same intensity.

Improving transport infrastructure

Ahmed Ben Bella" International Airport. Designed according to international standards, it incorporates sustainable features, including the use of solar energy for internal lighting, making it the first airport in Africa to adopt this technology.

Oran cable car. Although the rehabilitation work has not yet been completed, this project aims to modernize the Oran cable car to provide a practical and attractive means of transport.

Port of Oran passenger terminal. Improving the passenger maritime terminal facilitates maritime transport, strengthening the port's capacity to efficiently handle goods and passengers.

*Traffic plan (APS, 2022):*The city has put in place a new traffic plan for the Mediterranean Games, with specific routes for delegations and residents, updated transport plans, traffic calming measures and a reinforced public transport service.

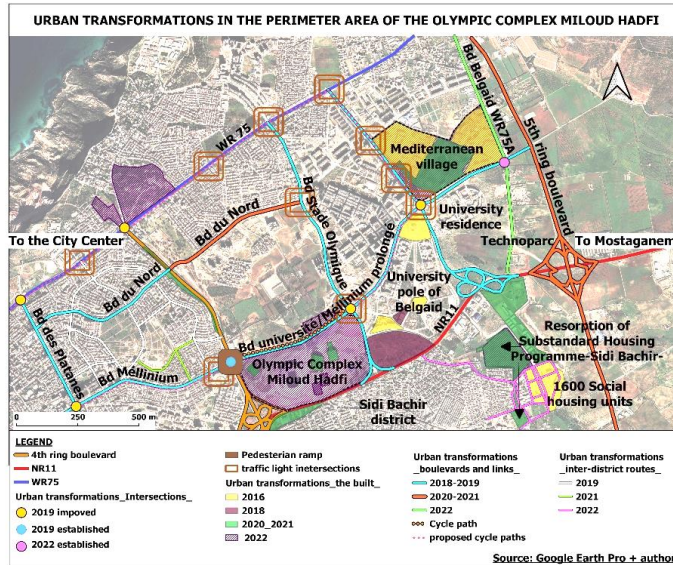


Fig. 7. Urban transformations in the perimeter area of Miloud Hadfi Olympic Complex and Mediterranean Village in Oran (Source: Google Earth Pro, Author 2024)

Rehabilitation of Oran's Old Buildings

In preparation for the 2022 Mediterranean Games and to preserve Oran's architectural heritage, 48 buildings were rehabilitated with 498 apartments in the city center. These efforts aimed to enhance the buildings' appearance and promote national tourism (OPGI, 2019). Rehabilitation Program include: the restoration of exterior facades and courtyards (main, rear, and side), the renovation of interior common areas such as basements, entrance halls, and stairwells, and the waterproofing of both accessible and inaccessible terraces as well as sloped roofs.



Fig. 8. Rehabilitated building on Larbi Ben M'hidi bd (left, source: OPGI Oran); Buildings facades renovation buildings in waterfront Oran (right, source: Author 2023)



Fig. 9. Chamber of Commerce building before and after rehabilitation on Boulevard de la Soummam (Source: Symetra algerie)



Fig. 10. Rehabilitated building located on Med Khmisti Boulevard (Source: OPGI Oran)

Projects in some neighboring municipalities

Municipalities of Arzew and Ain Turck. Development work has been undertaken in Arzew and Ain Turck. These projects included improving road infrastructure, beautifying urban spaces and installing public lighting. At the same time, the roads leading to the sports venues were renovated to facilitate access.

Projects in neighboring cities

City of Ain Témouchent

Cycling stage. The second stage of the Mediterranean Games road race crossed the wilaya of Ain Témouchent over a distance of 146 km, showcasing the region's landscapes.

Course improvements. Beautification work was carried out along the course to highlight monuments and tourist sites, enhancing the experience for participants and spectators.

Promoting the region. The cycling race provided an opportunity to promote tourism in Ain Témouchent, highlighting its natural and cultural attractions.

City of Mascara

Urban development at Sig. Major works have been undertaken in the city of Sig to improve urban infrastructure, including road surfacing, the creation of green spaces and the modernization of parks.

New Sig sports complex. A modern sports complex has been built in Sig, including a soccer stadium, a sports hall, an Olympic swimming pool and other facilities to promote sport in the region.

Oranie: Tourist appeal lights up the region

Accommodation. Over 194 hotels were mobilized, offering more than 19430 beds, underlining the commitment to providing quality accommodation.

Tourist circuits. The creation of ten tourist circuits highlighting historical and cultural sites, with trails and craft exhibitions.

Visit Oran application. An electronic application providing detailed information on tourism, accommodation and places to visit.

Regional circuits. Routes linking Oran to its neighboring towns have been laid out, accompanied by craft exhibitions to discover the cultural wealth of the region.

Enhancing historic sites. Iconic sites have been identified and highlighted, including the commune's headquarters, cathedral, mosques and forts, to enrich the visitor experience.



Fig. 11. Lighting of Oran Town Hall (Source: DTA Oran)



Fig. 12. Lighting of Santa Cruz fort (Source: DTA Oran)

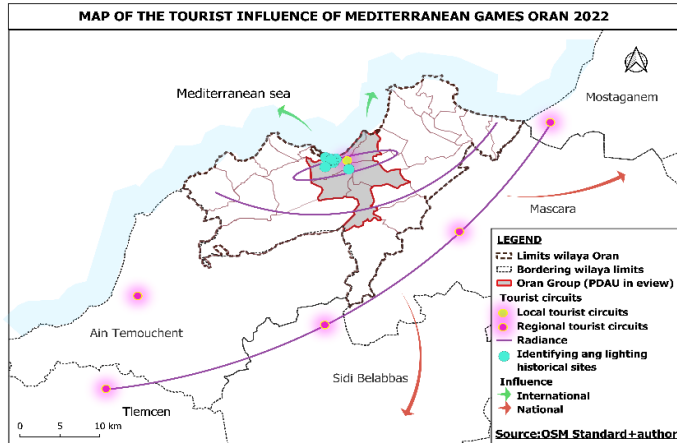


Fig. 13. Map showing the tourist influence of 2022.MG (Source: OSM Standard, Author 2024)

Survey results

The graphs below show changes in urban and social variables before, during, and after the 2022 Mediterranean Games. A repeated measures ANOVA was used to compare the mean values, with perceptions rated on a Likert scale: 1 = Not satisfactory, 2 = moderately satisfactory, 3 = Satisfactory. SPSS was used to generate the graphs.

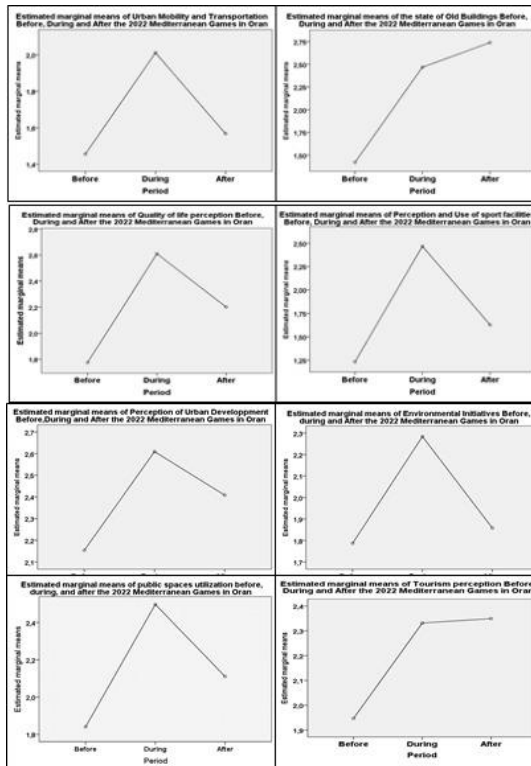


Fig. 14. Graphs of Estimated Marginal Means of Perceptions Before, During, and After the 2022 MG in Oran (Source: SPSS, Author 2024)

Table 1. Table of Estimated Marginal means before, during, and after the 2022 MG.

Estimated Marginal Means of perception	Period		
	Before	During	After
Perception of Urban development	2.16	2.64	2.35
Perception of Environmental initiatives	1.79	2.23	1.86
Perception of Public Spaces utilization	1.82	2.52	2.15
Perception of Tourism growth (local/international)	1.94	2.34	2.35
Perception of Mobility and Urban Transport	1.47	2.00	1.67
Perception of the State of Old Buildings	1.44	2.47	2.74
Perception of Quality of Life	1.77	2.61	2.21
Perception and Use of Sports Facilities	1.62	2.44	2.23

Source: SPSS, Author 2024

Perception of Urban Development. There is a significant increase during the Games, followed by a slight decrease afterward. This indicates a positive perception of urban development due to the Games, but this perception slightly decreases after the event.

Perception of Environmental Initiatives. A notable increase during the Games, followed by a decrease afterward. Environmental initiatives seem to have been perceived positively during the Games, but this perception diminishes after.

Perception of Public Spaces. The use of public spaces increases during the Games, then slightly decreases afterward. This shows that the Games encouraged greater use of public spaces, but this effect did not fully persist afterward.

Perception of Tourism. An increase in the perception of tourism during the Games that is maintained afterward. This indicates a lasting positive perception of the impact of the Games on tourism.

Perception of Urban mobility and Transportation. A marked improvement during the Games, with a decrease afterward, but still higher than the pre-Games period. This suggests perceived improvements during the Games that are not completely maintained.

Perception of Old Buildings. A continuous improvement in the perceived state of old buildings before, during, and after the Games. This shows a lasting positive impact.

Perception of Quality of Life. A significant increase during the Games, followed by a slight decrease afterward, but still higher than the pre-Games period. This suggests that the Games improved the perceived quality of life, although this effect slightly diminishes afterward.

Perception and Use of Sports Facilities. A notable increase during the Games, followed by a decrease afterward, but still higher than the pre-Games period. This shows that the Games had a positive impact on the use of sports facilities, though this effect decreases afterward.

Positive Impacts. The Games brought a significant temporary boost to all measured aspects (public spaces, tourism, urban mobility, state of old buildings, sports facilities, and quality of life).

Lasting Effects. Although there was a decline in almost all aspects after the Games, the levels did not return to their pre-Games state, indicating a lasting positive impact.

Discussion

This study aims to assess the socio-urban impact of the 2022 Mediterranean Games on Oran and how the city leveraged this regional event for sustainable urban development. While previous research on urban impacts has primarily focused on mega sporting events (Chalkley & Essex, 1999; Smith, 2012; Azzali, 2019b), studies on non-mega events are limited and often focus on social aspects (Taks, 2013; Taks et al., 2015; Djaballah et al., 2015; Duan et al., 2021; Oshimi & Yamaguchi, 2023; Zawadzki, 2024), socio-political project (Bodin & Misener, 2020), city branding (Janice et al., 2019), or sports participation (Yoshida et al., 2024). The socio-urban impacts of non-mega events, especially in less economically developed regions like Oran, remain underexplored, highlighting the relevance of this study.

The pre-event phase

Oran underwent bold initiatives to prepare for the 2022 Mediterranean Games, with significant investments in world-class sports facilities, urban planning, and transport infrastructure. The city's architectural heritage was also preserved through the rehabilitation of old buildings.

A diachronic analysis (2015-2022) shows significant transformations, especially around Miloud Hadfi complex, a strategic site for the Games. This development, coupled with tourism promotion and increased employment in sectors like construction and hospitality, contributed to citywide improvements. However, rapid changes brought challenges, including limited public information and disruptions to residents' daily lives. Similar to MSEs, the Mediterranean Games generated a sense of urgency and prestige, pushing organizers to bypass standard planning procedures to meet deadlines (Hiller, 2000).

Event phase

The 2022 Mediterranean Games, held in Oran, Algeria, from June 25th to July 5th 2022, brought together over 4,000 athletes from 26 Mediterranean countries competing in various sports disciplines. Venues were distributed across the region, including the provinces of Oran, Témouchent, and Mascara, offering dynamic settings for the competitions. The opening and closing ceremonies showcased Algeria's cultural heritage and fostered a sense of unity among participants. Residents surveyed during our study expressed satisfaction with the event, praising the strategic distribution of venues throughout Oran and its neighboring regions. Improvements in mobility, security, cleanliness, and urban entertainment were well-received, making the city vibrant and accessible throughout the Games. With 12 TV channels broadcasting the event including BeIN Sports and France2. The extensive media coverage enhanced the Games' visibility and impact nationally and internationally, solidifying Oran 2022 as a successful and memorable event.

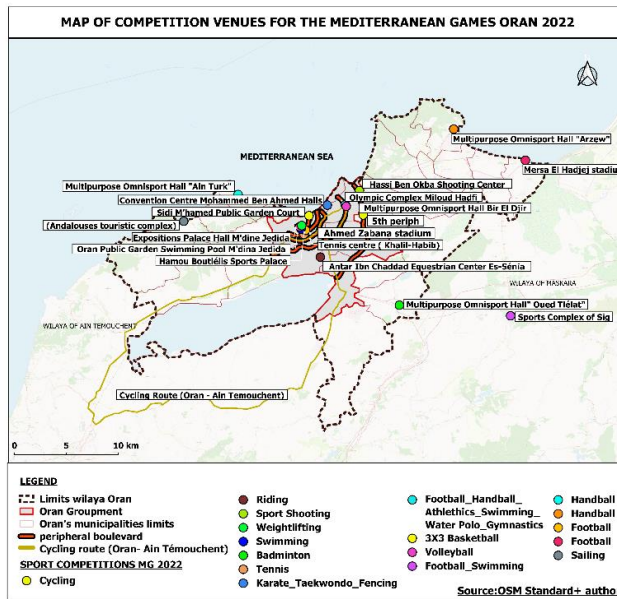


Fig. 15. Map showing the competition venues for MG Oran 2022 (Source: OSM Standard, Author 2024)

Post-event phase

Two years after the closure of the 19th Mediterranean Games, Oran has experienced significant urban transformation. As journalist Sadek Belkheir reported, quoting Abdelaziz Derouaz, the commissioner of the Oran Mediterranean Games, during an exhibition at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Oran emerged from the event with enhanced sports infrastructure, valuable experience in organizing large-scale events, and increased recognition among Mediterranean countries, despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Algerian athletes' outstanding performance added to the Games' success.

On the positive side, the Mediterranean Games served as a catalyst for urban development, unlocking substantial public funds and driving projects that extended beyond sports. The constructions of the new Olympic city and surrounding developments reinforced the polarization of Belgaid's locality (in eastern Oran) and strengthen its role as a strategic hub, hosting a university and student residence. These outcomes are similar to those observed with mega sport events. (Chalkley & Essex, 1999; Hiller, 2006; Azzali, 2019a, 2019b). This also supports (Taks et al., 2015), who argue that non-mega events can create sustainable benefits for local communities by fostering urban regeneration. The success of Oran in hosting part of the 2023 Pan Arab Games and the continued use of Miloud Hadfi Stadium for training by Algeria's national football team highlights the lasting value of these facilities. The Mediterranean Village in Oran has also been transformed into a tourist complex, contributing to economic and cultural growth, this transformation mirrors similar efforts in other host cities, such as *Sydney* in 2000, which developed a multifunctional hub; and *Beijing* in 2008, which integrated residential and tourist attractions. Moreover, the public opening of Oran's Olympic swimming pool has been positively received, like *Barcelona Olympic Pool* (1992) and the *London Aquatics Centre* (2012), both of

which were converted into public facilities, enhancing the lasting sports legacy of the Games. Survey feedback also points to optimism about increased tourism and satisfaction with new commercial establishments, such as restaurants and hotels, seen as indicators of local economic dynamism. This aligns with viewpoint that non-mega sporting events can stimulate local economies and promote sustainable development in the tourism sector (Taks, 2016). Additionally, the Games helped boost Oran's international visibility, reshaping Algeria's post-terrorism image and positioning the city as a safe and attractive destination, This aligns with perspective on the Games' role in promoting the new Algeria (Amara, 2023) and with view of non-mega sports events as key drivers for city branding (Janice et al., 2019).

However, the benefits are not without challenges. The regular maintenance of sports infrastructure represents an ongoing financial burden, and if neglected, could lead to deterioration. The Games also placed pressure on local resources, including water, energy, and transportation systems, which could have environmental impacts and affect residents' quality of life.

Conclusion

Our study shows that the 2022 Mediterranean Games in Oran acted as a catalyst for urban transformation, proving that non-mega sporting events can significantly impact local development. Investments in sports infrastructure left a lasting legacy, while the event spurred urban modernization, improved transportation, and enhanced the city's appeal as a tourist destination. These changes also raised Oran's international profile, supporting view that cities can leverage such events to showcase their distinct identity (Taks et al., 2015).

This research contributes to the growing body of literature on the impact of non-mega events on urban development. It reinforces the idea that non-mega events can serve as powerful tools for urban regeneration, sports participation, and city branding, aligning with theories proposed by Taks (2015) and others. Moreover, it highlights the importance of context-specific studies, as the impact of such events may differ significantly between developed and developing countries.

As time passes, it is imperative for decision-makers to prioritize the long-term sustainability of these developments. To ensure that the infrastructures continues to benefit Oran's population, it is essential to implement effective cost management, maintain transparency in planning, and establish a clear long-term vision. The success of the Games should be assessed not just by their temporary sporting and political achievements, but also by their impact on long-term urban development, social progress, political engagement.

Our research on the socio-urban impact of the Mediterranean Games revealed a lack of similar studies, particularly on the urban dimensions of non-mega events. While our study offered valuable insights into measurable aspects of urban transformation, data limitations restricted a deeper exploration of broader sustainability impacts. Future research would benefit from more extensive data collection to better understand the long-term socio-urban effects of non-mega events like the Mediterranean Games.

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