

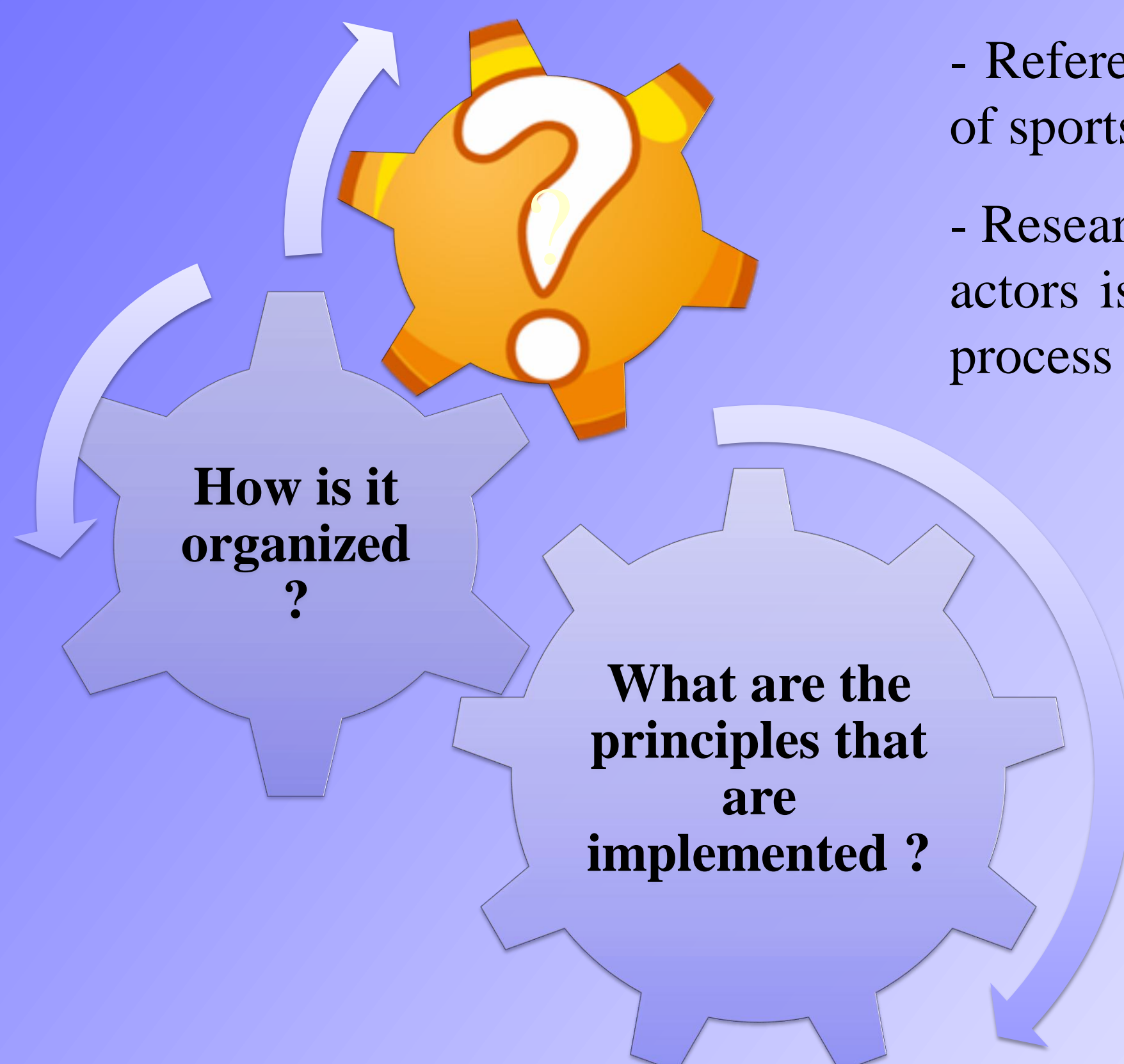
Referee education in Wallonia

The case of the team sports with interpenetration

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Introduction and aim of the study

- Referees are responsible for the proper progress of sports competitions
- Research focusing on these important sport actors is very scarce, especially on their learning process



Analysis of the Wallonian situation of referee's education in five sports federations

Methods

What ?

- Initial and career-long learning for referees ?
- Aims of federations ? Aims of the courses ?

Who ?

- 3 members of each refereeing commission (n=15 ; ± 16 hours of recording)
- Basket-ball, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, and Handball

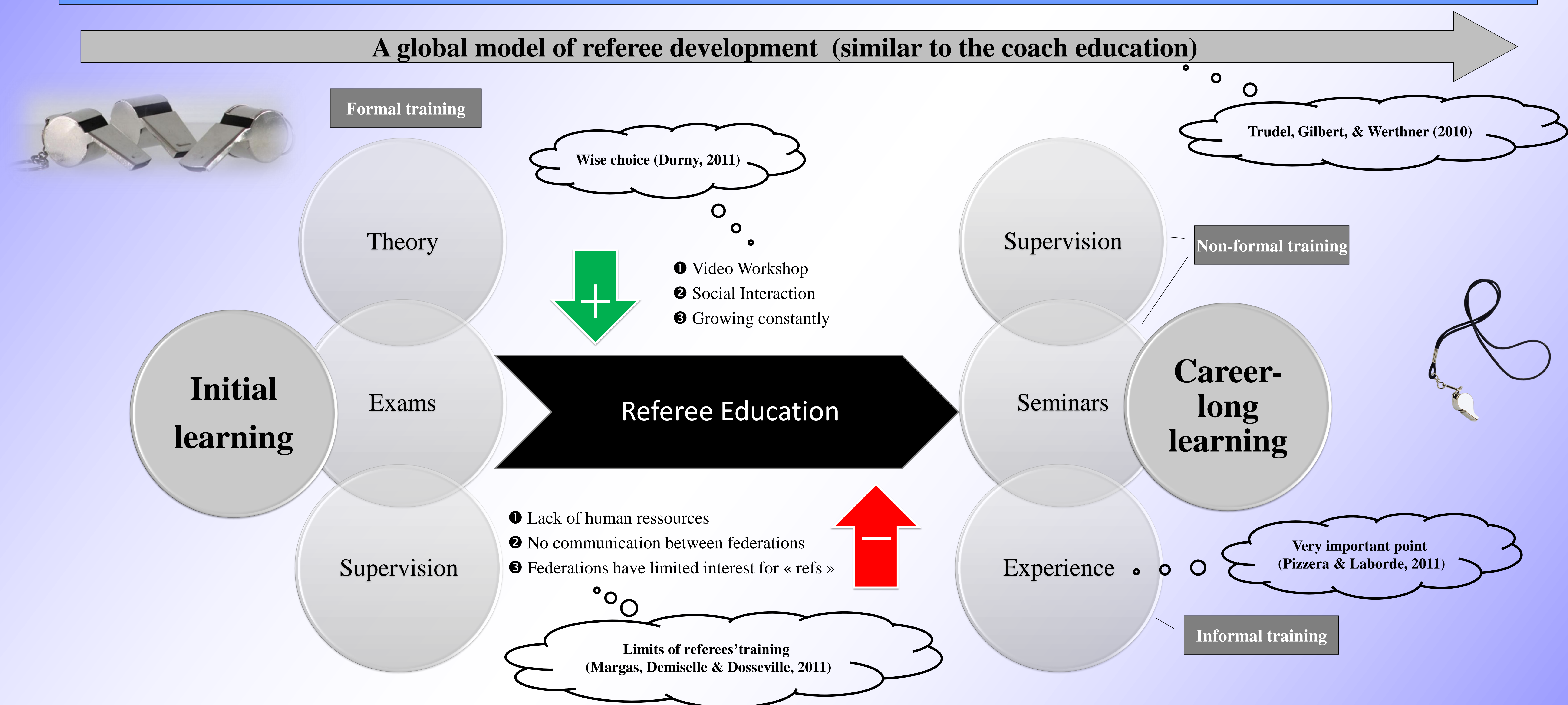
How ?

- Semi-structured interviews
- Analysis of syllabi used during the referees' courses
- Validity = source-checking, crossed perspectives
- Subjects gave a feedback on the synthesis of the interviews

Griffin and Templin (1989)
Friedberg (1994); Locke (1989)

Results

A global model of referee development (similar to the coach education)



SPECIFIC APPROACHES PROPOSED BY THE SPORTS FEDERATION...



Training is not free of charge
(but until 85 sessions/year against 2 or 3 in other federations – 10€)



A refereeing center where
referees have weekly physical
training has been implemented



Learning levels are defined to
allow a gradual advancement



Supervisors are
not volunteers
(15€/h)



Referee educators must have a
certificate of the international
refereeing commission

Discussion and contribution to the field

- In the five federations, the structures are extremely different. An identical framework with different invariable levels, as in coach education (Theunissen, 2007) or in the FMOQ (= a multisports training for officials in Quebec, 2011) could facilitate the implementation of interdisciplinary training of referees (stress management, etc).
- In this way, the Wallonian interfederal association of sports (AISF) is currently preparing a workshop like this where communication, stress management are included. Good point to follow...
- Lack of human resources for referees' education → It seems necessary to increase the number of supervisors ↔ Enhancing of their role

Strengthen the quality of refereeing

- Moreover, sharing the experiences between all federations might be a source of enrichment (communities of practice)

What about an interfederal
committee of referees ?