

THE SYSTEM OF SPORT FOR ALL IN BULGARIA

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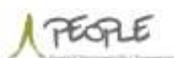
At the national level, the management of the system of sport for all is implemented according to the National Strategy for Development of Physical Education and Sport in the Republic of Bulgaria 2010 - 2020 and accompanying regulating documents. The strategy covers the organizational and managerial foundations of the sport system, scientific, medical and staffing issues, etc.

If we have to state in one sentence the state of the sport for all in Bulgaria, we would say that the system is still experiencing a transition from fully centralized management to liberalization and transfer to organizations' and consumers' initiative. The transition from full centralization to decentralization proved to be very difficult, and today, 27 years later, we still cannot say that the best regulatory mechanisms have been set and the sport for all is established steadily and sustainably. Bulgaria is still looking for the strategic direction for optimal distribution of funds for sport for all and maximizing the effectiveness of activities to attract sportsmen of all ages and social circles throughout their lives.

Activities – the system of sport for all functions through bringing together different fields of activities at different levels; firstly it is the state policy on sport and the official concept of sport for all as an instrument for strengthening human health, psyche and energy for professional and personal realization; in addition - cooperation between different ministries - sport, education (central to all levels of education!!!), health, social activities, defense, home affairs; funding of sport through national programs (they contribute to quality of SfA, but have a rather limited content); at the municipal level - organization of sports events, maintenance of infrastructure, financial support for sports initiatives; conduct qualification trainings, etc.; at the level of sports organizations - organization of sports activities and training, sports days, competitions, games, activities to attract more participants in sport.

Participation, access, motivation -

Bulgarian law on physical education and sport provides equal access for all to sport without any discrimination; particular attention is put to the development of sports skills in the formal education system, especially in homes for children deprived of parental care. More and more projects are enlarging the methodological basis and models for working with disabled people, not only giving the access to sporting activities, but also providing methodological support for sports training and qualification of people with disabilities. Participation in sports activities is intensified through project implementation by groups that



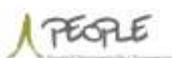
cannot be sufficiently reached by the educational or social system - ethnic minorities, people in isolation due to poverty or remoteness of residence.

Funding and management – Ministry of Physical Education and Sport is responsible for the normative/legislative framework, investment framework, project funding of the main activities; the management of sport for all is mainly delegated to municipalities. A central place in the decentralized system take sport clubs managing their sporting activities and making decisions to associate with other organizations (federations, associations, etc.); sports federations; sports organizations with special status – BOC. The funding is through the state budget, the municipalities, the Bulgarian sports totalizator, the financial sector (advertising and media rights), own revenues and others. The funding is project based. In recent years the participation of Bulgarian sports organizations in the European programs for education, culture and sport takes a special place (Erasmus + Program).

Infrastructure - In 1990 the infrastructure was extremely depreciated and inadequate; for nearly 15 years, the decision on the responsibility of the sport facilities and who they belong to was transferred from one institution to another. In the last 10 years, using a decentralized approach to municipalities under European and national projects, not only the sports facilities were restored, but also were constructed new stadiums, playgrounds and sports grounds, recreation and health zones in urban parks and suburban areas, mountain trails, chalets and campsites, adapted to develop sporting interest from earliest childhood. The sport infrastructure is being developed both with municipal funds and private ones in private sports clubs in recent years.

Human resources - The most important figures for the development of the sport are the coaches, instructors and physical education teachers in school. Excluding sports in the education system, coaches and instructors in a wide range of clubs, formal and informal groups, sporting initiatives, etc. can be both specialists with special qualifications and people without qualification - experienced in sports. The issue with the human resources qualification is very serious because it is related not only to the physical but also to the mental health of the sports men, as well as to their attitude towards sport. That is why training is clearly needed as related to the practice of sports training, the prevention of sports injuries and, above all, psychological approaches and communication between coaches and sports people in order to attract and keep them in sport from early childhood for life.

The MOVE project in Sport for All



The project was developed and implemented by partners from different countries, which take full account of the need for develop communication training in their national systems.

All of the analyzes and the preparatory work proved the need for better communication skills of the coaches of the Bulgarian professional athletes and the non-professional sports men. Over 30 lecturers and administrators from the university with various responsibilities actively participated in the project. Apart from this, 40 sports professionals expressed their position and joined the project goal during the round table provided for the project; through the training for module testing about 60 students were actively involved in the idea of more communication training in trainers' qualifications, of all professional and no professional athletes surveyed, over 50, expressed their willingness to get acquainted with the results of the project and to apply the developed materials in their sporting practice. During interviews and meetings, all of the coaches agreed that they needed training for professional communication in their for sports instructors and coaches. The project's set of teaching materials will be provided to various coaching groups - academics, federations, sports clubs. The handbook will also be published on the website of NSA, as well as other sports organizations. What the project is changing is that the preparation of trainers in Bulgaria is the willingness of the teachers to include in their programs a module for communication in sport that will present very practical approaches, which is the essence of the present project. Sports communication will be the subject of research and will bring the attention of students and abroad professional community. Thanks to the implementation of the MOVE project in the Bulgarian sports education system, the knowledge of communication and communication techniques will increase its importance and strengthen a serious area of science with positive consequences on the over all development of sport.

