

# **TRADUCERE CREANGĂ EMIL**

## **POSSIBILITIES AND PERSPECTIVES OF DEVELOPING CENTRES OF SPORTING EXCELLENCE IN ROMANIA**

The rapid evolution of sports results at global level and the desire to keep pace with international top performances have made the leaders of the National Education Ministry appoint periods of specialized training periods, with high professional coaches, who have a lot of experience of competitions and which gives them notoriety in the field, having at their disposal the best conditions of school and sportive training, of physical and medical recovery for sportsmen.

The educational system responds to the challenges of the contemporary world through offers and measures whose purpose is to keep it active. The leaders who make decisions in the field of education are more and more preoccupied with the rethinking and the correlation of the school, cultural, economic and social policy. The educational instruments need to be reorganized and transformed into explicit, concrete educational sources, in order to be able to mould and shape the personality of a sportive student.

The present paper discusses and debates upon the fundamental elements of the science of management of high sportive performance. It attempts both to extrapolate the concepts of the science of organization and leadership in the field of performance sports and to respond to some needs for thorough knowledge of the specialists who are directly or indirectly involved in our field of activity.

The need to overtake the mechanical learning and to acquire an innovative learning leads to the adjustment to the newly- created conditions. When there are existential shocks, changes, renovation and discontinuance there appears the need of other types of learning, mainly innovative learning, which leads to the appearance of some new education with new strategies and managerial steps being prepared.

New cultural connotations noticed by UNESCO and ONU lead to the orientation of school towards authentic moral values and impose new major objectives:

- the improvement of cultural identity;

- the extension of everybody's participation in the cultural life;
- the promotion of international cultural cooperation.

The development programs involve the birth of a new mentality regarding the quality of human role models. The old fields of education (intellectual, moral, aesthetic, technological, physical and religious education) lead to the appearance of new types of education (the education for peace, for the observance of human rights, for the home economy, demographic economy, communication and mass media, nutritional education and the education for changes and free time), and of new educational fields (integrated education, gifted children, continuing and distance education). In this context, there appear conflicts between the educational values determined by the order of their proposal for the educated ones. There are fundamental values that we encounter in society, such as: The Good, The Beautiful, The Truth, The Justice which are circumstanced to precise, existential determinations. O. Reboul, 1991, page 6, sustains that:

*“two societies can have the same values, however, without conferring them the same rank. Let's think that the Eskimo respects conjugal fidelity and hospitality as we do, but we are shocked when he gives the second value more importance than to the first one”.*

Thus, we can have the following conflict states between educational values:

- students' aspirations and adults' frame of values
- values recommended by teachers and the strictness of overrated structures
- the values promoted by the school and the proposals coming from the outside
- new and old, wanted and unwanted, appreciated and disregarded values
- mankind's general values and the ethnocentric ones
- long and short duration values
- middle-values and purpose- values
- already known values and the ones applied into practice
- democratic and selective values
- interdisciplinary values
- training the trainers (initial and final training)
- training in schools and on the labor market

- youngsters' spiritual aspirations
- the teaching and the assessment made by teachers

Solving these conflicts is not a measure that everyone can take, and the decrease of tension between these rapports involves an alienation from the teaching system, a reference to and the involvement of more instances of the global social system.

The approaching of this theme is not accidental. Its choice is the result of an experience gained first as a performance sportsperson, then as a “top” manager, General School Inspector of Neamt County and General Secretary of the Federation of the School and University Sports. High positions are not to be envied. They require intuition, talent, responsibility and competence, notoriety in the field and capacity of prediction in order to make the best decisions depending on the moment and the immediate impact. Therefore, studying, acquiring and applying the science of leadership in the field of physical education and school sports are a necessity, a “sine qua non” condition of maximum revaluation of the human and material potential that we dispose of, with the view of a optimum organization of the whole activity in the Centre's of Excellence, where are developed and improved talents that have been discovered and trained in the pre university teaching system.

Having this in mind, I searched and studied the specialized literature thoroughly, having the possibility to notice the gap that has appeared between the knowledge already confirmed by the managerial science and the bearing of application of sportive activities. That is the reason for which we insisted on the present paper to dispose of a serious theoretical and methodological basis, for which we examined all the scientific disciplines whose subject of study is the organization and the management of human activities. In addition, the whole paper is anchored in the practical and concrete reality which is determined by the present conjuncture of our national economy based on a free market, by an informative isolation adequate to the international context of school sportive performance, by the fact that management is determined by the necessity of projecting, planning, administrating, controlling and directing the activity towards a very well defined purpose with a maximum of efficiency, by the idea that management generates development without investment but through an efficient administration of the

goods already found in the own patrimony. The paper is linked to the reality also determined by the novelty appeared in the field of developed societies (production and the management process), by the fact that scientific management is the result of theoretical interpretation of long lasting practice, through the art of management/ leadership and by the appearance and consolidation of the management specific to physical education and school sports.

The setting up by the Ministry of National Education of *National Centers of Excellence* having as aim a superior representation of the school sports in international competitions (The World School Championship – activity to promote the culture of the country) constitutes a major preoccupation. This supposes not only the involvement of the local decision making factors (School Inspectorates, School Sport Clubs, Sports High-schools) but also of the national factors (Specialized Federations, the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee, the Federation of School Sports in Romania).

The value of competitions of all kinds that take place on the international level and the way in which the students who will be the representatives of Romania at international competitions are trained, have been the basis of a deep analysis performed by the officials in the Romanian pre university teaching system and represent a preoccupation that has to be solved as soon as possible.

The decision to set up the *National Centre of Excellence* subordinate to the Ministry of National Education with a suitable organizational structure to specialties in all fields and considered a priority to the system, has been carried out following the O. M. no. 3542/13.03.2003. The following *Centers of Excellence* were set up on sports branches:

- girls' gymnastics centers at Constanta, CCS Bucharest, no. 3, Onești and Deva;
- boys' gymnastics at Reșița;
- sports dance at Reghin;
- volleyball at Tg. Mureș, Baia Mare, Dej and Blaj;
- rugby at Bucharest and Focșani;
- girls' handball at Râmnicu-Vâlcea;
- boys' handball at Sighișoara;
- cricket at Moara Vlasiei, Dambovița County;

- aeronautics at Snagov;
- fencing and epee at Craiova;
- sleigh and ski at Petroșani.

From this point of view, the reorganization of the way of thinking and action within the physical education and sports departments in the pre university education is an urgent necessity, having in view that the age to start practicing a performance sports has decreased very much. However, at the same time, the value of sports performances has increased globally.

This way of approaching has changed the evolution of the management in the school physical education and school sports associations, which must be synchronized with the one in the performance departments in the School Sports Clubs (CCS) and Sports High schools. This management needs to focus, first of all, on an appropriate selection for the school sports high performances, an operative collaboration between the specialized teachers and the pre university schools and the ones in the vocational schools.

The scientific knowledge represents a compulsory method in the shaping and the perfecting of the teaching staff, of coaches but also of the specialists who contribute to obtaining sport performances. The study of specialized publications (books, textbooks, treaties, specialized magazines, volumes of different sessions of communication) which contain data of experiences in the field, through out the time, completed with the experience acquired in the instructive – educative process and the experience gained through degree studies, masters and doctor's degree, can constitute a support in obtaining sports performances.

Since the sports performance is the cumulated result of the action of more factors and since it is influenced by the modality of organization and direction of the activities, it is important that the complex management of sports performance activities be known and used.

According to the Council of Europe, sports represents” all the forms of physical activities which, through a more or less organized participation, have as objective the expression or the improvement of the physical and psychical condition, the

development of social relations or the acquisition of positive results in competitions at all levels”.

In order to gain a better finality of children’s education we must have in mind that it is possible to predict a quantitative increase of the young population, but it is almost impossible to predict it from the qualitative point of view of the same population on long term, in its historical development.