



“Through co-operation and the pursuit of mutual interests in the universal language of physical education and sport, all peoples will contribute to the preservation of lasting peace, mutual respect and friendship and will thus create a propitious climate for solving international problems.”

International Charter of Physical Education and Sport, 1978

Sport for Peace and Development

Sport is a universal language with an unparalleled ability to bring people together. For this reason, it is an important tool for achieving human and social development and for promoting harmonious relations between countries.

As the UN lead agency for sport, UNESCO provides opportunities for governments, IGOs, NGOs and experts to debate the evolving challenges of physical education and sport. It also assists and advises Member-States wishing to elaborate or strengthen their training system in physical education. Finally, UNESCO offers support in the design and implementation of development programmes in the domain of sport.

UNESCO also plays the secretariat role to the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS), created to develop strategies for international cooperation in PES and to serve as an interface between the sport movement, public authorities and civil society.

Key objectives of UNESCO's action:

- To promote sport activities in a spirit of fair play, mutual respect, fairness, and good sportsmanship;
- To promote human rights and transmit values of tolerance, non-violence, equity inclusiveness and peace;
- To help achieve 'quality physical education for all' in formal and informal education systems;
- To guarantee the participation of women and people with disabilities in sport;
- To raise awareness to the health benefits of sport;
- To disseminate information on the risks of drug abuse, particularly of doping in sport;
- To preserve cultural identity and encourage cultural diversity.

UNESCO's main areas of activity in physical education and sport are:

- I. Sport in post-conflict countries
- II. Promoting traditional sports and games
- III. Improving the quality of physical education and sport in educational systems
- V. Anti-Doping
- VI. Sport and HIV/AIDS
- VII. Sport for the disabled

I. Sport in post-conflict countries

For over fifty years, UNESCO has been involved in the implementation of projects aimed at promoting social and human development through sport.

In a world torn by war, the Organization gives great attention to projects aimed at bringing sport activities to countries in post-conflict situations. With its ability to cut across barriers that divide societies and attract people of different ages, cultures and religions, sport can indeed be a key vehicle in the promotion of peace.

People and communities who are at odds with one another can forget their differences by focusing on a common activity that helps them:

- Get away from the harsh daily reality;
- Improve their self-esteem and sense of identity;
- Learn how to establish objectives and how to work with others towards their realization.

Above all, encouraging the practice of sport in post-conflict zones is a means to promote the values of fair play, solidarity and tolerance.

PILOT-PROJECT

Integrating Young People in Post-Conflict African Countries through Sports and Culture

Sport can play an important role in helping people and communities in post-conflict countries. To this end, UNESCO is developing a pilot project aimed at socially reintegrating youth through the organization of a weeklong "sport and culture encounter" in Angola, Burundi, DRC Congo, Ivory Coast, Sudan and Liberia.

Main objectives:

- To reach out to youth through sport;
- To promote values of peace, fraternity, solidarity, non-violence, tolerance and justice;
- To promote equity amongst girls and boys;
- To raise awareness to the health benefits of sport;
- To disseminate information on the risks of drug abuse, particularly of doping in sport;
- To encourage cultural diversity and understanding between communities.

Implementation details:

- UNESCO is to work with several partners in the organization of the events;
- 20,000 young people from twelve African cities will participate;
- Each day will involve sports competitions, as well as traditional games, dances, and songs;
- The total cost for the project is 400,000 euros for the six countries involved.

This pilot project is to be a platform from which more sport events in post-conflict zones can be launched. It will be incorporated with other existing "youth reintegration" projects, which seek to restore the social fabric in countries that have been deeply affected by conflict.

II. Promoting Traditional Sports and Games

Traditional sports and games (TSG) are an essential pillar of the intangible world heritage of societies. To prevent the loss of this rich cultural legacy UNESCO is working in collaboration with several partners to:

- . Raise awareness to the importance of TSG as part of the heritage and cultural identity, and to ensure that they form an integral part of national development strategies;
- . Use TSG to promote values of solidarity, peaceful resolution of conflicts, cultural diversity and inclusiveness;
- . Create tools for information and knowledge exchange aimed at listing and classifying all existing traditional games and sports;
- . Ensure that formal and informal education structures introduce TSG in teaching programmes and modules.

PILOT PROJETS

a) International Training Programme on Traditional Wrestling Sports

This pilot project is designed to promote the practice of traditional wrestling sports as a means to enhance cultural diversity.

Traditional wrestling is a widely popular sport, which involves a wide range of rather diversified practices and rules in different countries. The international training programme is an educational initiative to raise awareness amongst participants from different countries to traditional sports and games. More specifically, participants will be taught about the rites, usages and techniques that give traditional wrestling a consistent and homogenous form across the world.

Implementation details:

- UNESCO is organising the first training programme, in partnership with the International Association of Traditional Wrestling Sports (IATWS) in Ivory Coast in December 2006.
- Young people from 22 African countries will participate – Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, South Africa, Mauritius, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Algeria, Togo, Angola, Uganda, Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Seychelles;
- Demonstrations of local and regional cultural practices will also take place during five-day event, which will conclude with a traditional wrestling championship involving all the countries concerned.
- The budget for this project is 200.000 USD.

The Training Programme is to be expanded to other regions and is designed to serve as a model for the organization of similar camps dedicated to other traditional sports and games.

b) World Encyclopaedia on TSG

In collaboration with the University of Paris I, the European Association of Traditional Games and Sports and other partners, UNESCO is developing a project to publish the World Encyclopaedia on Traditional Sports and Games.

The Encyclopaedia project will be a catalogue of all traditional sport and games, with a definition of their typical features. It is to be presented in both CD-ROM and print form. The budget for this project is 300.000 USD.

III. Improving the Quality of Physical Education and Sport in Education Systems

Physical activity has undeniable health benefits for children, and contributes to enhance their learning capacities. It also provides a forum for learning skills such as discipline, confidence and leadership and it teaches core principles such as tolerance, cooperation and respect.

Most countries have a legal requirement to integrate physical education and sport (PES) in their school curricula, but the implementation of such rules is hampered, particularly in developing countries, by the lack of appropriate facilities, equipment, and trained teachers.

In line with the Education for All process, UNESCO is designing strategies to tackle these grave inadequacies and to counter the generalized decline of PES in education systems around the globe.

To help achieve the goal of Quality Physical Education for All, UNESCO is currently collaborating with international PES experts, and several NGOs and IGOs, to develop international benchmarks and quality standards for of PES teaching.

PILOT PROJECT

The Worksites for Strengthening PES In Sub-Saharan Africa

The main objective of this project is to build a sustainable program of physical education and sport in the 46 member states of the Sub-Saharan African region, through four main axis of action:

- Thoroughly **evaluating the existing PES facilities and teacher training structures.**
- **Bringing educational structures to university level.** The quality of teacher training is at a minimum in sub-Saharan Africa and many schools have PES teachers with no training at all;
- Encouraging the **teaching of PES at the primary school level**, which is practically non-existent;
- **Improving human resources**, by offering continued training to PES teachers, so that they can have the opportunity to recycle and ameliorate their pedagogical competence.

The budget for this project is five million USD. It is to be extended to all the world regions.

V. Anti-doping

The use of performance enhancing drugs and methods, otherwise known as 'doping', is one of the biggest threats to sport today. Doping destroys fair play and equitable competition, harms athletes and damages the moral and ethical basis of sport. In recent times the use of performance enhancing drugs and methods has become increasingly pervasive and insidious. Athletes and athlete support personnel (including coaches, managers, and medical personnel) have become more sophisticated in their attempts to gain even the slightest margins, often with severe health consequences.

UNESCO is actively involved in international efforts to tackle doping in sport through the implementation of the International Convention against Doping in Sport (the Convention). The purpose of the Convention is to harmonise anti-doping efforts worldwide and to provide a legal framework within which all governments ensure a healthy, honest and equitable playing environment for all athletes. An anti-doping programme, involving capacity building initiatives and education have also been introduced to support the Convention. UNESCO is working to assist States Parties to the Convention to develop effective anti-doping programmes. These activities sit alongside a strong education focus on building resilience among the athletes of tomorrow. It was natural for UNESCO, which stands on principles of equality and justice, to take on these tasks, particularly with its strong interest in education and the fundamental values underpinning physical education and sport.

Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport

UNESCO seeks to expand knowledge, share best practice and build capacity in the many regions around the world through the application of the *Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport* (the Voluntary Fund) established under Article 17 of the Convention. This fund (made up of contributions, gifts or bequests from Member States, private or public bodies and individuals as well as revenue from fundraising activities) will be invested in establishing effective anti-doping programmes across the world.

Extra budgetary contributions are also essential for the development of anti-doping education programmes. In this regard, UNESCO has developed an anti-doping education brochure which introduces young people to the issue of doping in sport as well as outlining basic aspects of the World Anti-Doping Code, including prohibited substances and prohibited methods, doping control and anti-doping rule violations. The subject is approached in a positive and empowering manner with an emphasis on fair play and sporting ethics. Young people are a particular target because they represent the future of sport.

The next project is the development of a curriculum guide for teachers. Schools provide an ideal learning environment because it is often where young people first learn about fair play team work and cooperation. UNESCO believes that if the values of fair play are effectively instilled, they will have a lasting impact in the fight against doping in sport.

VI. Sport and HIV/AIDS

In several countries, cultural tradition and religious beliefs prevent the discussion and circulation of information about the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Out of shame, infected people often refuse to recognize the fact that they are HIV positive and do not seek for treatment, increasing the propagation of the virus.

UNESCO is highly involved in actions of preventive education, aimed at:

- . Disseminating HIV/AIDS information;
- . Helping fight discriminatory behaviour towards both, infected and affected people.

As a privileged means to reach out to young people, sport plays an important part in UNESCO's response to HIV/AIDS. Risky sexual behavior and drug consumption makes young people a particularly vulnerable group, and an elevated number of children and adolescents are affected by the epidemic. Sport is a powerful vehicle through which boys and girls can learn about the disease and acquire values of tolerance and understanding towards infected people.

PILOT PROJECT

Mobilizing youth against HIV/AIDS through sport

This project seeks to raise young people's awareness to the HIV/AIDS epidemic through physical activity and sports. Youth will be mobilized to participate in sports tournaments, with support from influential national athletes, during which information on HIV/AIDS will be diffused. The campaign will focus on themes of prevention and discrimination, and slogans such as "We are a team against HIV/AIDS" will be displayed.

The principal objective of this project is to fight the propagation of the virus through improving the access of youth to a preventive education concerning HIV/AIDS.

Specific objectives:

- Gather youth around common activities
- Reach children not enrolled in schools: mobilize youth from both formal and informal networks
- Encourage the active engagement of youth in activities and responsibilities within the community
- To improve awareness of HIV/SIDA and understanding of its transmission and protection
- Encourage adolescents to adopt a positive attitude towards themselves and others with regards to a healthy life
- Fight against stigmatization and discrimination

Implementation details:

- . This project targets boys and girls aged 11-19, particularly those not enrolled in formal education
- . 2500 adolescents from five cities in Mozambique will take part in the initiative
- . The total allocated budget for implementation is USD 60,000.

This pilot project is to be extended to other countries.

VII. Sport for people with a disability

One of the essential conditions for the effective exercise of human rights is that everyone should be free to develop and preserve his or her physical, intellectual and moral powers, and that access to physical education and sport should consequently be assured and guaranteed for all human beings.

UNESCO's Charter for Physical Education and Sport, states in its article 1.3., that " Special opportunities must be made available for young people, including children of pre-school age, for the aged and for the handicapped to develop their personalities to the full through physical education and sport programmes suited to their requirements."

Recognizing the ability of sport to create societal change as well as the serious needs of persons with a disability, UNESCO works to develop sustainable opportunities, advocacy and quality of life for persons with a disability through sport, particularly in developing nations.

PILOT PROJECT

Sport encounter for the disabled

UNESCO endorses a sport system that recognizes the value and contribution of all competitors, by ensuring that all people have equal access and are given the chance to participate in all sports and recreational activities, regardless of sex, race, religion, or level of ability.

To this end, UNESCO is developing a pilot project aimed at building the visibility and profile of disabled persons through sport. It entails the organization of a weeklong "sport encounter for the disabled" in 6 countries.

Main objectives:

- Promote the principles of inclusiveness, accessibility, equity peace and friendship through sport.
- Increase awareness and create positive attitudes among youth toward physical disabilities, and sport for the physically disabled.
- Empower persons with physical disabilities in their communities.

Implementation details:

- UNESCO is to work with several partners in the organization of the events;
- 20,000 young people with disabilities from 6 countries will participate;
- Each day will involve sports competitions, as well as traditional games, dances and songs;
- The total cost for the project is 400,000 euros for the six countries involved.

This pilot project is to be a platform from which more sport events for the disabled can be launched.