

Report on Activity East European Coordinator in the period 1.01.2005 to 30.06.2005

by

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Introduction

For almost 50 years I have conducted interdisciplinary and international scientific studies. In 20 sport disciplines I was an athlete, and in two of them I was a coach for 20 years. For several years I cooperated with the Polish national team in many sport disciplines. I have published more than 500 works, including 39 books in 26 countries of the world. I always tried to support practical knowledge with results of studies that I have conducted. As I participate in numerous international scientific conferences I am observing **an intensifying phenomenon of divergence between practice and theory**. Even during congresses dedicated to particular sport disciplines, such as for example *“Football and Science”* the number of practitioners continues to decrease, and recently has become practically nonexistent. I suppose this is a defeat of scientists and it may be worthwhile to stop and think: *who do they implement their research programmes for?* There is also another disquieting phenomenon. The essence of human life is movement. The Greek philosopher Aristotle formulated this in a lapidary way: *“Movement is life”*. **Movement is also the main essence of sciences related to sport and physical education**. Meanwhile during numerous conferences studies related to diverse significant movement issues are *“marginalised”*, and instead focus is placed on scientific disciplines assisting the science of movement. This is certainly not rational, as the magnitude of the science dedicated to movement, which is called kinesiology or kinanthropometry, assures that each scientist obtains a place due to him in interdisciplinary research.

In an endeavour to regain normal proportions between **what is the essence of our normal everyday life, professional work, physical education, sport** – 15 years ago established was the **International Association of Sport Kinetics**. The

short period of its existence has already proven the extent to which it was needed. Despite formal limitations (only a full professor may become member of IASK) the number of its members has exceeded **350**. Those professors come from **41 countries of Europe, Asia, America, Africa**. IASK members have organised more than 40 international conferences in numerous countries, and the next one will shortly be held in Rimini (Italy). IASK inspires interdisciplinary studies that supply scientific information that is more comprehensive and genuine. **The main task of IASK is integration of scientists from the East and West**. This results from the fact that political, economic and language barriers have created an exorbitant gap between those two parts of the earth. Many interesting studies were conducted behind the so-called "iron curtain". Similar results were afterwards obtained in the West several years later.

Opinions expressed by some scientists who are convinced the biggest "discoveries" in sciences related to sport have been made in the West, and in particular in the USA, are simply ridiculous. One tends to forget about the fact that not only the theory of sport training was created in the former USSR and in post-Communist countries on the basis of scientific research of such distinguished scientists as: **I. Siechenov, I. Pavlov, N. Bernstein, W. Ananyev, W. Farfel, W. Zatsiorski, K. Meinel, G. Schnabel, A. Puni, P. Rudik, P. Hirtz, R. Trhesniovski, A. Krestovnikov, W. Missiuro, E. Piasecki, N. Zimkin, W. Diachkov, N. Ozolin, L. Vygotski, D. Uznadzhe** and many others. That is where first textbooks were published among others related to sport physiology ("*Outline of physiology in physical exercises*") of A. Krestovnikov, 1938), physical education theory comprising the theory of sport training, sport psychology, including the excellent **approach theory of D. Uznadzhe**, interdisciplinary textbook for an athlete and numerous scientific works of fundamental significance. A considerable part of them remains unknown to general public due to the language barrier or due to their being published exclusively internally by universities.

An endeavour at changing this narrowed point of view was undertaken by IASK, as during scientific events organised by us it becomes possible for scientists from the West and from the East to meet. **Those meetings are possible thanks to created conditions that equalise the social status of all participants**. Scientists from the West are frequently remunerated for their professional works **40-50** times more, they pay more for their participation in the conference as well as for their membership in IASK. This exorbitant difference in wages is as a rule ignored by organisers of a great majority of international conferences. Because of those unjust principles as a rule their participants include **80-90% persons from wealthier countries. This is a peculiar way of perceiving equal-**

ity and democracy. This disproportion tends to grow even more as regards invited speakers, which also happens during pre-Olympic congresses organised under auspices of ICSSPE.

I have drawn attention to this fact to organisers of the Congress in Thessaloniki and protested in that I have withdrawn from participation in the said congress. In such a way I tried to manifest the existence of problems that have been unsolved for years. They deprive us of knowledge concerning results of studies that are conducted not behind the so-called iron curtain but more behind an *"economic curtain"*. **The giant ICSSPE which resembles the United Nations Organisation in the scope of sciences related to sport and physical education may have considerable achievements in this domain**, but this would necessitate an objective attitude not only as regards own achievements, but also making sure that achievements of others are noticed and acknowledged. In this scope it is my intention to support ICSSPE not only as Coordinator for Eastern Europe, but also as president of IASK. I do hope that I am going to receive from the Presidium and from the Executive Committee of ICSSPE **considerable meritoric, moral and financial support.**

Main Activity

6 months have passed since I have been chosen Coordinator. In that period I have focused my attention on convincing organisers of 3 international conferences to introduce **financial preferences for participants coming from post-Communist countries.** They were taken into consideration in a clear way, not for the first time in participation conditions for *"9. Sport Kinetics 2005"*, a conference organised by the Bologna University in Rimini (Italy) under the auspices of IASK. **This fee was reduced in relation to the standard one by almost 30%.** Organisers of some conferences were luckily convinced to apply the lowest possible conference fees to allow participation to all interested persons. This is possible **once the organisers have given up their plans to have profits on organization of such conferences.** This proved to be possible during the 15-year period of existence of IASK. **Despite increasing costs, the conference fees could be kept down to 100 USD and recently 100 Euro.** *Perhaps some of those solutions could be successfully applied also by ICSSPE?*

Another method of granting assistance to scientists from post-Communist countries is **seeking sponsors** to pay for them the conference fee. In 15 years this could be done for 20 distinguished scientists doming from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Significant support was obtained from the J. Mianowski Foundation for Support of Science in Warsaw, which paid for scientific training of nine persons from Belarus and Ukraine. In the Sport Institute in Warsaw I had on in-

service training mainly professors, together with whom I have conducted studies on various subjects, which were presented during numerous conferences. They included among others comparative studies related to health behaviour and movement activity of youth from Belarus and Poland. The practical training took 2-7 months.

Planned Future Activity

With respect to the problems outlined in introduction, I intend to focus my activity on the following issues: **3.1. Striving to have theory approach practice**, among others by obligating conference participants to prepare their speeches including recommendations for practical issues. This may allow increasing the number of participants by teachers, instructors and coaches, for whom a major part of studies are being implemented. **3.2. Establishment of conditions for better contacts of representatives of the West and the East**, among others by lowering participation costs in conferences, and particularly persons from post-Communist countries, as well as offering accommodation in hotels of a lower standard. **3.3. Achievement of balance** as regards participation in conferences, but also in Scientific Committees of conferences for the invited speakers, representatives of the eastern and western parts of the world. We should avoid a situation that too place in Thessaloniki, during which not a single representative of post-Communist countries participated. It is difficult to believe that among approximately 350 million inhabitants there was not a single scientist worthy of presenting his studies. This lack of balance also is noticeable in selection of authors for a series of interesting publications published by ICSSPE. **3.4. Noticing the prime importance of science related to movement in everyday life of a human being, working in particular professions, recreation, rehabilitation, and in particular in sport**. This should be manifested in topics and programmes of conferences, in selection of members of scientific Committees, as well as in operation of ICSSPE. **3.5. Stronger emphasis on sciences related to sport**. Observation of operation in such a great and prestigious organisation as ICSSPE convinced me that in the recent years the focus was on physical education with only very brief emphasis on science related to movement. It seems that for better balance it would be indispensable to give more thought to the first part of the organisation's name, i.e. science about sport. **3.6. More offensive promotion of ICSSPE**. In this scope it ought to be considered indispensable to propagate all types of materials related to ICSSPE and abort the directions of its operation during all prestigious scientific events.

Suggested Operation Directions

Implementation of the presented programme or even of its part may become severely limited taking into account the shortage of financial means necessary for supporting distinguished scientists from post-Communist countries. Consequently it ought to be deemed indispensable to seek sponsors who would be willing to pay participation fees of conference participants from such countries. Within ICSSPE promotion it is necessary to find new members. It would be advisable to work out a support programme for young scientists and to conduct competitions for the best works in diverse sport disciplines. It would also be justified to set up special medals of ICSSPE for distinguished scholars.

