

STRATEGIES TO INTEGRATE THE NATIONAL SPORTS SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL STRUCTURES IN THE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES

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Abstract: *In the current international context, this author believes that the progress of sports science and physical education in Romania, synthesizing the results of national studies and experiments and providing directions for new researches, must be the result of an objective cooperation between a series of nationally and internationally recognized bodies and organizations. Currently, the multiple events, projects and other activities organized and supported by the Romanian experts are in relation to the scientific, technical, pedagogical and managerial aspects of physical education, sports, leisure, fitness, and health, but they do not have a significant international presence. This paper contains this author's plans for the continual development of the actions of integrating the national professional Physical Education and Sports Science structures within FIEP Romania, FIEP Europe, and FIEP World. For each of these aspects, this paper identifies the current context and proposes concrete and realistic periods of time.*

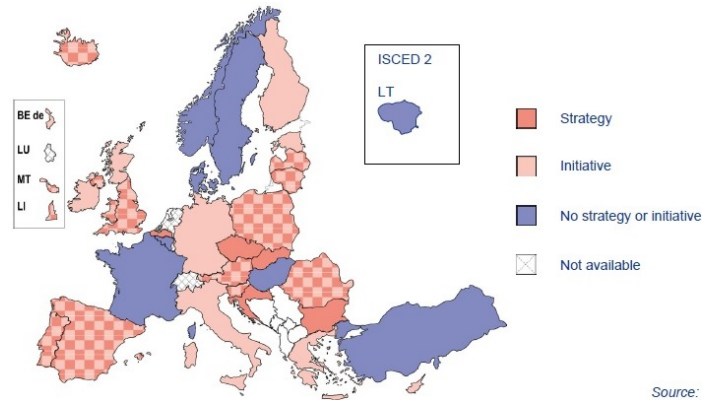
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1. Introduction

According to the Eurydice Report, published by the European Commission in 2013, around half of the European countries had adopted at that time national strategies for the promotion and development of physical education and physical activity, Romania having only an initiative declared in 2011 regarding the elaboration and implementation of such a strategy (Fig. 1).

The promotion of Romanian physical education and sports internationally involves "introducing or adapting policies which aim to raise general awareness of the lifelong social and educational value of physical and sports activity" [1], but such action calls for a strategic and rational approach to mobilising people in recognition of this principle.

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Source: Eurydice.

Fig. 1. Image of the existence of national strategies and large-scale initiatives to promote physical education and physical activity in primary (ISCED 1) and lower secondary education (ISCED 2), 2011/12 (Eurydice, 2013)

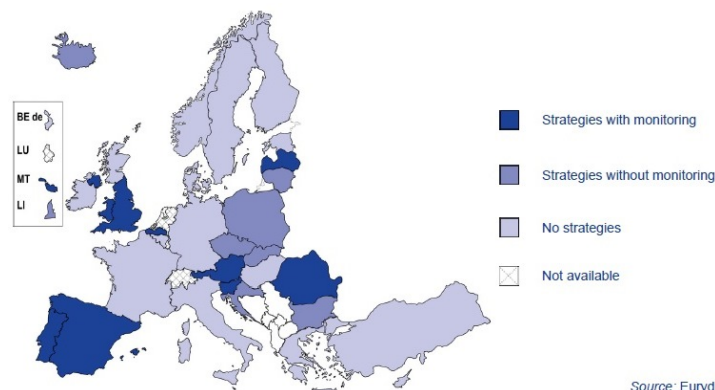
Generally, these national strategies comprise actions and policies focused on certain target groups, their aims varying from one country to another, in line with ongoing political, economic and social priorities. In the case of Romania, these aims refer to:

- increasing the number of young people who take part in sports activities;
- raising awareness of the value of physical education;
- developing positive attitudes to physical activities;
- motivating young people to take part in them throughout their lives;

- the role of physical activity and sport in promoting health and healthy lifestyles;
- their broader contribution to physical, personal and social development.

In all European countries, physical education, is subject to regular internal or external evaluation (or both), but the methods of monitoring vary from one country to another, national, regional and local bodies being involved in this process. In Romania, this monitoring is done usually by the school inspectorates.

As Figure 2 shows, eleven out of 19 education systems monitor their strategies [2].



Source: Eurydice.

Fig.2. Image of the monitoring of national strategies in primary (ISCED 1) and lower secondary education (ISCED 2), 2011/12 (Eurydice, 2013)

Romania has established a National Joint Commission to monitor and review its strategy, a Commission that elaborated also the report sent to the European Commission, to which this short introduction has referred to.

This author believes that the educational reform, including here also physical education and sports, is a way to transmit the educational community that a particular aspect is considered a governmental priority, a statement supported by article 2(1) of Law 69/2000, the physical education and sports law, which says that: "*Physical education and sports are national interest activities supported by the state.*" and paragraph 5 of the same article: "*The practice of physical education and sports is a right of any person, without discrimination, guaranteed by the state.*" [3].

2. Objectives

In 2013, as the National Delegate of the Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique (FIEP) in Romania, the author of this paper was a part of the team of the project **UNESCO – World-wide Survey of School Physical Education** [4] (see page 6), but the final results of this survey indicate different data than the ones presented in the Eurydice Report published by the European Commission in 2013.

The national strategy of Romania for physical education and sports comprises certain measures, such as curricular reform, teacher support, revision of financing, etc., which are currently developed by the Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

In the current European context, this

author believes that a national strategy for physical education and sports must be the result of an objective cooperation between a series of bodies and organizations that are nationally and internationally recognized, which can include associations, sports federations, Olympic Committees, teachers, pupils, parents, private sector partners, but also specialized federations.

3. Results and Discussions

Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique - FIEP (the International Federation of Physical Education) is an independent, non-governmental organization ready to collaborate with all individuals, institutions and organizations, with the aim to support physical education as an education process, through both formal and informal means, by interacting with the cultural and natural environments (water, air, sun, etc.) in each region, using the proper facilities and equipment, by using physical activities disguised as gymnastics, games, sports, dancing, and other forms of active recreation, aiming to develop the motor skills in children, teenagers, adults, and elderly people, improving their fitness, for a better mental ability, consolidating their habit of systematic exercise by promoting an effective education for health and spending leisure time in a healthy manner, by recognizing the physical activities linked to the development of the social and moral values that can guide the citizen to be more socially responsible.

Founded in 1923 in Brussels, the main goal of FIEP is to promote the development of various activities in the fields of Education, Physical Education and Sports Education, Sports for everyone,

Fitness and Health, Leisure and the use and protection of nature, for people of all ages anywhere in the world, and to support and contribute to the international cooperation in these fields.

The Federation provides a network of contacts and a means of communication and exchange amongst individuals and organizations, and has 'Recognised Organization' status with the **UNESCO** [5] since 1956, **IOC** - International Olympic Committee, is a member of the executive board of **ICSSPE - International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education** [6] and conducts an impressive research activity recognized by this council [7]. FIEP is a partner of **AIESEP - Association Internationale des Écoles Supérieures d'Éducation Physique** [8] and has close working relationships with the Arab Confederation of Sport and L'Union Arabe de l'Éducation Physique et du Sport.

The idea to create an international Physical Education organization appeared for the first time during the International Congress of Physical Education in Paris (France), which took place between August 30th and September 6th 1900.

A "Permanent International Physical Education Technical Commission" was created then, with some of the great personalities in the Physical Education world at the time, among which were: Mosso (Italy) as President, Demeny (France) Fosseprez (Belgium), Cabezas (Chile), Kier (Denmark), Chryssafis (Greece), Tongres (Sweden) [9].

Delegates from 16 countries participated in the commission, whose objectives were aimed at the qualification of university faculty members. .

The "Institute Internationale d'Éducation Physique" (the International Institute of Physical Education) was

created later, during the Odensée International Congress, between July 7th and 10th, 1911.

The goals of this institute were:

a) To make progress in the Physical Education Science and its practical applications, concentrating results of studies and experiments carried out in the world and providing directions for new investigations.

b) To spread among the people culture the principle that Physical Education must cooperate with Intellectual and Moral Education.

The Institute actions were obviously interrupted during World War I. Nevertheless, the Physical Education internationalization gains new life and emerges again in 1923, with the creation of the *Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique Educative*, F.I.G.E.

That very act it considered to be FIEP's cornerstone. Its first Executive Board was chosen by the Federal Council, which comprised 2 representatives from each of the 8 participating countries: the United Kingdom, Chile, France, the Netherlands, ROMANIA, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The F.I.G.E was officially organized on July 2nd, 1923, during the Brussels International Congress. That new institution gathered Federations, Leagues and Organizations from several countries. Its first president was General LEFEBURE (Belgium).

In February 1931, the Federation published its first Journal issue, which turned out to be one of the first specialized magazines dedicated to Physical Education in the world. It is still published nowadays. In 1935, Major JOSEPH G. THULIN (Sweden) was elected President, and his mandate lasted until 1958.

On the 20th of July 1939, in Stockholm, the FIGL General Assembly takes place, bringing only minor modifications in the executive boards. Berg von Linde becomes vice president, while another Swede, Major O. Kragh, is elected general secretary.

What is important for this paper is the election of General Virgil BĂDULESCU (ROMANIA) as an executive member, alongside Gents (Belgium), Chryssalis (Greece), Groner (Norway), Miss Fountain (U.K.) and Inspector Sikorski (Poland).

In the Istanbul General Assembly I, during the World Congress held from the 2nd to the 9th of August, 1953, Thulin's proposal was accepted and the Federation has its name changed to FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE D'ÉDUCATION PHYSIQUE - FIEP. [10].

By the end of the 60s FIEP's relevance in the world scenery was an encouragement to write the FIEP - PHYSICAL EDUCATION WORLD MANIFESTO, which was made public in 1970. That Manifesto laid the concepts of Physical Education and guided its paths worldwide after being translated into every existing language.

In Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil) General Assembly, held during the FIEP / 2000 – Physical Education World Congress that took place from the 9th to the 13th of January, 2000, the FIEP 2000 - PHYSICAL EDUCATION WORLD MANIFESTO was launched. After 30 years, the new document expands the concept of Physical Education. The new Manifesto demonstrates that Physical Education nowadays goes beyond its interdependent relations to Education and will become "Education for Health and for Leisure through the development of people's active lifestyles." [11].

The 2000 Manifesto will bring about a rebirth of debates about Physical Education, and that new discussion will

entail new thoughts every time it is presented in a different language.

It will be divulged in all the world countries through the net made by the FIEP national delegates [12].

Currently, the multiple events, projects and other activities organized or supported by FIEP are in relation to the scientific, technical, pedagogical and managerial aspects of physical education, sports, leisure, fitness, and health.

The principal means of action of the FIEP are:

- Publication of the FIEP Bulletin [13] which has appeared, in different forms for more than 75 years;
- The organization and support of various activities, including:
 - Regional and ad-hoc Commissions.
 - Practical Courses, Congresses and Symposiums.
 - Exchange Travel by both individuals and groups.
 - Research, documentation and information exchange with other national and international bodies.

The FIEP network of National Delegates, Committees and members extends into more than 140 countries and this number is growing as new countries apply for membership.

3.1. Personal Contributions in Promoting the FIEP Values in Romania

Being constantly preoccupied of presenting the Romanian physical education values, this author has conducted an intense activity of promoting the Romanian physical education school in Europe and worldwide, during the multiple international congresses that he participated in.

This hard work has been recognized internationally during the 4th FIEP European Congress – Physical Education and Sports "Teachers Preparation and their Employability in Europe" organized by the Faculty of Physical Education and their Employability in Europe" organized by the Faculty of Physical Education and

Sports at the "Comenius" University of Bratislava – Slovakia, when the candidacy file of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of Bacău was accepted (Fig. 3) and **Romania** was accepted as an **equal rights F.I.E.P. member. - Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique (2007).**



Fig. 3. Image of the FIEP Europe Board Meeting of 30th of August 2007 (Bratislava, Slovakia)

During the **FIEP WORLD** Board Meeting of **13th of January 2010**, at the headquarters in **Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil**, this author had the honour to be named a **National Delegate of the International Federation of Physical Education (F.I.E.P. - Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique) in Romania** [14]/

The main purpose of this author's naming as National Delegate was the implementation of the FIEP in Romania. For this, the FIEP Romania website was created [15], whose purpose is to disseminate the information and facilities offered by FIEP in Romania. This author also aims to make people aware of the FIEP activity, and to attract Romanian specialists to implement and develop this organization at a national level.

As a result of this author's personal actions to promote the FIEP ideals, multiple faculties of physical education in Romania have manifested their interest to

organize various international scientific congresses under the FIEP patronage.

Up to this date, due also to this author's personal support within FIEP, the following scientific events have been organized in Romania under the FIEP Europe patronage:

- **2009** – **1 International Scientific Conference;**
- **2010** – **2 International Scientific Conferences;**
- **2011** – **3 International Scientific Conferences;**
- **2012** – **3 International Scientific Conferences and 1 International Scientific Congress;**
- **2013** – **2 International Scientific Conferences and 1 International Scientific Congress;**
- **2014** – **2 International Scientific Conferences and 1 International Scientific Congress;**
- **2015** – **1 International Scientific**

Conference and 1 International Conferences;
 Scientific Congress; – 2017 – 1 International Scientific
 – 2016 – 4 International Scientific Conference.

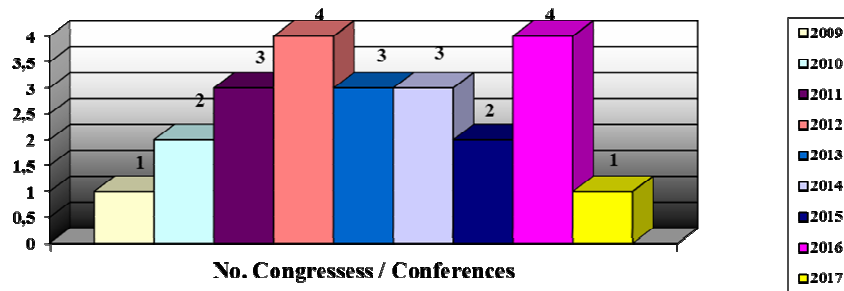


Fig. 4. Image of the number of international congresses / conferences organized each year in Romania under the FIEP patronage

As recognition of the international activities of FIEP and the work of FIEP Romania, to inform in regards to the current objectives of this federation, there is a number of three faculties that are equal rights members of FIEP Europe:

1. Faculty of Movement, Sports and Health Sciences, "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacău;
2. Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, "Dunărea de Jos" University of Galati;
3. Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, "Stefan cel Mare" University of

Suceava.

Once the national delegation for FIEP in Romania was named, its main preoccupation, together with the development of the Federation in this country, was to attract new members. If in August 2007, FIEP Europe had **4 members** in Romania, now there are **208 members**.

Each year FIEP Romania has welcomed several specialists who decided to join the International Federation of Physical Education (FIEP), as follows (Table 1).

Table 1
 Number of FIEP members in Romania

Year	Number of new members	Total members
2007	4	4
2008	6	10
2009	12	22
2010	21	43
2011	18	61
2012	17	78
2013	24	102
2014	22	124
2015	27	151
2016	34	185
2017	23	208
Total members		208

Most of the FIEP members are university teachers in the field of "Sports science and physical education", but FIEP Romania is happy to welcome also other Romanian specialists, with preoccupations related to this field, as well as primary school, middle school and high school

physical education teachers.

To make it clearer, the following image (Fig. 5) presents the number of new members who have joined each year, while figure 6 presents the total number of members who have joined, at the end of each calendar year, starting with 2007.

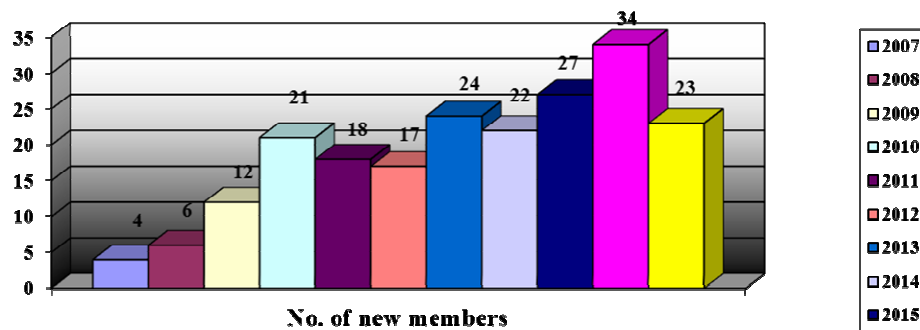
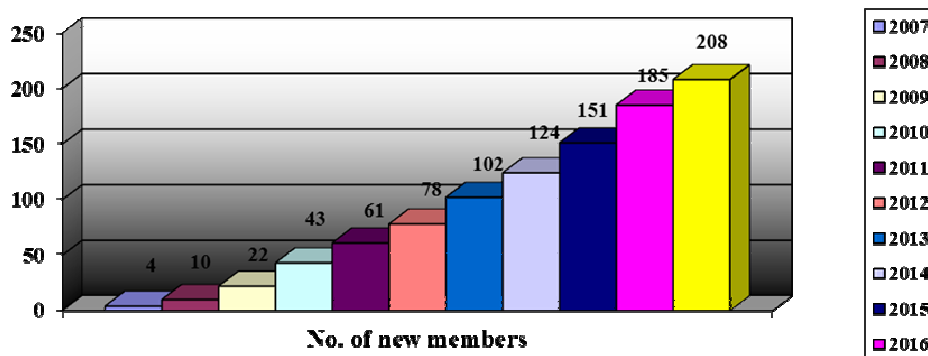


Fig. 5. Image of the number of new FIEP members

Fig. 6. Image of the total number of FIEP members who joined each calendar year



As a result of promoting the FIEP ideals in Romania, on 11th of June 2011, during the opening festivities of the Sixth FIEP Europe Congress (Poreč, **Croatia**), this author had the honour to be awarded the **FIEP EUROPE THULIN AWARD**, given by the Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique (F.I.E.P.) of Europe, *to the most famous physical education personalities who have made great contributions to the development of physical education in national level and in European level* [16].

In 2013 (12-16 of January), the FIEP World Congress took place in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil,

where there were over 3000 participants from 32 different countries. During this international congress, the management positions for the federation were elected, and the activity conducted by the FIEP Romania team at that time was acknowledged through the election of Lecturer Nicolae OCHIANĂ, Ph.D. as Assistant National Delegate in the FIEP World Executive Board, alongside the 18 members, worldwide physical education personalities, and this author, as **Vice-president FIEP for Eastern Europe** [17].

Also, during this world congress, the FIEP World Executive Board has awarded both Lecturer Ochiana and Professor Balint the Tubino Medal, "*in recognition of relevant services performed within FIEP WORLD for the development of physical education, sports, and recreational activities, on the occasion of the commemoration of 90 years of FIEP activity*".

This author's election as Vice-president of FIEP for Eastern Europe has allowed another approach of the promotion of Romanian physical education in Europe and worldwide. Thus, at this author's suggestion, in 2015, the first Romanian student has had the honour to participate in the first Afro-European FIEP Congress, in Rabat (Morocco), within the "FIEP New Leaders" project, which was aimed to young European researchers, and was financed by FIEP Europe.

In acknowledgment of his services within FIEP World, this author was awarded the "**MANOEL TUBINO**" Medal given by the Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique World for the development of physical education, sports, and recreational activities, on the occasion of the commemoration of 90 years of FIEP activity (**13th of January 2013** – Foz do Iguaçu, **Brazil**).

Between 2013 – 2016, this author's personal activity of promoting Romanian physical education consisted in his participation and promotion of Romanian physical education in all FIEP events organized in Europe and Romania, as a member of the Scientific Committee, culminating with *his appointment in the Scientific Commission of the FIEP Bulletin* [18], (the oldest scientific physical education publication in the world), which has gained multiple Romanian colleagues the access to publication.

During the 32nd International Congress of Physical Education, organized by FIEP World in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil (14-18 of January 2017), *this author was re-elected as FIEP Vice-president for Eastern Europe*, for the term 2017 – 2020, and he had the great

honor for his national and international activity in the field of "Sports science and physical education" to be worldwide acknowledged through the distinction: **INTERNATIONAL FIEP CROSS OF HONOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**, awarded by the Fédération Internationale d'Éducation Physique World – as acknowledgment of the personalities who have made great contribution to Physical Education in the world, and aware of its historical role (14th of January 2017 – Foz do Iguaçu, **Brazil**) [19].

4. Conclusions

This author's goal for the near future is to:

1. Register the International Federation of Physical Education – Romania (FIEP Romania) as a **nongovernmental non-profit association (NGO)**, a private legal entity with the purpose of supporting the international dissemination of the results of its members.
 2. This association will contain 6 sections:
 - The Scientific Section;
 - The Physical Education and Sports in School Section;
 - The Sports for All Section;
 - The Olympic Education Section;
 - The History of Physical Education Section;
 - The New Leaders Section.
- Each section will be led by a President, chosen from the Romanian personalities of the field, and it will have a Commission for the group projects, composed of FIEP members.
3. FIEP Romania's main goals will be the organization and support of the various specific activities for the dissemination of physical education and sports in school, including:
 - Regional and ad-hoc Commissions;
 - Practical Courses, Congresses and Symposiums;
 - National and international exchange travel by both individuals and/or groups;

- Research, documentation and information exchange with other national and international bodies.
4. Promotion of the FIEP ideals and getting more Romanian members for FIEP Europe and FIEP World.
 5. As Vice-president of FIEP Europe, this author will promote the research activities of this field in Europe, and will personally support the approval of the organization of congresses/conferences under the patronage of International Federation of Physical Education of Europe.
 6. Each year at least one young Romanian colleague will participate in the programme FIEP New Leader organized by FIEP Europe - every necessary fund will be ensured for the colleague to participate in the European Scientific Congresses that are organized each year.
 7. Complete financial support for the elaboration of specialized books by Romanian specialists, individuals or groups, and their publication by reputable international publishing houses.
- The main goal of the strategy for international recognition of the Romanian physical education is the elaboration of the papers for the organization of the 15th FIEP European Congress (2020) in Romania.**
- Acknowledgments**
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