

## EDITORIAL

# Sustainability and Legacy in Sport: Ukraine Educational and Sport Scenario

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## Abstract

Achieving and maintaining sustainability as well as creating legacy to be best utilized in future is a challenging and at the same time generous objective for any country and any institution. The legacy concept development by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was further advanced through the Olympic Games Impact (OGI) project and is now efficiently governed and its execution observed by the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission. Most nations and institutions related to sports and physical education supported this movement to assist spreading the legacy of the Olympic Games to advance the promotion of sports for all, so that vast majority of population gets an opportunity to become more physically active, and/or to get involved in sports activities. The objectives of this editorial were on one hand to project the National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport (NUUPES) activities aimed at improving sustainability and legacy in sport; and on the other hand, to highlight the outcomes and proceedings of the 4th International online conference "Sustainability and Legacy in Sport: Challenges and Perspectives" which was held on 26-27th November 2020 in Kyiv, Ukraine. This conference was as well the part of NUUPES activities aimed at further improving sustainability and legacy in Sport. Special thanks to Sport Mont for providing a platform for publishing the conference scientific papers in this Special Issue of the journal.

**Keywords:** sustainability, legacy, sport

## Introduction

The development of a 'legacy' concept initiated by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 2002, later gained importance for the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (OCOG) practices. It was meant for creating positive legacies from the games and the promotion of sports for all, not just for Olympians, in the host country (Grigorov & Hills, 2008; IOC Olympic Charter, 2020). Later, the IOC developed the Olympic Games Impact (OGI) project, which required host cities to undertake longitudinal studies intended to measure the economic, social, and environmental impact of the games (Olympic Review, 2006).

As of late, the concept gained popularity in the National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport (NUUPES) - premier specialized higher education institution in

the country. In the mid ninetieth, University has evolved from the Institute to the National University status. Over 35 thousand sports coaches, physical education teachers, physical rehabilitationists, physical therapists, ergo therapists, sports managers, fitness, recreation, and tourism service providers, have been trained in the University from its foundation till day.

NUUPES holistically combines education, advanced specialists training, fundamental and applied research; creates advantageous environment for educating elite athletes, advances their training and top-level competing; promotes multifaceted international cooperation with countries and universities all over the world. This opens a bright opportunity to plan and implement sustainable development through educational process (Bagheri & Hjorth, 2007).

Utilizing NUUPES potential and acting in line with the



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IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission Advises (2020), three major aspects were specified on University's ongoing contribution to further improvement of sustainability and legacy in sport.

### Encouraging the development and promotion of sustainability best practices

The main priority area was identified as encouraging the development and promotion of sustainability best practices through university academic and research activities.

The University possesses modern infrastructure and facilities for the educational process, dorms, sports facilities, and the advanced "Olympic Style" fitness center. Structurally, the University comprises of four Faculties with 21 departments, Educational-Scientific Olympic Institute, Research Institute, library, "Olympic Literature" Publishing House, Center of Sports Traumatology and Regenerative Medicine, affiliated Physical Education College in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk.

Currently, the University educates and graduates Bachelors (BSc), operates post-graduate studies for Masters (MSc), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Doctor of Science (DSc) candidates in six specialties.

At present, the University has over five thousand students. Their education is managed by about 430 scientific and academic staff; a quarter of them are part-time employees. Over 50 DScs, Professors, 215 PhDs, Associate Professors are involved in teaching University graduates and postgraduates.

Academic and research activities are progressively getting focused on the issues of sustainability and legacy in sport (Borisova, Frolova, & Artamonova, 2019). In academics, the respective topics are included in teaching and learning plans at the degree level of studies. In research, more attention is paid to sustainability and legacy studies by including those in the long-term research plans and by encouraging researchers to apply for national and international grants in this area of research.

### Communicating sustainability achievements through athletes

Second priority area was indicated as communicating sustainability achievements through sport (IOC Sustainability Through Sport, 2012) and particularly through the University educated and trained athletes who represent the University and the country in the competitions all over the world (Imas, Dutchak, & Kateryna, 2018).

NUUPES graduates are successfully engaged in domestic and overseas clubs and other institutions. The University is the place of origin for the world-famous sports science schools of thoughts and practices. University students and graduates have won 316 Olympic medals till day, including 131 golds. NUUPES teams traditionally emerge as winners of the All-Ukrainian Universiades among the country's higher education

institutions. University students are the main contributors to the World Universiades national team medal tally.

### Hosting Conferences on the issues of sustained development

The third priority area of impact was highlighted as hosting the annual International Conference on the issues of sustained development.

The 4th International online conference "Sustainability and Legacy in Sport: Challenges and Perspectives" was held on 26-27th November 2020 in Kyiv, Ukraine. It was dedicated to 90th Anniversary of NUUPES and was patronaged by the International Council on Sport Science and Physical Education, European Association of Students' Sport, and International Association of Sports Kinetics. The conference was focused on the score of important matters such as contemporary issues of modern sport; environmental contributors to sustained development of physical education and sport; formation of the values' system in the upcoming generation within modern paradigm of the Olympic education and sustained development; the role of Olympic sport in implementation of the sustained development objectives; 'Motor Activity – Healthy lifestyle – Healthy nation'. All conference related sub-themes are of the primary importance to Ukraine and internationally.

Current edition of the conference gathered over 500 participants from 19 countries including rectors and lead scientists of 17 higher education institutions from Ukraine and overseas with vast representation of research and academic staff, doctoral candidates, postgraduate and graduate NUUPES students.

Conference participants were video addressed by the Chairman of the IOC Sustainability and Legacy Commission H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Highest level sport officials and dignitaries addressed the gathering with messages and greetings. Those were: Mr. Serhiy Bubka, DSc – the IOC member, International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) 1st vice-president, President of Ukraine NOC, Olympic champion, the Hero of Ukraine. Mr. Vadym Huttsait - Youth and Sport minister of Ukraine, President of the National Fencing Federation of Ukraine, Olympic champion; Mr. Adam Roček - President of the European University Sports Association; Prof. Chinnappa Reddy - President of National Association of Physical Education and Sport Science of India; Prof. Yevheniy Imas, DSc – Ukraine NOC 'Sport and Environment' Commission head, NUUPES Rector.

The scale and magnitude of the sustainability and legacy in sport issues were fully reflected in the presentations delivered at the conference sessions and in the collection of the conference scientific papers, for which Sport Mont has generously provided the platform to publish in this Special Issue. NUUPES is grateful for such an opportunity and is open to any form of future cooperation.

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### Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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