

The challenges of European public policy in the field of sport

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Abstract

Despite of the continuous development and enlargement, Europe is still divert. Policy has to find the way how to diminish this diversion. The social, economical and cultural significance of sport is well known in whole Europe. This is the reason why the policy is getting interested and involved more and more in it. However the question raises: **is there a European public policy of sport?** The author will investigate this question. This paper aims to highlight the European sport policy and tries to find the answer to the following question: can we talk about European public policy in the field of sport? We can talk about common policy of a certain area if it corresponds to the following five criterias: **content, social competence, coercive factor, normative orientation** and **programme**. In the first part the author analysis the content and the social competence. First of all he interprets the **content**, so the concept of the „European sport” and explains its European framework. By analysing the **social competence**, the author examines the key figures who are directly involved in the European sport policy. In the second part some critical issues of the definition, namely of the public policy will be discussed. **Coercive factor** will be defined not within nation state but in intergovernmental and institutional context. Examining the **normative orientation**, the author expresses his doubts in the realization of this criteria. In the opinion of the author, the most problematic criteria is **the programme**, which presumes at least a mid-term European sport conception. It is especially important that sport could fulfil its community building, identity-forming role it is suitable for in the continuously enlarging Europe. Finally the author draws the conclusion that the European sport policy corresponds partly to the above-mentioned criterias and only at European level.

Key words

European public policy of sport; content; social competence; coercive factor; normative orientation; programme.

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Biography

Mr. Péter Farkas is a professor at the University of Semmelweis in Budapest, secretary of the EU section of the Hungarian Society of Sport Science and member of the Hungarian Society of Sport Management. He has a multiple education: BD in foreign commercial affaires, MD in physical education, MD in sport management and MD in political and European studies. Actually he is a PHD student at the University of Nice – Sophia Antipolis in France.