



European sports capital 2017

The 2017 Candidature Sofia - capital of Sport will be a longed for sporting event that could have a remarkable impact on sports and social life, helping further stimulate the sports infrastructure and social development of Sofia. The opportunity to apply for and compete with other candidate cities in a fair race to prove Sofia's worthiness and ability to organize various events is a sufficient motivation for us to bid and thus feel the sports spirit of Sofia. Becoming one of the sports capitals in Europe will be a source of inspiration and pride for the entire nation.

The ideals of the Sports Movement have been close to the hearts of generations of Sofia citizens. The aim of this application is to help strengthen this spirit in the young generation, making it more vigorous in engaging in sports and all other areas of social life, building on the national traditions and legacy in order to embrace the future.

Every modern city values the opportunity to host sports events that will bring both harmony and economic development. Sofia is a city with a millennial history, a place where numerous nations and cultures have left their heritage and which is today a modern European capital. The abundant cultural and sports life, the monuments, the delicious national cuisine, the parks and Vitosha Mountain will be only some of the attractions surrounding the sporting events for all citizens to enjoy. It is therefore with great pleasure that the Sofia 2017 Bid Committee hereby submits this application for Sofia to be allowed the privilege to be a European Capital of Sport in 2017.

We are convinced that this will transform and inspire the lives of Sofia citizens, creating value and a modern heritage for generations to come.

MRS. JORDANKA FANDAKOVA
Mayor of Sofia



Dear Sports Friends,

It is a great pleasure to express the City of Sofia's wish to become the European Capital of Sport in 2017. Over the years Sofia has invested in popular and high level sport, knowing that the practice of sport is a healthy habit and the best way to occupy the free time of the citizens. We invest by building modern sporting facilities, spaces for public use and bicycle lanes and financing varied programs of sporting activities for all the citizens, especially young, elderly and handicapped. I hope that I can encourage you to take benefit of Sofia sports diversity while visiting our city.

We try to meet the requirements, which correspond with the goals of ACES Federation, such as Satisfaction with physical and sports activities through development of sports infrastructure and the quality of sport, Desire for success – with bringing to Sofia all kinds of major sporting events (e.g. Deaflympics, World and European Championships), sense of belonging to the community - providing a community friendly sports offers, Fair-play behaviour – promoting it through campaigns and events and Promoting a healthy way of life - improving the quality of life of individuals through sport.

We are proud of our achievements in sport. Therefore, the prestigious title of European Capital of Sport would be a conclusion of the past activities but also the beginning of a new stage in promoting SPORT.

Yours faithfully,

MR. ELLEN GERDJKOV
Chairman of Sofia Municipal Council
and Chairman of the Bid Committee
on the Candidature of Sofia
for European Capital of Sport 2017



MR. ANDREY KOVACHEV
Member of the European Parliament
Contact Details: andrey.kovatchev@ep.europa.eu
Tel. 0032 2 28 45662 and 00359 2 980 4202



MR. ANATOLI ILIEV
General Secretary of the Bid Committee
on the Candidature of Sofia for European
Capital of Sport 2017
and Member of Sofia Municipal Council
Contact Details: tolisport@abv.bg
Tel. 00359 888 657 313



MRS. IRENA DIMITROVA
Director of Prevention, Integration, Sports and Tourism
Directorate at Sofia Municipality
Contact Details: irena13@abv.bg
Tel. 00359 887 996 448

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	9
01 GENERAL INFORMATION	17
1. Name of the city	18
2. The Population	23
3. Which department in your city is responsible for sports?	25
4. Contact person	27
02 SPORT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN	29
1. How many people from your city/town are actively involved in sport?	30
2. How many people from your city/town are members of sports clubs?	34
3. How does your city/town support voluntary participation in sport?	35
4. Is there a sport development plan in your city/town? What are its main aims?	37
5. What is the role of sport in your city/town for achieving the 5 main aims of the Manifesto of ACES Europe?	42
03 A VARIETY OF SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES	45
1. Are there special opportunities for the different age groups to practice sport?	46
2. Who offers these opportunities?	47
3. Are there quality criteria for these sport proposals?	48
4. Are there educational opportunities for training of coaches and instructors?	50
5. Have these proposals been subsidized by your city/town? If yes, how exactly?	55
04 SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	57
1. How many sports playgrounds are there in your city/town?	61
2. What plans are there in the city/town for increasing the number of sports playgrounds and halls?	62

05 SPORTING EVENTS	65
1. World, European and National championships during the past five years	66
2. Others on a yearly basis	70
3. Contribution of successful realization and co-operation	71
4. Forthcoming events, forums, campaigns and initiatives	73
06 CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SPORT ON A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL; CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE	77
1. Events and activities realized in partnership and co-operation with sports organizations and institutions on a National and European level	79
07 PROFILE AND POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT	89
1. How does your city/town see its social advantages as a European Capital of Sport?	90
2. How will your city, as the "European Capital of Sports" realize the five main objectives of ACES with regard to sports development in your city?	91
3. Which initiatives and activities will your city want to contribute to the work of ACES?	92

TABLE OF CONTENTS





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SOFIA MODERN EUROPEAN CAPITAL

Sofia is a city with a millenary history, a place where numerous nations and cultures have left their heritage and which is today a modern European capital. Sofia has an exceptional geographic feature – Vitosha Mountain – just on the outskirts of Sofia, and a lot of green spaces (parks and forests). Being a city with a long-standing and important sporting tradition, Sofia succeeded in promoting sport, at both popular and professional levels, in the firm belief that the practice of sport is a healthy habit, an integrating force for its citizens and the best way for them to utilize their free time. Over the years we have acted on this commitment by building a network of modern sporting facilities and spaces for public use, including ones designed for the disabled.

The ideals of the Sports Movement have been close to the hearts of generations of Sofia citizens and one of the main tasks of the Sofia City Council. The aim is to help strengthen the spirit in the young generation, making it more vigorous while engaging in sports and all other areas of social life, building on the national traditions and legacy in order to embrace confidently the future.

Sofia is a city that has lately been developing rapidly and boasts a lot of sporting facilities. The city's parks are full of sports sites such as tennis courts, football grounds and others. The rich historical and cultural past of Sofia, which is on the crossroads between Europe and Asia, and its mixture of cultures and ethnic groups complete the palette of the city sporting life.

Sofia is the only city in Europe with 22 universities, 297 schools, 235 kindergartens and 97 nurseries, most of them possessing their own sports base. This provides all generations with unique opportunities of practicing sport. Most of them are open for public use. The City Council of Sofia has a long-established policy of encouraging and supporting citizen participation in sporting activities, especially those for young people.

The new Master plan defines as its major objective the creation of conditions for promoting Sofia as an attractive modern centre of sports, tourism and leisure at a Balkan and European level.

SPORT IS IN THE CITY

Sofia Municipality organizes its municipal sports activities through its Municipal Funding Programme for sports activities of sport clubs, sport associations, youth communities, and educational institutions.

Recent research has established that 90 percent of Sofia adolescents engage in sport. Sofia is a sporting city, and that is why it provides the perfect environment for young talents to develop their sports skills. It has produced numerous National, European, World and Olympic champions in a variety of sports.

At the same time, the city's sports planning includes actions and projects which have the objective of bringing to Sofia all kinds of sporting events (e.g. Deaflympics 2013, World Indoor Athletic Championship 2013, World Championships in Rhythmic Gymnastics 2014, Judo, Snooker, Acrobatics, 2012 - Boxing, Trampoline, World Chess Championship 2010, etc.) which helps us develop strategies to continue encouraging popular participation in sport, and to enhance Sofia's international image as a sporting city.

Sofia has various children's programs such as "Learn to Swim" and "Learn to Ski", under which all participating children's expenses are covered. They bring together school children of different age groups and background. When the young people are engaged in sport, their cultural and so-

cio-economic differences quickly disappear. The City Council encourages participation in all kinds of sporting activities.

CITY IN THE MOUNTAIN, MOUNTAIN IN THE CITY

Sofia is situated at the foothills of Vitosha and Lyulin mountains, in the middle of Western Bulgaria - the Sofia Valley - which functions as a crossroads of international routes from Western, Central and Northern Europe, to Greece and the Middle East.

The slopes of Vitosha Mountain are conveniently situated only 17 km away from the centre of Sofia. The mountain is a National Park and a place for leisure activities, sports and tourism.

Having the unique chance to encourage the use of Vitosha Mountain for those activities among all citizens, Sofia Municipalities strive to further enhance the degree of public sports involvement. Investing in sports promotion and infrastructure are the two pillars of this policy.

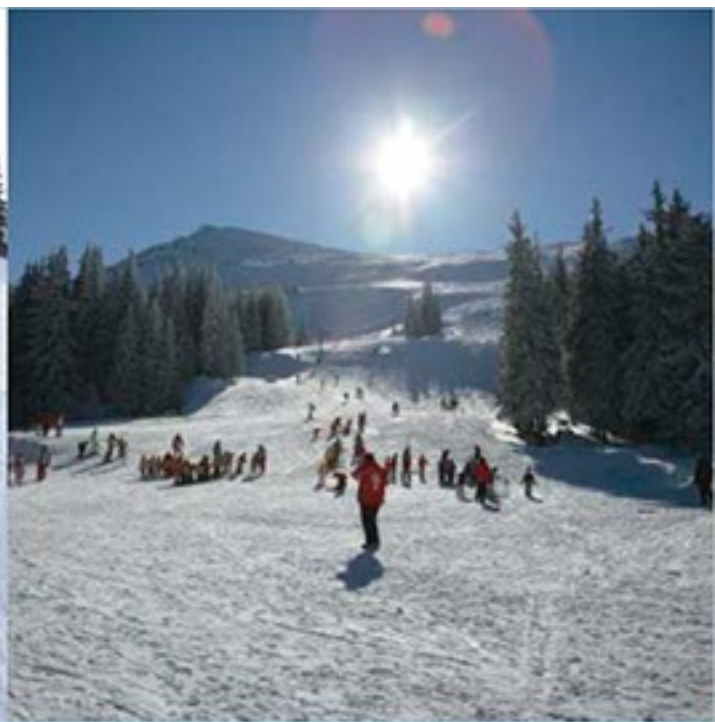
The focus now is on improving the Vitosha development plan, and renovating the city's sports halls and open-air sports facilities. In addition to the refurbishment of the existing halls, the city also intends to build a new Stadium and two new swimming pools.

In a strongly urbanized environment, the city has decided to invest substantially in new green fields and parks and to maximize the car-free areas.

ACCESS TO SPORT – RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE FOR EVERY SOFIA CITIZEN

Every citizen is encouraged to participate in the various offers of sporting activities, and to attend sports competitions and events as a participant or a spectator.

We focus on finding the most effective and innovative approaches, including all social and age groups to create positive long-term changes that expand access to sport.









01

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. NAME OF THE CITY
2. THE POPULATION
3. WHICH DEPARTMENT
IN YOUR CITY IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR
SPORTS?
4. CONTACT PERSON

NAME OF THE CITY

Sofia is the biggest city and the capital of Bulgaria, as well as the 15th biggest city in the European Union. It is the major administrative, industrial, transport, cultural and educational centre of the country, in which 17 percent of the population and one sixth of the industrial production of Bulgaria is concentrated. Sofia is a lively and vibrant city, yet pleasantly surprising its visitors with its cosy atmosphere, unexpected for a megalopolis. Protected by three mountains, Sofia valley enjoys a pleasant temperate continental climate, while its altitude of 550 meters above sea level gives it fourth position among the capitals of Europe. Sofia and the valley are dominated by Vitosha Mountain. Few capital cities in the world can boast such a beautiful, nearby and easily accessible natural reserve.

With its seven-thousand-year history, the city is one of the oldest human settlements in Europe, and its numer-

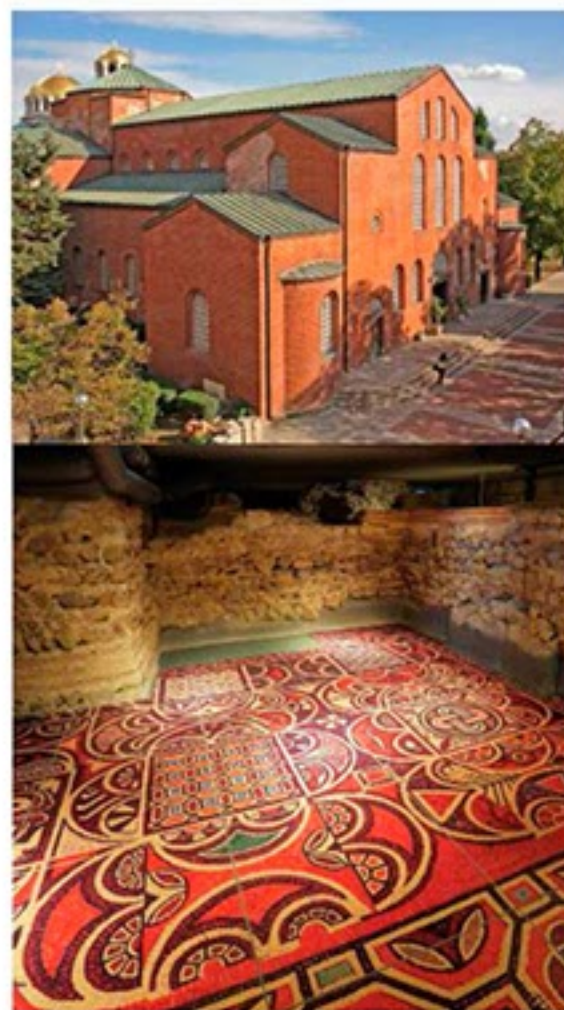
SOFIA MEANS
“WISDOM” IN GREEK



ous historical and architectural monuments harbour the wise messages of centennial cultural experience. The very name of the city, Sofia, denotes one of the most beautiful symbols of Christianity – the ‘divine wisdom’. The city with the motto ‘It Grows but Does not Age’ is the successor of the ancient Roman fortress of Serdica that early in the 2nd century AD grew into a regional centre in the Roman Empire and at the end of the 3rd century AD became the capital of the newly established province of Inner Dacia (Dacia Interna).

Since ancient times the town and its surroundings have been famous for the abundance of hot and cold mineral springs, which still continue to gush into the centre of modern Sofia, accessible to all, and attracting Sofia citizens and the guests of the capital with their numerous healing qualities.

In Sofia it is impossible to be bored. The many antiques in the city are nicely combined with numerous modern concert halls, the opera, major national museums, art galleries, theatres, clubs, discos, jazz and underground locales, offering exciting experiences for all tastes and preferences. The dynamic development of the city in recent years has provided many amenities for business trips, congress tourism, business meetings and trade shows. Sofia is an excellent place for culinary and wine-tasting tourism. Many modern cafes, bars, bistros and restaurants of varied designs offer impressive menu



lists, in which one can find almost any of the gourmet specialties of the modern culinary world. Sofia also provides excellent conditions for sport – several stadia and well equipped gyms, outdoor tennis courts, golf courses and facilities for horseback riding, spa pools. And only twenty minutes from downtown, in the great Vitosha Nature Park, one can even ski at night...

A GREEN CITY

Sofia is one of the greenest cities in Europe. Sofia's parks are a favourite place for rest and recreation. **Borisov Park** is right in the centre of the city, and **South Park** is next to the National Palace of Culture. There are two golf courses within an hour's drive from the city, in the town of Ihtiman and the village of Ravno Pole, both offering excellent facilities to play and practice this sport, which is becoming more and more popular in Bulgaria. In winter, the ski resort on Mount Vitosha is a favourite with skiers and snowboarders alike, and in summer hikers and picnickers frequent it. Mount Vitosha borders on **The Vitosha Natural Park**, which is the oldest nature reserve on the Balkan Peninsula. The species of flora in the park are particularly rich and varied. Ten of the peaks in the Vitosha Range are over 2,000 meters; the highest is Cherni Vrah (Black Peak), in the centre of the park, at 2,290 meters. Since Mount Vitosha is a preferred destination for the capital's



residents, its fields and paths are alive with nature lovers. There are two ski centres on Mount Vitosha to accommodate visitors to this very popular sports destination. They are Aleko and Konyarnika. Aleko is at an altitude of 1,800 meters, and its slopes face North. It also has facilities for night skiing. The Konyarnika Centre is at an altitude of 1,507 meters. There are a total of 29 km of ski runs on Vitosha, and the longest is 5 km. The maximum vertical drop is 780 meters. The slopes are suitable for both experienced skiers and beginners.

The Sofia Zoological Garden in the Southern part of the city is the country's largest zoo. It is a favourite place for a day's outing for young and old alike.

Sofia offers many places for its children to play. The parks are equipped with safe and modern playground equipment, and there are both children's playgrounds and indoor recreational facilities for children.

Like every big city, Sofia has something for every taste. Sofia and the immediate vicinity also boast a great many hotsprings. Bankya, a nearby resort, offers wonderful facilities for rest, recreation, sport and wellness.

On September 17 is the official holiday of the city of Sofia, in honour of the martyrdom of Saint Sofia and her three daughters Vyara (Faith), Nadezhda (Hope), and Lyubov (Love).





THE POPULATION

AMOUNTING TO 1 241 396 ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT CENSUS IN 2012.

The area covered by the City is 492 km² (190 sq mi). Urban - 1,344 km² (519 sq mi) with population density of 2,448 inhabitants per sq.km.

There are 159 204 people on the territory of Sofia region (capital) under 15 years of age, or 12.3% of the population in this region. The population in the age group 15 – 64 years of age is 930 723 (72.1%), and those aged 65 and above are 201 628 (15.6%).

As of 1 February 2011, 66.5% of the population in the region of Sofia (capital), or 859 390 people, were of **working age**. Of them 50.7% were men, and the other 49.3% - women. 66.7% of the population living in the region's towns were of working age, and in the villages – they were 63.0%. The population under the working age comprises of 168 551 people (13.0%), and those **above the working age** are 263 650 people (20.4%). As of 1 February 2011, in the region of Sofia (capital) there were 680 481 economically active people, or 60.1% of the individuals aged 15 or above. Out of all economically active people, 343 358 were men (50.5%), and 337 123 - women (49.5%). The economically inactive people aged 15 or above were 451 870, out of which 190 199 were men (42.1%), and 261 671 – women (57.9%).

From the presented demographic profile of the population, 66.5% are within working age, and those **actively involved in sport** are 68.2%.



MULTI-ETHNIC SOFIA

Ethnic groups (2011 census): Bulgarian 76.9%, Turk 8%, Roma 4.4%, other 0.7% (including Macedonian, Armenian, Tatar, Circassian), other (unknown) 10%

WHICH DEPARTMENT IN YOUR CITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORTS?

The municipality of the capital (or Sofia Municipality) comprises of 38 settlements, among which there are 4 cities: Sofia, Bankya, Buhovo, Novi Iskar, and 34 villages.

Sofia is divided into 24 districts. The district mayors solve issues arising from the daily needs of the population in their district and related to the public administrative services, housing development, sanitation, etc.

Sofia municipality is an administrative and territorial unit, which also enjoys the status of a region. The term of office of **Sofia Municipal Council and the Mayor** is 4 years. Sofia Municipality represents a legal entity with its own property – public and private, as well as its own budget. The managing bodies of the Municipality determine and implement their policy for the structuring and development of the Municipality, and solve local problems pertaining to the economy, the protection of the environment, activities in the spheres of healthcare, social services, education, culture, public utilities, territorial development, utilizing and managing municipal property, road and traffic safety, social order and others.

The Mayor of the Municipality - Mrs. Jordanka Fandakova, is an executive authority who manages all executive activities of the Municipality, such as being responsible for the maintenance of

public order, the allocation of the budget and long-term programmes, as well as for other specific functions. The municipal administration is structured according to functional and sector-related directorates and departments, managed by fields with the help of deputy mayors nominated by the Mayor and elected by Sofia Municipal Council.

RESPONSIBLE FOR SPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY ARE:

- DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, EDUCATION, SPORT AND PREVENTION OF ADDICTIONS – DEPUTY MAYOR FOR SMC, DR. TODOR CHOBANOV

WITH DIRECTORATE - PREVENTION, INTEGRATION, SPORT AND TOURISM,
DIRECTOR, MRS IRENA DIMITROVA

FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTORATE:

Traditionally Sofia Municipality works actively for developing sport and sport activities among a wide range of people. Mainly they assist the municipal policy on extracurricular activities and youth, prevention programs for risk behavior, educational integration of different target groups, sports and tourism.

They also support and encourage programs and projects that combine sport with other social areas like culture, education and art, for example. In this connection their regular practice is to work, collaborate and interact with sport clubs throughout the country, other government agencies and private organizations.

PRIORITY - SPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF THE CITY

THE MAIN ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

1. Organizing and conducting the school games in Sofia.
 2. Within the framework of Sport for All - sports events that promote physical activity supporting active ageing; developing sport and physical habits among citizens at a municipal level.
- In connection with the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, Sofia Municipality is partner in sports events at a national level featuring sport clubs from all over the country.
 - Another happening which they support is petanque involving more than 80 participants aged over 65.
 - International day of challenge, Day of the Bulgarian family –Bulgaria Familathlon.
 - Sofia Municipality provides assistance to Bulgarian tourists veterans.
 - One of the most attractive sports events which Sofia is hosting is the charity beach Volleyball tournament with international participation.
 - In the last few years volleyball has turned out to be the most professionally growing and promising sport in Bulgaria - in terms of facilities, training methodology, quality of service, number of events, media and public interest.

CONTACT PERSON

MRS. IRENA DIMITROVA - DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION, INTEGRATION,
SPORTS AND TOURISM DIRECTORATE AT SOFIA MUNICIPALITY
CONTACT DETAIL: irena13@abv.bg, TEL. 00359 887 996 448



02

SPORT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN

1. HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM YOUR CITY/TOWN ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SPORT?
2. HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM YOUR CITY/TOWN ARE MEMBERS OF SPORTS CLUBS?
3. HOW DOES YOUR CITY/TOWN SUPPORT VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN SPORT?
4. IS THERE A SPORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN YOUR CITY/TOWN? WHAT ARE ITS MAIN AIMS?
5. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SPORT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN FOR ACHIEVING THE 5 MAIN AIMS OF THE MANIFESTO OF ACES EUROPE?

HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM YOUR CITY/TOWN ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SPORT?

Sofia is a sporting city. Almost everyone in the city is involved in one or another way in sport - practising, witnessing or being a volunteer in sport.

According to a recent study, conducted by the National Sports Academy, 85 % of the Youth population and 68 % of adult population are actively involved in sport several times a year.

About 40% of the children between 4 and 10 can ski and 60% can swim.

Sofia Municipality actively supports the practice of sports and value its benefits **providing a financial subsidy to various sports organizations for their sports projects twice a year.**

The Municipality is actively interested in the practice of sports and its benefits in terms of social cohesion and improvement of the quality of life of its inhabitants.



Children and teenagers identify sport as their favourite subject.

68 % of Sofia youth population are actively involved in sport

SPORT AND HEALTH

Measures for promoting health and integration through sport for all social groups:

A) Programs for health protection in all social groups
Various health promotion events such as health talks, consultations with doctors and specialists in the area of the healthy way of life as well as sports and other events are organized in the social services institutions on the territory of Sofia Municipality.

B) Sports courses for citizens in their 60ies and over are provided by the Associations of Sports Clubs "Health and active longevity" – there are five such a clubs in Sofia: Lulin, Mladost, Krasno Selo, Simeonovo and Iztok/Isgrev/, providing healthy sports gymnastics and other sports for elderly people. They provide camps "Second Youth at the Seaside" - active holidays subsidised by the municipality as well as winter holidays and various sports offers such as active walking, swimming, boggia, petanque, gymnastics, tourism and others.

C) Sports courses for special needs citizens and those with a special social status or disability.
The Clubs of the Physically Impaired and the Retired,



as well as the social services institutions regularly hold events related to practicing sports, such as expeditions and competitions, often organized between the societies of the physically impaired and the retired (petanque, chess, backgammon, etc.). Depending on their individual preferences, the children and youths from the specialized institutions for children and social services in the community participate in sports courses. Sports competitions are held with children from various schools in Sofia.

D) Future initiatives for promoting health and integration through sport

The “Social Activities” Directorate at Sofia Municipality organizes various sports events for children and people from disadvantaged social background. Under the “Equal Opportunities in Sport” project, which started in 2007, sports competitions for the disabled are held annually, with the Chess Tournament for visually impaired people taking place for the seventh successive year.

The children from Children’s Home “A. Zlatarov”, CH Dragalevtsi residential area and CH “P. R. Slaveikov” practice tennis twice a week at the University of Mining and Geology in the Student’s City. The children are divided in two age groups 5-10 and 11-17 years of age.



During the winter months, for the fourth successive year, the children from “A. Zlatarov” Children’s Home attend “Machirski” weekend ski school. With the co-operation of “One Heart” Foundation, training sessions in taekwondo are organized three times a week in the Home or in the sports hall of “Barin” sports club. Once a week volunteers coach the children in sport dances.

The children from “P. R. Slaveikov” visit the sports hall of „Sava Filaretov ” 113 Secondary Comprehensive School to practice taekwondo.

The youth from “Knyaz Boris I” social training and professional centre train horse-riding and one type of taekwondo. “Special Olympics - Bulgaria” have invited children to train horse-riding in the horse-riding centre in the town of Ihtiman. The youth from the Centre participate in the “Children – the Flowers of the Earth” project of the “Ka-Sport” Association by training Kudo. From March to the end of the summer the children practice badminton with a coach in Sofia Hall –Borisov Park. Every month, various sports events are organized according to the school’s sports calendar.



HOW MANY PEOPLE FROM YOUR CITY/TOWN ARE MEMBERS OF SPORTS CLUBS?

About a third of Sofia's youth population participate in sports through a sports club.

Large numbers of sports clubs are based in the city. According to the data provided by the Ministry of Youth and Sport in Sofia there are 1030 Sports Clubs for various sports, ages, and multifunctional ones. The city boasts a great sporting tradition.

During the Communist era most sports clubs concentrated on the all-round sporting development, therefore CSKA, Levski and Slavia dominate not only in football, but in many other team sports as well. Basketball and volleyball also have strong traditions in Sofia. A notable local basketball team - Lukoil Akademik - has been a European Champions Cup finalist twice. The Bulgarian Volleyball Federation is the world's second oldest one, and there was an exhibition tournament organised by the BVF in Sofia that convinced the International Olympic Committee to include volleyball as an Olympic sport in 1957. Tennis is increasingly popular in the city. Currently there are some ten tennis court complexes within the city including the one, founded by former WTA top-ten athlete Magdalena Maleeva.

Alongside **organised sport**, practised by registered members of sports associations or through physical education as part of the school curriculum for children at school age, there is also a high percentage of people (60%) who practise sport **in a non-organised way**, using public areas and facilities (parks equipped with fitness facilities, multi-functional areas and fields available for the city's inhabitants, pools with lanes and times where free swimming is available), as well as using the numerous private facilities in the area.

HOW DOES YOUR CITY/TOWN SUPPORT VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN SPORT?

The voluntary sector in Sofia is supported through the **Department of Culture, Education, Sport and Prevention of Addictions**. Through this department the municipality council provide financial, logistical, promotional and administrative support to voluntary work in sport. The focus is on initiatives that improve the training opportunities for volunteers, with a particular emphasis on:

- Community capacity building in sport;
- Promoting the social and health benefits of sports volunteering to all residents;
- Engaging youth as new volunteers; and supporting the development of resources to complement these activities.

In 2013 the Municipality provided its patronage and financial support for **158 sports events** and granted the use of many sporting facilities within the city with **subsidies applying to the tariff system** (free entry or reductions).

Each of the Sofia's districts/24/ has a local sports coordinator for citizens, sports clubs and organisers of sporting events. They provide technical assistance and free training opportunities to sports volunteers through:

- organizing campaigns for the promotion of healthy life and regular physical and sports activity;
- training young people willing to be volunteers and including them in the organization of sports events and forums;
- organizing and conducting sports events initiated by Sofia Municipality, with the participation of educational institutions, such as comprehensive secondary and higher schools;
- co-financing sports events initiated by structures external to Sofia Municipality – sports clubs and organisations;
- facilitating and co-financing of international sports forums – European and world sports championships;
- supporting youth structures during the organization and holding of charity campaigns;
- stimulating young people volunteers who participated in sports events by awarding them prizes on the occasion of the Day of Bulgarian Sport, 17th May.



IS THERE A SPORT DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN YOUR CITY/TOWN? WHAT ARE ITS MAIN AIMS?

SOFIA'S SPORTS POLICY STRATEGY FOR 2012-2020

According to a study of leisure and sports, within the framework of the new Master Plan of the city of Sofia the following sports infrastructure is planned:

MLADOST DISTRICT

Multifunctional Sports Hall with two ice rings (61/30), 1800 seats and parking for 100 cars –

Amount 40 200 000 Euro

Stadium: 20 000 - 25 000 seats

Trainings ground, 6 tennis courts, 2 mini football grounds

Parking for 1 200 cars

VITOSHA DISTRICT

National Sports Complex

Football playground –grass- 115 / 78 m.

Football playground –grass 110 / 72 m.

Football playgrounds – artificial grass 110 / 72 m.

Tennis courts -2 - 18 / 36m.

Multifunctional sports hall - 23/45.5 for mini football, basketball, handball and badminton

Amount 55 000 000 Euro

PARC VAZRAJDANE - DISTRICT ZONA 5

Multifunctional sports complex

- 3 tennis courts
- 2 football grounds – connected 22/44m
- 1 football ground 42/63
- 1 ice rink 21/41
- Street ball open field 18/29m
- Table tennis hall for 8 tables
- Beach football field
- Amount 30 200 000 Euro

LOSENEZ DISTRICT- BORISOVA GRADINA

- 1 swimming pool, 1 waterpolo pool, 2 children's pool
- Amount 7 700 000 Euro
- Sports climbing gym – 2 500 000 Euro
- Bowling complex - 300 000 Euro

The overall value of the new planned infrastructure amounts 133 100 000 Euros founded by city council, regional government, national government and private investors.

Sofia Municipality strategy for developing physical education and sport on the territory of the city of Sofia contains their vision, strategic and specific goals, measures, actions and expected outcomes. The programme period of the relevant document is 2012 – 2020. Sport is a priority of its policy. The annual sports budget has been increased from 12 million euro in 2010 to over 19 million for 2014.

Our city has a sporting vision and a sporting mission. The main goal is to attract and stimulate everyone to do sport.

The aim of Sofia's sports policy programme is to create conditions for the realization and implementation of sustainable and effective local policy in the field of physical education and sport, including all interested parties, as well as the creation of a mechanism for tracking of expectations and results.

The strategy has been developed based on the following principles:

- democracy and sustainability of participation in sports;
- accessibility, social inclusion and free access to sports activities, municipal sports facilities and utilities;
- adequate distribution of authority and responsibility; analytical planning and deployment of resources – effectiveness and efficiency;
- subsidized and decentralized activities – transparency and publicity;
- sport during the free time – from a personal choice to a way of life.
- Structure – strategic and specific aim

SOFIA spends 69 Euro per resident per year on sport



STRATEGIC AIM	SPECIFIC AIM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Creating conditions for the development of physical education and sport in comprehensive educational institutions and kindergartens.</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing programmes and initiatives involving children's and students' participation in sports activities. Improving the conditions for sport activities in the educational institutions. 2. Expanding the capacity of educational institutions in implementing sports activities and programmes for out-of-class and extra-curricular activities. 3. Legal and regulatory provision of the activities of and access to sports clubs and organizations in offering sports services on the territory of municipal schools and kindergartens.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Interaction and partnership in implementing sports programmes, activities and initiatives with sports clubs and organizations.</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding the network of sports clubs and organizations in implementing sports programmes, activities and initiatives. 2. Increasing the quality of the offered sports services, activities and social opportunities. 3. Integrating various target groups and stimulating the interest and demand for activities requiring physical exercise, as well as a sport-integrated approach and co-ordination of efforts and resources on behalf of all partner institutions. 4. Fostering a sports culture for lifelong activities, including long-term social marketing campaigns for promoting the benefits of sports activities and attaining sustainable development. 5. Creating appropriate conditions during the organization and hosting of international sports events in the capital.

STRATEGIC AIM**SPECIFIC AIM**

- *Improving the offer and the conditions of practicing physical exercises and sport activities – investment policy in realizing the strategy for the development of physical education and sport.*

1. Transparency and publicity – setting up of an information database of available municipal sports facilities and utilities.
2. Development of a municipal programme for maintaining and of mechanisms for effective deployment of the available municipal and schools sports facilities.
3. Forms and mechanisms for public and private partnership in designing and constructing new sports facilities, or refurbishing of existing ones, including their funding and maintenance.
4. Investment policy of "Sporty Sofia" EAD

- *Effective model of municipal policy management in the sphere of PE.*

1. Improving the capacity for planning and managing programmes and activities; creating and disseminating specialist knowledge and inter-institutional interactions within the partnership networks.
2. Introducing an effective model of planning, management and monitoring of activities and programmes in the sphere of sport – adapting rules and regulations, flexible planning suited to the specific regional conditions.
3. Increased administrative capacity and provision of resources for all activities.
4. Providing information about sports opportunities, venues and programmes, as well as about volunteer activities.
5. Communication strategy - presenting good practices, exchange of experience with other European capitals, transparency and publicity.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SPORT IN YOUR CITY/TOWN FOR ACHIEVING THE 5 MAIN AIMS OF THE MANIFESTO OF ACES EUROPE?

Satisfaction with physical and sports activities – encompassing all age groups in programmes, activities and campaigns with a sustainable effect and ones fostering high standards of behaviour and a healthy way of life through the formulated goals in the Strategy. Most of Sofia citizens do exercise at a recreational level using the municipality sports programme or various sports fields and playgrounds. The core element in all those programmes is enjoyment and satisfaction coming from sport. The municipalities offer sports for disabled and senior citizens. Two-thirds of the sports fields and playgrounds are specially equipped for the needs of the disabled.

Sofia stages plenty of public sporting events for its citizens' enjoyment.

There are timeslots in every swimming pool offering free entrance for the programmes "Learn to Swim" and reserved times for recreational swimming. The tendency is to rediscover nature through a 100 km marathon - Vitosha mounting Tour – as well as to rediscover recreational sport, socialise and get together. We can also mention various non-competitive marathons, held around the city's main squares, streets and parks.

There is also a Marathon organized by the Federation for homeless children in Sofia.

The reasons for doing sport are not only connected with physical experimentation, but also with the need to share common experiences and emotions.

The desire for success – materialised in holding sports activities, initiatives, tournaments, festivals and demonstrations giving free access to sports participation and in the manifestation of the sports virtues of representatives of all age groups.

A sense of belonging to the community – sport is a social phenomenon, a way of life, culture of behaviour, outlook of the world and everything that surrounds us. Thanks to the variety of sports offered by the Municipality of Sofia even the smallest group shows a sense of belonging to the community.

Fair-play behaviour – fostering of high standards of behaviour during the organized events requiring conformity with the principles of fair-play conduct through competent provision of judges and technical equipment by the National Federations. A special price “Fair Play” is annually awarded by the City Lady Major.

Promoting a healthy way of life – conducting campaigns among all age groups for a healthy way of life and active longevity, promoting health campaigns for healthy factors, preventing risk factors among adolescents and various marginal risk social groups.





03

A VARIETY OF SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

1. ARE THERE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS TO PRACTICE SPORT?
2. WHO OFFERS THESE OPPORTUNITIES?
3. ARE THERE QUALITY CRITERIA FOR THESE SPORT PROPOSALS?
4. ARE THERE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING OF COACHES AND INSTRUCTORS?
5. HAVE THESE PROPOSALS BEEN SUBSIDIZED BY YOUR CITY/TOWN? IF YES, HOW EXACTLY?

ARE THERE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS TO PRACTICE SPORT?

For those aged 0–6, the Municipality provides smaller pools and gyms in kindergartens and as part of the bigger sports facilities. There is also a special infrastructure created in parks and spaces between blocks on the territory of Sofia with many playgrounds. The available educational and social structure of the respective age group – more than 200 kindergartens with suitable outdoor yards for physical activities, as well as indoor sports facilities – swimming pools and small multifunctional gyms.

For school age adolescents – between 6 and 18 years of age – 176 comprehensive municipal schools equipped with 142 large gyms, 100 small-size /adapted/ ones and 12 school swimming pools.

Two new modern sport facilities have been built – sport complexes, halls in 81st Secondary Comprehensive School and in 88th Secondary Comprehensive School.

Another municipal sport infrastructure appropriate for other age groups

- Playgrounds located between blocks of flats and playgrounds in school yards – 53 sports playgrounds; and 59 children's playgrounds.
- 2013 – 17 new street fitness playgrounds were built in a park environment
- Resolution of Sofia Municipal Council No. 65/09.02.2012 – forthcoming development of a Programme for the construction of school sports halls – 25 sports halls.

WHO OFFERS THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

National programmes funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sport – the right of programme funding of this activity is granted to sports clubs and organisations.

Programmes and activities of the National Federations and Sports Associations offering free-access programmes and activities.

Programmes for out-of-class and extracurricular activities of educational institutions for sports and tourism activities.

Corporation and field professional organizations offering sports activities for various professional communities

NGOs organizing campaigns for the healthy way of life of different age and risk groups.

The municipality financing a sports calendar of the capital – the city of Sofia;

Programme funding provided by Sofia Municipality for programmes and sports activities of sport clubs, sport associations, youth communities, and educational institutions.

ARE THERE QUALITY CRITERIA FOR THESE SPORT PROPOSALS?

For each programme financing criteria have been developed for the purposes of encompassing target groups, effectiveness and purposefulness of the sport event or programme, sustainability of sport participation and inclusion, as well as opportunities for multiplying and developing the activity.

With the programme funding provided by the Municipality, a form for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the implemented activities has been prepared, and it contains the following **quality criteria**:

1. The applicant's and the partners' experience
2. Capacity of the applying institution
3. Relevance:
 - the project proposal corresponds to the topics of the municipal Programme for development of physical education and sport, which are contained in the announcement about the current competition procedure;
 - the problems and need of the target groups have been correctly identified;
 - the target group in the project has been clearly defined and strategically selected;
 - the project proposal corresponds to the approved Plan, Programme, Strategy or others (relevance to other programme documents);

4. Activities and methods

- the proposed activities are suitable and practical, and correspond to the aims and expected outcomes;
- the plan for activities is clear and practicable;
- the partners' level of engagement and participation is effective;
- the project proposal contains innovative approaches and examples of good practice.

5. The project proposal needs to feature objectively verifiable indicators.

6. The sustainability of results under the project will have a long-lasting effect on the target group.

7. Budget and effectiveness of expenses.

8. The partners' level of engagement and participation in the project is effective; the project proposal contains innovative approaches and examples of good practice.



ARE THERE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING OF COACHES AND INSTRUCTORS?



National Sports Academy “Vasil Levsky” is the only specialised higher school in Bulgaria offering university level of education in three main subjects – PE teachers, Coaches by type of sport and Physiotherapists for the needs of the mass healing and therapeutic physical culture.

FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY

The Faculty of Pedagogy was founded within the structure of National Sports Academy “Vasil Levsky”. It has established itself as one of the most authoritative structures in the system of higher education in Bulgaria, which prepares highly qualified specialists in the field of Physical Education and Sport. Through its academic profile, the Faculty of Pedagogy plays the role of a national scientific centre in the sphere of Physical Education and Sport.



THE FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY
PREPARES SPORTS TEACHERS

The job prospects of those who have graduated the Faculty of Pedagogy are some of the following:

- PE teachers on all educational levels
- College and university tutors
- Teachers and instructors in sports clubs, students' sport schools and fitness halls
- Organisers and leaders of out-of-class sport activities for children and adolescents
- Experts in various state governmental and non- governmental institutions
- Experts in the system of the Ministry of Interior and the Bulgarian Army

THE PROCESS OF EDUCATION

At present, the training capacity of the Faculty of Pedagogy is 800 full-time and part-time students. The Faculty has become an attractive choice for foreign students from Cyprus, Greece, Macedonia, Turkey and other countries.

The training in the Faculty of Pedagogy is realised through the educational and qualification degrees Bachelor's, Master's and PhD. The educational programmes were accredited in 2008 and were awarded the highest mark by the National Agency of Assessment and Accreditation at the Ministerial Council of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Bachelor's Degree – eight semesters for full-time students and ten semesters for part-time students with a total of 240 credits. The training comprises the study of:

- Obligatory general theoretical subjects
- Obligatory specialised subjects
- Electives – theoretical, as well as sport and practical ones
- Training courses in ski, water sports, tourism, orientation and camping
- Pedagogical practice in schools
- State exam or defense of a diploma paper

The graduates of the “Physical Education” major obtain the professional qualification of a “Teacher in Physical Education”. The students can also enroll in an additional speciality with the qualification of “Coach by type of sport” or a “Sport manager” after the second year of training.

There also exist opportunities for participation in various qualification courses and specializations in selected aspects of physical education and sport at the Centre of post-graduate qualification.

Master’s Degree - two or three semesters after the Bachelor’s Degree in full-time or part-time learning. Training is offered in the following Master’s programmes:

- Physical education – two semesters of a total of 60 credits after the Bachelor’s educational and qualification degree. The following specialities are offered:
- Sport at school and in the free time
- Physical education and sport at the educational level of 5th – 8th grade in Secondary Comprehensive Schools
- Physical education and sport at the educational level of 9th – 12th grade in Secondary Comprehensive Schools
- Physical education and sport in primary school
- Basketball in the educational system
- Volleyball in the educational system
- Handball in the educational system
- Track-and-field in the educational system
- Gymnastics in the educational system
- Swimming in the educational system
- Physical education and sport in the system of the Ministry of Interior and the Bulgarian Army
- Prophylaxis and correction in cases of spinal deformities in school age

The structure of the Faculty of Pedagogy includes five leading Departments:

- Anatomy and Biomechanics
- Basketball, volleyball, handball
- Track-and-field

- Psychology, pedagogy and sociology
- Theory of physical education



All syllabuses at the Faculty are included in the European Sport and Education Information Platform. The Faculty of Pedagogy presents opportunities for the professional development and realization of its students through their involvement in research projects and various scientific forums – congresses, conferences, and round tables.

The students from the Faculty of Pedagogy take part in the sports clubs at the National Sport Academy. They are active participants both in the sport and competitive events in the Academy and the inter-university students' championships. Graduates of the Faculty have been Olympic Games, world and European championship medalists.

THE COACHES' FACULTY

The Coaches' Faculty trains higher education specialists in the "Healthcare and Sport" field of higher education, with a professional specialization in Sport.

Educational and qualification Bachelor's Degree

Training in the educational and qualification Bachelor's Degree provides fundamental multi-profile preparation. The graduates of the Sport specialization gain the professional qualification "Coach by type of sport", which entitles them to performing coaching and methodological activities on all levels in the system of sport.

The syllabus guiding the training comprises:

- **Basic disciplines in the humanities** – pedagogy, psychology, philosophy, informatics, foreign languages, sociology, etc.
- **Basic medicine and biology disciplines** – anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, biomechanics, sports medicine, etc.
- **Specialised disciplines** - theory and methodology of physical education, theory of sports training, sports management, general theory and methodology of physiotherapy, sport for the disabled, metrology, methodology and statistical methods in sport, massage, functional diagnostics, etc.
- **Physical education and sport** – gymnastics, track-and-field events, basketball, volleyball, handball, football, swimming, heavy athletics, etc.
- **Training courses in**
 - Winter sports
 - Water sports
 - Tourism, mountaineering, orientation
- Internship

Coaching practice – participation in the sports and training process in sports clubs;

Pedagogical practice – participation in the teaching process in secondary schools;

The NSA curriculum conforms to the European credit system, according to which 1 credit equals 15 hours of positively assessed academic work. The overall workload reflects the state educational requirements for acquiring a Bachelor's Degree.

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” is the first Bulgarian higher education institution. Its history represents an embodiment and continuation of the Bulgarian centuries-old cultural and educational tradition.

The Sports Department

The Sports Department offers the University lecturers and staff courses and training in various sport and extreme disciplines, health and recreational programmes for improving their health, fitness and self-confidence.

HAVE THESE PROPOSALS BEEN SUBSIDIZED BY YOUR CITY/TOWN? IF YES, HOW EXACTLY?

National Sports Academy “V. Levsky” has developed a joint programme of activities with Sofia Municipality. Traditionally, events, initiatives and participation of students’ sport clubs and teams in international competitions are supported. Together with Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, awards are given to the best sportsperson and the best young scientist.

In partnership with National Sports Academy “V. Levsky”

- Track-and-field stars in Sofia
- The young lions of Bulgaria
- Seminar entitled “Volleyball in Educational Institutions”
- Festival of Mini-volleyball
- Swimming tournament “Sofia Cup”
- Students’ Swimming Tournament “Mayor’s Cup”
- Annual internships for NSA students in Directorate “Prevention, Integration, Sport and Tourism”



04

SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

1. HOW MANY SPORTS PLAYGROUNDS ARE THERE IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?
2. WHAT PLANS ARE THERE IN THE CITY/TOWN FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYGROUNDS AND HALLS?

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

The city is home to a number of large sports venues, including the 43,000-seat Vasil Levski National Stadium, which is at the heart of the largest green area in Sofia and hosts international football matches.

There are two ice skating complexes – the **Winter Palace of Sports** which features an indoor arena with 6,000 seats for figure skating, short track and Ice hockey, and Slavia Winter Stadium with a capacity of 2,000 /with an area of eight acres of space, it is easily transformed for other purposes/ both containing two rinks each.

Another big Sports centre is **Lokomotiv Stadium**, the main venue for outdoor musical concerts. **Armeets Arena** holds many indoor events and has a capacity of up to 19,000 people depending on its use. The venue was inaugurated on July 30, 2011, and the first event it hosted was a friendly volleyball match between Bulgaria and Serbia. A **velodrome** with 5,000 seats in the city's central park is currently undergoing renovation. There are also various other sports complexes in the city which belong to institutions other than football clubs, such as those of the **National Sports Academy**, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, or those of different universities. There are more than fifteen swimming complexes in the city, most of them outdoor ones. Nearly all of these were constructed as competition venues and therefore have seating facilities for several hundred people.

There are two **golf** courses just to the east of Sofia – in Elin Pelin (St. Sofia club) and in Ihtiman (Air Sofia club), and a horse-riding club (St. George club).

Sofia was set to bid for the 2016 Winter Youth Olympics. The Bulgarian Olympic Committee have expressed interest in potentially bidding for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics.

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

The sporting facilities are with access for the disabled and with price differentiation according to the particular use, social status and sporting level

- No charge for initiatives promoting diversity and social inclusion, for social vulnerable /disabled and others/
- Discounts for athletes under 16 and over 65 Years
- Discount for sports club members
- Season tickets

THE VALUE OF THE FACILITIES IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

- Multifunctional hall Arena Armeez – 90 000 000 Euro
- Sport Centre Diana – 35 000 000 Euro
- Indoors Swimming pool
- Outdoors pool
- Weightlifting Hall
- Boxing, Judo and wrestling Halls-completed 2010
- Aikido Hall completed 2011
- Shooting facilities
- Tennis courts
- Sports horse base “Han Asparuh” – completed 2010
- Indoor tennis complex “SOFIA” – the renovation completed 2012

IN PLANNING

- WINTER SPORT PALACE
EURO 35 000 000
- RECONSTRUCTION/ NEW
BUILDING OF SLAVIA
STADIUM - EURO 35 000 000

TO BE COMPLETED IN 2017.



HOW MANY SPORTS PLAYGROUNDS ARE THERE IN YOUR CITY/TOWN?



FOR PROFESSIONAL SPORT

- Stadiums - 7
- Sport halls – 9
- Tennis complex - 16
- Carting - 4
- 1 velodrome
- 4 indoor athletics arenas
- 3 rugby pitches
- 2 golf courses
- 2 horse riding stadiums
- Swimming pools – indoor -5, outdoor 8
- Ice rinks - 3 indoor and 4 outdoor ice rings
- 2 rowing/canoeing/sailing marinas
/Iskar and Pancherevo lakes/

FOR SPORT IN SCHOOLS

- 142 large gyms
- 206 small /adapted/
- 12 school swimming pools

FOR THE FREE PRACTICING OF SPORT IN ONE'S LEISURE TIME

- playgrounds between blocks of flats and in school yards – 53
- children's playgrounds – 53
- constructed street fitness playgrounds – 17

NUMBER OF MUNICIPAL SPORTS INSTALLATIONS IN THE CITY OF SOFIA

Year	Staffed Public Facilities	Unstaffed Public Facilities	School Facilities
Before 2000	20	0	198
2000-2009	42	45	212
2009-2013	51	97	238
2014	68	123	348



WHAT PLANS ARE THERE IN THE CITY/TOWN FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYGROUNDS AND HALLS?

Resolution of Sofia Municipal Council No. 65/09.02.2012 – forthcoming development of a Programme for the reconstruction of school sports halls – 25 sports halls. Sofia continues to invest in existing and new sports infrastructure as a part of its policy. A new national football stadium is in a planning phase.

- 1 swimming hall - 81 Secondary school Mladost
- 12 new free sporting grounds and reconstruction of the existing 10
- Increasing of the existing cycle ways 2013-2015- 66 km.



Group
Gymnastics

World Cup 2014 SOFIA



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS



05

SPORTING EVENTS

1. WORLD, EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS
2. OTHERS ON A YEARLY BASIS
3. CONTRIBUTION OF SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION AND CO-OPERATION
4. FORTHCOMING EVENTS, FORUMS, CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

WORLD, EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING
THE PAST FIVE YEARS



2011

European Championships Sambo	13-16.05 Universiada Hall	Sofia
European Championships Bodybuilding & Fitness	20-23.05 National Palace of Cul- ture	Sofia
World Cup Equestrian	2-05.06	Sofia-Bozuriste
World Cup Taekwondo	Winter Sports Palace	Sofia
European Championships Snooker	7-17.06 National Palace of Cul- ture	Sofia
World Cup Cycling – 61-st International Tour of BG	11-16.09	start/final in Sofia
World Championships Freestyle Motocross	18.12 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics	20-21.08	Sofia

2012

World Cup Judo (women)	26-30.01	Sofia
World Cup Judo women	02-03.02	Sofia
World Cup Boxing „Strandza“	21-26.02	Sofia
European Championships Snooker	06-15.03	Sofia
World Cup Ice Hokey (division D)	02-08.04	Sofia
World Championships tennis “Davis Cup” men	02-05.05	Sofia
World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics	03-07.05	Sofia
European Championships Taekwondo ITF	14-20.05	Sofia
World Championships Aerobic	23.05-04.06	Sofia
World Cup Equestrian	30.05-03.06	Sofia-Bozuriste
European Championships Rugby 7 women	09-10.06	Sofia
European Championships Boxing (Juniors)	22.06-01.07	Sofia
World League Volleyball men	26.06-08.07	Sofia
European Championships Basketball men (20 years)	12-22.07	Sofia
European Championships Modern Pentathlon	04-10.07	Sofia
European Cup Archery	09-14.07	Sofia
World Championships Racquetball (team & girls)	12-15.07	Sofia

European Championships Modern Pentathlon	18-22.07	Sofia
World Deaf Championships Volleyball	14-26.08	Sofia
World Deaf Championships Wrestling	02-09.09	Sofia
World Cup Cycling – 62-nd International Tour of BG	09-15.09	start/final in Sofia
European Championships Badminton (veterans)	17-22.09	Sofia
World Cup Trampoline	02-07.10	Sofia
European Cup Badminton	04-07.10	Sofia
World Championships Sambo (Juniors)	10-15.10	Sofia
World Cup Tennis women	03.10-04.11	Sofia
World Cup Snooker	14-20.11	Sofia
World Championships Classic Bodybuilding	22-26.11	Sofia
World Championships Snooker	24.11-02.12	Sofia
World Championships Freestyle Motocross	15.12 Arena Armeez Hall	Sofia

2013

World Cup Ice Hokey (division 3, till 20 ys)	14-20.01	Sofia
World Cup Tennis	01-03.02	Sofia
World Cup Judo (women)	02-03.02	Sofia

European Cup Boxing	19-24.02	Sofia
World Cup and World Championships Aesthetic Group Gymnastics	02-07.04	Sofia
World Championships Boxing	06-20.04	Sofia
World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics	2-6.05	Sofia
World Cup Sports Acrobatics	7-11.05 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
World Cup Equestrian	22-26.05	Sofia-Bozuriste
World Cup Snooker	03-09.06	Sofia
European Cup Modern Pentathlon	18-24.06	Sofia
European Cup Climbing and Alpinism	28-30.06	Sofia
World League Volleyball	06-21.07	Sofia-Varna
World Championships Taekwondo ITF	15-21.07	Sofia
Deaflympics Summer Games	26.7-4.08	Sofia
World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics	10-11.08	Sofia
World Championships Wrestling	13-18.08	Sofia
World Cup Cycling – 63-rd International Tour of BG	1-5.09	start/final in Sofia
European Cup Badminton	03-06.10	Sofia
World Cup Acrobatic Rock'n'Roll	04-06.10	Sofia
World Championships Karate Kyokushin	04-06.10	Sofia
World Cup Tennis	29.10-3.11	Sofia
World Championships Trampoline	03-17.11	Sofia
World Championships Freestyle Motocross	14.12 Arena Armeez Hall	Sofia

OTHERS ON A YEARLY BASIS

Scholarships for high achievements in the field of sport on the occasion of the Day of Bulgarian Sport, 17th May

Sofia Municipality award for the best young scientist – SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”

National off-road festival

Sofia Marathon

International moto-meeting

Eco-rally Bulgaria

“Share the Sensation” National campaign

Auto-expedition of retro cars

“Sport, Health and Active Longevity” National holiday

Balkan Championship in baseball for mixed teams

Balkan Championship in softball for mixed teams

Cycling Tour of Bulgaria

International Equestrian Tournament for the Mayor’s Cup

National Sports Festival



CONTRIBUTION OF SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION AND CO-OPERATION

Sofia municipality can provide teams and athletes with:

- Co-financing
- Providing sports facilities at null or reasonable cost to the event host
- Coordination services with the event OC /Police, Cleansing, Security and others/
- Cultural and Legacy projects supporting the event
- Creation of a promotional film about Sofia in support of the candidacy of Sofia for a European capital of culture in 2019
- Event promotion, marketing and PR
- Presenting municipal terrain and key locations for gratuitous use in organizing accompanying initiatives
- Permission for the construction of a stage – podium
- Ensuring free access of cars
- Permission for pitching up light-weight garden tents

- Assistance in providing security
- Provision of a track /temporarily diverting traffic/police, City Directorate of the Ministry of Interior
- Medical provision
- Assistance in directing the traffic
- Provision of advertising information materials connected with the Bulgarian cultural and historical legacy
- Presenting areas for gratuitous use and placing stands with messages related to the event
- Assistance in affording the opportunity for positioning advertising billboards in key locations in Sofia
- Assistance regarding the placement of advertising messages in Metropolitan and Sofia City Transport
- Organizing reception in Sofia Municipality
- Transparency and publicity
- Provision of electricity
- Procedure for the issue of a co-coordinated resolution /permit/



FORTHCOMING EVENTS, FORUMS, CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

SOFIA MUNICIPALITY EVENTS OR EVENTS WITH THE PARTNERSHIP OF SOFIA MUNICIPALITY

2014

European Cup Judo	31.01-02.02	Sofia
International Tournament Boxing "Strandza"	25.02-2.03	Sofia
World Championships Figure Skating (Junior)	10-16.03 Winter Palace of Sport	Sofia
World Cup Aesthetic Group Gymnastics	21-22.03 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
World Championships Boxing (Junior)	10-25.04 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
European Championships Powerlifting	7-11.05	Sofia
European Championships Artistic Gymnastics	19-25.05 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
European Championships Snooker	1-12.06	Sofia
European Grand Prix Archery	16-21.06	Sofia
Tournament of the champions of Women's Tennis Association WTA,	Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia

World Championships Taekwondo ITF	18-21.07	Sofia
World Cup Rhythmic Gymnastics	7-11.08	Sofia
World Championships Freestyle Motocross	15.11	Sofia
European Deaf Championships Futsal	19-29.11 Arena Armeec Hall	Sofia
European Tennis Championship for Veterans	05-12 July 2014	

2014/2015

- European Championships Volleyball, Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Russe
- Schoolchildren games – competitions in 7 kinds of sports for schoolchildren from Sofia, divided in three age groups, with 24 regional administrations
- Programmes /training sessions, demonstrations, festivals and activities/ in the field of tourism, basketball, volleyball, swimming, football and track-and-field, winter sports and chess
- Initiatives connected with the activities of tourists – veterans
- “The Golden Feather” Badminton tournament for schoolchildren and teachers
- Competitions for schoolchildren in partnership with NSA “V. Levsky”.
- Aerobics Marathon
- Days of Challenge
- Scholarships for high achievements in the field of sport on the occasion of the Day of Bulgarian Sport, 17th May
- Sofia Municipality award for the best young scientist – SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- “Good practice in the area of the healthy way of life, physical education and sport in educational institutions” Scientific and practical conference
- “Sport and Security” Third International Scientific Conference. Challenges and good practices in security at sports events. 15 – 16 May 2014
- XXXI Marathon Sofia 2014 – 12 October

- International Cycling Tour of Bulgaria
- “Share the Sensation” National campaign
- “Sport, Health and Active Longevity” National holiday, December 2014, the National Palace of Culture
- “Sport and Security” Third International Scientific Conference, *Challenges and good practices in security at sports events* 15 – 16 May 2014
- “Pavel Pavlov” International Track-and-field Tournament, “Vasil Levsky” National Stadium
- Second edition of Eco Rally Bulgaria 2014 – 18-20 July 2014
- 25th jubilee edition – Ascension – the Day of the Driver 31 May 2014, “Alexander Nevsky” Square
- Fifth edition of “Bulgarian Familiathlon” – a holiday of the family, sport and the healthy way of life



- **Urbanathlon** - Second edition of this event, which is first of its kind both for the capital and the country. The competition presents opportunities for manifestation of physical qualities such as speed, strength, skill and endurance.
- **National Children’s Table Cricket Championship**
- Second Half Marathon 2014 Tole-run
- XVIII edition of Volleyball Tournament for the Ivan Nikolov Cup
- Live Actively “Nestle Bulgaria”



06

CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SPORT ON A NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL; CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE

1. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
REALIZED IN PARTNERSHIP
AND CO-OPERATION WITH
SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS
AND INSTITUTIONS ON
A NATIONAL AND
EUROPEAN LEVEL

SOFIA 2017

Sofia applied to host the Winter Olympic Games in 1992 and in 1994, coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. The city was also an applicant for the 2014 Winter Olympics, but was not selected as a candidate. In addition, Sofia hosted Eurobasket 1957 and the 1961 and 1977 Summer Universiades, as well as the 1983 and 1989 winter editions. In 2012, it hosted the FIVB World League finals.

Sofia Municipality successfully organizes events and activities owing to the good partnership and effective co-operation with sports organizations and institutions on a national and European level. The Information Bureau of the European Parliament in Bulgaria, the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria, Euro-Tok Bulgaria /the European Union of Professional Chefs/, Special Olympics Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, more than five Bulgarian Federations, associations, "V. Levsky" National Sports Academy and others have been long-term partners of the administration in connection with the successful realization of various types of activities with the participation of children, pupils, students, young people, adults, as well as children and adults with disabilities.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES REALIZED IN PARTNERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION WITH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS ON A NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

SOFIA MUNICIPALITY EVENTS

- Scholarships for high achievements in the field of sport on the occasion of the Day of Bulgarian Sport, 17th May, **with the participation of representatives of MYS, BOC, RIE – Sofia-city, SMC, SM**
- Sofia Municipality award for the best young scientist – SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- “Good practice in the area of the healthy way of life, physical education and sport in educational institutions” Scientific and practical conference **with the support of NSA “V. Levsky”**.
- **XXXI Marathon Sofia 2014** – Basketball 3 x 3 – students 7th-12th grade – 12 October 2014 **with the support of BOC, BF Basketball**.
- Sporting Fest – Children of Sofia – 18.05.2014 – Borisov Park – all children born 2003-2008.
- Competition in basketball, athletics, football /small gates/

INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, CAMPAIGNS, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

- **European Artistic Gymnastics Championship 12 – 25 May 2014, Sofia**
“Arena Armeec” Hall – organizers of the initiative are the Bulgarian Gymnastics Federation and the European Union of Gymnastics, as well as the personal support of Mr George Guelzec – Chairman of the European Union of Gymnastics with the co-operation of MYS and Sofia Municipality;

- **Cycling Tour of Bulgaria** – organized by the Bulgarian Cycling Union with the support of Sofia Municipality;
- **Tournament of the champions of Women's Tennis Association WTA 2014** - "Arena Armeec" Hall - organized by the Bulgarian Tennis Federation with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- European Tennis Championship for veterans
- World Sports Acrobatics Cup 07-11.05.2013 /in the international calendar every year/
- European Rugby Championship
- Day of Japanese Sports and Art

PATRONAGE OF THE MAYOR OF SOFIA MUNICIPALITY

- "Share the Sensation" National campaign – training of athletes with intellectual and developmental problems – Special Olympics, Bulgaria
- **"Sport, Health and Active Longevity" holiday**, December, National Palace of Culture. Organized by the Bulgarian "Sport for everyone" Association, Central Commission of Sports Club "Health and Active Longevity" with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- **"Different but Together" Prize-giving ceremony "the Heart of Sofia"** - Organized by Art centre Kurnolski and the Teachers' Syndicate in Bulgaria, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- *Eco-holiday for children and parents on the occasion of the World Day of Water* – Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria and the Executive Agency of Environment
- "The Children of the Planet" General International Children's Assembly

EXTERNAL EVENTS, FORUMS AND CAMPAIGNS

- **European Tennis Championship for Veterans** organized by the Bulgarian Tennis Federation, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;

- **“Sport and Security” Third International Scientific Conference**
- *Challenges and good practices in security at sports events.* Organized by “Vasil Levsky” National Sports Academy and Academy of the Ministry of Interior, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- **“Pavel Pavlov” International Track-and-field Tournament** - organized by the Bulgarian Track-and-field Federation, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- **25th jubilee edition – Ascension – the Day of the Driver** - organized by the Union of Bulgarian Drivers with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality;
- **“Bulgarian Familiathlon”** – a holiday of the family, sport and the healthy way of life. Organized by “Parents” Association, with the support and co-operation of ambassadors of European countries, the Agency of the European Commission in Bulgaria, and Sofia Municipality;
- **European Day of Healthy Food and Cooking with Children** - organized by the Agency of the European Commission in Bulgaria, and Euro-Tok Bulgaria /the European Union of Professional Chefs/, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Youth and Sport.
- State championship in beach volleyball and a Charity tournament with the participation of celebrities
- “Freedom Challenge” International Cycling Tour entitled
- A European tour of the UEFA Champion League Cup
- “Orange Fitness” International Fitness Festival 2013

SOFIA MUNICIPALITY EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL FEDERATIONS, NSA “V. LEVSKY” AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- City championship in Alpine skiing for schools in Sofia
- The “Swimming” Programme
- The “Basketball” Programme

- The “Tourism” Programme
- The “Track-and-field” Programme
- The “Chess” Programme
- The “Mini-football” Programme
- The “Mini-volleyball” Programme
- Days of Challenge – the Bulgarian “Sport for Everyone” Association
- “Vasil Levsky” Track-and-field cross – “Levsky” Sports club
- Aerobics Marathon – Bulgarian Union of Aerobics
- National expedition of the tourists veterans – the Union of “Veterans- Tourists”
- A competition in Jiu Jitsu for men and women – Central policeman’s Karate Jiu Jitsu Club, Sofia Municipality and Bulgarian Jiu Jitsu federation
- “Little Sports Lions” Sports holiday, dedicated to the day of the National Enlighteners;
- “The Golden Feather” Badminton tournament
- World Cup Judo 26-30.01.2012

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- Homeless World Cup Bulgaria
- The project Homeless World Cup Bulgaria was created by “Sports Manager Bulgaria” Foundation. The Foundation created and established “A Team of Hope”, comprising of homeless adolescents.
- **Festival of Bulgarian Education** – “Professional Forum for Education” Association
- **“SOFIA OPEN 2013” Football tournament** – The Council of Chairmen of Syndicates – Sofia organized VIth “SOFIA OPEN 2013” charity football tournament.

CO-OPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES, HIGHER SCHOOLS AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANISATIONS ON A LOCAL, NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

- Sofia Municipality award for the best young scientist - "St. Kliment Ohridski" Sofia University
- "Good practice in the area of the healthy way of life, physical education and sport in educational institutions" Scientific and practical conference **with the support of NSA "V. Levsky"**.
- **XXXI Marathon Sofia 2014 – BOC**
- **European Day of Healthy Food and Cooking with Children-** organized by the Agency of the European Commission in Bulgaria, and Euro-Tok Bulgaria /the European Union of Professional Chefs/, with the co-operation of Sofia Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Youth and Sport.
- International Day of Francophonie – the Head office of UNESCO in Paris
- Students' International Ecological Expedition
- "Brusselicious Foods festival" Annual Culinary Festival, Brussels
- "Prof. Emil Kamilarov" Competition for young violinists

SPORTS EVENTS, FORUMS, CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF VOLUNTEERING

Over the past five years Sofia Municipality has successfully realized plenty of events and activities with various initiatives, it offered sports clubs and NGOs, organisations and associations its partnership and co-operation and has assisted educational forums and prestigious campaigns in international competitions, supporting volunteering.

SOFIA MUNICIPALITY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, AND INITIATIVES OF EXTERNAL STRUCTURES SUPPORTED BY ADMINISTRATION

In partnership with “Vasil Levsky” National Sports Academy

- Sofia track-and-field stars
- The little lions of Bulgaria
- “Volleyball in Educational Institutions” Seminar
- Festival of Mini-volleyball
- “Sofia Cup” Swimming tournament
- “The Mayor’s Cup” Students’ Swimming Tournament

In partnership with sports clubs, organisations and NGOs:

- Tourism holidays
- National Sports Panorama – Central Policemen’s Taekwondo Club
- “Bulgarian Familiathlon” – a holiday of the family and sport – “Parents” Association
- “I Believe in You” Children’s Festival – “Azbukari” Association
- Sports holiday – “Protected Homes” Foundation
- International Day of Challenge – “Sport for Everyone” Bulgarian Association
- “Vasil Levsky” Track-and-field cross – “Levsky” Sports club – Sofia
- European Day of Healthy Food and Cooking with



Children - European Commission in Bulgaria, and Euro-Tok Bulgaria

- School Waterpool Tournament - Sofia Cup
- "Young Fire-fighter" Regional Children's competitions of adolescents' fire-fighting teams
- "ON! Fest 2012" Festival of Urban Culture
- "I Love Sport" National Campaign
- The European year of active life of the elderly and the solidarity between generations
- "European Youth Programmes and Initiatives" / EYPI/ National Centre
- Little Sport Lions
- Track-and-field race in Borisova Gradina Park – "Runner" Sports club
- A festive day entitled "ALL CHILDREN AS ONE"
- Eco-holiday for children and parents on the occasion of the World Day of Water
- Sport is the best way for children to grow up
- Day of Japanese Sports and Art

International events, large-scale forums, campaigns, initiatives:

- European Tennis Championship for veterans
- World Cop of Sports Acrobatics
- "The Children of the Planet" General International Children's Assembly
- State championship in beach volleyball and a Charity tournament with the participation of celebrities
- "Freedom Challenge" International Cycling Tour



- Sofia Marathon
- A European tour of the UEFA Champion League Cup
- “Share the Sensation” National campaign
- World Championship for Girls and World Cup for Women in Aesthetic Group Gymnastics
- World Cup in Gymnastics
- World University Championship in rugby for men and women
- 22nd Summer Olympic Games Deaflympics
- World Cup in Acrobatic Rock’n’roll and World Masters in Boogi-Woogi

Traditional international sports events and national initiatives

- Scholarships for high achievements in the field of sport on the occasion of the Day of Bulgarian Sport, 17th May
- International Cycling Tour of Bulgaria
- National Sports Festival
- Marathon in the city of Sofia
- Tournament of the champions of Women’s Tennis Association WTA
- Sofia Municipality award for the best young scientist – SU “St. Kliment Ohridski”
- “Share the Sensation” National campaign
- National sports holidays
- “Pavel Pavlov” International Track-and-field Tournament







07

PROFILE AND POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT

1. HOW DOES YOUR CITY/
TOWN SEE ITS SOCIAL
ADVANTAGES AS A
EUROPEAN CAPITAL
OF SPORT?
2. HOW WILL YOUR CITY, AS
THE “EUROPEAN CAPITAL
OF SPORTS” REALIZE THE
FIVE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF
ACES WITH REGARD TO
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN
YOUR CITY?
3. WHICH INITIATIVES AND
ACTIVITIES WILL YOUR CITY
WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO
THE WORK OF ACES?

HOW DOES YOUR CITY/TOWN SEE ITS SOCIAL ADVANTAGES AS A EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT?

- one of the greenest city in Europe with a high percentage of sport participation – with many parks and mountains on the outskirts of Sofia – Vitosha Park, where the citizens spend their free time and practice sport /the unique opportunity to work till five and to be on the slope at 5,30 pm/
- as a capital of Bulgaria we place an emphasis on the available educational infrastructure – more than 240 municipal schools and kindergartens with provided sports facilities
- more than 20 higher schools and over 200 000 young students
- more than 100 sports sites, children's playgrounds and facilities with free access for citizens
- programmes for free-time sport for everyone
- programmes for out-of-class sports activities
- programmes and activities in support of volunteering
- a European city with an ancient history and culture, and natural resources, which assist the hosting of international forums and events

HOW WILL YOUR CITY, AS THE “EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORTS” REALIZE THE FIVE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF ACES WITH REGARD TO SPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR CITY?

We will use the objectives as a tool to direct the young people, their parents, teachers and trainers; and second, to encourage citizens of any age to do sport activities.

THERE WILL BE THREE PROGRAMS

- School sport. Program directed at teaching values such as cooperation, teamwork, respect and discipline. Education through sport.
- Youth Sport. To capture the interest of youth in sport, promoting social integration and tolerance.
- Sport at any age. To encourage participation in sport, with its personal and group benefits, strengthening relationships among social groups during the periods of working and retired life.

Sofia mission as a European capital of sport will be “Focusing on the five main objectives of ACES to improve the quality of life through sport”

WHICH INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES WILL YOUR CITY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF ACES?

Europe faces new challenges in a changing globalized world. Member states need to join in creating effective new institutions, which address citizen's concerns. These include new sporting cultural aspirations in the modern world.

If it becomes the European Capital of Sport, the city of Sofia will propose to host a **conference for social integration through sports participation aiming at diversity and lifelong sport participation.**

It will be under ACES supervision, and will carry out projects related to municipal sports and municipal sports management, the results of which will be published.

The first one we plan this autumn – month of October. If awarded the honour of being a European capital of Sport, Sofia will stimulate other Bulgarian and even Balkan cities and towns to enter the ACES competition thus making the most out of their sport potential and improving the living conditions of their citizens and guests.





From the streets through the parks and Vitosha Mountain to the elite sport the city breathes sport.

The city's sports policies focus on all specific target groups such as deprived individuals, senior citizens, the homeless and citizens with disabilities.

If selected, the city of Sofia intends to promote its policy as the 2017 European capital of sport not only in 2017, **but will try to establish a strong promoting policy in the years to come too.**

SOFIA IS A CITY OF SPORT





2017
SOFIA EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SPORT
CANDIDATE CITY

2017
SOFIA
EUROPEAN
CAPITAL OF SPORT

CANDIDATE CITY



