

## Study concerning the impact of table tennis competitions on the development of the professional table tennis in the county of Bacau-Romania

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**Abstract:** At present, the problem of financing different sports activities has become more and more serious, and this fact is due to the economic situation in the environment we are conducting our activity. However, accessing different financial resources can often be achieved only by means of an objective presentation of the logistics necessary for carrying out a certain sports activity.

The purpose of the study was:

- to raise the public awareness and to attract as many subjects as possible into practicing table tennis.
- to channel the participants' interest towards the values of exercise-sports-life
- to take part in the competitions organized by the federation.

Objectives of the study:

- to make table tennis more popular in the city of Bacau
- to attract a greater number of subjects into practicing table tennis individually

Duration of the project: 2005-2008, financial support from the local authorities: 11000 euro, funds raised from our own activities: 20000 euro, competitions organized: 12, number of participants: 1750, children admitted into the selection process: 245, children selected into the training groups: 42, sports associations founded in the field of table tennis: 2, a senior team promoted into the National Championship – division A.

Considering the results, we believe the objectives suggested have been achieved, the impact of the activities being a major one. Table tennis has reappeared in this area in an organized form after 15 years leading, in a relatively short period of time, to a spectacular increase in the number of people practicing it.

**Keywords:** Study, table competitions, development, table tennis

### 1. INTRODUCTION

At present, the problem of financing different sports activities has become more and more serious, and this fact is due to the economic situation in the environment we are conducting our activity. Accessing different financial resources can be achieved only by means of an objective presentation of the necessities for carrying out a certain sports activity. This analysis can be achieved only by informing the potential financiers as accurately and as concisely as possible. A very important advantage is the ability of continuing the activity by means of self resources even after the financing from other parties has ceased.

#### 1.1. Purpose:

- to raise the public awareness and to attract as many subjects as possible into practicing table tennis.
- to channel the participants' interest towards the values of exercise-sports-life
- to take part in the competitions organized by the federation.

#### 1.2. Objectives:

- to make table tennis more popular in the city of Bacau
- the social integration and reintegration by

means of sports of all the social categories included in this project;

- to attract a greater number of subjects into practicing table tennis individually

#### 1.3. Duration:

2005-2008

#### 1.4. Place:

Bacau County - Romania

### 2. CONTENT

In 2005, as a professor in the Sports games department at the Faculty of Movement, Sports and Health Science, University of Bacau, I drew out the project named „Sports and Health in University”, having as an objective to achieve funds according to the Law no. 34/1998, the Law no. 350/2005, H.G. no. 1273/2005 and H.G. no. 49/2003 from the Local Council of Bacau city.

„Sports and Health in University” gained the competition for irredeemable financing based on projects organized by the Local Council of Bacau City and included the following activities:

- A “Table tennis – Methodical guide” book editing, having as an objective to make table tennis teaching easier in the centers within the city of Bacau. It has

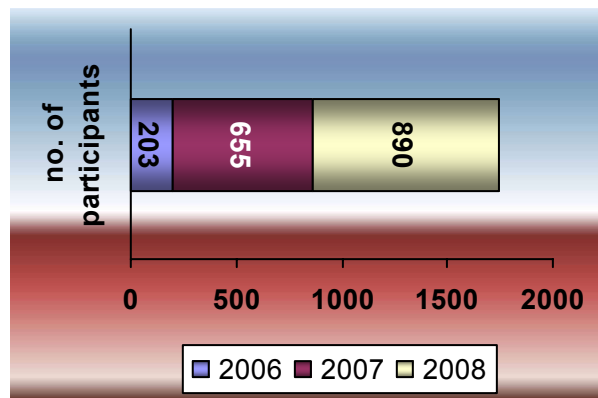
been gratuitously delivered to the schools and centers included in the „Table tennis caravan” and „Table tennis for everyone”, as well as to high schools, faculties and libraries in Bacau city. **C** The Romanian Table Tennis Federation. **P** University of Bacau, Faculty of Movement, Sports and Health Science– The table tennis club.

- **A** „Table tennis for everyone”, project for founding and furnishing some centers for practicing physical exercise – table tennis – in a pleasant and supervised manner. **C** The General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection Bacau, The Public Social Assistance Service Bacau and The Students’ League within the University of Bacau. **P** Within these centers.
- **A** „How” – organizing seminars and offering advice for founding private sports clubs and associations in Bacau City. **C** The County Department for Sports. **P** University of Bacau, FMSHS – Table tennis club.
- **A** The „Table tennis caravan” program for making table tennis popular and for organizing table tennis selections in the schools within Bacau city. **C** School Inspectorate of Bacau County. **P** The gyms within the schools of Bacau city.
- **A** „Table tennis demonstration” in which many present-day and former table tennis players with special national and international results took part. **C** The County Department for Sports, the ATLANTIS Sports Club Bacau. **P** The Sports Hall of Bacau City.
- **A** „Bacau Cup” in table tennis. Table tennis competition which took place from 2006 until 2008, including 9 categories. 7-10 years old; 11-14 years old, 14-18 years old and over 19 years old, men and women competitions, as well as a special section for people with disabilities. **C** The County Department for Sports, The General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection Bacau, The Public Social Assistance Service Bacau, The Students’ League within the University of Bacau, ATLANTIS Sports Club Bacau. **P** The Sports Hall of Bacau City.

Legend: A = activity,  
 C = collaborators  
 P = place

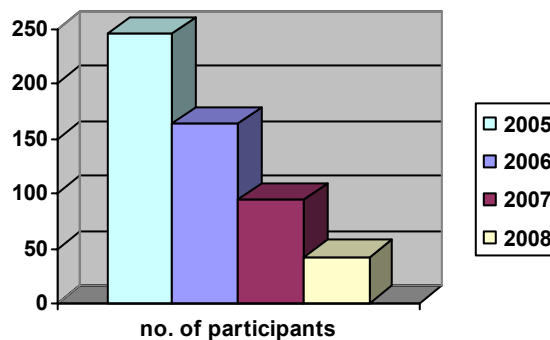
### 3. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In the 12 competitions carried out on a period of 3 years, the number of participants in these activities has increased by 76,96 % as compared to the first year, more exactly from 205 participants registered in 2006 to 890 registered in 2008 (graphic no.1).



Graphic no.1. Evolution of the number of participants in the competitions organized from 2006 to 2008

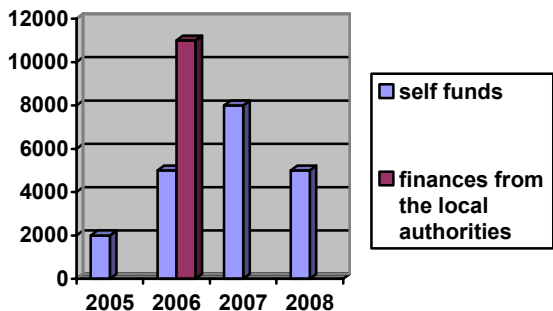
The number of children who were included in the selection process was of 245; the number of the ones who were included in the high performance groups was of 42. The losses registered during the 4 years were of 82,86% (graphic nr.2)



Graphic no.2. Evolution of the number of children included in the special training programmes

The financial situation during the 4 years (graphic no.3) was as follows: in 2005 - 2000 euro FOA, in 2006-5000 euro FOA and 11000 euro FLA, in 2007 – 8000 euro FOA and 2008 – 5000 euro FOA.

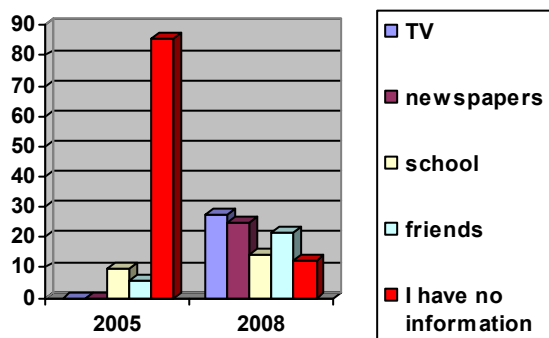
FLA – Financing achieved from the local authorities;  
 FOA – Funds attracted by other activities



Graphic no.3. Financial evolution and funds dispersion during the 4 years of activity

During the 4 years of activity, 2 sports associations have been founded having as a specialization table tennis, as well as a senior team (Atlantis) promoted in the National Championship Division A.

The enquiry based on a questionnaire which took place in September 2005 and June 2008, carried out on a number of 250 subjects aged between 9 and 45 chosen from different social environments from Bacau, Onesti and Moinesti has emphasized several aspects. The one which interests us the most in this paper was the answer to question number 3 „Where did you get the information concerning the table tennis activities carried out in the county of Bacau” (graphic no.4)



Graphic no.4. Evolution of the answers to question no.3 in 2005 as compared to 2008

The data achieved by means of the questionnaire showed a substantial increase in the amount of information concerning the table tennis activities offered by mass-media (from 0 to 27,2 % in television and from 0 to 24,8 % in newspapers). School is still the most constant area concerning the sports information and indirectly concerning the information about table tennis (from 9,7% to 14,3%). A significant and also beneficial increase is the one noticed in the information offered by acquaintances and friends, which increased almost 4 times (from 5,7% to 21,7%). The most

important result is the one concerning the number of people who have no information about this phenomenon (table tennis), number which has decreased the most. While in September 2005 85, 6% of the people questioned had no information about the table tennis activities carried out in Bacau county, in June 2008 their number decreases up to 12%.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

15 years ago, the city of Bacau had a table tennis championship including 8 teams with at least 200 sportsmen; due to the activities carried out, we have brought this sports branch to the attention of the local community once again and we have revived it.

By founding the centers destined for the practice of table tennis in a constant and organized manner, the data concerning this initiative during the years to come will be monitored and analyzed.

We believe that all the actions which had table tennis as a main subject have had a special impact on the citizens of Bacau county.