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**ACCORD PARTIEL ELARGI SUR LE SPORT (APES)**

Report of the consultative visit in Georgia  
on the European Sports Charter  
(13-15 October 2014)

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## **A. Auto-evaluation reports by the authorities of Georgia**

May, 2014  
Tbilisi, Georgia

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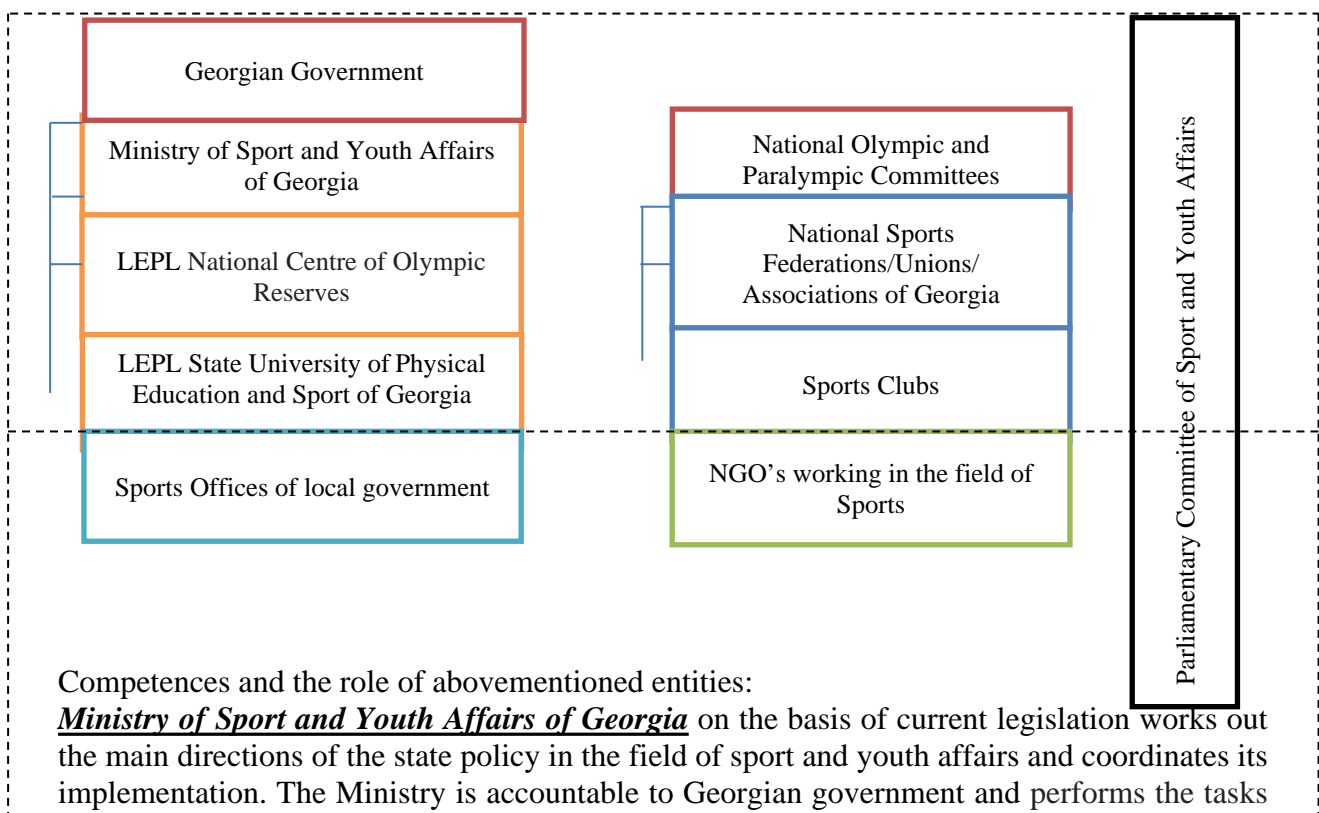
**CHAPTER 1.**

**SPORTS STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT IN GEORGIA**

The following entities are involved in the management and organization of the field of sport in Georgia:

- The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (governmental sector);
- Local government (governmental agencies at the municipal level);
- Sport and Youth Affairs Committee of Georgian Parliament (legal sector)
- National Olympic and Paralympic Committees (non-governmental sector);
- National Sports Federations/associations/unions (non-governmental sector);
- Sports clubs (non-governmental sector)

Sports Structure in Georgia, involved entities



Competences and the role of abovementioned entities:

**Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia** on the basis of current legislation works out the main directions of the state policy in the field of sport and youth affairs and coordinates its implementation. The Ministry is accountable to Georgian government and performs the tasks assigned by law or by the Government and the Prime - Minister. The Ministry is financed from the state budget.

In the framework of the state support programs for sport elaborated by the Ministry the financial resources are allocated for the development of different types of sport. In the framework of the support programs the Ministry finances the participation of the national teams in the international competitions, supports the upgrade of sports infrastructure and construction of new units, supports the organization and conduction of sports competitions.

State programs of 2014: Football State Support Program; Rugby State Support Program; Basketball State Support Program; Types of Sport Development Program; Olympic

Movement State Support Program; Mass Sport Development Program; Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Sports Inventory Upgrade Program (see the detailed information: chapter 4. Target Programs in the field of sport by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia).

The following institutions are under the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (amongst them): **LEPL<sup>1</sup> – National Center of Olympic Reserves; LEPL – State University of Physical Education and Sport of Georgia; LEPL – Georgian Sports Museum.** The above mentioned institutions, in the framework of their competences, support the implementation of the Ministry’s policy.

*Field of activities and objectives of the Ministry (among them):*

- Elaborating the main directions of common policy in the field of sport, planning and coordinating its realization;
- Coordinating professional development in the field of sports, elaborating common sports qualification and its adoption;
- Cooperating with sports organizations, supporting their activities;
- Elaborating the field related drafts of the legislative and subordinate normative acts for the improvement of current legal basis;
- Fulfilling the customer function needed for the development of sports in the area of capital construction, reconstruction and maintenance works;
- Participating with other Ministries in the preparation of draft laws related to sports and cooperating with them, elaborating conclusions and recommendations, supporting scientific, medical and applied research in the field of sports;
- Participating in elaboration of drafts of the international agreements in the field of sports, generalization and practical implementation of advanced experience and scientific achievements in the field, managing anti-doping issues;
- Participation in the planning process of sports education, coordinating the professional development of coaches and sports workers.

***LEPL – National Center of Olympic Reserves*** – provides the preparation of new and potential reserves for the Olympic national teams of Georgia, establishing international standards of material-technical and training basis for the National, juniors and cadets selected team members (in the priority sport types); and other.

***LEPL –State University of Physical Education and Sport of Georgia<sup>2</sup>*** - represents the Education and Training Center on University level created in accordance with the Georgian Laws on “Higher Education”. University’s main task is to ensure the

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<sup>1</sup> LEPL – Legal Entity of Public Law

<sup>2</sup> In 2007 the Academy of Physical Education and Sport was closed in Georgia, which was the only one sports education institution for that time. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia has submitted the project and the Georgian Government adopted the Resolution N64 (28 March, 2013, Tbilisi), on the basis of which LEPL “State University of Physical Education and Sport of Georgia” has been established. The above mentioned University will receive its first students in September 2014.

competitiveness of higher education on an internal and external labor market, to offer the students and the general public high quality education that meets the requirements of interested persons.

**Local Government (municipality, city hall) Sports Department** – there are in total 64 municipalities, 5 self-governing city halls, 10 district boards in Georgia. All of these bodies have sports departments, which within its competence coordinate the international and local sport events, organize sport events, ensure the implementation of sports state policy; and other. These entities are financed from the local budget.

**Sport and Youth Affairs Committee of Georgian Parliament** – supports and coordinates the activities held by the state and non-governmental sport organizations of Georgia, National Olympic Committee, sports associations, unions, federations. The goals and objectives of the committee are:

- Elaboration of the International agreements in the field of sport and monitoring their implementation;
- Development of legislative basis in the field of sport;
- Support to the creation and protection of Sportsmen’s professional ethics;
- Control of implementing Laws, Parliament resolutions and other decisions;
- Initiating/preparing legislative proposals;

**National Olympic Committee of Georgia** – non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity, which is determined to support Olympic movement and the development of sport in Georgia. The Olympic Committee depends on the state’s financial support. Alongside this, the Olympic committee has private sponsors.

**Field of activities and objectives of the Olympic Committee (among them):**

- Development, support and protection of Olympic movement in Georgia;
- Support for the development of high achievements in sport and mass sport;
- Support for training sport specialists (coaches, referees, administrators);
- Taking measures against any discrimination and violence in sport.

**Paralympic Committee of Georgia** – field of activities and objectives (among them):

- Development of Paralympic movement in Georgia;
- Involving disabled persons in Paralympic sports;
- Preparing Paralympic National teams and ensuring their participation in sport competitions;
- Promoting Paralympic movement through the educational-learning activities.

**Georgian National Sports Federations** – development and popularization of appropriate sport types, preparing qualified sportsmen, ensuring participation of national teams in the international tournaments, organization of all levels of international and local tournaments. In case of some federations (for example: Georgian football federation) the statute of the

organization involves the development of infrastructure and regulation of safety norms in sports venues.

Georgian government, in compliance with the Autonomy and the principle of non-interference in the activities, supports the implementation of target programs by National Sport Federations and the institutional development of these organizations.

Noteworthy is, that sports federations in Georgia are depended on the state assignments, which is based on the following problems and difficulties in the field of sport: poor control system, weak management, lack of qualified staff and state's support in sports investment and weakness of fiscal policy, etc. Hereby, it is an important challenge for Sports federations to find a private sponsor.

**Sports Club** – is a legal entity. Its activity is based on the current legislation and its own statute. It is granted the status of organization by the public registry. The organization is given the status of a club if it meets the requirements of an appropriate National and International sports federations.

## **CHAPTER 2.**

### **REVIEW: SPORTS STATE POLICY DOCUMENT**

The adoption of Sports State Policy in Georgia is not constructive, which is proved by an underdeveloped approach of sports governing bodies and inconsistent alternation of development phases. Entities involved in the field of sports (with certain exceptions) do not have the Sports Development (various components) long-term strategic plan that will ensure the gradual elimination of the problems in this area.

Therefore, the State faced the necessity of the sports policy document. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2013 by the resolution N127 of the Government of Georgia, the State Interagency Coordinating Council, supporting the sports state policy, was established. At the first session of the Council (4 July, 2013) three main thematic groups were approved for working on the sports state policy document, namely:

1. Sports infrastructure;
2. Sports education and science (among them sports medicine);
3. Working groups on the legislative amendments.

The work of thematic groups was preceded by the research initiated by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, which was held by the “Sociological and Marketing Research Center” on the whole territory of Georgia (except from the territories occupied by the Russian Federation – Abkhazia and South Ossetia). The main objective of the research was to raise the indicators of public involvement in sports and general interest of the population towards sport. The results of the research formed the basis for the activity of thematic working group on sports state policy document.

As a result of the intensive work held by the groups the “sports state policy document” was elaborated in Georgia (see the attachment 1.), these document was approved by the decree N601 of the Georgian Government (4 April, 2014, Tbilisi). At the moment, long term action plan has been elaborated in accordance with the main directions of this document.

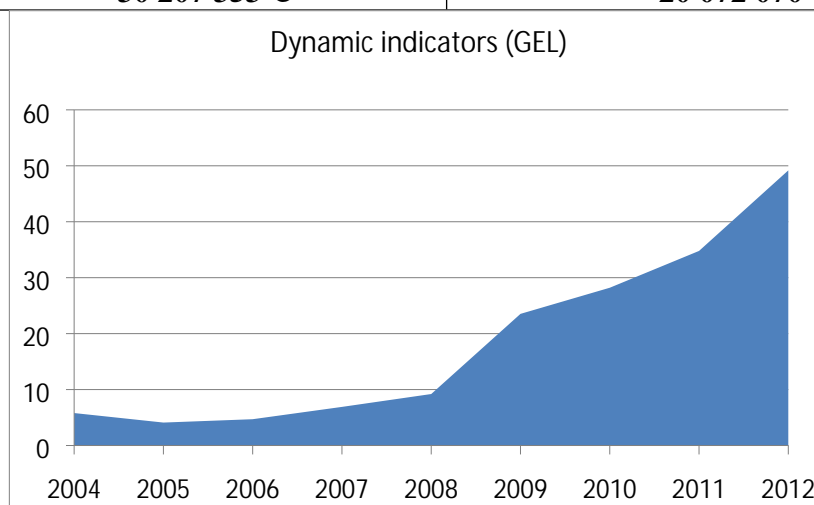
This process also involves further development of the document and holding additional research countrywide, in order to show the existing problems in the field of sport and the ways of solving them. The quality of work depends on the qualification of experts working in this field. For the purpose of correct development of the work, it is necessary to involve local and international experts in the development of sports state policy of Georgia.

**CHAPTER 3.**  
**REVIEW: FUNDING SPORTS IN GEORGIA**

Funds allocated to sport are distributed through local and central government to the National Olympic and Paralympic Committees, various sports federations, unions, associations, sports clubs and other non-governmental sports organizations. Amount of money spent by the state in the field of sport represents 0.7 % of Georgian budget (this percentage is not including the amount of money spent by local self-governing authorities in the field of sport).

**The state budget allocated to the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia and the costs dedicated initially for the development of sport (2004-2012 years data)**

Years	Total Budget <sup>3</sup> (Euro) of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia	Funds allocated for sports development (target programs and other development projects) (Euro)
2004	≈ 2 802 531 €	≈ 2 362 368 €
2005	≈ 2 130 939 €	≈ 1 649 347 €
2006	≈ 2 350 081 €	≈ 1 920 531 €
2007	≈ 4 691 306 €	≈ 2 815 225 €
2008	≈ 6 443 755 €	≈ 3 792 612 €
2009	≈ 13 459 918 €	≈ 9 603 511 €
2010	≈ 17 160 082 €	≈ 11 484 327 €
2011	≈ 20 750 449 €	≈ 14 193 062 €
2012	≈ 30 207 353 €	≈ 20 072 070 €



Annually the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia announces the priority of certain types of sport and accordingly approves their development programs.

**CHAPTER 4.**

**TARGET PROGRAMS OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS (2014 EST.)**

<i>Title</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Budget (Euro)</i>
<b>“Olympic Champions Fellowship” program</b>	In the framework of the Program the amount of around 1000 GEL is handed over as a monthly	≈ 156 735 €

<sup>3</sup> In 2004-2009, the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia; Period of 2009-2012. Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia



	stipend to Olympic champion and chess Olympiad winners, according to the Decree N284 of the Georgian Government on "Olympic champions, chess Olympiad winners, public artists, public painters and Shota Rustaveli Prize laureates monthly state scholarship" dated on July 20, 2011.	
<b>"Veteran Sportsmen and Sports Professionals Social Assistance" program</b>	The main essence of the program is to help veteran sportsmen and sports professionals to improve their life conditions, to take care. The program involves monthly as well as one-time allowances for veteran sportsmen and sports professionals, the amount of which is determined by the relevant Commission decision of the Ministry.	≈ 204 082 €
<b>"National, Olympic and age team members, coaches, administrative and medical staff and promising athletes of Georgia scholarship" program</b>	Program is implementing monthly stipends for the national, Olympic and age team members, coaches, administrative and medical staff and promising athletes. The amount of scholarship for Athletes, coaches and administrative personnel is determined by the specific results, set objectives, forces used in sports and perspective, based on the recommendation of appropriate Federation and/or the National Olympic Committee, on the other hand, the amount of scholarships for medical staff is based on the recommendation of the Sports Medicine Association.	≈ 1 510 204 €
<b>"Sports Development Program"</b>	The essence of the program is to further develop sport in Georgia, to prepare country teams and participate in the international sports events (World and European Championships, Championships, World and Olympic Games, international tournaments, educational training sessions), holding Championships and primaries of Georgia, preparation of sports reserves and high-class sportsmen, further promotion of sports and sports promotion propaganda, creating high level training and coaching conditions for the national team members of Georgia, implementing contemporary requirements of medical services and anti-doping activities, providing sports facilities, sports uniforms and inventory, transport services for athletes, improving social and material conditions for sportsmen, further development of sports material-technical basis. In order to ensure the realization of the above-mentioned program events the appropriate costs are allocated.	≈ 5 005 306 €
<b>Sport policy and Mass sports development program</b>	The main goal of the program is to develop children's and youth mass sport in Georgia, holding TV format sports games, setting up necessary infrastructure for sports development and rehabilitation of existing ones, and carrying	≈ 326 531 €

	<p>out appropriate works in this respect, improving material - technical conditions of sport venues, provision of appropriate equipment and outfit, holding mass sports events, enhancing interest of wider population, students and veterans in sports and introducing a healthy lifestyle. "Sport for All", funding the university and Youth-Students sports events, holding school competitions, conducting various kinds of mass events, allocating funds for the realization of other costs related to the Program throughout the year.</p>	
<p><b>Rehabilitation of Sports infrastructure and renovation of sports equipment program</b></p>	<p>The program's primary objective is to create the infrastructure and rehabilitation of sports in Georgia. Material - technical improvement, sports venues, halls and stadiums repair, restoration, construction. The development of sports life in the regions, purchasing sports inventory, outfit and equipment.</p>	<p>≈ 285 714 €</p>
<p><b>"Football State Support" program</b></p>	<p>The main essence of the program is the effective steps for the development of Georgian football, Football infrastructure development and its rehabilitation, to create all the necessary conditions for several national age teams, Women's team and Futsal team, paying contractual salary to coaches and other employees, carrying out training sessions, participation in an official and friendly matches and different tournaments, promoting progress and all-round support, also promoting the national championship, paying the referees and other personnel serving at the National Championship.</p>	<p>≈ 2 857 143 €</p>
<p><b>"Rugby State Support" program</b></p>	<p>The achievement of the program objectives will be provided in different direction. In particular, by the preparation of national teams of large rugby and Sevens Rugby and participation in the international sports competitions (European Nations Cup, Test-Matches, age tournaments, etc.), hosting high-level international tournaments in our country, holding Georgian Championship and the World Cup at the highest level, training high level sportsmen and rugby specialists, by providing appropriate sports equipment and inventory, as well as medical/insurance services and implementation of various rugby promotion activities (children's festival, school league tournament, juvenile offenders social integration).</p>	<p>≈ 4 285 714 €</p>
<p><b>"Basketball State Support" program</b></p>	<p>The main purpose of the program is to further develop basketball in Georgia, high-quality training of the country's national and age teams and their successful participation in the</p>	<p>≈ 1 020 408 €</p>

	international basketball competitions, paying contractual salaries to coaches and other personnel, equipment and facilities for the national sports teams, as well as provision of medical/insurance service, organization of "Super League", Georgian Cup, the women's and age championships and other competitions at a high level, professional development of personnel working in basketball training infrastructure, the development of children and youth basketball, further promotion of basketball.	
<b>" Olympic Movement State Support" program</b>	The main aim of the program is to prepare Georgian national selected teams for the participation in the international competitions and for the remainder of Rio-de-Janeiro 2016 Summer Olympic Games cycle, to obtain as many licenses as possible for the mentioned games, to ensure the participation of Georgian delegation in Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games, participation of National Georgian team at 2014 World Youth Games in Nanjing, also the implementation of the appropriate measures for the development and promotion of Olympism.	≈ 326 531 €
<b>The program "Youth Olympic Festival" Tbilisi - 2015 "</b>	The main essence of the upcoming Summer Youth Olympic Festival 2015 in Tbilisi "Tbilisi -2015" is to prepare the selected teams in nine types of sport (Handball, swimming, volleyball, judo, athletics, sports, gymnastics, basketball, tennis, cycling), selecting relevant age candidates for the sports teams in the framework of the above-mentioned, participation in the relevant age group competitions, selection of the relevant federation coordinators, coaches, other personnel for the effective implementation of the program.	≈ 612 245 €

## CHAPTER 5.

### LEGISLATIVE AND SUBORDINATE NORMATIVE ACTS BASIS IN THE FIELD OF SPORT

According to article 341 of the Georgian Constitution, with the collaboration of sports unions, the state supports physical education of adults and youth, and their involvement in sports. The above-mentioned has emphasized the largest state and public importance of sport in our country.

As for the basis of legislative acts in the field of sports, it basically covers Georgian laws on "Sport" and on "The promotion of the Olympic Movement". "Georgian law on Sports" (see Annex 2.) was adopted in 1996 and it determines general legal, social, economic and organizational basis of the sports activities on the territory of Georgia. This law shall determine the goals and objectives of sports filed, the main principles of state policy, the

sports governing state bodies and their competencies, functions and duties of the National Olympic Committee of Georgia, the national sports federations and other sports organizations, the principles and directions of mass and the highest achievements in sports, sports financial, material-technical, human resource management and also the issues of sports promotion. Approval of Georgian Law on the "Promotion of the Olympic Movement" is directly related to the 2015 Youth Olympic Festival to be held in Tbilisi and the law sets the legal basis for the implementation of investment and protection guarantees of this investment for the purpose of supporting Olympic Movement on the territory of Georgia.

In addition, issues related to sports, for example, are provided in a variety of legislative acts and it is possible to get general overview of some of them. Local Government Code provides development and promotion issues of the sport in the administrative-territorial units of Georgia. Sports education issues are defined by Georgian laws on "Higher Education", "Vocational Education" and "General Education". When it comes to sports-related criminal and administrative sanctions under the Criminal Code the penalties are defined for professional sports participants or the bribery of the organization, and the Administrative-Violations code of Georgia will determine the administrative penalties for carrying out gambling games (including sports related) and for their participation in these games. The law on "Weapons" regulates related issues on the circulation and usage of all kinds of sports weapons. Budget Code of Georgia considers the issues of financing sport, namely the fact that the funds for sport development (along with culture) may not be less than 75 % of the state budget funds transferred from the sales of lottery tickets in the past fiscal year.

The law on "Broadcasting" entails the obligation of a public broadcaster in sports programs and news regarding sports highlights.

The issues of mutual cooperation in the field of sport are considered in an inter-agency and governmental agreements between Georgia and other countries, under which the State is mandatory to implement them.

The basis of subordinate normative acts in the field of sport, which implies only sport related legal acts, includes 1 Decree of the President, 5 resolutions of Georgian Government and 1 order of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. In particular:

1. "Presidential Decree N539 of 18 December 2002" on "Approving and granting approval of sports coach-teacher qualification categories" was adopted for the purpose of regulating granting and seizure issues of sports coach-teacher qualification categories, in fact, the order is not carried out.
2. In the framework of approved program by Georgian government resolution N112 of 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 on "Rugby Development Support Program in Georgia", Rugby financial support was limited to the years 2008-2012, which has been fully executed. As for the same program in different cities across Georgia creating playing/training basis and related activities are not limited to any period of time and in this regard, the requirements stipulated in the present program are still valid.
3. By Georgian Government decree N47 of February 19, 2010 the "Georgia's Water Polo Development State Program" has been set for the development of water polo specific plan for our country and the list of the activities for which the expenses were paid under the 2010-2011 budget allocations.

4. According to the Georgian Government decree N284 of July 20, 2011 on the "Olympic champions, chess Olympiad winners, public artists, public painters and Shota Rustaveli Prize laureates monthly state stipend appointments", the Olympic Champions and World Chess Olympiad winners have monthly stipend of around 1,000 lari.
5. By the decree N488 of Georgian Government of December 21, 2011 the approval of "State program of Financial support for the development of rugby in Georgia" has been defined by allocating concrete directions of financial support for Georgian rugby by the state for the years 2012-2016 and the costs that will be carried out in the present situation.
6. By the decree N39 of Georgian Government of January 6, 2014 on the "Approval of the State Target Program for the Promotion of sportsmen of Georgia", the list of the activities have been identified, which have to support the high quality training and successful performance of athletes for Olympic Games and other international competitions. In the same resolution, Olympic sports, as well as some individual non-Olympic athletes and also sportsmen competing in some sports game types, their coaches, selected teams medical and administrative staff have been encouraged by cash prizes. The resolution is not limited to certain cycles, and it has permanent character.
7. By the order N01/129 of the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia" dated on June 15, 2012 on the "Approval of honorary title in the field of sport", honorary titles in the field of sport were approved and the procedure of granting was determined.

Also, any other sport-related issues are included in numerous legal and administrative - legal acts, which create a solid foundation for the promotion of sports in the state.

## **CHAPTER 6.**

### **IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER IN GEORGIA**

#### **Article I - Purpose of the Charter**

Purpose of the first paragraph of the Charter cannot be fulfilled in practice since at this stage the country does not have the necessary sports infrastructure that will meet the minimum requirements of the population for participation in sports, also the safety standards in these venues are low.

The second paragraph of the same article is regulated by the current legislation of Georgia (Law on Sports, Article 3. paragraph 1,2.). The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is taking practical steps in this direction and is actively collaborating with the other state agencies.

#### **Article III - the sports movement**

The implementation of the activities determined by this article are emerging through different directions of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia: 1. mutual cooperation with non-governmental sport organizations (sports federations/unions/associations) and non-interference policy in their activities; 2.

Recognition of their independence; 3. Working out simple and effective mechanism for their financing.

However, there are a number of problems in the coordination and development of sport in creating a solid foundation. Also, the problem is the issues connected to drawing the interest and cooperation in the commercial sector by sports organizations, as Sport currently in Georgia doesn't represent a commercially attractive field.

#### **ARTICLE IV - sports facilities and activities**

The implementation of the recommendations provided in the first two paragraphs of this Article complies in many directions in practice and there is almost no problems in this regard, and as for the other two paragraphs, they are the main problems, for which it is not possible to increase the quantity of involved population in sport and the accessibility of sport.

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is actively working on solving this problem and is going to elaborate the Action Plan for Sports Infrastructure Development till the end of the year, under which it is necessary to conduct additional studies in the regions and involve experienced local and international experts in this field.

#### **ARTICLE V - Formation of a sports ground**

To date, none of the listed paragraphs of this article can be realized in practice. Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is actively working to implement this directions in real-life, the first steps are reflected in the sports policy document, which deals with the resolution of these problems and further development. This section, however, does not fully provide the implementation of mechanisms that should be reflected in the action plan in the near future for the additional research and expert recommendations.

#### **Article VI - Participation development**

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is implementing number of programs to increase participation in sport and offer interested persons to get engaged (regardless of physical abilities, ethnic origin, religious beliefs or sexual orientation) in various sports activities and projects.

However, there are major problems in this direction: small number of program beneficiaries; improper sports grounds/facilities; Lack of qualified personnel; Population with low interest.

#### **Article VIII - support to the highest level and professional sport**

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs is actively supporting the high performance sport development in all aspects of the sport defined by this article of the European Charter, which is reflected as financial support, as well as the creation and development of ancillary structures.

#### **Article IX - Human Resources**

Georgian Law on Sport partly regulates the directions set in this article, which is being implemented in practice, but the shortage of qualified staff in the country is noticeable and resolving this problem stays as the major challenge for the country.

#### **Article XII – Finances**

The recommendations under this Article could not be implemented so far in most sports organizations and clubs, however, there is specified state policy, the implementation of which will enable the development of organizations in certain direction and additional resources will emerge besides provided state budget funds.

## **B. Report of the evaluation team**

### **Introduction**

At the request of the authorities of Georgia, the consultative visit covered the present organisation of sport in the light of the European Sports Charter.

The visit was carefully organised and warmly hosted by officials of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs. The evaluation team was well looked after, and provided with information and documentation.

The evaluation team was able to get an insight into all relevant aspects of Georgian sport policy and had direct talks with key persons involved in sport at different levels (national or local). The team had the opportunity to meet high-ranking officials from public authorities of different ministries and the sports movement, qualified experts and practitioners involved in sport. The discussions were conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency. Those involved in the organisation of sport in Georgia have shown an open-minded approach to new ideas.

The sport scheme of Georgia is ruled under the principles of the strong role of the public authorities, especially at national level. The task of the Ministry of Youth and Sport at state level is, within the framework of the Law of Georgia on Sport, to define and promote state policy in the field of sport and youth affairs and to co-ordinate its implementation with other public bodies and private organisations.

The National Olympic Committee and Sports Federations, as well as the Municipalities and the State University of Physical Education and Sport of Georgia represent other key bodies of the sports movement and public authorities.

The situation of sport in Georgia reflects the situation of countries in transition. Since the beginning of the 90s, significant steps have been successfully achieved, to establish a new structure and organisation of the authorities, to organise the sports movement, to set new rules on the property and management of sport facilities, and to promote the development of civil society. The key features of the European Sports Charter are already being reflected in the Law on Sport and in the Strategy on Sport. However, most experts met during the visit consider that the European Sports Charter is not yet sufficiently implemented for three main reasons, which can be summarised as:

- lack of awareness on the benefits of sport;
- lack of facilities and;
- lack of qualified staff.

There is still much to do to address these challenges and to co-ordinate the stakeholders to work together; the recommendations formulated hereafter may provide the Georgian authorities with some landmarks to further develop sports policy in compliance with the relevant European standards.

Although the ministry of Youth and Sport has a co-ordination role in the implementation of a sport strategy, many key functions depend on co-operation with other Ministries and with the

sports movement. The State Interagency Co-ordination Council, established by the Government in 2013, will be instrumental in ensuring closer co-operation with other Ministries. Its work allowed the adoption of a 2014-2020 National Sports Policy Document, which will be followed by a multi-annual strategy for the years 2015-2020. The definition and implementation of such a long-term strategy may help to make big step in the promotion of the sport in Georgia, and in the modernisation of its governance.

In addition to this enhanced governmental steering body, new processes and methods will be needed to facilitate co-ordination with the local authorities and with the private sports movement.



## European Sports Charter

### Article 1 Aim of the Charter

*Governments, with a view to the promotion of sport as an important factor in human development, shall take the steps necessary to apply the provisions of this Charter in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Sports Ethics in order:*

- i. to enable every individual to participate in sport and notably:
 
  - a. to ensure that all young people should have the opportunity to receive physical education instruction and the opportunity to acquire basic sports skills,*
  - b. to ensure that everyone should have the opportunity to take part in sport and physical recreation in a safe and healthy environment, and, in co-operation with the appropriate sports organisations,*
  - c. to ensure that everyone with the interest and ability should have the opportunity to improve their standard of performance in sport and reach levels of personal achievement and/or publicly recognised levels of excellence,**
- ii. to protect and develop the moral and ethical bases of sport and the human dignity and safety of those involved in sport, by safeguarding sport, sportsmen and women from exploitation for political, commercial and financial gain and from practices that are abusive or debasing including the abuse of drugs and the sexual harassment and abuse, particularly of children, young people and women.*

The European Sports Charter is not mentioned as an international background of the Law on Sport or in the National Sports Policy Document. As far as the consultative team was able to understand, most of the provisions of the Charter are written into the law and in the sports policy. However, there is still a lack of understanding on the relevance of sport as described in the European Sports Charter.

At present the main obstacles to the fulfilment of the aims mentioned at article 1 of the European Sports Charter are the lack of qualified teaching and training staff, the limited access to sports facilities and the poor development of sport activities at local level.

The evaluation team understands that the 2016-2020 sport strategy being developed by the Interagency Co-ordination Board may provide Georgia with an opportunity to address these shortcomings. These issues will be further illustrated and completed with recommendations in the report on the different articles of the European Sports Charter.

Regarding the challenges to sports ethics, the issue of match-fixing was mentioned and Georgia demonstrated its commitment to being involved in the drafting of the new convention on match-fixing. Georgia hosted a Consultative visit on the implementation of the Spectator Violence Convention in May 2014 and is prepared to welcome a Consultative visit on the Anti-doping Convention in 2015. The fight against discrimination, and the involvement of ethnic minorities and disabled people in sport were mentioned as topical issues, whereas gender equality and the protection of athletes against abuse was less addressed by those consulted.

#### Recommendations

- (1.1) Promote the European Sports Charter at local level (e.g. attach a Georgian translation of the Charter as an appendix to the Sports Policy). Emphasise and raise awareness of state bodies on the values and the benefits of sport (health, social cohesion, education).

## **Article 2 Definition and Scope of the Charter**

*1. For the purpose of this Charter:*

- a. "Sport" means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.*
- b. This Charter complements the ethical principles and policy guidelines set out in:*
  - i. the European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in Particular at Football Matches,*
  - ii. the Anti-Doping Convention.*

“Sport” is not defined in the Law or in the Sports Policy paper. However, these national standards do refer to a broad approach on sport covering both top sport and sport for all, as well as organised and casual participation.

In practice, Sport for All should play an important part in the sport development. This is probably an area where Georgian authorities and sports organisations still have to make a big step forward. It would be worth considering attaching more importance to that part of sport and put the development of Sport for All as one of the key elements of each club’s, schools of sport’s and sport association’s programme within the country. The development of Sport for All should also be reflected among the criteria for state subsidies from the central government, and from the local authorities and for access to public sport facilities.

As mentioned above, the Spectator Violence convention and the Anti-doping convention are recognised as international standards and the Georgian authorities pay attention to the compliance of Georgia with these treaties. Although the Spectator Violence convention has not yet been ratified by Georgia, a Consultative visit was hosted on this convention in 2014, and Georgia is expected to ratify the possible future Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and other Sports Events.

## **Article 3 The Sports Movement**

- 1. The role of the public authorities is primarily complementary to the action of the sports movement. Therefore, close co-operation with non-governmental sports organisations is essential in order to ensure the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter, including where necessary the establishment of machinery for the development and co-ordination of sport.*
- 2. The development of the voluntary ethos and movement in sport shall be encouraged, particularly through support for the work of voluntary sports organisations.*
- 3. Voluntary sports organisations have the right to establish autonomous decision-making processes within the law. Both governments and sports organisations shall recognise the need for a mutual respect of their decisions.*
- 4. The implementation of some of the provisions of this Charter may be entrusted to governmental or non-governmental sports authorities or sports organisations.*
- 5. Sports organisations should be encouraged to establish mutually beneficial arrangements with each other and with potential partners, such as the commercial sector, the media, etc, while ensuring that exploitation of sport or sportspeople is avoided.*

The consultative team noted that about 50 national sports organisations have co-operation with the Ministry of Sport in Georgia. About ten of them benefit from a state support programme, setting objectives and defining actions in exchange for governmental subsidies. These state support programmes mostly target the preparation of top athletes and the participation in international competitions, whereas the development of sport at grassroots level is also part of some programmes.

The legal framework is not clear about the process of recognition of sports federations, which are established as legal entities according to the Civil Code and registered as such by the Ministry of Justice. However, there is neither a procedure for their accreditation by the Ministry of Sport, nor any assessment of the fulfilment of the criteria set out in the Sports Law. The few organisations which benefit from state support programme are subject to some reporting. However, the consultative team understood that the culture of dialogue and co-operation between the government and the sports organisations is not well developed.

The non-governmental sport movement is not very strong. Sports organisations face economic difficulties and a considerable lack of sport facilities. Until recently, top clubs and national teams were supported by Ministries. In many cases a national sport federation took over the organisation of the top team and continued its activities, without close connection with local sport sections. The consultative team understood that many sports federations are mostly focused on supporting competitive sport and are neither connected with those practising the sport at grassroots level (membership organisations) nor actively supporting the development of their sport at local level.

For historical reasons, there is no tradition of local non-profit member-based organisations (local sport clubs set-up as associations). Although the Ministry of sport and the Sport federations stated they support the development of sports clubs, there is no broad understanding of what “club” – as referred to in the European Sports Charter - means. Sport at grassroots level is mostly animated by the municipalities, which support extra-curricular sport activities within the framework of “schools of sport”. In the schools of sport, the coaches are physical education teachers, which are paid by the municipalities.

Although some national federations involve volunteers, the consultative team understood that at local level, there is no volunteering culture. Some leaders of National federations met by the consultative team consider that given the economic situation, it would be too difficult to collect membership fees, to get sponsors or to promote volunteer involvement.

The consultative team noted that there are numerous challenges ahead, but considered that the development of sport in Georgia would benefit from a stronger private, autonomous, non-profit sports movement. Governmental and local authorities should keep facilitating the development of sport in Georgia through support to the schools of sports, but should also endeavour the development of a voluntary based sports movement. This will also contribute to the development of private initiatives and active civil society at the regional, national and local levels.

### Recommendations

- (3.1) Consult with municipalities and sports organisations and agree on a **general organisation of sport** and sharing of responsibilities between the sports federations, sports clubs and the public authorities at local and national level. Consider how to support volunteer efforts within the sports movement.
- (3.2) **Promote grassroots sport** clubs as associations at local level and recommend that local authorities support them (e.g. with facilities, subsidies,) even if they are not part of the local public sector. National sports federations should act as umbrella organisations of regional associations and/or local clubs and care for the development of grassroots sports. Private sports clubs and schools of sport run by municipalities should support and complement each other. Non-profit, membership-based organisations should enjoy a supporting legal framework
- (3.3) Develop steering and management tools to support the **dialogue and co-operation with the sports organisations, while respecting their autonomy**. Demand minimum standards on good governance, democracy, transparency and accountability. Check that at least those sports federations benefiting from support programmes are compliant with those standards, and specify criteria and reporting systems to make sure that the support programmes fulfil their aims. In order to monitor the development of sport for all, set up a register of existing sports organisations to be able to observe the development of membership and organisational density in sport.

### **Article 4 Facilities and Activities**

- 1. No discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status, shall be permitted in the access to sports facilities or to sports activities.*
- 2. Measures shall be taken to ensure that all citizens have opportunities to take part in sport and, where necessary, additional measures shall be taken aimed at enabling both young gifted people, as well as disadvantaged or disabled individuals or groups to be able to exercise such opportunities effectively.*
- 3. Since the scale of participation in sport is dependent in part on the extent, the variety and the accessibility of facilities, their overall planning shall be accepted as a matter for public authorities. The range of facilities to be provided shall take account of public, private, commercial and other facilities which are available. Those responsible shall take account of national, regional and local requirements, and incorporate measures designed to ensure good management and their safe and full use.*
- 4. Appropriate steps should be taken by the owners of sports facilities to enable disadvantaged persons including those with physical or mental disabilities to have access to such facilities.*

The consultative team noted there is a consensus among all stakeholders who consider that the quality and the quantity of sport facilities are the main issue for the development of sport in Georgia. In particular, the quantity and level of facilities available to grassroots sports clubs (in football as well as in other sports) are not yet considered as sufficient to allow the development of sport for all. The accurate situation is not easy to assess, as there is no national inventory of sports facilities. However, public authorities (at national and at local level) do invest in the development and management of sports facilities. The Ministry has started to gather information on the existing facilities. It had set up a working group on facilities.

The consultative team was surprised by a recent decrease in sport facilities, in recent years, due to “privatisations”. The consultative team understood that what is described as privatisation is not the development or management of sports facilities by private operators, to improve the provision of infrastructure and services, while ensuring that the destination of the sport facility is preserved. In many cases “privatisation” meant that the authorities have sold sports grounds or gymnasiums to private owners, who have changed the allocation of the land and invested in other type of facilities. The consultative team was told that 54 of 57 previous gymnasiums in the area of Tbilisi have disappeared like this. The consultative team asked the officials from the Ministry whether the sell-off of new facilities under cover of privatisation could happen again. It answered that the current legislation would prevent this from happening again. However, the consultative team also understood that these legislations were already in force at the time the facilities were sold.

An overall long-term concept on national sport facilities, taking into account the needs of the development of sport should be developed. The local authorities bear the responsibility of supporting most of the sport facilities development in Georgia (just as in other countries). Therefore the role and responsibility of the municipalities may be further clarified. This also means that the central authorities have a subsidiary role and should define their priorities, criteria and how they intend to support sport facilities projects. In addition, various opportunities to develop sports facilities were mentioned in the talks with experts: the hosting of international sports competitions may provide a chance to renew or build some new facilities. Therefore bids for that kind of event should be considered in relation with the national sport strategy. The enforcement of requirements in terms of sports facilities, while accrediting schools and universities – including private ones - would support the availability of facilities. A sound co-operation between the public and private sectors appears to be key for the development and management of sports facilities that will benefit the development of sport. Promoting private initiatives and involving private investors and operators in the development and management of sport facilities may be relevant, but the destination of the facility (availability to different organisations or for the practice of different sports) or even for the practice of sport is not secured, in the case of concession given to private companies, or even privatisation of public goods. These elements may be clarified in a concept on national sport facilities, or be included in the national sport strategy.

Besides the issue of available sports facilities, many representatives of sports organisations mentioned the problem of access to existing facilities. It was mentioned that some legal restrictions prevent the authorities from lending school facilities (owned by the Ministry of Economy) to sports organisations, or that the rental of municipal sports facilities is rather expensive for non-profit sports organisations. The issue of access to facilities should therefore be considered in parallel.

The team understood that, for cultural reasons, girls and women do not participate in sports activities in the same way as boys and men do. No cases of discrimination were reported, but the scarcity of some facilities, which are mostly owned by private companies, may lead to restrictions in the practice of some activities. The development of special projects of facilities for disadvantaged or disabled individuals or groups was mentioned by the Union of sports school association. In any case, the new rules on access to sports facilities should include a reference to the diversity of the users and, in particular, pay attention to fair access for girls, women and for disabled people.

Recommendation

- (4.1) Prepare a national inventory of **sports facilities** in order to analyse the situation, and develop a long-term **investment plan**, in co-operation with the Ministries of economy, education and the municipalities. If possible, allocate resources to this programme. In parallel, ensure that the destination of the sport facility is preserved, whatever the ownership and management schemes.
- (4.2) Develop an appropriate legal framework and policy to allow the use of sport facilities connected with schools to be used for extra-curricular sports activities and facilitate the access by local sport organisations to those facilities. Promote arrangements with sports clubs (associations) to provide them with public facilities free of charge or at reduced rates, in order to develop grassroots sports in Georgia.

**Article 5 Building the Foundation**

*Appropriate steps shall be taken to develop physical fitness and the acquisition of basic sports skills and to encourage the practice of sport by young people, notably:*

- i. by ensuring that programmes of and, facilities for sport, recreation and physical education are made available to all pupils and that appropriate time is set aside for this;*
- ii. by ensuring the training of qualified teachers in this area at all schools;*
- iii. by ensuring that appropriate opportunities exist for continuing the practice of sport after compulsory education;*
- iv. by encouraging the development of appropriate links between schools or other educational establishments, school sports clubs and local sports clubs;*
- v. by facilitating and developing the use of sports facilities by schools and by the local community;*
- vi. by encouraging a climate of opinion in which parents, teachers, coaches and leaders stimulate young people to take regular physical exercise;*
- vii. by providing education in sports ethics for pupils from primary school onwards.*

One of the main problems of sport and PE for children and young people is related to sport facilities. The quantity and quality of school sport facilities were reported as insufficient. However, many experts expressed the opinion that the availability of qualified staff is just as important as the lack of facilities. The fact that the Sports University interrupted its activities between 2007 and 2012 led to a lack of qualified or experienced and properly trained staff. The consultative team noted that a majority (63%) of the 4196 physical education teachers in secondary schools have no specialised training.

The Child and youth sport federation, whose aim is to facilitate sport and physical activity, has published handbooks and is developing projects to support Physical education teachers.

According to the officials from the Ministry of Education, sports lessons are provided in all public schools. However, a number of practitioners stated that in reality, many physical education lessons, although compulsory according to the school curricula, do not take place; PE is replaced by lessons in other subjects.

Moreover, Physical Education is not compulsory in private schools. Further efforts could therefore be made to bring sport, recreation and physical education to all pupils. One may mention the “Recommendation Rec(2003)6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on

improving physical education and sport for children and young people in all European countries”, which states :

“1. It is agreed that the number of hours of physical education in the curriculum should move towards a compulsory legal minimum of 180 minutes weekly, in three periods, with schools endeavouring to go beyond this minimum where this is possible. Children and young people should, however, have one hour of physical activity every day, which would include physical education and sports lessons in or out of school time, and other out-of-school exercise (for example, walking or cycling to school).”

Various sports organisations were established recently supporting the development of physical education and the continuing practice of sport after compulsory education: the School sport Federation, the University Sport Federation and the Children and youth sports federation.

The development of constructive co-operation between schools, schools of sports and local sports clubs is a key challenge as mentioned under recommendation 3.2. The support of Municipalities is key.

The use of and access to sport facilities is referred to under 4.2.

In addition to recommendation 1.1 mentioning awareness-raising of public authorities, there is a need to increase public awareness of the benefits of sport. In general, there is a low participation rate in sport in Georgia. As reported by experts, a recent survey on different groups of population, commissioned by the Ministry of youth affairs, pointed out a 95% physically inactive population. Experts also reported rather high rates of drug addicts, insofar as the prevalence of addiction is much higher in an inactive population than in populations involved in physical activity. Moreover, physical inactivity is a risk factor for several diseases.

Many people consider that practising sport is the way to become a professional athlete and not the way to have a healthy lifestyle for everyone - bringing benefits for health, education and social integration. In addition to information and campaigns, successful events such as the events of the Entertainment Sport Federation, or even the Olympic youth festival may provide an opportunity to pass on the message.

The Healthcare Department defined mass sport as being the priority of the Health ministry.

#### Recommendation

- (5.1) Increase the rate of trained PE teachers in hiring qualified teachers and set-up a re-training programme for those who had no initial specialised training. Support PE lessons including in private schools.
- (5.2) Unite the forces of different ministries and organisations to improve public awareness with information, campaigns and events to promote a sport-friendly culture.
- (5.3) Promote the role of Municipalities to facilitate co-operation between schools, schools of sport, and sports clubs.

#### **Article 6 Developing Participation**

*1. The practice of sport, whether it be for the purpose of leisure and recreation, of health promotion, or of improving performance, shall be promoted for all parts of the population through the provision of appropriate facilities and programmes of all kinds and of qualified instructors, leaders or "animateurs".*

*2. Encouraging the provision of opportunities to participate in sport at work places shall be regarded as an integral part of a balanced sports policy.*

The lack of facilities and training personnel for Sport for All constitutes the major challenge. Besides the development of and the access to sports facilities, consideration should be given to the development of simple infrastructure, making it possible to go walking or jogging, cycling, etc. which would endeavour active life-style and casual exercise.

Besides the training of physical education teachers, some sports organisations are training coaches. Within the sports movement, only two federations are training coaches in a systematic way: football and rugby. In addition, some other sports (athletics, tennis, volleyball...) are organising coaches' training or working on a licencing system for coaches. Such initiatives should be further encouraged.

The development to offer more leisure sport is pivotal. The government already funds some pilot projects in this field, through projects led by organisations such as the Entertainment Sport Federation, the Sport for all federation, the Child and youth sports federation and the School sport federation. While such initiatives should be continued, the main challenges should be to better bridge these projects with the development to offer leisure sport at local level. Sport federations and associations should consider allocating some of their resources to Sport for All activities. The development of sport for all activities should be included in and valued through the State Support programmes. The governmental authorities could consider setting up a framework to define levels of qualification that would meet similar requirements throughout different sports.

#### Recommendation

- (6.1) Include the principle and objectives of a national Sport for All programme in the future National Sport Strategy and value the involvement of the sports organisations in promoting leisure and recreational sport.
- (6.2) Consider the development of infrastructures such as cycling or paths, that would allow casual participation in physical activities.
- (6.3) Consider linking the organisation of Sport for All pilot events or programmes with those in charge of developing the offer of sport at local level.
- (6.4) Develop and recognise training instructors, leaders and animators, as well as vocational training of coaches and trainers, by the Federations, but possibly with some support and recognition from the state (possible co-operation with Sports University for vocational training of coaches).

#### **Article 7 Improving Performance**

*The practice of sport at higher levels shall be supported and encouraged in appropriate and specific ways, in co-operation with the relevant sports organisations. The support will cover such areas as talent identification and counselling; the provision of suitable facilities; developing care and support with sports medicine and sports science; encouraging scientific coaching and coach education and other leadership functions; helping clubs to provide appropriate structures and competitive outlets.*



The quality and success of athletes is linked to the availability in general of support services for athletes and in particular of training grounds/ sport facilities.

Sports Federations have qualified leaders and coaches to enable the practice of sport at a higher level. However, the lack of high profile facilities is also an issue. Sports Federations have great hope that the Youth Olympic Festival will leave facilities available for their athletes.

The development of higher performance sport is supported by the National Federations, the Olympic and Paralympic Committees, the National Center of Olympic Reserve and state funded programmes. These structures and bodies provide for coaching, organisation, training and development of higher performance sport in Georgia. The consultative team considered that this is clearly the most advanced segment of sport organisation in Georgia.

The most important weakness of this system is its narrow basis. The development of mass-sport and of competitive sport at local level would allow more effective selection, talent detection and preparation of the high performance sport.

Co-operation between the State University of Physical Education and Sport and the sports organisations should be encouraged, in order to benefit from high-standard teaching and research taking place in the University, and to feed the academic institution with issues identified by this practice.

The consultative team was not informed of any elite sport schools, offering a flexible curriculum, which provides only a frame, and can be adapted to individual needs of athletes. Sports organisations and the Ministry of sport could seek to identify partners, which would help for the development that kind of institution.

#### Recommendation

→ (7.1) Further enhance co-operation between the University of sport and organised sport to design educational programmes to qualify staff, coaches and other supporting staff.

### **Article 8 Supporting Top level and Professional Sport**

*1. Methods of providing appropriate direct or indirect support for sportsmen and women who reveal exceptional sporting qualities shall be devised in co-operation with sports organisations, in order to give them opportunities to develop fully their sporting and human capacities, in the full respect of their individual personality and physical and moral integrity. Such support will include aspects related to the identification of talent, to balanced education while in training institutes, and to a smooth integration into society through development of career prospects during and after sporting excellence.*

*2. The organisation and management of professionally organised sport shall be promoted through appropriate competent bodies. Practitioners engaging professionally in sport should be provided with appropriate social status and protection and with ethical safeguards against all forms of exploitation.*

Section 8 closely correlates with section 7. The handing out of state awards for top level athletes and coaches provides incentives to perform well in sports and is a way to support high level sport. However, a bundle of measures has to be taken to provide broader support to

top performance sport in the field of education/ training of athletes/ coaches and provision of adequate facilities.

The Olympic champions and sports veterans are supported by a state-funded programme granting a stipend and allowances.

The suggested co-operation between the Sport University and the Sports Federation could also involve dual-training and retraining of former champions, in order to facilitate their professional integration after their top athletic career and to involve them in the development of national sport in Georgia.

## **Article 9 Human Resources**

*1. The development of training courses by appropriate bodies, leading to diplomas and qualifications to cover all aspects of sports promotion shall be encouraged. Such courses should be appropriate to the needs of participants in different kinds and levels of sport and recreation and designed for both those working voluntarily or professionally (leaders, coaches, managers, officials, doctors, architects, engineers, etc).*

*2. Those involved in the leadership or supervision of sports activities should have appropriate qualifications paying particular attention to the protection of the safety and health of the people in their charge.*

It has been generally agreed in the sports world that there are three essential pillars needed for sport to grow and develop: firstly, the place to exercise physical activity and sport; secondly, well trained and educated professional staff and personnel; and thirdly, sufficient and sustainable financial resources available for sport. The discussions during the Consultative Visit with different stakeholders have shown that the single, well-organised education system for trainers and coaches is provided by regular studies at the Sports University of Georgia, leading towards the title of sports trainer/coach as a regulated profession. The delegation has learned that besides the regular academic studies at the university there are a few non-academic nationally-organised education and training systems provided by sport federations. Such systems could be complementary to the academic one in terms of ensuring skilled and qualified staff and personnel at the level of sport leadership, voluntary work in sport or other more demanding jobs or professions such as, for example, management and administrative tasks in sport as well as other specifically required sports professions linked with particularities of certain sports or sport disciplines. The Sports University could help to develop some education and training programmes provided via collaboration between the Sports University and national sports federations. Here it would be vital to set up a co-ordinated national vocational education and training system where national sports federations, the Sports University and the responsible ministry should be involved in preparing, approving and setting up the accredited vocational education systems leading towards a certificate or diploma as a background document for awarding the accreditation or licence to individuals to exercise a certain profession or to carry out many different tasks related to sport and physical activities.

### Recommendation

- (9.1) Setup a group with the aims referred to in recommendation 6.4. National sports federations and other organisations, public authorities responsible for education and sport and the Sports University should consider jointly setting up a

system of vocational education and training in sport. The European Qualification Framework standards and national NQF standards may serve as inspiration.

→ (9.2) The leading role in terms of preparing the contents of individual education programmes should be taken over by the national sport federations, which would provide the platforms for such VET systems. The Sports University would play the role of close partner in drafting those programmes in terms of ensuring common subjects, e.g., didactics, psychology, methodology etc., and for maintaining the observatory of approved education and training programmes.

## **Article 10 Sport and Sustainable Development**

*Ensuring and improving people's physical, social and mental well-being from one generation to the next requires that sporting activities including those in urban, open country and water areas be adjusted to the planet's limited resources and be carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and balanced management of the environment. These include:*

- *taking account of nature and environmental values in the physical planning and building of sport facilities;*
- *supporting and stimulating sports organisations in their efforts to conserve nature and the environment;*
- *increasing people's knowledge and awareness of the relations between sport and sustainable development and their understanding of nature.*

No remarks on this aspect have been made.

## **Article 11 Information and Research**

*Suitable structures and means for the collection and dissemination of pertinent information on sport at local, national and international levels shall be developed. Scientific research into all aspects of sport shall be promoted. Arrangements shall be made for diffusing and exchanging such information and the results of such research at the most appropriate level, locally, regionally, nationally or internationally.*

For the time being the information and research work in sport and PE is carried out almost exclusively by the University of Sport. The University has a good scientific and human basis, so it is an excellent departure point for the definition of the main objectives of nationwide data-gathering with a view to providing a foundation for evidence-based decision making in sport.

### Recommendation

→ (11.1) Consider developing know-how and knowledge on management of sport facilities (invite the Sports University to setup a training course on this as part of the “Sport management and recreation” specialisations.

## **Article 12 Finance**

*Appropriate support and resources from public funds (i.e. at central, regional and local levels) shall be made available for the fulfilment of the aims and purposes of this Charter. Mixed*

*public and private financial support for sport should be encouraged, including the generation by the sports sector itself of resources necessary for its further development.*

Ressources from public funds are made available by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and cover the operation expenditures of the Ministry, to allocate grants to support investments in sports facilities, subsidies to Sports organisations, as well as to the University of Sport, bonuses to champions, etc. Since 2008, the budget allocations to the administration in charge of sport and to the sports organisations have increased, allowing for the enhancement of support to sports federations and to better organise sporting life. Future challenges will include the development of sport at local level, the development of structured co-operation with a larger number of sports federations, the increased co-ordination between the national and local levels, as well as the challenge of developing sports facilities.

Moreover, the Consultative team noted that there are substantial financial transfers from the central authorities to the local authorities, because allocations from the central state budget are considered as the only or main source of funding for most municipalities. This funding of local authorities is ruled by the law on local authorities, which does not specify the responsibility of municipalities regarding sports, but their role to address more general “community needs”. However, the consultative team noted that all municipalities invest in sport activities and facilities. Moreover the Law on Sport specifies the role of the local authorities in its article 8.2. The possible use of international funds is also promoted.

#### Recommendation

- (12.1) Define a system for allocation of subsidies to the national sports organisations that is more predictable and transparent, with criteria.
- (12.2) Encourage the sports movement to develop its know-how and to share good practices on how to generate its own incomes (e.g. with sponsoring, membership fees, merchandising, events...). Set up an enhanced framework for sponsoring (consider fiscal incentives to endeavour sponsorship, promote transparency and specify rules applicable to sponsors). EPAS may help to establish connection with experts on sponsoring issues for a seminar or a workshop.

### **Article 13 Domestic and international Co-operation**

*1. Appropriate structures for the proper co-ordination of the development and promotion of sport, both between the various public administrations and agencies concerned by sports questions, and between the public and voluntary sectors, shall be developed when they do not already exist at central, regional and local levels in order to achieve the aims of this Charter. Such co-ordination will take account of other areas of policy making and planning such as education, health, social service, town and country planning, environment, the arts and other leisure services, and ensure that sport is an integral part of socio-cultural development.*

*2. Co-operation at European and international level is also necessary for the fulfilment of the aims of this Charter.*

Regular co-operation between ministries takes place thanks to informal contacts and the national sport council.

Sometimes the exchanges and co-operation with other relevant ministries is not sufficient enough to ensure the compliance with international standards (teaching of sport and physical education at schools), or to improve the framework conditions for sponsoring in sport.

Co-operation with municipalities takes place mostly on a case-by-case basis. Considering the role of municipalities to promote sport for all and their actual involvement in the development of sport, it may be necessary to further involve local authority representatives in the discussions on sport strategies and to support co-operation among municipalities on sport issues.

Concerning the co-operation with the sports movement, it was noted that Georgia is in a process of transition between a state-owned and state-managed sports movement to a more autonomous sports movement. Therefore there is still a need to reinvent the tools and means for co-operation. Sport organisations have to abide by the law and support from governmental authorities should be granted in the framework of the fulfilment of the national sport strategy. Moreover, autonomy is often mentioned close together with good governance, and the sport organisations should be accountable for their good governance. Council of Europe Recommendation on the principle of autonomy of sport in Europe (2011/3) and Recommendation on the principles of good governance in sport (2005/8), as well as the study “Autonomy of sport in Europe” may provide useful principles in this process.

International co-operation takes place through bilateral partnerships and the use of multilateral organisations and programmes. In addition to EPAS, other Council of Europe bodies may support the development of sport. The Council of Europe Development Bank could facilitate long term loans for the investment in school sport and sports for all facilities. The Monitoring Group of the Anti-doping Convention could conduct a visit on the strengthening of the anti-doping policy. The use of TAIEX seminars supported by the EU, could be used to facilitate know-how transfer and capacity building in areas which were developed by EU institutions (economy of sport professional qualification frameworks, professional qualification frameworks).

While EPAS could support nationally focused activities (national seminar) on an *ad hoc* basis or an international event on an area of relevance to the Georgian authorities and the EPAS Governing Board, the development of more important and longer-term co-operation could take place within the framework of a Council of Europe national action plan. When such an action Plan is developed, the authorities of Georgia could express the need for targeted co-operation activities in the field of sport, which would offer more opportunities. Possible areas for co-operation are:

- Exchange of information and capacity building on mapping and planning of sports facilities development
- Development of sponsorship
- Public Private partnerships in the field of sports facilities development
- Capacity building in the field of management of sports facilities
- Management of co-operation between the ministry and the sports organisations (objective-setting, contracts, reporting)
- Co-operation with local authorities

#### Recommendation

→ (13.1) Attend EPAS Governing Board meetings and propose activities fitting to the needs, notably those suggested in the present report or in the conclusions of the seminar.

→ (13.2) Explore new means of co-operation between the public authorities and the sports movement (possibly invite EPAS + sports movement to facilitate a workshop on this issue).

## C. Comments from Georgia

### Comments by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia on the Report prepared by the delegation of EPAS in the scope of the Consultative visit to Georgia (13-15 October, 2014)

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs presents its compliments to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and takes this opportunity to extend its sincere gratitude to EPAS for co-operation. It was our pleasure to organize the EPAS consultative visit in Georgia and we express our special thanks to the members of the delegation – Mr. Stanislas Frossard, Mr. Martin Holzweg, Ms. Wendela Kuper, and Ms. Kornelija Tiesnesyte for their hard work and the job done.

As mentioned in the report, in 2014, the Government of Georgia adopted the document “State’s sport policy for 2014-2020”, which presents the strategic vision and priorities, principles and values for sport development in Georgia. From its side, the Ministry carries a leading role and, in close collaboration with the stakeholders, is drafting particular strategies and policies aimed at achieving goals and objectives defined by the Document. The goals of the Document stand in line with the aim of the European Sport Charter. Thus successful implementation of the state’s sport policy will have great impact on an efficient application of the provisions of the Charter in Georgia. In this regard, it is of crucial importance to consider and take account of the recommendations prepared in the scope of the EPAS consultative visit to Georgia.

The Ministry has carefully understood the report and hereby confirms its readiness to lead and support implementation of the recommendations. The recommendations will be considered while developing relevant strategies and policies, drafting legislations as well as while planning and implementing targeted programs and projects.

Also, the Ministry takes this opportunity to briefly inform EPAS on current developments with regard to application of the recommendations that have taken place since the Consultative team’s visit to Georgia.

**Recommendation 4.1. “Prepare a national inventory of sport facilities in order to analyse the situation and develop a long-term investment plan, in co-operation with the Ministries of economy, education and the municipalities. If possible, allocate resources to this programme. In parallel, ensure that the destination of the sport facility is preserved, whatever the ownership and management scheme.”**

In close collaboration with the stakeholders, the Ministry has launched a program aimed at creating an online database, which will include information on sports facilities available throughout Georgia. The research and field work is done and for the time being, a group of dedicated people is analysing the information gathered in order to upload it online (a sport facilities map). Special emphasis should be made on the fact that local municipalities and other stakeholders are actively involved in the process. The database will show the full picture of locations, geography, conditions and capacities as well as some more important data on sport facilities.

In parallel, the Ministry has drafted the “2015-2020 Action Plan for development of sports infrastructure”, which defines the sport facilities to be built and refurbished throughout Georgia. It should be mentioned, that in the scope of the European Youth Olympic Festival Tbilisi 2015, the “Swimming Complex” and “New Sports Palace” were constructed in Tbilisi.

**Recommendation 12.1. Define a system for allocation of subsidies to the national sports organizations that is more predictable and transparent, with criteria.**

In this regard, the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia released a Decree (N 01/1061 dated on November 4, 2015), which established the “Council on recognition of and financial support for sports organizations”. The decree provides full power to the Council to define standards for recognition of sport organizations and to define criteria for the distribution of public funds. The Council includes 10 members, among whom: representatives from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, Parliamentary Committee of Sport and Youth, Olympic Committee and the Paralympic Committee. The terms, conditions and criteria for funding of sports organizations are already set. “Good governance” and “participation in sport” are among the 5 main criteria to be met in order to be applicable for receiving public funds. The extent of commitment and application of relevant international recommendations, resolutions and good practices in the

field (not limited to) of good governance in sport, sport integrity and gender mainstreaming will be considered while defining the amount of public funds to be provided for particular sport organizations. Starting from 1 January 2016 the public funds will be distributed according to the newly introduced system.

Finally, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia takes this opportunity to express once more its sincere gratitude to EPAS and the members of the consultative team for their co-operation, support and readiness to continue assisting the Georgian side in its efforts to reinforce sports policy at national level.

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## Appendix

**Programme  
Council of Europe experts' visit  
to Georgia  
13-15 October 2014, Tbilisi**

Consultative visit of experts organised by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports.

Experts:

Mrs Wendela Kuper  
Mrs Kornelija Tiesnesytė  
Martin Holzweg  
Stanislas Frossard (EPAS Executive Secretary)

EPAS Consultative team's visit to Georgia with the aim of providing expert opinion on  
 » *Sports National Policy Document and legal framework of sport;*  
 » *distribution of state's funding in sport;*  
 » *provisions of the European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics*

13-15 October, 2014  
Georgia, Tbilisi

Host organization: Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia (MSY)  
Contact person: Mr. Anatoli Korepanov, Acting Head, International Relations Division, MSY

### A G E N D A

Sunday, 12 October

Arrival of members of the Consultative Team to Tbilisi

Monday, 13 October

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
10:30 - 11:30	Briefing, Consultative team		Hotel
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch	Deputy Minister Tamaz Tevzadze, Deputy Minister Akaki Lodia; MSY Acting Head of International Relations Division Anatoli Korepanov	Hotel or restaurant

13:00 - 13:45	Meeting with the authors of and contributors to the Auto-Evaluation Report	MSY's representatives: Sport Department; Analytical Department; Law Department; Financial Division; International Relations Division	MSY, Meeting room
13:45 - 14:00	Break		
14:00 - 14:45	Meeting with representatives of Sport Policy Development Working Groups	Sports Education and Science WG; Sports Infrastructure WG; Law Amendments WG; Deputy Minister Tamaz Tevzadze	MSY, Meeting room
14:45-15:00	Press-Conference. Aims and Objectives of the EPAS Consultative visit to Georgia. Brief comments	Local mass and e-media representatives	MSY, Conference hall
15:15 - 16:00	Meeting with reps of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	Head of Units responsible for physical education and sport activities at pre-school organisations and schools; Children and Pupils Sport Federation; Students Sports Federation	MSY, Meeting room
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee-Break / Snacks		
16:30 - 17:15	Meeting with reps of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia	Head of Units responsible for prevention of diseases, physical activity and other sport related issues; Sport Medicine Association; Sport for All Federation	MSY, Meeting room
17:15 - 18:00	Meeting with local and municipal authorities (sport units)	Tbilisi City Hall and Tbilisi City Council, Gori City Hall, Rustavi City Hall, Marneuli City Hall, Tbilisi municipal districts; Mtskheta City Hall	MSY, Meeting room
18:30	Dinner		Restaurant "Tabla"

## Tuesday, 14 October

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
08:00 - 09:00	Participation in TV program, broadcasted live (TBC)		TBC
09:30 - 10:15	Meeting with NGOs (grassroots sports)	Students Sports Federation, Children and Pupils Sport Federations; Sport for All Federaiton	MSY, Meeting room

10:15 - 10:30	Break		
10:30 - 11:15	Meeting with NGOs (sport federations)	Meeting with NGOs: Olympic and non-Olympic Federations	MSY, Meeting room
11:15 - 11:30	Break		
11:30 - 12:15	Meeting with practitioners at local level	Presidents of clubs; trainers, athletes, physical education teachers	MSY, Meeting room
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch		"Chveni Ezo"
14:00 - 14:45	Meeting at Physical Education and Sports University of Georgia & Sports College & LEPL Olympic Reserve Center	Rector, Chancellor, Deans, Lectors; Director of LEPL - Mr. Shalva Gogoladze	Sports University or MSY Meeting room
15:30 - 16:30	Meeting with Georgian National Olympic, Paralympic and Special Committees members	Senior officials and representatives of the Committees	Office of the Georgian National Olympic Committee
17:00 - 19:00	Cultural activity: Site seeing at "Jvari" Monaster & Mtskheta City		Mtskheta City
20:00 - 22:30	Dinner hosted by MSY		TBC
22:00 - 23:00	Participation in TV Talk-Show "ARENA"	one representative from MSY and the Consult Team	TBC

## Wednesday, 15 October

Time	Activity	Guests	Venue
09:30 - 10:15	Meeting with senior officials of the MSY	Minister Levan Kipiani, Deputy Minister Tamaz Tevzadze, Deputy Minister Akaki Lodia, Deputy Minister Rati Bregadze; Senior representatives of Sport Department, MSY	MSY
10:30 - 11:15	Meeting with representatives of Sport and Youth Affairs Committee; Legal Committee & European Integration Committee, Parliament of Georgia	Head, members and staff of the Paliamentary Committees	MSY, Meeting room

11:15 - 12:00	Meeting with representatives of Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Anti-Doping National Agency of Georgia	Public authorities' representatives responsible for planning and implementation of European Conventions (T-RV, T-DO, Convention on manipulations of sports competitions; European Sport Charter & Code of Sports Ethics); Anti-Doping National Agency	MSY, Meeting room
12:00 - 12:15	Press-Conference: preliminary conclusions; further steps	Representatives of MSY & the Consult. team	MSY, Conference room
12:30 - 13:45	Lunch		Restaurant "Begeli"
14:30 - 15:30	Site visit: "Olympic Village"		Olympic Village, Tbilisi
15:30 - 16:30	Free time		
16:45	Transportation to airport		

## EPAS Consultative team's visit to Georgia

13-15 October, 2014

Georgia, Tbilisi

List of attendances

13-oct 13:00 - 13:45		Meeting with the authors of and contributors to the Auto-Evaluation Report	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Tamaz	Tevzadze	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Zurab	Bakradze	Sport Department, Head of high performances division	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Nato	Gujabidze	Head, Legal Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Davit	Kvrivishvili	Deputy Head, Legal Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Vasil	Liparteliani	Chief Specialist, Analytical Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Anatoli	Korepanov	Chief Specialist, International Relations Division	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

13-oct 14:00 - 14:45		Meeting with representatives of Sport Policy Development Working Groups	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Giorgi	Mgeladze	Representative	Georgian Sport Medical Association
Zaza	Pirveli	General Education Management and Development Department	Ministry of Education and Science
Konstantine	Amirajibi	Programs Director	Children and Pupils Sports Federation
Sophio	Chantadze	Head of legal analysis and research division	Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection
Tamar	Manjavidze	Representative	Children and Pupils Sports Federation
Anatoli	Korepanov	Chief Specialist, International Relations Division	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Vasil	Liparteliani	Chief Specialist, Analytical Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Anatoli	Korepanov	Chief Specialist, International Relations Division	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

13-oct 15:15 - 16:00		Meeting with representatives of Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Mevlud	Lashauri	Representative	School sports federation of Georgia
Jano	Jvania	Director	Sports and Entertainment Games Federations
Zaza	Pirveli	General Education Management and Development Department	Ministry of Education and Science
Tamar	Manjavidze	Representative	Children and Pupils Sports Federation
Konstantine	Amirajibi	Programs Director	Children and Pupils Sports Federation
Lekso	Gugava	President	University Sports Federation
Shota	Bakradze	Vice-President	University Sports Federation
George	Begiashvili	President	School sports federation of Georgia

13-oct 16:30-17:15		Meeting with representatives of Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Konstantine	Metonidze	Director	Union of Sports School of the city of Rustavi
Maia	Azarashvili	President	Sport for all federation
Giorgi	Tkheldidze	Expert on sport issues	Mtskheta City Hall
Tamar	Manjavidze	Representative	National Center for Disease Control & Public Health of Georgia
Marine	Baindauri	Representative, Department of Health Protection	Ministry of Labor, Health & Labor
Maia	Shishniashvili	Representative, Department of Health Promotion	National Center for Disease Control & Public Health of Georgia
Marina	Topuridze	Representative, Department of Health Promotion	National Center for Disease Control & Public Health of Georgia

13-oct 17:15-18:00		Meeting with representatives of local municipalities	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Konstantine	Metonidze	Director	Union of Sports School of the city of Rustavi
Betkil	Naveriani	Head of Department of Culture and Sport	Marneuli Municipality

Mamuka	Naveriani	Head of Division of Health, Social Affairs and Culture	Marneuli Municipality
Giorgi	Tkheldidze	Expert on sport issues	Mtskheta City Hall
Konstantine	Metonidze	Director	Union of Sports School of the city of Rustavi

14-oct 09:30-10:15	Meeting with NGOs (grassroot sport)		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Maia	Azarashvili	President	Sport for all federation
Jano	Jvania	Director	Sports and Entertainment Games Federations
Tamar	Manjavidze	Representative	Children and Pupils Sports Federation
Lekso	Gugava	President	University Sports Federation
George	Begiashvili	President	School sports federation of Georgia

14-oct 10:30-11:15	Meeting with NGOs (olympic and non-olympic sport federations)		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Vladimer	Akhalkatsi	Secretary General	Boxing Federation of Georgia
Giorgi	Atabegashvili	Secretary General	Judo Federation
Irina	Achba	Secretary General	Skiing sport federation
Rusudan	Khopheria	Secretary General	United Georgian Gymnastic Federation
Giorgi	Kartvelishvili	Secretary General	Volleyball Federation
Zurab	Katsarava	Secretary General	Tennis Federations
Merab	Metreveli	Secretary General	Shooting Federation

14-oct 11:30-12:15	Meeting with practitioners at local level		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Vato	Baakashvili	acting athlete	Basketball club "Olympic"
Grigol	Shvangiradze	acting athlete	Basketball club "Olympic"
Vaja	Kvaratskhelia	acting coach	Basketball club "Olympic"
Giorgi	Kazaniani	Director, acting head coach	Basketball club "Olympic"
Mikheil	Panjikidze	Manager	Basketball club "Olympic"
Archil	Buluzashvili	acting athlete	Basketball club "Olympic"
Giorgi	Gugeshashvili	acting athlete	Basketball club "Olympic"
Valeri	Kvantaliani	acting athlete	Basketball club "Olympic"

14-oct 14:00-15:15		Meeting at Physical Education and Sports University	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Irakli	Dolabaridze	Head of Sport Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Vladimer	Bojadze	Acting Vice-Rector	Physical Education and Sports University of Georgia
Tina	Oniani	Lector	Physical Education and Sports University of Georgia
Manana	Mnatoblishvili	Lector	Physical Education and Sports University of Georgia
Tristan	Shengelia	Dean	Physical Education and Sports University of Georgia

14-oct 14:00-15:15		Meeting with Georgian Olympic and Paralympic Committees	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Tamaz	Tevzadze	Member of the Executive Committee	Georgian Olympic Committee of Georgia
Nino	Salukvadze	Vice-President	Georgian Olympic Committee of Georgia
Nino	Aptsiauri	President	Paralympic Committee of Georgia
Irakli	Dolabaridze	Head of Sport Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Vasil	Liparteliani	Chief Specialist, Analytical Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

15-oct 09:30-10:15		Meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Levan	Kipiani	Minister	MSY
Akaki	Lodia	Deputy Minister	MSY
Tamaz	Tevzadze	Deputy Minister	MSY
Irakli	Dolabaridze	Head of Sport Department	MSY
Anatoli	Korepanov	Acting Head, International Relations Division	MSY

15-oct 10:30-11:15		Meeting with representatives of the Parliament of Georgia and Anti-Doping National Agency of Georgia	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Tamta	Chumburidze	European Integration Committee	Parliament of Georgia
Temur	UKleba	Vice-Chair	Anti-Doping National Agency



			of Georgia
Pavle	Kasradze	Chair	Anti-Doping National Agency of Georgia
Nato	Gujabidze	Head of Legal Department	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia
Davit	Kevkhisvili	Legal Committee	Parliament of Georgia

## **Appendix I**

### **Law of Georgia on Sport**

The Law of Georgia on Sport sets the overall legal, social, economic and organizational basis for the sports activities conducting on the territory of Georgia.

Sport in Georgia is considered to be as the most important national activity and its development is supported.

Sport in Georgia is based on universal humanistic and cultural values, historical experiences and the centuries-old traditions of the people of Georgia.

#### **Chapter I General Provisions**

##### **Article 1. Georgian legislation in the field of sport, its goals and objectives**

1. Georgian legislation in the field of sport is based on the Constitution of Georgia, the Constitutions of Georgian Autonomous Republics of Adjara and Abkhazia, this Law, other Legislative Acts and International Treaties.

2. Georgian legislation in the field of sports serves the involvement of people in the fields of sports, healthcare of citizens, patriotism, striving for humanism education, preparation for labor and homeland defense, extension of human life and achievement of high-quality sport results.

3. The goals of Georgian legislation in the field of sports are the following:

- a) Involvement of people in the fields of sports;
- b) Formation of mentally and physically harmoniously developed personality;
- c) Provision and protection of the constitutional implementation of Georgian citizens' participation in the field of sports;
- d) Determination of the competence of governing bodies of central and local government in the field of sports;
- e) Ensuring the legislative guarantees for independent operation of the State, public and other non-governmental sports organizations;
- f) Determination of rights and duties and the responsibility of physical and legal entities in the fields of sports and regulation of relations between them;
- g) Introduction of scientific and technical achievements in the fields of sports.

##### **Article 2. The basic principles of the state policy in the field of sports**

The basic principles of the state policy in the field of sports are:

- a) Ensuring of universality and accessibility;
- b) Protection and strengthening of sports traditions, continuation of generational succession and sports development;
- c) Democratic nature of management;
- d) Strengthening of material and technical base, development of sports industry;
- e) Respect of the common values.

##### **Article 3. The state guarantees of the citizens' rights in the field of sports**

1. The State ensures citizens' rights of sport training and activity via creation appropriate social-economic conditions.

2. The State ensures appropriate aid and benefits to pensioners, orphans, poor families and people with disabilities involved in sport.

3. The State ensures development of national types of sports in the rural areas, creates the necessary conditions for people to get involved in sports and pays special attention to the villages of the mountainous regions.

4. The citizen of Georgia (the athlete, coach, referee and other employee in the fields of sports) has the right to be employed in amateur and professional sports both in Georgia and abroad.

5. The citizen of the other country or stateless person conducts sports activities in Georgia on the basis of a contract or agreement under the legislation.

6. The use of sports activities or achievements in sports for the illegal purposes is inadmissible.

## **Chapter II**

### **State agencies for sport management**

Article 4. Sport management *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

1. The main directions and priorities of the state policy in the field of sports are defined by the Parliament of Georgia.

2. The State governing body in the field of sport is the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia and its authority in this field is defined by this Law, other legislative and normative acts and the regulations of the Ministry.

3. In the Autonomous Republics of Adjara and Abkhazia the state policy in the field of sports is carried out by the relevant government agencies of Adjara and Abkhazia.

Article 5. Competence of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia in the fields of sports *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

Competences of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia in the fields of sports are:

- a) Elaboration and implementation of the main directions for the sports development;
- b) Working out the State programs for involvement of people in the fields of sports, and sports development;
- c) Determination of priority types of sports;
- d) Promotion of material-technical base creation for the institutions of the Ministry designed for the sports development;
- e) Promotion of creation of Public and other non-governmental organizations;
- f) Coordination of teaching, distribution and training of the personnel; certification and identification of the professional level of sportsmen;
- g) Scientific-methodological support in the fields of sports; organizing the publication of scientific, educational and sports popular literature;
- h) State standards for sports funding;
- i) Ensuring incentives, State bonuses and awards for the athletes, specialists and other sports professionals.
- j) In case of flagrant violations of the basic principles of state policy and the laws in the field of sports by the National Sport Federations of Georgia, cease the authority of the Heads of this Federations and the registering body as well until the invitation of the extraordinary meeting.

Article 6. Sport management in the Autonomous Republics of Adjara and Abkhazia  
Sport management in the Autonomous Republics of Adjara and Abkhazia is carried out via Constitution of Georgia, Constitutions of Georgian Autonomous Republics of Adjara and Abkhazia, this Law, other Legislative Acts and International Treaties.

Article 7. Competence of local government bodies in the fields of sports *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

The fields of sports at a local level, except those issues which fall under the competence of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia, the National Olympic Committee and National Sports Federations, are governed by the local governmental bodies.

### **Chapter III** **Public and other non-governmental sports organizations**

Article 8. Public and other non-governmental sports organizations

1. Public and other non-governmental sports organization is the sports federation, association, club or other society, which aims the sports development.

2. The State promotes the development of the assets of public and other non-governmental sports organizations and attracts them in the sports management activity.

3. If necessary, the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia, within its competence, may transfer the certain powers to the public and other non-governmental sports organizations and oversee their implementation. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

4. While conducting their activities, public and other non-governmental sports organizations are guided by this law and other normative acts in force.

Article 9. The Georgian National Olympic Committee (GEONOC)

1. Georgian National Olympic Committee (GEONOC) is an independent public organization which coordinates the Olympic Movement in Georgia. GEONOC is the legal entity.

2. GEONOC is guided by Georgian legislation, this law, the Olympic Charter and its own regulations.

3. In the International Olympic Committee, in the events organized by him, including in the Olympic Games, Georgia is represented by the National Olympic Committee only, as the representative of the International Olympic Committee.

4. GEONOC has its own symbols and only he has the right to the use these symbols.

5. GEONOC cooperates with the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports of Georgia and the National Sports Federations of Georgia on the basis of bilateral agreements. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

6. GEONOC participates in the process of preparation and provision of the teams for the Olympic Games.

Article 10. The National Sports Federation of Georgia

1. The National Sports Federation of Georgia is a public union, which guides the development of the relevant type of sport in the country. It conducts its activities according to this law, International Sports Federations and its own regulations as well. The National Sports Federation is the only governing body in the respective field of sport and is responsible for its development.

2. The National Sports Federation of Georgia represents the relevant type of sports both in the country and abroad; it shares the principles of the Olympic movement.

3. The status of the National Sports Federation of Georgia is assigned to the union, whose constitutive documents meet the requirements of Georgian legislation and the relevant International Federation.

4. The National Sports Federation of Georgia is a legal entity.

5. The authority of the National Sports Federation, within its competence, shall apply to the whole territory of Georgia.

6. The National Sports Federation fulfills the State order and cooperates with the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia on the basis of the agreement. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

7. The National Sports Federation in the relevant fields of Sports forms the national team, presents it to the international organizations and the sports competitions;

8. The National Sports Federation has the right to be engaged in the activity, which is not prohibited by applicable law. The Federation, within its competence, promotes the establishment and operation of sports societies, associations, clubs, schools and other organizations.

#### Article 11. Sports Club

1. Sports club conducts its activities in accordance with this law, applicable legislation and its own regulations.

2. Sports club is a legal entity.

3. Sports club status is granted to those organizations whose constitutive documents meet the requirements of Georgian legislation and the relevant National Sports Federation.

4. Predominant right of Sports Club guidance is to present its members to a transfer with the consent of the relevant National Sports Federation.

### **Chapter IV Mass Sport**

#### Article 12. Sport in pre-school and educational institutions

1. Protection and strengthening of healthcare, physical education and development, formation of a healthy lifestyle is one of the main objectives of pre-school children and educational institutions.

2. On the basis of State educational programs and physical education standards, the educational institution, taking into consideration local conditions and the students' interests, determines independently the forms, methods and duration (not less than 4 hours a week) of the classes for the physical education.

3. The classes for physically unhealthy person are conducted in the framework of the rehabilitation.

4. In all educational institutions, regardless of profiles and forms of ownership, sport is included in the joint training program, which is approved by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia with the agreement to the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

#### Article 13. Of-school recreation and sports institutions

1. Sports schools, clubs, sections and other of-school institutions, which operate on the State, cooperative, public or other basis, are bound to attract children and young people and involve them in fitness and sports classes.

2. Of-school recreational and sporting activities are coordinated by the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports of Georgia and the relevant local government authorities. Local authorities are obliged to ensure creation and operation of the of-school recreational and sports institutions. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

Article 14. Sports in labor recruitment areas

Production – In the institutions, organizations and the other areas of recruitment, regardless of the form of ownership, the administration is responsible to ensure proper conditions for its employees to conduct their rights in sports, which include prophylaxis and restorative classes in the working process and after work, mass/sports and recreational activities.

Article 15. Sports for disabled people

1. Training of disabled people in sports is the integral part of their rehabilitation and social and labor adaptation.

2. The relevant agencies for sports, health, education and social security as well as disabled people organizations have responsibility to organize sports trainings in continuous system, training of the personnel, methodological support and medical control.

3. The executive bodies of State Authority, regional and local governmental agencies, clubs and centers provide disabled people with the special equipment and facilitate their participation in sports competitions.

4. Recreational and sporting activities for disabled people are financed and the funds for construction of sports bases are allocated from the State and local government, as well as the private sector budgets.

Article 16. Sports training for soldiers and the personnel of the Ministries of Interior and Security and Special Service of State Security

1. The programs for sports training for soldiers and the personnel of the Ministries of Interior and Security and Special Service of State Security are defined by the relevant agencies with the agreement to the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

2. Military commanders and the Heads of Divisions of the Ministries of Interior and Security and Special Service of State Security are required to create the necessary conditions for carrying out the trainings in the military types of sports and for involvement of the military servants and personnel of the Ministries of Interior and Security and Special Service of State Security in it.

Article 17. Involvement of healthcare organizations and institutions in the sports development

Healthcare organizations and institutions:

a) Within their competence they use the sport as a mean of physical rehabilitation and disease prevention;

b) Carry out medical supervision on members of the sports section, on a contractual basis provide medical care of Georgian national and other teams;

c) Organize and implement healthcare professionals' training and improvement of qualifications in those main components of sports medicine and rehabilitation which are used for the treatment and prevention of diseases;

d) Create a sports medicine and rehabilitation centers (dispensary), a diagnostic consultation places and cabinets, which provide population with the appropriate services, equip them with the necessary medical tools and apparatus;

e) Sports training and competition can be conducted in an ecologically and hygienic clean environment.

Article 18. Certain categories of sports activities of the citizens *(9.03.2010 N 2720 shall come into effect from October 1, 2010)*

Administration of the detention/deprivation of liberty establishment usually provides control of the health status of people placed in such establishments, conducts the necessary sports-recreational activities and provides conditions for sports-recreational trainings through the relevant inventory and equipment according to the regulations of detention/deprivation of liberty establishment.

## **Chapter V**

### **Supreme achievements sport**

Article 19. Supreme achievements sport, preparation of highly qualified athletes

1. Supreme achievements sport is the area which promotes sports athlete to display maximally his abilities and achieve remarkable results. For this purpose, the State creates all the necessary conditions.

2. In order to prepare highly qualified athletes, specialized institutions are established and their structure and status are defined by the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports of Georgia and the relevant National Sports Federation. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

3. State order concerning the preparation of highly qualified athletes is concluded via contract with the relevant National Sports Federations or the other sports organizations.

4. Training of the athletes enrolled in Georgian national team is carried out on the basis of the request of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia, through the sources allocated from the State budget. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

Article 20. Georgian National Teams

1. Georgian National Teams are prepared and comprised by the National Sports Federations.

2. Georgian National team member may participate in any sports competition with the consent of the relevant National Sports Federation.

3. Citizen of Georgia does not have the right to participate in competitions on behalf of the national team of the other country. Foreign citizen or a stateless person is not able to compete on behalf of Georgian National Team.

4. In case of the consent of the International Federation of the relevant type of sport, foreign citizen, having the status of the compatriot living abroad, has the right to participate in sports competitions, in the national teams on behalf of Georgia. *(24.11.2011. N5306 shall enter into effect from March 1, 2012)*

Article 21. Athlete, a professional athlete and a professional career in sport

1. Athlete is a person who follows a sport and participates in competitions.

2. Athlete, for whom the sport is the main source of income, is a professional.

3. "Athlete" – is a profession.

4. Professional activity (training and participation in competition) of the athlete, coach, referee, and other specialists, which is the main source of their income, is carried out according to the Labor Law.

5. People employed in sport, as a rule, work on the basis of individual employment contract.

6. The contract of the athlete shall be signed and other forms of the agreement shall be established, conditions for sports activities and for participation in competitions on

professional basis shall be determined by the legislation of Georgia, regulations of the International Sports Organizations, and other legal documents.

7. Employment contract, which is signed by the professional athlete, together with the provisions regarding the participation in sports and competitions shall contain the terms concerning the health and life insurance;

8. Professional sports leagues (association, club, etc.), and other professional sports organizations is formed and operates in accordance with the legislation.

#### Article 22. Social protection of the athlete and sports specialist

1. State and the relevant sports organization shall provide athletes, sports specialists and other personnel with social protection. The relevant legislation is applied towards them.

2. The right to pension is obtained by the professional athlete in the terms and amount that is stipulated by the legislation on employees working in the difficult labor conditions.

3. The legislation on Social Security applies to athlete who got trauma, occupational injury of became disabled while participation in competition, training or other sports events.

### Chapter VI

#### Ensuring financial, material-technical and human resources for sport, Sport incentives

#### Article 23. Sport funding

1. The State shall promote and assist the development of sport and provides budgetary funding for this purpose.

2. The funds allocated for the development of the sport is reflected in a State and local budgets with a separate article.

3. On the basis of proposals of sports organizations, State funds for the fields of sports are distributed by the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sports and the relevant local authorities. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

4. The following shall apply for the sports funding as well:

a) Contributions of State, private and public organizations, institutions and individuals as well;

b) Revenue from their sport, agricultural and commercial, advertising, and brokerage activities;

c) Funds received from sponsors and other kinds of assistance.

5. Funds received from non-budgetary sources shall make no influence on the amount of the allocations of State budget for sports;

6. The state budget funds allocated for the development of sports is distributed among the Ministries and the Agencies by the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, by the proposal of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

7. In support of the trainings of the national teams and for participation of Georgian sports delegations in the Olympic Games, World and European Championships, Cups tournaments, Universiades, and other international events, and for the prizes for the winners, the State allocates special funds from the state budget.

8. Inappropriate use of sport-targeted budgetary and non-budgetary contributions is forbidden. They shall be used for the sports development only.

9. The state promotes sports development via expansion of sports material-technical base, adequate funding, grants and ethical and material incentives for the professionals in this field.

#### Article 24. Material-technical support of sports



1. Material-technical base of sports includes all kinds of sports and sports-recreational facilities, sport equipment, inventory, equipment and other property, which is suitable for sports and sports-recreational activities.

2. Sports base is a facility, which aims the athletes training and involvement of people in the fields of sports or which meets the requirements for athletic competitions.

3. Land allocation procedures, where the sports bases are placed, are stipulated by the relevant legislation.

4. It is prohibited to:

a) Change the purpose of the sports base without the consent of the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia as well as the relevant local authorities;

b) Construction or renovation of pre-school and school facilities without taking into consideration the sports facilities;

c) Liquidation of sports facilities or alteration of their profile until the exploitation of substitute or equal facilities. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

5. The Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia monitors the proper use of State sports facilities. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

6. Preferential rights of training over the State sports bases are allowed to the national teams.

#### Article 25. Training of the experts in the field of sports and staff support

1. The state provides preparation, training and capacity building for the personnel in the field of sport.

2. Sports professionals are trained in educational institutions. The purpose of these institutions shall be the development of mass and high achievement sports, fitness and prophylactic and therapeutic profile.

3. State agencies for sport, education and health shall establish demand for sport and fitness profile specialists. Preparation and training of specialists, including personnel working with people with disabilities shall be imposed on duly accredited educational institutions.

4. Rights to teaching, education and training as well as recreational activities are allowed only to citizen having special education and individuals who have an accredited university degree.

5. The athlete passes a mandatory certification to be employed in the fields of sports as a specialist, according to the rules stipulated by the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia and the relevant National Sports Federation. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

6. The Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia together with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia carries out scientific provision of State programs for sports development with the assistance of leading scientific research centers, highest educational institutions and scientific-research institutes. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

#### Article 26. Titles in sport, awards and sport symbols

1. Distinctive sign shows the qualification of the athlete and the referee. Medal and badge shows the achievements of the athlete, coach, and other specialist of sports fields.

2. The Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia approves the honorary titles in the fields of sports and determines the sports awards list for the winners and record holders of the international and national championships. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

3. For the outstanding contribution and sport achievements, the athletes, coaches and other employees of sports are nominated for the State prizes and awards by the Ministry of Culture, Monument Protection and Sport of Georgia. *(01.07.2004 N 310)*

4. The use of sports symbols (public sports organizations, sports institutions and organizations emblems and official signs, international and other sports competitions emblems and official signs, etc.) is determined by the legislation.

Article 27. Prohibited means in sport

While serving in the field of sports and for the purpose of achievement of high results of athletes, it is forbidden to use such methods and stimulating means which are prohibited by the Georgian legislation, regulations of the national sports federations and international sports organizations and other legal acts. A person who knowingly facilitates the use of such means shall be held responsible according to the Georgian legislation.

Article 28. Liability for violation of the Law of Georgia on Sport

Infringement of the requirements of this Law shall subject to the liability according to the Georgian legislation.

The President of Georgia

*Eduard Shevardnadze*

Tbilisi,  
September 20, 1996  
N 400 - I

## Appendix II Sport National Policy Document

2014-2020



The current document is developed by Government of Georgia, by sport national policy support interagency coordination board and the relevant thematic groups confirmed under the resolution #127 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May of 2013.

The document was being developed by three necessary main Directions for sport development:

1. Infrastructure for sport;
2. Sport education and science;
3. Legislative changes

**Tbilisi 2014**

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## **Definition of terms**

**National Team**-the team, which is grouped by the professional amateur athletes and coaches and participates in the international tournaments on behalf of the own country.

**National Olympic Committee**-presents the nonindustrial/non-commercial sport organization and is registered as a Legal Entity. It is acting according to the International Olympic Committee Charter, is responsible on participation of Georgian Athletes in Olympic Games and supports the development of Olympic movement within the national activities.

**Georgian National Paralympic Committee**-is the nonindustrial/non-commercial sport organization and is registered as a Legal Entity. It is acting in accordance of the International Paralympic Committee Constitution, is responsible on participation of Georgian Athletes in

Paralympic games and supports the development of Paralympic movement within the national activities.

**National Sport Federation**-is the nonindustrial/non-commercial founded as a Legal Entity, acknowledged by the International Sport Federation as a relevant sport styles managing structure, which is allowed to organize the Local and the International competitions, also to provide the collecting processes for teams and participating parties within the competitions. It also supports the relevant sport styles development in own country.

**Amateur Athletes**-the athlete who meets all requirements established by the National Federation in the relevant sport style.

**Coach**-the person, who organizes and implements the sport training processes according to the relevant skills and qualification. He/she is also responsible on results improvement in the local or/and international competitions of the relevant sport club or athlete.

**International Olympic Committee**-is the International Organization, which is established for organizing Olympic games and Agitation/development of Olympic movement. The International Committee acts according to the Olympic Charter and it gets them in the membership of the National Olympic Committees all over the World.

**International Sport Federation**-is the International Organization, which unifies one or more sport styles. Establishes standards and gets them in the membership of National Federations within the world or Europe.

**School Sport**-is the international school sport movement. It presents the part of the Educational System and includes the implementation of any sport activities in the secondary institutions, under subordination of the school administration. The school sport main objectives are pupils physical, intellectual, moral and cultural development, participation in the competitions and demonstrate the sport skills.

**Amateur Sport Organization**-is the nonindustrial/non-commercial club, federation, union, association and other organized group and the amateur athletes are participating in the competitions held by them.

**University Sport**-university sport is the international sport movement. It includes the implementation of any sport activities in the High Educational Institutions under subordination of the High Educational Administration. The university sport main objectives are establishment of sport values, improvement of health, participation in the competitions and realization of sport potential by this way for the students.

**Sport<sup>1</sup>**-means illegal or organized physical activities all forms, which main task is physical and mental skills development, development of the public relations and all get some success at all level competitions.

**Athlete**-person, who is busy in any style of sport by system training process and is participating, as in local as well in the international tournaments and competitions.

<sup>1</sup> Georgian edition Prepared by Georgian National Olympic Committee “Europe Sport Charter and Sport Ethics Code”, Georgia, Tbilisi, 2000

**Referee**-person who has a permit protect and control sport rules during the various sport styles according to the relevant qualification. The referee also has the special category awarded by the national or/and international sport federation.

**Sport Education**-includes relevant knowledge about human physical development, which supports formation of person base movement and development sport skills, physical features (power, velocity, strength, flexibility).

**Sport Building**-is the unit for conduction of sport trainings and competitions, which serves to athletes in relevant preparation and mastering processes.

**Professional athletes**-is the person, whose main incoming source is sport and conducts sport activities under the employer agreement (contract).

**Sport of restricted skills persons**-sport/physical activities of any gender and persons according to organized or non-organized manner.

## **Preamble**

Sport and the sports industry have become global phenomena in the modern world. Sport has an important place in the lives of millions of people. Sport has influence on people's health, development of the system of values, human behaviour, functioning of the financial-economic system. Sport has the educational and recreational, as well as commercial aspects. It also plays an important role in terms of development of the integration processes. Clear examples of it are the Olympic Movement and the European Sports Chertier, use of sport as the best means and equality of peace in conflict zones by the UN.

The State is obliged to involve sport in the public service and provide the maximally effective usage of the relax and educational functions of sport, promote sport as an important

economy segment to be based on a proper institutional foundation, and support sport industry in having the positive impacts on the financial-economic system action.

It is main important usage the sport factor of a positive role in the promotion and integration processes of the civil integrity; the success of the national team or individual athletes unify of different ethnic, gender and religious background giving them a strong sense of unity. Sport has ability to support the integration of ethnic minorities of Georgia in the Georgian society; sport also owns a significant potential for restoring and improving human relations. Regarding the above mentioned solution our country efforts have the main importance in regional standpoints, usage of historical potential in supporting processes of peaceful co-existence policy between Caucasus people.

Considering the main aim in order to resolve the existing problems and improve the circumstances, the detailed annual sport development program and its implementation fundamentals and plan will be developed.

## **Chapter I**

### **Justification of National Sport Policy document necessity**

#### ***1. Description of the current situation***

During the Post-Soviet period the Soviet sports system was collapsed, the ideology on which the Soviet sport was based has disappeared.

No non-agitation, human independence- and honor-based sports concept has been developed in the independent, post-Soviet Georgia, and no free-based sport system has been established that would match this concept. Accordingly, there is no state program for the development of sport. The State support of certain styles of sport includes commonly the fragmental and unsystematic character, being no action undertaken within the framework of unified sport national policy.

The major part of the Soviet-epoch sport infrastructure was destroyed, changed profile, became morally obsolete, or was alienated and left the sport system. Only a minor part of the Soviet-epoch sport infrastructure has retained its functionality. Actually, there is no school and university sport infrastructure. New sport buildings that were built by using of private or state funds are not sufficient to overcome the existing challenges and tasks in modern sport.

By the current situation in the country:

- Based on the healthcare statistic data, incidence rates of non-communicable diseases among the general population have progressively increased, especially among children and adolescents (*constitution disorders, scoliosis, kyphosis, obesity; cardiovascular, cancer and other non-communicable diseases*).
- Rates of physical activity of the population and involvement in a massive sport are low, what is confirmed by the researches data conducted by “Sociological and marketing Research Centre” in summer of 2013. The situation is worsened by the increasing popularity of various non-physical entertaining activities among the youth (computer games, bookmakers, etc.).

According to these circumstances, support of physical activities and education among the general population and especially among the new generation, introduction and establishing of healthy lifestyle principles, promotion of the mass and high-achievement sport, and development of relevant infrastructure become the issues of national importance.

Due to this fact, that the younger generation’s physical education and active involvement in sport make the foundation and the basis on which not only the country’s Olympic, high-achievement and professional sport are built, but also the health of the nation and its reproduction, the country's defense and patriotic spirit.

## **2. *Necessity of sport national policy document***

Article 34 of the Constitution of Georgia establishes the following items:

“In cooperation with educational institutions, sports associations, the State supports the physical development of adolescents and youth and their involvement in sport”.

Regarding these items, our country has signed the bilateral international agreements with some countries. In addition, Georgia is the member state of the International Convention against Doping in Sport. Georgia has also joined the international documentation of the recommendation features (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child Convention) and it has received the recommendations form the International Organizations (United Nations and the World Health Organization (*WHO*)).

The mentioned article of the constitution and undertaken obligations and received international recommendations by the bilateral and international treaties determine the State’s function of creation of institutional fundamentals for the sport national policy implementation and for providing the long-term and planned national policy pursuance in the field of sport, in result will be achieved the goals in in the physical education and sport activities for youth and adolescents.

These obligations cannot be fulfilled through the State’s point-targeted assistance of specific sport styles (which is more likely aimed at survival, or achievement of short-term sporting success) and a non-systemic approach to sport (which leads to ineffective usage of the state funds). Such activities were pointed for the high-achievement sport results, which has negatively affected on the mass sport development, especially for the physical education and sports activities of children and youth. The final result includes the whole country population health worsening and the deteriorated achievements of our country in the international arena. The Olympic, high-achievement and professional sport should be nourished from the source of school, university and mass sport - the more people would be involved at this level, the more athletic results would be achieved.



A systemic approach to sport and the establishment of the state sport development program is required; the state program, which will be based on a unified concept, provides more effective expenditure of public funds and the long-term and systematic institutional development of sport, what will form the basis for fulfilling the above-mentioned constitutional obligation by the State indeed.

Therefore, the Georgian sport needs the systemic reform. This reform should be based on a new-way thinking of sport as of a unified system, multi-dimensional socio-economic phenomena.

The Sport National Policy should become the most important component of the National Policy.

## **Chapter II.**

### **Validity period of Sport National Policy document**

#### *1. National Sport Policy document validity is limited by the specific date*

The Sport National Policy should be implemented through the sport development and long-term action plan. In addition, at each stage of the country development an annual program will be developed to achieve the specific tasks.

Establishment of a the new concept for sport function in the modern Georgian state, creation of the legal basis for the sport system, preparation of educational and training programs and materials, establishment of the legal framework for the sustainable financial-economic fundamentals of the sport system functioning – all this could be made available in the short term, but the creation of the sport infrastructure in the whole country will need a longer-term period.

Implementation of certain parts of the current document, basically, execution of the preparation works will begin immediately after the document approval; 2014 will be the first full calendar year of the Sport National Policy document enactment, at the same time, being, primarily, a preparatory character and is not causing any significant budgetary costs.

Fundamentals of the sport Reform will be set up in 2014, in common the development of sport in accordance with the conceptual provisions of the approved National Policy document.

The process for adding changes and making supplements within the legislation about sport will be completed in 2014 (which does not require additional allocation of budgetary funds).

The National Program on physical education and sport, considered within the joint concept will be developed and prepared in 2014 (educational and training methodic materials, estimation and competition systems), at all three levels of the educational system (pre-school, secondary school and university), which at the transitional phase will enable us to improve the situation existing in our country.

During the first half of 2014, the standard (typical) architectural projects and estimations of costs for a variety of sport complexes should be prepared.

The activities plan for Sport National policy development will also be prepared in 2014, which implementation will be begun from 2015. The expenses considered by the necessary activities plan will be relevant to annual budget.

A detailed list of the activities to be executed, terms of execution and executing subjects will be mentioned in the paragraph for activities plan of the current document, which will be developed by thematic groups during the first half of 2014 and will be presented as an annex.

### **Chapter III.**

#### **Strategic Objectives of National Sports Policy**

##### ***1. Establishment of the unified national system of sport, as the most significant socio-economic phenomena***

Establishment of system for Bringing up a healthy generation, promoting the healthy life style and overcoming bad habits is the most important task.

Sport as of a unified educational system for child and youth health and harmonious development, physical and spiritual training; overcoming the addiction to virtual world life, drug use and alcoholism, replacing the “static style” of life with physically active one.

##### ***2. Physical education and development in pre-school institutions***

Based on physical education and health lifestyle principles establishment children under school ages standards, for support of children health and harmonious development. Establishment of inter tolerant feels. Physical education of the persons with disabilities and children with special needs and support of their adaptation in society.

##### ***3. Support of the mass sport development***

Development of the mass sport will support the physical recreation of population and establishment of health lifestyle in society. The mass sport development means the creation of solid fundamentals for high-achievement sport, what is priority for the country .

In addition, development of the mass sport includes the other positive trends:

##### ***3.1. Crime prevention***

Crime Prevention by proper management of child and youth energy; placement of aggressive behavior among children and youth in the healthy sport channel; filling free time with sport.

##### ***3.2. Disease prevention***

Disease Prevention through the establishment of physical activities and healthy lifestyle; creation of the basis for disease prevention and public health improvement through the mass sport active involvement.

##### ***3.3. Improving of academic performance***

Students physical and mental improvement through the program of sport and physical education, what supports the improvement of students’ academic performance.

##### ***3.4. Patriotic spirit among***

Elevate the country's defense capabilities and the patriotic spirit through the mass sport.

##### ***4. Support of the high-achievement sport development***

4.1 Establishment of a relevant institutional framework for the high-achievement sport (creation of legislation fundamentals, separation of the mass and high-achievement sports, support of the implementation and enhancement of ethical standards);

4.2 Establishment of sustainable financial-economic fundamentals for the high-achievement sports functioning (definition of principles of the direct and indirect funding of the high-achievement sport, the state participation in the infrastructure development, funding of the institutional development-oriented programs, creation of a grant funding system, financial accountability);

4.3 Enhancement (Supporting factors in sport involvement of children and youth and similar aspects) of the high-achievement sport as of a positive social phenomena;

4.4 Support of the high-achievement sport development as of a significant economic segment (the high-achievement sport as one of the most important factor in creation of the country positive image; sport as an stimulator for the sport infrastructure development and production of sport equipment; sport industry as the additional employment space, sport as a contributing factor in the tourism industry development).

### ***5. Keeping and development of the national sport styles***

The national sport styles will be preserved as a cultural heritage, their development will be provided. These objectives will be achieved through the following actions:

5.1 The national sport styles will be declared the non-material cultural monuments;

5.2 Preservation of the national sport styles (Leloburti, Georgian wrestling, Khridoli, Isindi and etc.), as of the non-material cultural monuments and the national system of physical education, body involvement of the traditional national sport styles in the modern sport system, their popularization and development.

### ***6) Identification of the priority sport styles and establish the conditions for their development***

Resources (athletic potential, sport infrastructure and finances) under conditions of limited resources it is necessary to declare the priority of certain sport styles, focusing on their development.

The following criteria present the recognition of the sport priority styles: having the potential to fulfill a social function, the traditional nature, popularity, the development ability, the recognition as Olympic and Paralympics sports, the maximal efficiency of investments, a number of the medals set/best results.

The priority list of the sport styles is established by the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia and approved by the government of Georgia.

It is allowed to make some changes in the priority list of the sport styles periodically.

The State's obligation will be to support the development of the priority sport styles (through the state relevant programs). Public funding of other styles of sport will be allowed only in exceptional cases (appearance of a person with extraordinary talent in a non-priority sport style).

## **Chapter IV. Mainstreams for Sport Development**

### ***1. Development of the mass and High-Achievement Sports***

According to the mass and high-achievement sport functioning specific, the mass and high-achievement sports will be separated at the legislative level. The management relevant systems will be established of the mentioned directions.

### ***1.1 Mass and high-achievement sport***

The Sport National Policy implementations provides:

- Accessibility of the mass sport;
- Finding of children with sport talent and their carrier promotion;
- Development of joint standards.

The mass sport includes the following general directions:

- Physical education of under school aged adults;
- School sport;
- University sport;
- Sport for persons with disabilities;
- Sport for persons in the penitentiary;
- Sport according to the professional interests.

Georgian government will develop and confirm the following items for mass sport improvement:

- School sport development strategy;
- University sport development strategy;
- The relevant standards for the mas sport development.

The obligatory programs will be established for physical education by the secondary, professional and high educational program.

The mass sport must be generally organized through sport clubs and sport schools in the future.

The participation in the trainings and the competitions will be supported by the State at the educational institutions (schools, higher and professional educational institutions, local sport schools). The private funding will also be allowed. The private funding supporting model will be created.

The sport clubs will be established for creation of sport infrastructure and financial support fundamentals step by step.

### ***1.2 High-achievement sport system***

The high-achievement sport is the mass (school and students) sport development strong incentive and at the same time one of the economic segments, which could obtain the internal development financial-economic resources during exact institutional arrangement and in the support condition.

The high achievement sport, as adults and youth involvement in sport, establishment of health lifestyle strong incentive, support of Sport National Policy is the one of the general direction. The following supporting and encouraging general directions for the high-achievement sport development are listed below:

- Creation of the infrastructure according to the relevant standards for the high-achievement sport, funding/contribution of expenses for its care;
- Funding (for special purpose) of sport priority styles by the National Federation Program;
- Creation of sport clubs funding grant system and functionality;

- Support of involvement in sport clubs international competitions.

The National Federations of the relevant sport styles manage the high-achievement sport completely or independently.

The sport clubs and associations present the high-achievement sport general structures. The sport clubs status receiving legislation fundamentals and procedures, sport clubs action standards (manage structure, minimal financial normative and etc.) will be established.

## ***2. Sports education system***

The modern sport education system will be created, which will serve both the mass and the high-achievement sport.

The sport education system includes educational and scientific research institutions in the field of sports, the institutes for coaches training, retraining and advanced training.

The sports education system provides:

- Qualified and skilled staff in sport;
- The fundamentals and researches of scientific advances for the mass and high-achievement sport development.

### ***2.1. Physical education and sport state university***

Physical education and sport state university is the higher educational institution, which provides the high academic education three levels and presents the adviser of the state in sport development strategy and Sport National Policy issues.

The activities of physical education and sport state university meet all standards of European sport High education and include the following four general directions:

- Sport training mean;
- Sport management;
- Physical education;
- Health and fitness.

Within these directions university prepares the following competent specialists:

Coaches, sport managers, sport safety specialists, sport international law specialists, physical trainers, physical education specialist, sport media, health and fitness specialists, scientific researches specialists, specialist of sport problematic analysis and specialists for strategically development. Physical

Physical education and sport state university also provides activities in direction of permanent sport education and development, promotes the prepared staff.

### ***2.2. Sport faculty in the educational institutions***

Sport faculty will be created according to the relevant educational program in public high educational institutions (staff preparing, regarding sport infrastructure and funding), which will be authorized and will train the physical education trainers for schools and also coaches for various styles of sport. The state will ensure creation and development of sports medicine faculty at the State Medical University, which will educate sports doctors. Physical medicine and rehabilitation faculty trains the physical medicine and rehabilitation bachelors. The state provides the sport medicine development, establishes sport medicine regional centers and municipal departments, joint with the National federation of sport relevant styles creates training and –sport competitions participants medical safety and service system.

### ***2.3. National Curricula***

National curricula will be established by sport direction (sport courses for preschool, higher educational and secondary institutions). Plans will be implemented in accordance with appropriate infrastructure.

#### **2.4. Coach training system**

Coach training system will provide training for general profile sports teachers and professional coaches.

Sport teachers will be eligible to work at sport clubs at schools and universities. If relevant conditions are met, sport teachers will also be able to get professional coach licenses/categories from different national federations.

Professional development courses will be established on the basis of Georgian State University of Sport and Physical Training, which will be obligatory for sport teachers.

Professional coaches are trained by the relevant national sport federations and appropriate license/category will be issued.

Certified sport teachers who will have license in respective category, issued by relevant sport federation, will be eligible to work as children's coach at municipal and regional sport clubs.

Licensing system for the professional coaches must comply with international standards.

Coaches for professional sport clubs are trained by the relevant sport federations. The state supports the professional coach training program by funding programs.

### **3. Sport Infrastructure**

Sport infrastructure is a material base of sport system, without which it will be impossible to achieve strategic objectives of the national policy.

Under the norm the article 34<sup>th</sup> of the Georgian Constitution the state is obliged to establish and develop the sport infrastructure with the state funds; meanwhile this commitment does not exclude involvement of non-governmental sector in creating sport infrastructure.

By current condition, the most part of soviet-epoch infrastructure is destroyed; the remaining part needs to be reconstructed, or does not meet quantitative and qualitative requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to upgrade remnant facilities and build new sport infrastructure.

Fulfillment of constitutional liabilities (involving young people in sport) is greatly depended on rising young professionals, as a powerful stimulus for successful functioning of sport. Moreover, international success of national and underage teams increases popularity of sport among children and youth and thus promotes greater involvement of youth in sport. Consequently, state funded infrastructure should be available for professional athletes and clubs as well.

Financial support for creation, development and maintenance of sport infrastructure will only be effective if funding (including private sector co-financing) is carried out within permanent national program, as it will be based on reasonable concept with definite goals and definite mechanisms for achieving them, as well as defined milestones and other program components. Otherwise funding will be one-timer and barren, or at best slightly profitable (relatively disproportionate)

Therefore, the sport infrastructure shall be established and developed within the framework of unified national policy. National policy action plan should be operational not on a long term, but on a permanent basis since the objective of promotion of healthy lifestyle among the new generation will be longstanding goal of the state's existence.

Financial fundamentals for creation and care of sport infrastructure, as well as the legal basis for attracting private investments will be developed. Norms to consider commercial functional classification on the obligatory fundamentals in sport infrastructure will be set force. Sport component (existence of minimal sport infrastructure and sport educational programs) will be considered in the obligatory preconditions to get the authorization and accreditation of public and private education institutions.

Within the Sport National Policy the sport infrastructure standards and development action plan will be elaborated by the following directions:

- Sport infrastructure at schools;
- Sport infrastructure at universities;
- Municipal sport infrastructure;
- National sport infrastructure.

Sport infrastructure development at all level also includes sport tourism development, which supports tourists bringing to the regions and mass sport improvement. Sport tourism is the most popular in mountainous regions, corresponding the state will care for improvement of sport infrastructure in the mountainous resorts in Georgia, what is the best support for skiing sport and also for involvement of local inhabitants in sport/physical activities, physical recreation, employ, development of small business and tourism.

#### **4. Sustainable financial-economic basis for the development of sport**

Creation of sustainable financial-economic fundamentals for the sport development is a necessary precondition for the successful implementation of the national policy in sport.

For these purposes, the State ensures:

- 4.1 Development of favorable environment for the private sector investments in the field of sport;
- 4.2 Determination of the sustainable budget principles for mass sport;
- 4.3 Introduction of objective criteria for stable direct and indirect financing of high achievements sport fields;
- 4.4 Establishment of grant financing system supporting the institutional development.
- 4.5 Initiate of legislation changes in purpose of funding increase and getting more investments in the sport field.

The State will finance the programs of national federations of prioritized sport fields and the other sport federation competition calendar, for which the relevant criteria and standards will be developed.

According to the legislation on local self-government, appropriating the budgetary resources for the financing of sport activities (establishment and development of municipal sport infrastructure and their maintenance, financing of municipal sport clubs and mass sport competitions) will become mandatory. Objective criteria for the allocation of funds will be determined, including the legal basis to subsidy the sport clubs.

#### **5. Competition systems for mass and high performance/achievements sports competition systems**

Competition system is comprised by the mass and high performance/achievement sport competitions sub-systems, what means participating in local and international level tournaments and organize them. Competitive systems in combination creates a solid foundation for the development of sport, which ultimately affects the healthy upbringing of generations and high sports results .

#### **5.1 Mass-sport competition system**

- Internal competitions schools, as well as the system for competition among the schools and sport schools in the education system;
- Competition system for sport teams of universities;
- Sport competition system for the people with disabilities;
- Mass sports competitions;
- Youth leagues (municipal sport clubs, regional sport clubs, professional clubs of different ages categories will participate in it).

Regulations for the abovementioned competitions are being elaborated, which will be jointly approved by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Sport Federations.

#### **5.2 High performance/achievement sport competition system**

High performance/achievement sport competition system is an exclusive competence of the national sport federations. Institutional basis (legal, material, financial) for state support will be elaborated.

#### **5.3 International club tournaments**

According to the objective criteria the state support fundamentals will be determined for sport games styles participation in the international tournaments of sport games.

#### **5.4 International group and individual competitions**

Objective criteria and state support measures, as well as relevant institutional basis will be determined for the participation of Georgian national teams (group and individual sports) in the international games and individual competitions.

#### **5.5 Olympic games**

The competitive system will be established for sport national styles (sport national styles festivals).

#### **5.6 National sports competition system**

Competition system in the national sports will be established (national sport festivals)

### **6. Sport Management System**

Management of sport is the competence of Parliament of Georgia and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, but the local self-governing organs and carious ministries will be involved within their competence for sport popularization and improvement.

#### **6.1 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

6.1.1. The international unions and international relations development support ins sport filed;

6.1.2. Support of the national groups and sport clubs for participation in the international sport competitions;

6.1.3. Conduction of the relevant procedures and coordination for signing bilateral and international agreements in sport filed.

#### **6.2 The Ministry of Justice**



- 6.2.1. Supporting improvement and development of the normative base in the sports;
- 6.2.2. Harmonization of the sports-related Georgian legislation with the relevant EU legislation and with the international legislation.

**6.3 The Ministry of Education and Science**

- 6.3.1. Support and popularization of the healthy life style;
- 6.3.2. Sports teacher training and professional development;
- 6.3.3. Financial support for the organization of sports competitions at the secondary and professional educational institutions;
- 6.3.4. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in sport and in this way to prepare for their society integration;
- 6.3.5. Sport higher secondary education and sports development and implementation of national programs;
- 6.3.6. Support of scientific research in the field of sport;
- 6.3.7. Improvement of the legal framework in the field of sport education and development;

**6.4 Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Affairs**

- 6.4.1. In purpose of prevention of non-communicable disease, establishment of healthy lifestyle for sport and physical actions popularization programs development and realization;
- 6.4.2. Support the involvement of persons with disabilities in sport and by this way their social integration;
- 6.4.3. Supporting the sports medicine development;
- 6.4.4. Supporting the improvement and development of the normative base of sports sector.

**6.5 The Ministry of Internal Affairs**

- 6.5.1. Involve of sports in the special training system for the employees of the ministries of internal affairs;
- 6.5.2. Promotion and popularization of the healthy life style;
- 6.5.3. Organization of institutional amateur's clubs and participation in sports festivals/competitions.

**6.6 The Ministry of Defense**

- 6.6.1. Inclusion of sports in the special training system for the employees of the ministry of defense;
- 6.6.2. Promotion and popularization of the healthy life style;
- 6.6.3. Organization of institutional amateur's clubs and participation in sports festivals/competitions.

**6.7 The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia**

- 6.7.1. Demonstrate sports as a cultural phenomenon, demonstration of the national sports traditions and values both within the country and abroad;
- 6.7.2. Presentation of cultural programs at large international sports forums (Olympic Games, world championships, European championships, universiades, etc.).
- 6.7.3. Popularization of national sports, granting them the status of the nonmaterial monument, restoration of relevant historical events, supporting organization of festivals and competitions, especially in the regions.

**6.8 The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development**

6.8.1 support of sport infrastructure development (sport component obligatory consideration during urban development process, sport functions priorities during alienating of lands, buildings or giving permit on temporal usage, which belongs to the state property);

6.8.2. Usage and the relevant programs development and realization for sport as a tourism supporting component and phenomena at the biggest international sport forums (Olympic games, the world Championships, the Europe Championships, Universiade and ets) planning of the relevant measures and then further implementation.

**6.9 The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees**

6.9.1. Support of healthy lifestyles promotion;

6.9.2. Support of the various social, national and ethnic groups integration through the Sport;

6.9.3. Support of internally displaced persons psycho - emotional rehabilitation, re-socialization and integration through sport

**6.10 The Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance**

a) Supporting and popularization of the healthy life style;

b) Ensuring involvement of inmates (including juvenile prisoners) in the sports and supporting their re-socialization.

**6.11 Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources**

6.11.1. Supporting a healthy lifestyle and promote a variety of target groups;

6.11.2. Recreational zones (including protected areas), at the special places, supporting cycling and other relevant sporting activities in purpose of eco-tourism development;

6.11.3. The cooperation of all departments and sports events in the planning process, the relevant recommendations in the field of environmental protection.

**6.12. Apparatus of the State Ministry for Reintegration into the Ministry of Reconciliation and Civil Equality**

6.12.1. Supporting and popularization of the healthy life style

6.12.2. Promotion of the integration of different social, national and ethnic groups of population by means of sports.

**6.13 The Office of the State Minister for Integration in European and Euro-Atlantic structures**

6.13.1. Harmonization of the Georgian legislation on sports with the relevant EU and international legislation.

**6.14 The Office of the State Minister for Diaspora Issues**

6.14.1. Integration of Georgians living abroad and being amateur or professional sportsmen into the Georgian sports system.

**6.15 The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure**

6.15.1 Coordination of building the sports infrastructure The main function of the local self-governance institutions will be the creation and maintenance of the sports

infrastructure within the municipality, participation and funding of children's sports competitions, funding children's municipal sports clubs.

#### ***7. Georgian National Olympic Committee***

The role of the Georgian National Olympic Committee (GNOC) will be increased. The GNOC will become the main advisor in the field of sports for the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia. The legal grounds will be created for the GNOC budget formation (indirect budget funding) and the principles of the sports funding through GNOC.

#### ***8. Sport Styles National Federations***

By respecting the independence of national sports federations and following the principle of non-intervention in their affairs, the State will assist to fulfillment of their most important social functions through the program funding and other mechanisms of promoting the institutional development.

#### ***9. Georgian National Paralympic Committee***

Georgian National Paralympic Committee is responsible for Paralympic movement development in Georgia. It leads the Paralympic sport styles development in country borders, coordinates and arranges participation of Georgian athletes recognized by the Paralympic Games and the international Paralympic committee. The Paralympic committee, in purpose of Paralympic movement development will be supported by the State.

#### ***10. Fundamentals of Sport Popularization.***

It is the main important to support the sport popularization by mass media, for this reason it is necessary to waste time for sport news programs by various news channels also for popularization of health lifestyle, mass and high-achievement sports and prepare the several sport shows/talk shows.

Also it is important to establish the calendar mass sport measures celebration tradition in the country, within this mentioned activity the sport several events will be implemented and the Georgia sport traditions will be demonstrated.

## **Chapter V.**

### **Expected Results of Enactment and Implementation of Sport National Policy Document**

#### ***1. The expected results In the field of health, education and public order***

Strengthening of the schoolchildren's educational discipline, increased academic achievements, improvement of the criminogenic situation, improvement of the population health, improvement of the disease prevention, and decrease of the public health expenses.

#### ***2. High achievement and mass sports results***

As a result of the policy implementation, it is expected that: sustainable institutional foundation will be created for the high achievement sport, the material base will be created, the success of professional sports clubs and national teams will be increased at the international level, the interest of business sector will be increased towards the high achievement sports, the image of Georgia as a successful country in sports will be created and the marketing interest towards the country will be increased.

### ***3. Financial-economic results***

Within the frames of policy implementation, the additional long-term jobs will be created in the field of service and commodity production, in the construction segment, industry sector (production of individual components for the sports infrastructure, e.g. chairs for the stadium, furniture, etc.), production of sports items (e.g. sports uniforms).