

Strategic Plan for the Development of the Slovak Olympic Academy

Challenges, Opportunities, Solutions for 2030

Background

The Slovak Olympic Academy (hereinafter referred to as SOA) is an organisational unit of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee (hereinafter referred to as SOSC) without legal status. The establishment and actions of the SOA result from the Statutes of the SOSC.

Activities of the SOA are designed in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the Programme of the International Olympic Academy (hereinafter referred to as IOA), the European Olympic Academies (hereinafter referred to as EOA), and the Statutes of the SOSC, its organisational structure and the Organizational Rules and Regulations of the SOA. It has a nationwide scope and its seat is the SOSC.

The aim of the presented strategic plan for the development of the SOA, with a sub-title Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions for 2030, is to present a new vision, mission and objectives of the SOA. The material names the SOA values and the target group for which the SOA activities are intended. It defines stakeholders, human resource management, institutional regulations and organisational structure. It determines the time horizon of each activity and the possibilities for financing them. Finally, it addresses current challenges, opportunities and presents a set of solutions to achieve them.

The submitted strategic plan is annexed by the updated Organizational Rules and Regulations of the SOA, the SOA organisational structure and the application form for becoming an SOA member, SOA lecturer and SOA volunteer.

Vision

The vision of the Slovak Olympic Academy is founded upon the goal of becoming a recognized and respected leader in the field of Olympism, not only in Slovakia, but also internationally. More specifically, the SOA strives to be one of the most prestigious and effective Olympic academies in the world.

Mission and objectives

The mission of the SOA is two-fold: promote Olympism to achieve the objectives of the Olympic movement and provide Olympic and sports education within the Slovak Republic.

In particular, the SOA achieves the following objectives through its activities:

- assists the SOSC in the development of Olympism and sport in the territory of the Slovak Republic;
- upholds and protects Slovakia's Olympic heritage;
- explains, promotes and implements Olympic principles and ideas as formulated by the Olympic Charter and other documents of the Olympic movement;

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- as part of its own events, the SOA provides Olympic education as a specific pedagogical process carried out in its own forms, methods and means;
- acts on and influences public authorities in order to make Olympic education part of the general education and educational process of children and youth,
- participates in the training of members of the sporting and Olympic movement in its own forms, methods and means;
- assists in the education and career training of athletes after their active sporting activity has ceased;
- organises national and international events, seminars, conferences, symposia, etc. with Olympic and sporting themes upon mandate of the SOSC;
- participates in the preparation and publication of information, publications, monographs, films, etc. with Olympic and sporting themes, history of sport and Olympism, textbooks of Olympic education, etc.
- promotes the interaction of sport, Olympism, arts, culture and education;
- organises art competitions, exhibitions and other cultural events with sports and Olympic themes.

Values

The SOA believes that sport and the values of Olympism play a key role in creating opportunities. To this end, it supports education and disseminates the fundamental values of Olympism: friendship, respect, and excellence.

The SOA, through its wide-ranging activities, champions the values of sport, such as respect for others, fair play, joy found in effort, satisfaction derived from hard work, and dedication, tolerance, equal opportunities, team spirit and the like. The SOA through all of its activities promotes mutual respect, human rights, and social inclusion through sporting values.

SOA logo

The SOA logo is designed and approved by the SOSC and complies with conditions determined by the International Olympic Committee (hereinafter referred to as the IOC).

Target group

The target group of the SOA are members of the Slovak Olympic and Sport Committee as well as national sports federations inclusive of athletes, sports professionals, officials, educators, pupils and students, and the sporting public.

Stakeholders

The SOA cooperates closely in achieving its tasks with

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- the members, departments, units and expert committees of the SOSOC;
- the universities and faculties that prepare coaches and physical education teachers;
- the media, mass communication bodies, other sports, civic and public institutions, educational, scientific and cultural establishments and entities in the dissemination and promotion of Olympism;
- the IOA and the EOA, builds on their activities, programme and tasks, participates in their activities, events and meetings;
- the national Olympic academies of other countries;
- other bodies active in sport and Olympism.

Human Resources

Achieving the presented vision, mission and objectives of the SOA requires experienced and motivated experts, who are able to communicate, help and inspire each other openly. Quality human resources and their effective coordination are therefore a key aspect in the activities of the SOA.

The SOA staff is represented by its members, a specialised lecturers corps and volunteers. A high level of knowledge, skills and competences of all human resources is an essential prerequisite for the successful achievement of the tasks set out.

SOA membership

Any citizen of the Slovak Republic who is interested in actively participating in the structure of the SOA can become a member of the SOA. He or she contributes to the fulfilment of its tasks, mission and objectives. Membership is voluntary, without any right to remuneration or financial compensation. It is not limited in time and the member may terminate the membership voluntarily and at any time.

SOA Members

Membership of the SOA may be individual or collective. Admission to be a member of the SOA shall be decided by the SOA Board. By signing the application form, the member of the SOA expresses his/her agreement with the Organizational Rules and Regulations of the SOA, its mission and objectives and pledges to actively participate in their fulfilment.

SOA Specialised Lecturers Corps

In order to achieve its tasks in the field of Olympic education and training, the SOA creates a specialised lecturers corps. Membership in the specialised lecturers corps is voluntary. The conditions for admission as a lecturer of the SOA shall be approved by the SOA Board. Members of the SOA specialised lecturers corps receive a lecturer's certificate after fulfilling

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these conditions, which entitles them to lead specialized education in the field of Olympism and related issues.

SOA Volunteers

Volunteers who are not members of the SOA may also participate in the activities of the SOA. They participate, for example, in the preparation of educational activities, especially at national and international level.

Institutional regulations and organisational structure

The SOA is an organisational unit of the SOSC without legal status. The establishment and actions of the SOA results from the statutes of the SOSC. The SOA bodies consist of a Conference, Board and Chairperson.

The SOA Conference is the supreme body of the SOA. As a rule, it takes place once per Olympic cycle and is organised upon a decision of the SOA Board. The SOA Conference approves the programme of actions for the Olympic cycle and its evaluation.

As a rule, the SOA Board meets four times a year and governs the activities of the SOA between Conferences. The SOA Board consists of

- Chairperson of the SOA (hereinafter referred to as Chair)
- Vice-Chair of the SOA
- President the SOSC ad hoc
- Honorary President of the SOSC ad hoc
- SOA Working Parties Coordinators

SOA Board

- approves SOA members, lecturers and volunteers, the SOA action plan for the calendar year, the composition and action plans of each SOA Working Party, the evaluation of the SOA's activities for the calendar year and proposes a budget for the implementation of the SOA activities;
- proposes members of the sports and Olympic movement, as well as students and school educators, for sessions related to the activities of the SOA, for the representation and active participation of the SOA in events abroad, etc.;
- proposes members of the sports and Olympic movement for the annual awards and honours of the SOSC, IOC, MOA and EOA.

The Chair of the SOA is appointed by the Executive Board of the SOSC and is responsible for the activities of the SOA. It convenes and conducts meetings of the Board, submits for approval

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of the Executive Board of the SOSC a draft of a strategic plan for the development of the SOA and a budget for the implementation of the activities of the SOA. The Chair of the SOA is a member of the Commission for the Development of Olympism of the SOSC.

The Vice-Chair of the SOA is appointed by the Executive Board of the SOSC and, if necessary, represents the Chair of the SOA to the specified extent. He or she is responsible for an ad hoc agenda not explicitly included in the SOA Working Party plans.

The President of the SOSC and the Honorary President of the SOSC participate in the activities of the SOA within the scope of their competences and attend meetings of its bodies when needed.

The SOA has five Working Parties through which it achieves its objectives and delivers its tasks. Working Parties operate in the following areas:

1. Working Party on Olympic and Sport Education,
2. Working Party on the Promotion of Olympic and Sports Heritage,
3. Working Party on Documentary Information and Publishing Activities,
4. Working Party on Culture and Sport,
5. Working Party on Development, Innovation, Communication and Cooperation.

Each Working Party has its own Coordinator, who is responsible for the relevant activities in each area and ensures, in cooperation with the Chair of the SOA, that there is no duplication of tasks with other departments and units of the SOSC.

Membership in the Working Party is voluntary. The Coordinators of the SOA Working Parties are appointed by the Executive Board of the SOSC.

Time horizon

The strategic plan is drawn up with a vision for 2030, capturing the period of 2021 and the two subsequent Olympic cycles.

The main outputs of the SOA are drawn up after the end of each Olympic cycle and presented to the sports public within the framework of events organized by the SOSC.

Finance

The activities of the SOA are funded from the SOSC budget. The Slovak Olympic Marketing, a. s. (hereinafter referred to as SOM, a. s.), the SOSC Foundation and other resources of the SOSC also contributes financially to certain tasks of the SOA.

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Regarding international projects covered by other entities, such as the European Commission or the International Visegrad Fund, should the SOA participate in any of them, the approved project activities are funded in accordance with the submitted budget to relevant entities.

Challenges

The promotion of Olympism is constantly confronted with new trends and challenges. The main challenge of the SOA's activities is the targeted use of current trends of the IOC, the EOC, the IOA, EOA, policies of the European Union and the outcomes of the Council of Ministers responsible for sport of the EU in favour of the development of Olympism.

At present, for example, it is about using the intergenerational aspects of sport in promoting Olympism towards the general public, highlighting it in educational activities, developing the topic of sporting values, sports diplomacy and sports management in connection with dual careers of athletes.

A possible solution for SOA is the use of modular education for related areas such as presentation and negotiating skills, communication training, management, marketing, geopolitical aspects of sport, etc.

In the current pandemic situation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is appropriate to use online education, which is implemented, for example, through webinars, the creation of a transnational virtual interactive portal for the dissemination of sporting values to the general public, or the development of a sports-knowledge online competition to test the knowledge on Olympism and the physical fitness of the general public.

The current challenge is the creation of a unified structure of SOA presentations to promote its activities and translate key SOA documents into English and French in order to develop international cooperation projects in the field of Olympism.

Other recent challenges are the dissemination of awareness of Olympic education through social networks, the assurance of regular information on the activities of the SOA to the media, for an online newsletter and the magazine Olympic.sk.

In the long term, other activities, such as the creation of regional training and documentation centres within Olympic clubs can also be considered as challenges for the SOA.

Opportunities

Several of these challenges are already directly implemented within the framework of current activities of the SOA, such as the use of the summer EYOF in Banská Bystrica 2022 to support and disseminate Olympic education in school curricula, among athletes, sports officials, educators, and towards the general public.

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One of the current activities of the SOSC, which are directly related to Olympic education and training, is the OVEP programme at national level and ensuring the active participation of Slovakia in related activities abroad. The further development of the OVEP programme is an ideal opportunity for the activity of the SOA in the coming period.

To improve the activities of the SOA in the future, there are also several other opportunities, such as involving representatives of SOAs participating in events abroad, in further work for the development of Olympism in Slovakia. In this context, it is appropriate, for example, to make the selection process of representatives for meetings of young participants in Olympia based on a specific project for the development of Olympism in the future.

It is also possible to use important international sporting events in Slovakia to spread Olympism and Olympic and sports education, or to organize events with Olympic issues of a similar scope to those of the postgraduate study programme of sports management MEMOS in Slovakia.

From the point of view of material and technical assurance, it is also advisable to use the potential of the Olympic training centre x-bionic® sphere in Šamorín for the organization of national and international educational activities of the SOA.

In promoting Olympic and sporting heritage, it is natural to develop cooperation with the Slovak Olympic and Sports Museum and with the relevant SOSC commissions.

In the framework of documentary and information and edition activities, it is desirable to create a space for individual consultation and advice, to focus on the use of scientific and research activities of higher education institutions in application practice. In addition, it is desirable to promote the activities of the Centre of Olympic Studies in Lausanne focused on various topics such as the presentation of the Olympic World Library, its collections and some special resources, optimization of search within this library, guide to creating its own account, receiving alerts on new editions, etc.

In the light of the above, it is possible to promote the activities of the Olympic World Library in Slovakia, through which users can consult its unique library fund with more than 36,000 titles and have direct access to more than 10,500 documents in digital format, as well as regularly inform about the addition of the Olympic World Library. By way of illustration, there are around 1,500-2,000 new titles in the collection each year.

In conclusion, we draw attention to the possibilities of inserting a search panel related to the Olympic World Library directly on the websites of sports institutions, which gives users the possibility to access this library directly from the Slovak websites and thus take advantage of the dissemination of ideas of Olympism in application practice.

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Solutions and tasks

In order to achieve the above-mentioned challenges and put them into practice, we present a set of solutions and tasks that are developed in three timeframes - short, medium and long term.

Short-term timeframe

The short-term framework presents tasks for 2021. Their implementation is the responsibility of the SOA Board and their evaluation will be submitted for approval by the SOSV. They are divided into five areas on which the SOA's activities are primarily targeted.

The tasks are assured by the members of the SOA in cooperation with the employees of the Department of Olympism within the SOSV. In the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the SOA's activities are organised as a rule online and the tasks submitted can be modified depending on current measures.

1) Olympic education and training

- promoting the dissemination of Olympic values through webinars related to the OVEP programme at national level and ensuring Slovakia's active participation in related activities abroad;
- gradual establishment of a specialised lecturers corps, development of admission conditions as an SOA lecturer and creation of a database of SOA members, lecturers, volunteers and participants in educational activities,
- the use of intergenerational aspects of sport in promoting Olympism to the general public and themes of sporting values, sports diplomacy and sports management in connection with dual careers of athletes;
- elaboration of new SOA training programmes in the form of modular education for related areas such as presentation and negotiation skills, communication training, management, marketing, geopolitical aspects of sport, etc.

2) Promotion of Olympic and Sports Heritage

- promotion of Olympic principles as formulated by the Olympic Charter and other documents of the Olympic movement;
- methodological guidance of Olympic education in sports curricula, especially in sports schools and schools with sports classes;
- use of scientific and research activities of higher education institutions in application practice;
- cooperation with higher education institutions, in particular the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of Comenius University in Bratislava and the Faculty of Sport of

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Prešov University in Prešov, in the preparation of sports experts in the field of Olympism;

- cooperation with Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany in the preparation of students and educators representing the Slovak Republic at the International Youth Forum of Pierra de Coubertin schools.

3) Documentary information and publishing activities

- promotion of the activities of the Centre of Olympic Studies in Lausanne, the presentation of the Olympic World Library, its collections and some special resources of the sports professional public in Slovakia;
- creating space for individual consultations and advice on Olympians;
- dissemination of awareness of Olympic education through social networks;
- providing regular information on the activities of the SOA for the Olympic.sk;
- promotion of Slovakia's Olympic heritage by preparing podcasts, using, for example, the Slovak Radio archives on the history of sport.

4) Culture and Sport

- promoting the interaction of sport, Olympism, arts, culture and education;
- organisation of artistic competitions, exhibitions and other cultural events with sports and Olympic themes;
- announcement of an art competition of amateurs from sport on the opening of the House of Sport in Bratislava;
- use of the summer EYOF 2022 in Banská Bystrica for the organization of cultural and educational events in the field of Olympism and in the dissemination of sporting values.

5) Development, Innovation, Communication and Cooperation

- initiating further cooperation with sports, educational and cultural institutions, preparing documents relating to new forms of cooperation, for example by means of a Memorandum of understanding and cooperation in the field of education and training;
- the establishment of a unified structure of SOA presentations to promote its activities;
- initiating communication with the IOA, the IOA, national Olympic academies of other countries and other entities in order to increase international cooperation in the field of Olympism;
- translation of key SOA documents into English and French with a view to developing international cooperation projects in the field of Olympism;
- development of international Erasmus+ projects for the call launched in 2021.

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Medium-term timeframe

The medium-term framework captures the period from 2022 to 2024. It presents general tasks that will be specified in the action plans for the coming years after the evaluation of 2021. The evaluation of the medium-term framework will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board of the SOSC at the end of the Olympic cycle.

The tasks presented under the medium-term timeframe are as follows:

- establishing new partnerships with organisations active in the fields of sport, education and culture;
- active participation of the SOA in sports training of athletes in support of dual careers of athletes;
- streamlining and expanding cooperation with school sports entities;
- updating the sport-knowledge online competition to test knowledge of Olympism as well as the physical fitness of the general public;
- the creation of a transnational virtual interactive portal for the dissemination of sporting values to the general public;
- expanding international cooperation in the field of Olympic and sports education, capitalising on IOC, MOA, EOC, European Commission, etc. projects and programmes;
- creating international projects for SOA training activities, as well as modules developed in English and French;
- creating specific language learning related to Olympism, for example in the field of sports terminology;
- organisation of SOA educational activities as a priority following SOSC events;
- requiring, as far as possible, the active participation of selected Slovak representatives in all international activities, such as IOA, EOA, postgraduate research programmes on sport, education and culture, MEMOS educational programme, etc.

Long-term framework

The long-term framework defines how to ensure the vision of the SOA until 2030, which is related to the ambition of the SOA to be a recognized authority operating in the field of Olympism in Slovakia, with international respect and a high reputation.

It builds on the SOA's vision to be one of the most prestigious and efficient Olympic academies in the world. The aim in this timeframe is to:

- actively capitalise on IOC, EOA, MOA, EOA programmes to promote Olympians and develop Olympic education;

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- to facilitate access of the general public to Olympic education and training, to promote the participation of the entire population of Slovakia in sport and health-enhancing physical activities;
- involve as many athletes, coaches, sports officials, educators as possible, alongside with the sports public and the general public in the activities of the SOA;
- ensure sustainable diversified financial resources for the activities of the SOA, in particular by participating in international projects covered by other entities, such as the European Commission or the International Visegrad Fund;
- provide high expertise in the promotion of Olympism and the development of Olympic and sports education through a specialised lecturers corps;
- ensure active international cooperation with various stakeholders;
- make effective use of European Union funds, in particular Erasmus+;
- take advantage of new trends and challenges in promoting Olympism in all areas, including social networks.

The evaluation of the long-term timeframe will provide the basis for the preparation of new SOA strategy papers for the next period.

Conclusions

The submitted Strategic Plan for the Development of the SOA is based on the documents of the SOSC, the EOC and the IOC, in particular the Olympic Agenda 2020. It reflects 5 key trends and 15 recommendations of the IOC's new Strategic Plan 'Olympic Programme 2020+5'.

It also stemmed from the activities of the IOA, EOA and current European Union policies in the field of sport, on publicly accessible studies, information from the European Commission and on outputs from the Council of Ministers responsible for sport concerning individual presidencies in the Council of the European Union in order to emphasize the specificities of the region where Slovakia belongs to.

The strategic plan is submitted for approval of the Executive Committee of the SOSC by the Director of the Department of Olympism within the SOSC and Chair of the SOA. The honorary President of the SOSC, employees of the Department of Olympism within the SOSC and the contacted members of the SOA contributed significantly to the preparation of the submitted material. The strategic plan is a framework document to be followed up by specific action plans for individual areas with timeline, human resources management and funding.

Annex:

Organisational structure of the SOA

Organizational Rules and Regulations of the SOA

Application form for a SOA member

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Application form for a SOA lecturer
Application form for a SOA volunteer

Bratislava, 23 March 2021