Sport in Kosovo
Struggle for Recognition

Agim Islami
Note: Serbia and Montenegro have asserted the formation of a joint independent state, but this entity has not been formally recognized as a state by the United States. Boundaries are not necessarily authoritative.
General Info

- Kosova is a small country
- Approx. 2.3 mil. Inhabitants in 10.887 km²
- Over 50% of the population are U-30yr.
- Ethnic Groups
  - Albanian 92%
  - Other 8%
- Currency: Euro (€)
Independent State since February 17th, 2008

To date, 60 countries recognized Kosova
Kosova - Building State Institutions Timeline (Countries/Week)

- Recognition
- Declaration of Independence
- Ratification of the Constitution
- National Anthem Adopted
- Constitution into Force
- Passports Issuance
- Kosovo Security Force Recruitment
- Kosovo Intelligence Agency (KIA) Launched
- Kosovo Security Council Founded

[03 Jun 2009, 12:00 CEST]
European Union (EU)
Recognized by 22 out of 27 (81.5%) members

18.5%  81.5%
Council of Europe (COE)
Recognized by 33 out of 47 (70.2%) members

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G8
Recognized by 7 out of 8 (87.5%) members
12.5%  87.5%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Recognized by 24 out of 28 (85.7%) members

14.3% 85.7%
United Nations (UN)
Recognized by 60 out of 192 (31.3%) members

68.7%  31.3%
Organization for Sec. and Co-op in Europe (OSCE)
Recognized by 35 out of 56 (62.5%) members

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Organisation of The Islamic Conference (OIC)
Recognized by 13 out of 57 (22.8%) members

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Arab League
Recognized by 4 out of 22 (18.2%) members

18.2%

81.8%
State Faculty of Physical Education and Sports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors</td>
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<td>Assistants</td>
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<td>External teachers</td>
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<td>Admissions</td>
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Since 1979
Private Faculty of Sports
Sports hall in Prishtina
Around 120 Private Indoor Sports Facilities exist in Kosovo
Coaches

- 401 coaches
- 368 males
- 33 females
Federations

- 19 licensed federations
- 29,708 male athletes
- 5,937 female athletes
- Annual Budget €1,661,384 (2007)
15 Clubs and 400 athletes
### Minorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation</th>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Cadastral Zone</th>
<th>Name of the Club</th>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
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“The Kosova Serb Basketball club “Bambi” gained entry into Kosovo Sper League and competed with top Albanian clubs in the 2006/07 season. Its Kosovo Serb Manager is also the Vice President of the Basketball Federation of Kosova.”
Kosovo Olympic Committee (KOC)

- The main sport body
- Not recognized by IOC
- Paralympics and Special Olympics
  - “Kosova athletes took part in the Special Olympics in 2003 (Dublin) and in 2007 (Shanghai). A body known as Special Olympics Kosova has been established to provide support for these athletes.
  - Kosova athletes participated in the IVth World Sports Games for Little People, Rambouillet, France in 2005”
Anti-Doping

- Since 5 November 2004, KOC is the member of ANADO
- Anti-Doping Code shall be translated in Albanian language
- German Anti-Doping representatives are offering assistance to establish the Kosova NADO structures
Football

Facilities

• One Olympic Size Football Pitch (23 000 viewers)
• One EU compliant Football Pitch
• 11 average sized Football Pitches
• 15 FIFA non-compliant
• Approx. 40 improvised underdeveloped
Football Clubs

- Professional Clubs: 16
- Amateur Clubs: 42
- Young (10-20yr.) Categories: 43
- Total Players: 5358
Football coaches, referees and courts

- Licensed coaches: 250
- Referees: 250
Art. 79 par 1 FIFA Statutes

“Kosovo Football Federation is not allowed to play friendly games with FIFA members...”
Basketball

- 2072 active players in all age groups
- 30 licensed basketball schools
In average, 2000 fans attend basketball matches
15 foreign players from USA, Bosnia, Macedonia and Croatia
League structure

Senior: 22 Clubs and 652 Players
Junior: 40 Clubs and 1000
Arda-Rei basketball school
350 children
Handball

• Since 2005 the member of European Handball Federation. However, as of May 2007 the Federation’s Club competitions are only recognized, but not a national team.
  – 27 clubs
  – 2 Sports Schools
  – 760 Players
Boxing

13 Clubs
8 Sport Schools
551 Athletes

“Kosovo is accepted in the Euroleague and Kosovar Boxing Clubs... will have full rights to compete beginning 2009/10 season... can immediately box or sign contracts...”
The winners of Olympic, European and World medals
Tennis

- Founded 1985
- 8 clubs
- 15 open courts
- 7 USPTR coaches
- Not recognized by ETA and ITF
Children in Prishtina with donated racquets and balls
Skiing

- 15 Clubs
- 2 Schools
- 940 Athletes
Downhill track:
1. Length 3174 m
2. Height difference 803 m
3. Lowest steepness 2.3%
4. Highest steepness 49.1%
5. Average steepness 25.3%

Finish line 1717 m
Avalanche portal
Start 2520 m
Table tennis

• The first sport of Kosova to be accepted in international federation (ITTF)
  • 13 Clubs
  • 417 Athletes
Qualification for European Championship, October 2005
Kosova, Scotland, Island, Turkey
Volleyball

- 23 clubs
- 1240 players
- 680 female players
Martial Sports
Karate

Since 2000 accepted in World Shotokan Federation (WSKF)

- 41 clubs
- 636 athletes
- 40% women
- 100 licensed coaches
- 3 international referees
Kosovars with medals in Atlanta
Athletics

- 13 clubs
- 330 athletes
- No infrastructure
- Prishtina Half Marathon (International)
- Kosovo championship
Kosovo Mountaineering and Alpinists Federation
Common problems

- Lack of funds
- Lack of infrastructure
- Lack of qualified coaches and referees
- Lack of international experience
- Lack of political will by “some” members
Do Kosovar athletes have the right to compete in the international competitions?
Yes, because...

- Kosova is a Independent State
- High number of young athletes
- Great will for international involvement
- Sport will decrease the disappointment of economic crisis
- Sport in Kosovo is multi-ethnic
- Sport shouldn’t be victim of politics
“If you become the champion of a sport in Kosovo, you stop there, because there’s nowhere to go…”

Kosovar Athlete
Sport is Live
Thank you for your attention!