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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN TRADE UNIONS OF RZESZOW PROVINCE<sup>16</sup> IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 60'S IN THE 20TH CENTURY - OUTLINE OF THE ISSUES

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## Keywords:

- Physical education,
- Trade unions,
- Plant sports games,
- Plant excursions,
- Qualified tourism,
- TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity],
- PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society],
- Rzeszow Province.

## Abstract:

During the PRL - Polish People's Republic – period, physical education had its specificity and it was owed mainly to political and social conditions of that time. Sports and physical education were gaining a propaganda-like significance. Back then a lot of time was devoted to various physical forms in industrial unions. In the first half of the 60's, in the 20th century, union physical education realized in work establishments of Rzeszow Province involved activity of TKKF centres, PTTK clubs, WFiT Committee - Committee for Physical Education and Tourism, organization of plant sports games, excursions, physical education and qualified tourism events. In this article the aforesaid fields have been subject to an analysis with reference to 19 employees' unions active back then.

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## INTRODUCTION

Issues concerning physical education, sports, tourism and recreation which place into a broad comprehension of physical education had, in the PRL period, a very distinct specificity. To a great extent it resulted from general political and social transformations taking place back then. The aforesaid fields of physical activity were given more attention, considering the fact they were treated as one of the most important instruments of propaganda actions of that time. Many actions of legal and organizational nature were subject to that. In 1952 a publication of Główny Komitet Kultury Fizycznej [the Central Committee of Physical Education] titled *Kultura fizyczna i sport w Polsce Ludowej (Poradnik organizatora SPO)* [Physical education and sport in People's Republic of Poland (Organizer's handbook)] appeared<sup>17</sup>, presenting, among others, the most important organizational assumptions adopted with reference to the domains listed before. Characteristics of that period's physical education provided in the publication were based on two main pillars - state and social<sup>18</sup>. The second

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<sup>16</sup>Territorial range of this article pertains to Rzeszow Province as in the years 1945-1975, as opposed to the province existing in the period between 1975 and 1998, yet smaller with regard to the occupied area.

<sup>17</sup>Z. Dall, *Kultura fizyczna i sport w Polsce Ludowej, Poradnik organizatora SPO [Physical education and sport in People's Republic of Poland (Organizer's handbook)]*, No. 12, Warszawa 1952. SPO - a sport badge *Sprawny do pracy i obrony* [Fit for work and defence] awarded in Poland in 1950-1958.

<sup>18</sup>Ibidem, p. 19.

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one fit in activity of CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions]<sup>19</sup>, a structure of broad profile-related competences it represented. What's symptomatic, there was also space for broadly defined physical activity in its union meaning. In this context the CRZZ performed a precisely defined function, being at the same time the main coordinator for activity of sport associations in the country<sup>20</sup>. The main elements of this organizational model were plant sport clubs subject to associations classified to a given professional branch. In fact activity related to development of physical education within trade unions was taking place in ZS [Sport Associations]<sup>21</sup> i.e.: ZS „Budowlani”, ZS „Górnik”, ZS „Kolejarz”, ZS „Ogniwo”, ZS „Spójnia”, ZS „Stal”, ZS „Unia” and ZS „Włóknierz”<sup>22</sup>. In the publication referred to hereinabove, firmly placed in that realia, we read: *Trade unions are the most powerful sport divisions in the People's Republic of Poland and thanks to them physical education and sport radiate to a broad public. The chief organization of union sport is the Department of Physical Education at the Central Federation of Trade Unions. It's the work-managing authority controlling Federations of Main Sport Associations. At lower organizational levels, at Regional and District Federations of Trade Unions, departments of physical education exist*<sup>23</sup>.

In the beginning of the 60's, which are of our interest in the 20th century, successive corrections, important with regard to organizational point of view and including physical education of trade union division, took place. An important decision was made in the first decade of February 1960, during the 8th Plenum of CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions]. It was related to establishing a General Union Federation of Sport, Physical Education and Tourism *in order to strengthen the trade unions' division of sport, physical education and tourism, improve the former organizational structure, strengthen general coordination and programming of physical education and tourism*<sup>24</sup>. Undoubtedly, considering the period referred to in this work, physical activity of the Polish society, based on unions, was a significant phenomenon. It was proved by examples<sup>25</sup>.

As mentioned, a vital role in popularizing physical education in trade unions was played by CRZZ. In 1963, during common sessions of the Presidium and the Executive Committee, issues of sport and tourism promotion in the union aspect were taken up. This was referred to in the text titled *Sport i turystyka tematem obrad prezydium CRZZ [Sport and tourism as a session topic of CRZZ Presidium]*, published on September 2th that year in the sport section of „Nowiny Rzeszowskie”. It emphasized dynamics in propagating *physical education*,

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<sup>19</sup> CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions], the main authority of Trade Unions Association was active in the years 1949-1980 and was a structure strictly subject to PZPR [the Polish United Workers' Party], in all spheres of its activity.

<sup>20</sup> Z. Dall, *Kultura fizyczna...*, p. 19. In 1965 over 568 00 union sport associations were registered. *Kultura fizyczna i sport w Polsce 1949-1966 [Physical education and sport in Poland]*, „Studia i Prace Statystyczne” [Statistic works and studies], No. 8, Warszawa 1968, p. 9.

<sup>21</sup> In this case, ZS abbreviation refers to singular.

<sup>22</sup> Z. Dall, *Kultura fizyczna...*, p. 19-22.

<sup>23</sup> Ibidem, p. 24.

<sup>24</sup> W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe jako kontynuator ideowych założeń robotniczego ruchu sportowego i ich udział w 20-letnim dorobku w zakresie wychowania fizycznego, sportu, turystyki i wypoczynku po pracy [Trade unions as a continuator of idealistic assumptions of a workers sport movement and their contribution in the 20 years' achievements regarding physical education, sport, tourism and after-work relaxation]*, „Kultura Fizyczna” [Physical education] 1964, No. 7-8, p. 419.

<sup>25</sup> One of these is a medal statistics of the summer Olympic games that took place in Rome, in 1960. The total number of medals brought from there, as many as 14 belonged to sportsmen from union sport clubs. The clubs, in turn, considering the state as on December 31st 1962, constituted a serious part from among all functioning back then in Poland. There were 900 out of the total 1560. Physical education of the union division requires proper sport back-up facilities. In the period 1962-1963 it was reflected in intensified development of the plant sport and tourism infrastructure. W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe...*, p. 416-417.

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*tourism and after-work relaxation, noted in recent period. It mentioned data concerning the number of facilities and devices that trade unions had at their disposal. In the first case it was 1600 buildings at that period. The content of the aforementioned press report we also read: Propagation of physical education and after-work relaxation is significantly due to the principle that the centres [facilities referred to hereinabove - A.M.] should be subject to WKZZ [Province Committees of Trade Unions] - A.M., serve to all members of trade unions, regardless of their membership to a different branch organization<sup>26</sup>. During the said CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions] session the participants opted for giving the WKZZ full supervision over all union-related issues concerning physical education and sport. Moreover, they consented to a concept that, instead of former structures, special commissions be appointed by trade unions at their main executive councils, i.e. sport federations, departments and divisions. In the context of that novelty, the discussion concerned committees meant to deal with physical education and tourism<sup>27</sup>.*

In the local papers there was also information about regional issues of the union division in the aspect of physical education, especially important when it came to personal and organizational point of view. Important issues related to that were printed in „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” on November 5th 1964, stating that a structure like the Province Council of the General Federation of Physical Education, Sport and Tourism was appointed at WKZZ [Province Committees of Trade Unions] in Rzeszow. At the same time its head became mgr [master degree] Jozef Wozniaka (at that time he was the secretary of WKZZ), his deputies became Jan Gliwa (he represented the Regional Management of *Metal Workers* Trade Union) and Kazimierz Syrek (who was a representative of *Karpaty* Krosno Sport Club). Aleksander Subocz was appointed the secretary. The individuals were experienced in the field<sup>28</sup>. During that period an opinion about the need of development in the union sector of qualified sport emerged, yet it brought about worries concerning eventual future negligence in other branches of physical education. They tried to take the doubts away, what's well described in this extract: *In contrast, all that's related to sport propagation, i.e. an organization of a sports games system, TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity-A.M.], work of plant PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society-A.M.], development of recreational and after-work relaxation forms - all of these should be still in the centre of interests for the entire union hard core<sup>29</sup>.*

This publication tries to present organizational forms and ways of physical education implementation in branch trade unions in Rzeszow Province area in the first half of the 60's of the 20th century, taking into account *quantitative effects* of such activities. The issue, considered in such territorial and chronological scope, has not been compiled so far. Thus the following research questions have been asked: what was the role of trade unions in propagating sport activity in work establishments?; How were activities in that field diversified in relation to particular branches? Obtaining answers to that is possible thanks to a thorough analysis of archives, source literature and application of the comparative method. When dealing with the topic, activity typical for that period and involving organization of plant qualified tourism, excursions, sports games, physical education events, TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] centres, PTTK clubs [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society] and WFiT [Committees for Physical Education and Tourism] were also taken into consideration. Analysis of sources made it possible to precise the number and

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<sup>26</sup>*Sport i turystyka tematem obrad prezydium CRZZ [Sport and tourism as a topic of CRZZ session], „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1963, No. 207, b.p.*

<sup>27</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>28</sup> Ibidem, 1964, No. 263, p. 4.

<sup>29</sup> Ibidem.

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determine the former name of unions referred to and active in work establishments located in Rzeszow Province. There were nineteen of them and, in alphabetical order, they included: *Construction, Chemists, Power Engineers, Miners, Commerce, Metallurgists, Railwaymen, Municipal*, individuals engaged during a department related to *Culture and Art, Forest, Telecommunication, Metal workers, Teachers, State workers, Agriculture-related workers, Health Service, Consumers, Transport and Textile Industry*<sup>30</sup>.

### Sports games

One of vital elements in union sport, meant to propagate physical education, were sports games. Considering the first half of the 60's in the 20th century, one needs to state they were also organized by branch trade unions active in the area of the former Rzeszow Province. The term *sports games* meant mass sport competition promoting sport, typical for socialist countries. In Poland, already in the first half of the 50's of the 20th century All-Polish Sport Games were organized<sup>31</sup>. At that time, apart from other divisions, the union division being of our interests participated, too<sup>32</sup>.

As mentioned by Barbara Pedraszewska-Soltys, the General Polish Organizational Committee for Sports Games, established in 1959, caused the idea became vivid and highly desired. The said author also indicates: *Based on a stenographic record from a session of the Central Committee of Physical Education, it results that "a sports game is to be a mass sport development program, it is meant to be a system", thus, following the adopted guidelines, sports games have become of mass forms nature. An organizational basis for them were eliminations in small social communities: schools, universities, work establishments, etc. [...] and the greatest contribution in sport propagation was owed to sports games of all-Polish range. Following internal eliminations, these were participated by school university, union, military, police, as well as village communities*<sup>33</sup>.

In 1960 the *Millennium of the Polish Country* was formally celebrated. The date, important for the history of Poland, was also honoured by organizing games of elimination and competition character leading to the *Central Sports Games*. That year the total number of starting participants included 192 421 individuals. The Millennial sports games were also organized in Rzeszow Province. On June 6th 1960 „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” announced the end of such sports events of the basic level, which included regional, communal, plant and school ones, organized in in that area. Summing up the period when they took place, it was stated the result was very good, especially when it came to the number of participants. Until May 29th 1960, the total number of individuals who took part in these occasional, community and regional sports games were 71 709<sup>34</sup>. Some information provided in the local papers specified

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<sup>30</sup> State Archive in Rzeszow (APRz), 35, WRZZ in Rzeszow, *Rada Kultury Fizycznej i Turystyki [Council for Physical education and Tourism], Plany pracy Rady Kultury Fizycznej i Turystyki na lata 1962-1972 [Work schedule of the Committee for Physical Education and Tourism for the years 1962-1972]* (further: WRZZ in Rzeszow), sign. 271, k. 224.

<sup>31</sup> They took place in 1951 and 1954.

<sup>32</sup> Competition was among sport teams also composed of representatives of the sport division developed in academic, police, school, village and military communities.

<sup>33</sup> B. Pedraszewska – Soltys, *Współzawodnictwo sportowe w ruchu spartakiadowym w Polsce na przełomie lat sześćdziesiątych i siedemdziesiątych XX wieku [Sport competition in Polish sports games movement at the turn of the 60's and 70's of the 20th century]*, „Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna” [Academic dissertations of the Academy named after Jan Długosz in Częstochowa. Physical education] 2015, v. XIV, No. 2, p. 126-127. <http://dx.doi.org/10.16926/kf.2015.14.20>.

<sup>34</sup> „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1960, No. 133, p. 3.



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names of those who added to organization of such games. It was so in the case of a two-day millennial sports games in Gorlice, the preparation of which was greatly contributed by Tadeusz Boczon from ZS "Gornik"<sup>35</sup>. At the end of 1960 the district sports games movement in Rzeszow Province was summed up. The total number of participants - 192 496, including 59 478 women. Attention was drawn to the need to care for plant physical education<sup>36</sup>.

It's worth following what the course of plant sports games could have been. For instance, in 1961, in Rzeszow Province, competitions of that kind were organized by Huta Stalowa Wola [still mill in Stalowa Wola] and Zakłady Metalowe [Metal Plant] in Nowa Deba. It needs to be mentioned that for employees of the steel mill in Stalowa Wola it was the 6th sport event of such character. It was opened by the Head of the Plant Council, Cz. Szelazak. From the press report describing the celebration we read: *The colour guards were followed by the 1st Secretary of the PZPR [the Polish United Workers' Party], comrade St. Chudzik, the Secretary of PZPR, St. Majewski and Strycharski, the Head of the Steel Mill, inż. [engineer title] J. Pabijan, the Head of Regional Management of Trade Union. A.M [Zarząd Okręgu Związku Zawodowego Metalowców [Regional Management of Metal Workers Trade Union -A.M.] A. Chrzanowski, the head of the Workers' Council - member of the Lower House of Polish Parliament], engineer K. Kotwica, representatives of local sport and teenage authorities.* The full sports games program was quite diversified and included: tournament bridge, athletics, cycling, sport team games (basketball, football, handball, volleyball), shooting, chess, table tennis and tourism<sup>37</sup>. Presence of the aforelisted persons proved how important the event was for the former PZPR [the Polish United Workers' Party] activists. Inauguration of sports games was usually formal and combined with sport competitions. On such days running competition, football matches and basketball events were organized in Stalowa Wola. In Nowa Deba competition on the first day of summer sports games included football, basketball, handball, athletics and shooting. Both sports games mentioned above were participated by 6000 individuals<sup>38</sup>.

Considering the topic in a broader context one needs to indicate that the same year (June 23rd-25th) the First Province Sports Games were planned. As mentioned in the sport section of "Nowiny Rzeszowskie" of June 12th 1961: *last* [last - A.M.] Saturday and Sunday a large part of district sports games were organized. They took part in Brzozow, Debica, Jaslo, Kolbuszowa, Lesko, Lezajsk, Lubaczow, Mielec, Przemysl, Przeworsk, Radymno, Ropczyce, Rzeszow-district (Bratkowice), Sanok, Strzyzow, Tarnobrzeg. At the end of the considered week eliminations were also planned to take place in Jaroslaw, Krosno, Nisko, Rzeszow – the city, and Stalowa Wola<sup>39</sup>. In 1961 "Nowiny Rzeszowskie" printed official thanks sent by the Province Committee for Physical Education and Tourism in Rzeszow and the Province Committee for Millennial Sports Games, for all those, who contributed to preparation of the mass sport events. Alongside, involvement of WKZZ [Province Committees of Trade Unions] and all branch trade unions in the field were appreciated<sup>40</sup>. The head of Province Committee for Physical Education and Tourism, Leonard Grzeskowiak, when assessing the millennial

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<sup>35</sup> Ibidem, No. 139, p. 4.

<sup>36</sup> Ibidem, No. 271, p. 3.

<sup>37</sup> Ibidem, 1961, No. 129, p. 3.

<sup>38</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>39</sup> Ibidem, No. 137, p. 5. Districts that proved the best in the category pertaining to the number of participants and professions were: Debica, Gorlice, Jaroslaw, Jaslo, Nisko, Przemysl, Rzeszow-city, Rzeszow-district, Stalowa Wola, Tarnobrzeg. The peculiar *group of the best* was followed by Sanok, Przeworsk, Mielec, Ropczyce and Brzozow. „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1961, No. 137, p. 5.

<sup>40</sup> Ibidem, No. 155, p. 3.

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sports games in Rzeszow Province, stated that school students, village communities and work establishments that we're interested in scored the best.

Considering physical education of trade unions in Rzeszow Province in the years 1963-1964, we still had to deal with a movement of sports games' character. In 1963 more than 1 000 000 participants were registered in the whole country scale<sup>41</sup>. In 1963 the total number of 304 plant sports games were organized in the considered area and a year later there were 8 more. In 1963 this type of sport events were not prepared and realized by only trade unions of employees related to the *cultural and art sector*, and agriculture-involved workers<sup>42</sup>. In the analysed year the best quantitative results in this discipline were observed, with reference to individuals professionally related to *Municipal Services* (48 plant sports games), followed by *Commerce and Cooperative Movement* (38), *Metal Workers* (37), *State and Social sector* (37), *Teachers* (26), *Construction Workers* (23). More than 10 of such competitions were organized by plant trade unions of *Transport workers* (16), *Miners* (16), *Food Industry individuals* (13), *Chemists* (12), *Health Service* (11). 8 of this type of events can be mentioned in the case of *Railwaymen* and forest workers, 7 in the case of *Textile Workers*, and 2 in the *Telecommunication* sector. As far as quantity is concerned, organizational initiatives related to *Metallurgists* (1) and *Power Engineers* (1) got the worst results<sup>43</sup>.

Based on available source materials, in a given year the number of competitors taking part in such games in work establishments of Rzeszow Province was significant, thus becoming the dictionary definition of sports games in the part treating about their mass character. The sports games movement of that time in the area, considering the entire year scale, consisted on 97 765 participants. That activity was popular among *Metal Workers*, 62 349 of whose took part in sports games<sup>44</sup>. It needs to be emphasized that in 1963 none professional community in the analysed area had such a broad backup in the form of workers taking part in mass workers competitions. Quite possibly, in the case of *Metal Workers*, it was due to specificity of this economic sector, which was and still is highly masculinised.

In the year referred to, rather small number of competitors took part in plant competitions of *Medical Service*, *Teachers*, *Telecommunication* and *Power Engineers*. In the first case it was a group of 349 individuals, the second - 8 more, and the third - 446 people, the fourth case - a group of 72 individuals. In the range between 1000 and 3000 people ready to compete in sports games, there are representatives of 7 branches. The group was composed of: forest workers (2625), *Consumers* (2347), *Municipal Services* (2191), *Commerce and Cooperative Workers* (1505), *Railwaymen* (1388), *Transport Workers* (1019), *Miners* (1017)<sup>45</sup>. The trade union of *Power Engineers* scored the worse results. More than 3000 participants of such plant events were reported in the case of: *Chemists* (5252), *Textile Industry workers* (4034), individuals representing the *State and Social sector* (3486)<sup>46</sup>.

In 1964 the Third Central Sports Games took place and it was preceded by province sports games a year before. What is symptomatic, not only results of sport divisions of each province achieved there were important in assessing a given cycle, in this case pertaining to the years 1960-1964. When over, it was decided that events of such scale and requiring such

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<sup>41</sup> W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe...*, p. 419.

<sup>42</sup> APRz, team 35, *WRZZ in Rzeszow*, sign. 271, k. 140.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibidem*.

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great logistic and financial involvement would not be organized any more. However, in the future, it was planned to organize sports games at so-called basic level, which also included plant sports games. A characteristic feature of such competitions was the fact they gather individuals not associated in sport clubs<sup>47</sup>.

In 1964 in Rzeszow Province the leading position among participants of plant sports games movement was kept by *Metal Workers*. It must be indicated their involvement in the discipline was significantly dynamized in that year and included as many as 103 559 people. Other branches, similarly as in the previous year, lagged behind. The second position belonged to a workers group representing *Metallurgist*, with as many as 6067 of them participating in sports games<sup>48</sup>. 312 sport competitions were organized in 1964. The highest number of them was organized by the *State and Social workers* (47), *Commerce and Cooperative workers* (40) and *agriculture-related ones* (39). Further positions regarding this field were held by *Construction* (28), *Municipal Services* (23), *Health Service* (21), *Transport* (19), *Metal Workers* (18), *Miners* (16), *Consumers* (15), *Forest* (10), *Railwaymen* (9), *Chemists* (8), *Telecommunication* (8), *Power Engineers* (5), *Textile Industry* (5), *Metallurgists* (1). Workers associated in trade unions of such professional sectors as *Culture and Art*, and *Teachers* did not show initiative regarding sports games organization. In the case of these professional groups it was the same the next year. Meanwhile, in 1965, the total number of 410 such sport competitions were organized. As far as numbers are concerned: *State workers* (53), *Construction* (51), *agriculture workers* (50), *Commerce workers* (38), *Civil Services* (33), *Forest* (26), *Health Service* (25), *Metal workers* (25), *Transport* (21), *Railwaymen* (21), *Miners* (15), *Consumers* (14), *Chemists* (13), *Textile Industry* (9), *Power Engineers* (7), *Telecommunication* (7) and *Metallurgists* (2)<sup>49</sup>.

It needs to be indicated that in the year taken into account, the head of the Province Committee for Sports Games was, on behalf of PZPR [the Polish United Workers' Party], Stanislaw Ryba, and some organizational changes were made, including those pertaining to union sport. The Committee was re-organized, committees appointing teams of activists, such as those dealing with organization of sport activity in workers' unions, were liquidated<sup>50</sup>. This sphere of work also meant various events. For instance, in 1962, more than 76 000 events participated by some 5 000 000 people (workers and their families) were organized within the scope of union physical education (excluding sport clubs). It's known that *Railwaymen*, *Chemists* and *Miners* were involved in preparation of all-Polish gatherings, while *Construction and Municipal ones* dealt with all-round events<sup>51</sup>. Obligatory physical education events could have been heard about in the years 1963-1965. During the next years: 2275, 2160 and 1693 events took place<sup>52</sup>.

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<sup>47</sup> *Mała encyklopedia sportu [Small encyclopedia of sport]*, v. II L-Ż, Warszawa 1986, p. 437. Sports games of basic level included also all types of schools, boroughs, towns, etc. Ibidem

<sup>48</sup> APRz, team 35, *WRZZ in Rzeszow*, sign. 271, k. 140.

<sup>49</sup> Ibidem, k. 225.

<sup>50</sup> „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1965, No. 139, p. 4.

<sup>51</sup> W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe...*, p. 418.

<sup>52</sup> APRz, team 35, *WRZZ in Rzeszow*, sign. 271, k. 225.

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## TKKF centres

As mentioned, the aspect of union physical education was also influenced by TTKF which<sup>53</sup>, similarly as PTTK, belonged to one of the most important fractions in the social trend of physical education in Poland<sup>54</sup>. TTKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] based on their program-related field and plant centres. It also cooperated with the union division, teenage division the Socialist youth Union, committees dealing with physical education and tourism<sup>55</sup>. A lot regarding promotion of physical education was owed to trade unions, especially in the field of organizational and financial support. The history of plant TTKF centres was related to former sport clubs that did not undergo transformations into sport clubs. At first the said TTKF structures gathered a small number of individuals, yet the trend changed<sup>56</sup>. From 1959 the dynamics of organizational units (known as centres) formation in work places, for purposes of physical education propagation, increased and they were registered on the basis of rules and regulations principles<sup>57</sup>. As stated by Jerzy Gaj and Kajetan Hądzalek: *In the 60's, activity of TTKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] was focused on implementing program assumptions in three basic communities, i.e. work establishments, housing estates and at home, while activity of TTKF centres was focused, first and foremost, on permanent exercise teams acting in specific societies, popularizing individual forms of physical recreation and event-like activity*<sup>58</sup>. Within the scope of the said structures, they also dealt with organizing sport sections, 10-minutes relaxation exercises in work establishments and implementing activities in the physical activity arena in relaxation centres where people used to spend holidays and vacations<sup>59</sup>.

Just in Rzeszow, in 1960, there were 20 field centres of TTKF and 33 plant ones (they associated 4114 members). On August 5th and 6th 1961 the 4th province gathering of TTKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] was planned to take place in Gorlice. In that period the main tasks of the association were defined as: [...] *mass physical education for the young, increased interests of the adults in systematic exercising and, finally, working out suitable forms of physical exercises for families*<sup>60</sup>. Program priorities included

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<sup>53</sup> TTKF was established on May 3rd 1957, had a legal personality and authorities at a central and province level. Its functions were based on “on our own for ourselves” principle. F. Kędziorek, *W służbie społeczeństwa [In the service for the society]*, [in:] *Pierwsze lata TTKF [First years of TTKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity]*, Zbigniew Mikołajczak (ed.), Warszawa 1972, p. 6-7.

<sup>54</sup> R. Wroczyński, *Powszechne dzieje wychowania fizycznego i sportu [Common history of physical education and sport]*, Wrocław – Warszawa – Kraków - Gdańsk – Łódź 1985, p. 366.

<sup>55</sup> F. Kędziorek, *W służbie...* [In the service...], p. 5-6.

<sup>56</sup> W. Wilczek, *W zakładzie pracy [In a work establishment]*, [in:] *Pierwsze lata... [First years...]*, p. 82.

<sup>57</sup> F. Kędziorek, *W służbie...* [In the service...], p. 8.

<sup>58</sup> J. Gaj, K. Hądzalek, *Dzieje kultury fizycznej w Polsce [The history of physical education in Poland]*, Poznań 1997, p. 250.

<sup>59</sup> F. Kędziorek, *W służbie ... [In the service...]*, p. 6. Considering the 1957-1960 tenure, the head of the Presidium of the Province Management of TTKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] in Rzeszow was Stanislaw Haber. Kazimierz Partyka and Stefan Sroda were his deputies. In the 1960-1962 tenure, the head, for a one year period, was S. Haber and then Franciszek Fiszle replaced him. The situation was similar when it comes to vice presidents (deputies) - K. Partyka and S. Sroda, who, in 1961, were replaced by S. Haber and Tadeusz Lew. In the 1962-1965 tenure, regarding the head and deputies, the names were identical as in 1961. *Skład centralnych i terenowych władz TTKF w kolejnych kadencjach [Composition of central and field TTKF authorities]*, [in:] *Pierwsze lata... [First years ...]*, p. 24.

<sup>60</sup> „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1961, No. 161, p. 5.



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also various excursions, hikes, tournaments, competitions or social meetings. The head of that time Province Management was F. Fiszer<sup>61</sup>. 25 field centres of TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity], 199 plant ones (they associated 31 363 persons) were registered in Rzeszow<sup>62</sup>.

On July 26th 1960, thanks to CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions], Socialist Youth Union, TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity], a special *Committee for relaxation exercises during work breaks* was set up<sup>63</sup>. Lech Erdman wrote about that: *the crop of common activities taken up by the Physical Education Team of CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions] and Social Committee for Physical Education at CRZZ, at the end of 1960 was implementation of exercises in about 50 work establishments in the entire country*<sup>64</sup>. In that year in Rzeszow it was observed that 7 work establishments were involved in organizing exercises for 1982 workers, exactly during such work breaks. After five years both the number of work places with such exercises (25) and the number of individuals taking part in them (4451) increased<sup>65</sup>. As stated by the head of the Central Committee of Physical Education (GKKFiT), Włodzimierz Reczek: *Quick development of TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] activity in, to a great extent, a merit of trade unions - the organizer of union centres for propagating physical education [...] acting in many work establishments*<sup>66</sup>.

## PTTK clubs

As already noted, the history of union physical education of the said period was also based on PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society] activity. It was established on December 17th 1950 in Warsaw. In 1960, on the 10th anniversary of its existence, the sport section of "Nowiny Rzeszowskie" published an occasional article titled: *10 years of PTTK*, in which the following can be read regarding the set goals: *The status of combined Association says it is a mass social organization which, acknowledging tourism and sightseeing as one of the most important elements of socialist education, invoking patriotism and love for the People's Country, as well as being a means of active relaxation, joy and entertainment for the working mass, is meant to: popularize, propagate and organize tourism and sightseeing, propagate love for sightseeing and getting to know Poland among the working masses, protect the environment and monuments*<sup>67</sup>. PTTK cooperated with CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions] assuming that most individuals from the association was at the same time affiliated to a union division<sup>68</sup>. It's a common fact that in 1963, considering the all-Poland scale of PTTK plant structures, there were 2606 of such, with 112 712 members<sup>69</sup>.

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<sup>61</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>62</sup> *Pierwsze lata...[First years...]*, p. 27-28.

<sup>63</sup> *Diariusz ważniejszych wydarzeń w historii TKKF [Diary of more important events in the history of TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity]*, [in:] *Pierwsze lata...[First years...]*, p. 12.

<sup>64</sup> L. Erdman, *Rekreacja fizyczna w czasie przerw w pracy [Physical relaxation during work breaks]*, [in:] *Materials from a scientific session on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of physical education*, Warszawa 1970, p. 90.

<sup>65</sup> W. Wilczek, *W zakładzie...[In the service...]*, p. 86.

<sup>66</sup> W. Reczek, *Kultura fizyczna i turystyka w Polsce Ludowej [Physical education and tourism in the People's Republic of Poland]*, „Kultura Fizyczna” [Physical education] 1964, No. 7-8, p. 393.

<sup>67</sup> „Nowiny Rzeszowskie” 1960, No. 295, p. 3.

<sup>68</sup> Ibidem, p. 5.

<sup>69</sup> W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe... [Trade unions...]*, p. 418.

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In work establishments of Rzeszow Province plant PTTK centres were present, too. In 1963 there were 124 of them and a year later - 5 more. In 1963 they associated 3389 members, of whom 844 were women, the next year the number of followers increased quite significantly. Back then the discussion was about 5393 representatives of workers' community, including 1010 professionally active women<sup>70</sup>. In 1963 only agriculture-related workers and *Teachers* did not have PTTK centres in their place of employment. The highest number of the centres in the considered area belonged to *Metal Workers* (18), and: *Social and State* ones (16), *Health Service* (14), *Municipal Service* (12), *Commerce and Cooperative* (11) and *Construction* (10). Less than 10 of such type of organizational units were represented by trade unions of other branches. The sequence was as follows: *Consumer* (9), *Miners* (7), *Chemists* (5), *Power Engineers* (4), *Forest* (4), *Transport* (4), *Textile Industry* (3), *Telecommunication* (3), workers related to *Culture and Art* (2), and one PTTK centre per *Metallurgists and Railwaymen*<sup>71</sup>. In 1963 the greatest number of people were associated in PTTK centres active in the group of *Metal Workers* (815), while the smallest number was associated among *Railwaymen* (15). The next year the leading position belonged to the same professional branch, with 973 individuals associated in the centres, while the last position was held by *Teachers*. From among workers being representatives of the professional group, only 10 people could prove membership in workers' PTTK centres<sup>72</sup>.

Comparing the number of plant PTTK centres existing in 1964 with the previous year, it must be stated that in 7 cases their number decreased (*Health Service* [11], *Construction* [9], *Municipal Service* [9], *Consumers* [6], *Power Engineers* [2], *Textile Industry* [2], *Telecommunication* [1]), and, in 7 cases, it increased (*State and Social workers* [26], *Metal Workers* [21], *Miners* [8], *Transport* [6], *Railwaymen* [2], *Agriculture-related workers* [2], *Teachers* [1]), and, in the case of *Chemists*, *Commerce and Cooperative*, *Metallurgists*, the professional group representing culture and art, as well as *Forest workers*, the number did not change. Thus, not taking into account the trade unions which, within a year, no changes were observed, it needs to be stated that the biggest progress within this scope was observed in the branch of *State and Social workers*, where the number of such centres increased by 10<sup>73</sup>.

### Physical Education and Tourism Committees

Another organizational way for developing physical activity in professional environment was related to establishment and activity of Physical Education and Tourism Committees. They were an important body supervising works at the physical education and tourism level in work establishments. In 1963, considering the field of our interests and trade unions of several branches, we observe lack of them. This pertained to: *Construction*, *Commerce and Cooperative*, *Metallurgists*, *Teachers* and agriculture-related workers. The next year, in most cases, the situation improved, while only the educational environment still didn't develop such professional Physical Education and Tourism structures. Meanwhile, in 1963, the highest number of them belonged to *Municipal Service* (17) and *State and Social workers* (17). As far as other branches are concerned, it was as follows: *Telecommunication* (13), *Forest* (12), *Metal Workers* (12), *Transport* (8), *Miners* (6), *Railwaymen* (6), *Consumer*

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<sup>70</sup> APRz, team 35, WRZZ in Rzeszow, sign. 271, k. 139.

<sup>71</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>72</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>73</sup> Ibidem.

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(6), *Health Service* (5) *Textile Industry* (5), *Chemists* (4), *Power Engineers* (4). Only 1 committee of this type existed in the department of *Culture and Art*. In 1964, as already observed, only teachers did not have a Physical Education and Tourism Committee. The best results regarding this scope were gained by individuals associated in trade unions of *Commerce and Cooperative* (19). Further positions were held by *Agriculture-related ones* (14), *Health Service* (11), *Metal Workers* (11), *Municipal Service* (11), *Forest* (10), *Transport* (8), *Railwaymen* (8), *Consumers* (6), *State and Social workers* (6), ones representing *Culture and Art* (6), *Chemists* (4), *Miners* (4), *Telecommunication* (4), *Power Engineers* (3) and *Textile Industry* (3). Low interest in such organizational forms of physical education and tourism in their place of work was visible among: *Construction* (1) and *Metallurgists* (1)<sup>74</sup>.

### Excursions and plant events of qualified tourism

In the period referred to in this article each of the professional groups organized excursions and plant events of qualified tourism. An incentive for tourist events propagation was the agreement concluded in 1960 by the Main Board of PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society] with CRZZ [Central Federation of Trade Unions]. It was well illustrated by massive participation in *Lenin Hike* event<sup>75</sup>. Looking at it comprehensively, 2860 excursions took place in 1963 (104 587 people participated), while emphasizing the fact that no such events were organized for agriculture-related workers. In the next years the professional group subject to the analysis in here already participated in such events. In total, considering the years 1964-1965, the number of organized events was as follows: 3414 (117 993 people) and 3095 (112 026)<sup>76</sup>. The unquestionable leaders in the field were, in 1963, *Metal workers* - 621 workers' excursions, the second position in this specific rank was held by *Commerce workers* - 426 similar excursions. More than 200 plant excursions within a year were organized within trade unions of *Chemists* (263), *Teachers* (217) and *Transport workers* (205). In 1963 least activity within this field was shown by culture and art workers, who organized only 6 excursions<sup>77</sup>. The next year groups that proved the best regarding this scope were again *Metal workers* (666), and *Metallurgists* (441). More than 200 workers' events referred to in here were observed in the following professional groups: *Chemists* (213), *Miners* (246) and *Commerce* (372). Similarly as in the previous year, least initiative within this scope was shown by workers of culture and Art (15). In 1965 the highest intensity of excursion-like movement was visible in the branch of Metal workers (440), the second position regarding his scope belonged to *Commerce* (330), while the limit of 200 plant trips was exceeded by *Construction* (234), *Chemists* (221) and *Miners* (255). Considering this aspect, the worst results, analogically to the previous period, were among professional groups dealing with culture and Art<sup>78</sup>.

In 1963-1965 events related to qualified tourism were also organized, however it must be indicated that the report material from this chapter only excursions were subject to analyses. 230 of them took place in 1963 in most trade unions discussed in here. Altogether 8531 people took part in them. The next year there were 40 more, however, a lower number (5179) of tourists took part in such form of relaxation. In 1965 a declining trend was observed

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<sup>74</sup> Ibidem, k. 138.

<sup>75</sup> W. Kos, *Związki Zawodowe. [Trade unions...]*, p. 419.

<sup>76</sup> APRz, team 35, *WRZZ in Rzeszów*, sign. 271, k. 224.

<sup>77</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>78</sup> Ibidem.

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as far as the number of such trips noted in relation to workers' qualified tourism is concerned. There were 249 of them, participated by 7736 people<sup>79</sup>. The analysed source material does not mention destination places.

## Summary

Summing up, it needs to be stated that in the first half of the 60's of the 20th century organizational forms of physical education realized within trade unions active in Rzeszow Province plants, were very extensive. PTTK [Polish Tourist and Sightseeing Society] centres and TKKF [The Society for the Promotion of Sport and Physical Activity] clubs, Physical Education and Tourism Committees functioned there. In workers' communities of that area plant sports games, excursions, as well as various forms of qualified tourism and physical education took place. However, one needs to emphasise that most statistics and quantitative data included in this publication come from archive documentation. Undoubtedly it is an expression of historical truth characteristic for the period of our interest. This way, operating with numbers presented in the report material, this fragment of reality and *actuality* was described. One cannot rule out, still remembering the period of Polish history the aforesaid brief article is related to, that some data were distorted in order to create a better version of reports. In the PRL period, similar practices in the field of physical education treated as a propaganda, were not sporadic. Despite these remarks, physical education and tourism realized in trade unions, can be assessed positively, even because of the fact that thousands of workers in work establishments took part in various forms of physical exercises.

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<sup>79</sup> Ibidem.

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