

Review article

**SPORTS IN BORDERLANDS: BOGOSAV ĐURĐANOVIĆ
ON SPORT AND EDUCATIONAL WORK (KLADOVO)**

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Abstract. *This analysis was the result of the need to clearly expose social problems related to sports, as well as social life, in the economically devastated border regions of eastern Serbia, seen from a micro sociological perspective. Long-term demographic changes, problems related to transition and existential difficulties in contemporary Serbian society have greatly impaired the image of the social status of the sport participants in comparison to other parts of the Balkans. Our starting point was the following question: are sporting events in the border regions integration factors, or are they just a product of global integration processes? The authors are making an attempt to analyze the meaning of sport in the border regions from the perspective of sports teachers (participants in sport) based on Bogosav Đurđanović recounting his experience as a teacher and athlete, as well as a resident of Kladovo. Analysis of the data obtained in an interview modestly point out the importance of subjective experiences related to sport, and its social function within education and beyond. The obtained test results confirm that the sport experience only in conjunction with the energy of the younger generation contributes to the progress of the social development of the border regions, but that it not only contributes to the social reputation of sports educators, but to the participants (actors) in sport as well. A special emphasis was placed on the description of the individual and collective achievements of our respondent (awards, medals, cups, etc.). This confirmed the fact that he is a role model in the field of sport and a teacher in the border regions of Eastern Serbia. We relied on a qualitative analysis in an in-depth interview - as a methodologically most useful research tool.*

Key words: *sociology of sport, sport teacher, a role model, Bogosav Đurđanović, Kladovo.*

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INTRODUCTION

This paper is an attempt to show the results of a sociological study of ethos in border regions in the context of the causes of sport in these areas. It is of particular importance to discover the motives and social reasons for connecting the peripheral border areas with global social movements and the key to the personal success, credibility and social participation of an exemplary individual. The research challenges the opportunities offered by the "pulsing" social fabric of sporting events in border regions are undisputed as a factor of integration of national minorities with the majority of the population. Testing the ethos in border areas proved itself to be popular, and its complexity requires that scientific issues should be investigated from the aspect of the sociology of sport, which furthermore contributes to an explicit revision and explanation of the problem of leisure and bullying by defining agents in sport:

"Since the sociology of sport is interested in the social context, social interaction and social consequences of the social subsystems, the sporting event is in the foreground of its research. An event consists of players (actors), agents and supporters. The mediators in sport are: physical education teachers, coaches, judges, officials, sport journalists and in recent times, more and more sponsors. Pedagogues of physical education are mediators between prospective athletes and clubs. They should especially know how to select sport talents. Their relationship, their way of communicating with young people, can affect one's attraction or repulsion of the sport. Coaches have the double role in sport; they are professionals and educators" (Koković, 2000).

Each individual is personally responsible for the quality of their daily life and professional life, and only then does the responsibility lie with society, political parties, and the global world order. In contemporary society, an individual has a modest position, but the popular statistics say that he or she during his or her lifetime has a direct impact on two or three hundred people who surround him or her, what sociological quotes on interpretation that teaching individuals consider also manifestation of the social dimension of personality, which is emotional, but often value-dyed (Clark, 1995).

We have tried to process the most important characteristics (impacts) of a disputed model from the border regions in addition to a conceptual determination of a model (1. One that is in his reputation, for example, a model, a role model ... 2. Respectable, enjoying a high position in society), which is given in the Serbo-Croat dictionary, book 6, 468. It was easier to point to a place that individuals, who set an example, take in the total social reality. Social reality in the border regions of Serbia is determined by intensified social changes: an aging population, the decline in birth rate, migration, deep divisions and a long-term systemic crisis, disempowered social life of individuals and social groups and economic impoverishment.

When examining the latent social phenomena, such as the lifestyle of the role model in sport, which is seen through social participation in the border regions, we should bear in mind the fact that all cultural processes have their own dimension of development, and in addition to that, some of them cannot be sufficiently versatile for scientific exploration, *in vivo*, and they are accessible to researchers only when they are converted into the form of the valid orientations, attitudes, and beliefs of the participants, in order for the resulting notification to be used for scientific purposes.

This is the direction in which the interview with the selected role model, who is from the eastern frontier zone, was organized. We should bear in mind that these attitudes of an individual do not always offer an objective description of a situation to which they relate. The chosen sport role model was processed according to the following criteria:

- a) a role model in the field of sport: physical education teacher;
- b) a role model born in Kladovo, in the border region of Eastern Serbia;
- c) a role model's biography with major prizes, medals and trophies for accomplishments in the sport;
- d) a brief description of the role model's residence ;
- e) a role model in sports was interviewed in the field, according to the examination procedure (Zdravković, 2014).

In the past, teachers were regarded as the elite of a city, town, village, or even the state, but today they are not so respected (Cifrić, 1996). The teacher is creator of special, very complex situations by which are developed numerous and versatile processes on the personal and interpersonal plan (Havelka, 2000). With a new waves of modernization and change of the system of value, teachers and educators have experienced changes on the social level of reputation of their profession by society, the parents and even the students themselves. The law is on the side of the students, and the teachers must "adapt" to the numerous social demands, expectations, regulations, laws, while being ripped of any form of authority (Danilović, 2011). The pupils were the most learn when the relationships between them and teachers will be based on mutual respect and understanding (Kyriacou, 1995; Greenspan, 2003), and only access of teachers in exercising teachers role may positively influence on increasing of degree of pupils motivation (Wubbels & Korthagen, 1990). Pupils want learn and learning implies activity. Guided by this way of thinking, one German dictator have name his book by those words: I am learning, therefore I exist - Ich lerne, also bin ich! (Arnold, 2007). For a discussion of this type in the sociology of sport, the indispensable works of the following scholars were used as a theoretical background: Huizinga and Veblen. We emphasize that sociological research in the field of sport does not have a long tradition, primarily because of the intellectualist climate of the nineteenth century.

ABOUT KLADOVO

Kladovo is an urban settlement in Serbia, located in the municipality in the Bor district. It is situated on the right bank of the Danube, opposite the Romanian city of Turn- Severin. In the east and northeast, the Danube forms the border, not only of Kladovo, but also the border between Serbia and Romania. Kladovo with 22 settlements make up the Kladovo municipality located in eastern Serbia, an area of about 63.000 hectares. According to some, Kladovo owes its name to the Celtic word for cemetery - kladiff, as a consequence of the remains of various civilizations. Others claim it originates from the word klad - gadgets for the incarceration of people - whose traces we can find in the description of the old church of St. George from 1735. It is also believed that the name came from the word kladenac - due to a number of springs or from the word klada - because of deforestation from the area around Kladovo. Kladovo is one of the older cities in the Danube region. The emergence of the village is linked to the military and civilian camp of the Romans, the limes known by the name Zanes. When the camp was destroyed, the Slavs rebuilt their settlement known as Novigrad on its foundations. By constructing the fort Fetislam in 1524, Novigrad started losing its Slovenian character, since the Turks at that location had built their civilian settlement. The settlement next to the fortresses itself has long been known as Fetislam, today known as Kladovo city, was first mentioned in an Austrian military document, which recorded the attack of haiduks from Wallachia in 1596 on the town and fortress. Kladovo has been under Serbian administration in continuity since the

beginning of 1833. The fate of Kladovo, from its creation to the present day, is connected to a very important part of the Danube waterway, by which east and west, north and south have been connected in a single system. Thanks to the largest builder of ancient Rome, Apollodorus of Damascus (60-130), a navigational channel and the impressive Trajan's bridge were created here. On the location of what is today the settlement, there are relics of a prehistoric habitat - pantry flint knives associated with the arrival of cultures from the steppes in southern Russia during the third millennium B. C. and a hoard of bronze knives from the early Iron Age. Apart from Trajan's bridge, we should list some of historical monuments that are located in the municipality of Kladovo, such as Trajan's board, the Fetislam fortress, and fortress Diana. In the western part of the municipality, we find the country's largest national park - the Đerdap National Park - which covers an area of about 64 hectares. In 1972, works were completed on the construction of a hydro electric power and navigation system Đerdap, called hydro electric power plant "Đerdap", which has greatly enhanced sailing conditions with two locks, and which it generates billions of kilowatts of electricity for Serbia and Romania. Kladovo is an important transit and tourist center, as well as the seat of the largest producers of electricity. A significant part of the population of Kladovo lives and works in Western European countries. Its inhabitants are mainly of the Serbian, Montenegrin and the Vlach cultural heritage, but there are also members of the Roma and Pre-Christian cultural heritage. It is interesting to note what the status of Vlachs in Serbia is. Declarative and essentially Romanian continue to deny the existence of Vlachs, calling them a "fictional nation". Having in mind that the Vlachs in Serbia live in 154 ethnically Vlach village, and about 48 mixed villages, we have an unofficial estimate that the number of Vlachs is approximately between 250.000 and 300.000. The Vlachs are now divided into at least three groups - those who identify themselves as Serbs - most of them; those who identify themselves as Vlachs; and those who identify themselves as Romanians. Although both Serbs and Vlachs agree that there are differences in Serbian and Vlach national characteristics, they have accepted each other and they have learned to live together. In Kladovo, around a century and a half ago, there even lived Pemci, the descendants of Slovak and Czech immigrants and a few families of German and Hungarian origin. Due to the wars which took place in our region at the end of the twentieth century, as well as due to the difficult economic situation, sport was the only factor that brought people together in difficult times. Therefore, in Kladovo, sport represents a universal language that connects all nationalities, because sport is a large field, to which we all belong, where everyone deserves their own chance and space. According to the 2002 census, 9.142 people live in Kladovo, and according to the results of the polling of the population in 1991, there were 9.626 inhabitants

Table 1 Demography¹ of Kladovo

Year	Population
1948	2128
1953	2336
1961	2683
1971	6957
1981	8325
1991	9626
2002	9142

¹ Statistical Office of Republic of Serbia. *Comparative Overview of the Number of Population in 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2002*. Data by settlements. Book 9, Belgrade.

In the village of Kladovo, there are 7375 adults, and the average age is 38.2 (37.0 for men and 39.3 for women). It has 3.155 households, and the average number of members per household is 2.90. Kladovo is mainly inhabited by Serbs

Table 2 Ethnic groups² - according to the 2002 census

Serbs	8.074	88,31%
Montenegrins	510	5,57%
Vlachs	112	1,22%
Romanians	67	0,73%
Macedonians	37	0,40%
Yugoslavians	30	0,32%
Croats	19	0,20%
Muslims	12	0,13%
Hungarians	11	0,12%
Bulgarians	9	0,09%
Roma	8	0,08%
Slovenes	4	0,04%
Ukrainians	3	0,03%
Germans	2	0,02%
Bosniaks	2	0,02%
Russians	1	0,01%
Other	61	0,66%

² Statistical Office of Republic of Serbia. *Population, national or ethnic affiliation*. Data by settlements. Book 1, Belgrade.

Nonetheless, the greatest part of the population speaks the Vlach language and has inherited the Vlach culture and tradition.

A work methodology and respondent

The subject of the research is a monographic treatment of the life and work of educational and recreational activities of a sports teacher in the border regions of eastern Serbia. As a part of the field research for this study, an in-depth interview was conducted with Professor Bogosav Đurđanović, a teacher of physical education in the primary school “Vuk Karadžić” in Kladovo. The aim of this paper is to isolate and examine the social, economic and cultural characteristics of Kladovo and the cooperation with neighboring countries through sporting events and use of personal sport contacts as a sport role model.

Data collection was carried out on the basis of field research and according to the instructions and procedures for collecting data on sociological research participants (actors) in the sport, designed by a sociologist Danijela Zdravković.

The procedure for data collection consists of 28 questions, divided into four separate sections. The first set of questions in the questionnaire are related to the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The second set of questions (nine in total) investigate the essential characteristics of sport and social relations within and between sports and athletes, as well as cross-border and international cooperation. The third set of questions (three in total) represent the opinion of the participants about the economic, cultural and political dimensions of sport. The last set of questions (seven in total) had to do with the social action of sport players.

Physical education teacher Bogosav Đurđanović was born September 24, 1958 in Kladovo, where he lives and works. He is married to Ljiljana (1961), who is also a teacher of physical education at the primary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo. He is the father of two children - a daughter who graduated from the business faculty in Belgrade, and a son who graduated from the college of sports and physical education also in Belgrade. Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović finished primary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo in 1974, as well as a secondary technical school in 1978, also in Kladovo. The position of a physical education teacher he gained at the Pedagogical College in Belgrade, Department of Physical Education, where at the time of his studies he met his current wife, then a colleague. He graduated from Faculty of Sport and Physical Education in Priština, where he earned a bachelor degree - professor of sport and physical education.

The teacher - our participants, Bogosav Đurđanović has been living in Kladovo since birth, a town is located on the right bank of the Danube, opposite the Romanian city of Turnu Severin. He lives in his family home, which is located near the elementary school where he works and lives with his family. His entire educational career as a teacher was related to his birthplace to which he says he has gotten too emotionally attached, even though he had the opportunity to continue his life in Belgrade. He has been working at the primary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo since 1985, which amounts to 29 years of successful work in education. During his tenure, Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović was involved in soccer from an early age. In 1972, he was the first generation of the founding pioneers of SC "Đerdap", which today competes in the Serbian League East. During his studies in Belgrade, he played professionally for well-known SC "Čukarički". Upon returning to his hometown, he became a member of the senior team of the SC "Đerdap". During his rich career as a player, Bogosav was voted, among other things, athlete of the year two times in the city Kladovo.

As a player at SC "Đerdap" in 1992, he took the title of best shooter of the Timok zone, which brought him the title of the sportsman of the city of Kladovo, as in 1995, when for the second time he won this prestigious award. In a famous soccer tournament, our respondent repeatedly won first place (1978/79/81/83/88/89/93) with his famous team "Kicoši" which have been undisputed for more than 15 years on a small field near Danube. He won top scorer five times (1978/83/85/88/93).

After a successful playing career, Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović began a more than notable coaching career. He was the coach of SC "Đerdap" (pioneers, cadets, first team), SC "Brodoremont" (first team), teams for the deaf, but he started his own soccer school, where he also had significant sporting results. In 2002, Bogosav Đurđanović, as a coach of Serbia and Montenegro's team for the deaf, secured a qualification spot for the European Championship in Sheffield (England). With his soccer school students, aged 10, he won the first place in a prestigious tournament in Austria 10 (2002). Besides the gold medal at the aforementioned tournament, he won third place with a group of children under 12 years old on two occasions (2002 and 2003). In 2004, he won second place with a group of children under 12, and 4th place with a group of children under 10. In 2004, as a coach of youth team, he won second place in the former Serbia and Montenegro at the famous tournament "Football 7". His soccer school consistently won medals in the summer tournaments in Kladovo from 2003 to 2006. As the head coach of SC "Đerdap" he and his team earned a higher rank in the Serbian league - East in 2008/09. In 2000, among others, he received a great recognition from the Sports Association by being appointed as a sports coach in Kladovo.

As a teacher at the primary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo, he had a lot of good results in his career of 29 years. Among the important results it should be stated that in 1995 and 1997 his students won second place at the famous soccer tournament called "Litas liga". Given the fact that Kladovo is a little place, it should be emphasized that it has participated on several occasions in national-level sports competitions (2005 and 2008). With his students in national competitions, teacher Bogosav Đurđanović won seventh place in the team category in 2008, which represents the biggest success of the school's sport in the city of Kladovo. As far as the last competitions are concerned, we noticed that in the category of boys he won third place twice in national soccer competitions (2011/13), and in the category of girls he won fifth place in 2011.

For the purposes of this study, Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović gave us an insight into all the awards, trophies, diplomas, letters of thanks, but also the jerseys of teams for which he had played, as well as photographs that marked his personal and professional life. All of the trophies are exhibited in the great hall of the primary school "Vuk Karadžić" where he teaches physical education, so he made a small presentation of his success in the past years to all the interested school children



Photograph 1 Professor Bogosav Đurđanović with all his trophies

Due to his professionalism and dedication to the job, as well as due to his responsibilities in the field, such as a player and later as a coach of different generations of athletes, while being an expert and educator, Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović represents one of the most successful sports participants (actors) of this area. The elementary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo has 983 students, 129 of whom are in highlight classes from first to fourth grade students and 18 preschool children in highlight classes.

RESULTS

In this section the responses of the teacher Bogosav Đurđanović, an experienced pedagogical worker will be presented. The responses were categorized into three groups according to previously defined topics. An in-depth interview with the participant was performed in the teacher's lounge, which is located within the large hall of elementary school "Vuk Karadžić" in Kladovo.

At the beginning of the interview with Mr. Đurđanović the attempt was to try and get to know the essential characteristics of sport and social relations between athletes and cross-border and international cooperation. To this question, the teacher gave the following answer:

"Given the fact that I have been an athlete since 1972, when I was first registered for a pioneer-age team, which was at the same time the first generation of the SC "Đerdap" in Kladovo, and up to this day, since I played football a lot, not only as a player but as a coach, and also my profession gives me the right to think in that sense, where I can say everything positive related to sport. Sport can socialize people a lot, for me personally sport has given me a chance to meet many people, I have traveled, I cannot say all across Europe, but I did travel throughout the whole of the former Yugoslavia, all the bordering countries near it, and even as far away as Dublin. Having acquaintances in almost every city in Serbia and even abroad, after ten years, has left a good and lasting impression on me, because I felt free and welcome everywhere I was. I know that all of that was provided by this sport which I recommend to young people, and it is certain that sport carries only positive things".

Due to the specific geographical location of Kladovo, teachers are expected to realize international cooperation with other countries. Asked whether he has had international (cross-border) cooperation in terms of sports, educational or cultural institutions and what types of cooperation they were, Mr. Bogosav replies:

"Of course we realize that kind of cooperation, given the location and the place where we live, it is a border zone with Romania. Every year we organize meetings with individual schools from Turnu Severin and Timisoara, cities with which we are in constant contact, and it happens that we exchange experiences and cooperation with other places primarily in Romania. Thanks to the school we had a tour in Denmark, and they were our guests in Kladovo. As a coach, (the national team of the deaf, 2002) I spent time in Ireland, so we have repeatedly established international cooperation. In addition to sports, there were also cultural events, whether it was folklore or some other events. In addition to the above mentioned, we cooperated with Austria where we stayed for six years in a row with the school soccer team (2002 to 2007) and we achieved notable results of which I am proud. I hope that the children, athletes and football players whom I have coached will be able to grow up to be top professional players".

Being a teacher, a coach, a former athlete, it is not surprising that Bogosav Đurđanović is a member of the Sport Alliance of Serbia, or any other sports organization, which he confirmed in his answer to the question, which is - are you a member of the Sports Association of Serbia and (or) a member of some other sports associations and if so please specify the forms of cooperation which you have:

"As a licensed coach I am a member of the coaching organization, and as a teacher, educator, I am a member of the society for physical education teachers. Given that I'm involved in the competition for school sports and the Olympic education of Serbian students, I am also a member of the Alliance for school sports. Cooperation is achieved

through various training as trainers in seminars, and also at meetings of the society for physical education teachers. Cooperation related to school sports is realized through school sport competitions in all disciplines”.

In which way and to which extent are the relations of cooperation with your younger and older colleagues, athletes, colleagues from other sports, coaches, judges established; the participant gave a clear and precise answer:

“It is certain that one of the ways that we achieve cooperation is through meetings, various forums, seminars. I achieved excellent cooperation with both younger, and with older colleagues. As a schoolteacher I had fair cooperation with other colleagues from other sports, through soccer, but also through other sports such as volleyball, basketball, athletics... As far as the relationship with judges is concerned, I can say that I've always had a good cooperation with them, not only in the field as a player, but as a team leader as well, since I have been a coach and educator who had to demonstrate to children how they should behave. I would often bring the judge to my counterparts so as to introduce them to certain rules, modifications of rules and everything that was necessary for the development of young soccer players and they would always respond to my call, so I'm very pleased with all my colleagues, judges and everyone else in the field of sports”.

Any professional training and education can affect the improvement of sports and business engagements. When asked to what extent the additional trainings in sports (master, doctoral studies or vocational training) have helped him in improving his sports and business engagement, teacher Đurđanović said the following:

“They have certainly helped, graduating from the Teacher's Training College and starting to work in an elementary school I strived for continuous improvement and for these reasons I graduated from college. Working in soccer clubs helped me gain the title of a licensed soccer coach and I can freely say that all my professional training has positively affected how I convey my knowledge even better to the younger generations, which I have somehow proved through my results”.

The subsequent course of the conversation was focused on inter-ethnic relations in society. To the question – Is it possible to see the character/quality of inter-ethnic relations in a society simply on the basis of cooperation with other actors in sports and whether conflicts occur among colleagues because they belong to different ethnicity, Mr. Bogosav gave the following response:

“When I was a player, there were not any differences in inter-ethnic relations, given the fact that we live in a border region, we are used to living in a multi-ethnic environment and we have not experienced anything bad in interpersonal relations. In Kladovo, despite the presence of a large number of Vlachs and Montenegrins, mutual respect has always existed. In sports, I can say that I have never made a distinction based on one's nationality, but only according to the field results, and it can be added that the sport itself has even led to the realization of the incredible friendship, and even love among all the people in this region. I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that in our school where I work, officially we do not have children of Roma origin while actually we have them, but they have identified themselves as Serbs. Me and my colleagues, in this small town near the Danube, we do not have any problem with athletes, pupils or people of other nationalities. I can say for the clubs where I worked, where I've coached that there were no differences in inter-ethnic relations, nor did any kind of conflict occur”.

Kladovo is known for its large number of successful athletes in the past, and the question whether, in your opinion, children from the place where you live and work have

high educational and sporting aspirations and whether in Kladovo there are characteristics and rituals directed towards the creation or preservation of Serbian cultural identity, the following opinion was given:

“Although Kladovo is a small town, a large number of children have high aspirations as evidenced not only by the previous generations, but with the present one as well. The proof of this are even my former students who are now members of national teams in various sports. And as far as the features and rituals in our area are concerned I think that we do not have a general one, but I believe that every player personally has some specific one when it comes to sports competitions”.

The economic, cultural and political dimension of sport

The link between sport and economy has never seriously been taken into question, although the nature of this relationship has been changing. Today, a slogan that money is something unworthy and dirty sounds pretty romantic, which destroys the healthy and noble sport tissue. In the past, the aim was to present the world of money and the world of sport as opposites. The end of the twentieth century was definitely the one which made them a couple. Before that, sports and money, metaphorically speaking, were "only engaged". To the question of whether sport is a way for market principles of life and work to be easily adopted, so as to build a new lifestyle in the postmodern society market, Bogosav Đurđanović said:

“For many years I was involved in sport and it gives me the right to claim that in the past money was not a priority. One would play sports out of passion for sport not for money. Unfortunately, in the current sports, solely money is important. I believe that nowadays, through sport which brings a lot of money, a new life style can be built”.

The common way of life, lifestyle and destiny are the basis for the formation of a subculture. A typical example is the subculture of young people, who emphatically prefer fashion trends, music, rivalry, fair play, self-discipline and an ascetic lifestyle. To the question of whether sport can influence the formation and adoption of cultural patterns among the young, the teacher gave the following response:

“I think it can, young just by traveling, visiting other cultures, regions, religions one may acquire other knowledge. However, I believe that every young individual can accept or reject cultural patterns”.

At the beginning of the second decade of this century, we should slowly but surely change our views about sport, and begin working on how to reduce the influence of politics, which is now extensive. It is being said that sport is becoming just another in a series of tools for increasing economic power and profiteering for individuals and groups and less for the social sphere for which the sport was initially formed, to provide entertainment, leisure, socializing and more for a wider range of people (society). When the participant was asked what his opinion was on the influence of politics in sports, he said:

“I can say that nowadays it has become inevitable that politicians represent sport club officials, which was not the case in the previous period. Unfortunately, it seems that this allows some kind of frauds, so that somebody can promote himself through politics, actually by representing the club, which is a disaster for sport. I think that at the present time politics should not be so represented in sport, because it is not good when politics and sport mix”.

The social actions of athletes

In many studies, sport is compared with work as a special process. It is more correct to speak of sport as social actions, actually social activity as a conscious human activity within which a man spends his psycho-physical energy in order to meet specific individual or social needs. Within the various activities, a particular effect is encouraged: a) either on an object, b) toward another individual or group, c) to a part of the social structure (organizations, groups, institutions, sports collective...). Regarding the social status and social prestige of sports players in Serbia, we obtained the following response:

“I think that all athletes have a more than favorable social position. As for the social prestige of sports players in Serbia, I'd pick the example of Novak Đokovic. We don't need to talk about it and about the result he has achieved, but he represents our country in the best possible way and he is a true ambassador of Serbia”.

Often, the distance of the location of the other major centers can be a problem, both financially and developmentally for young talent. To the question whether, in your opinion, social status, sports players in your place differ from the social position of sports players in other parts of Serbia, and whether and how life in the city (the place where you live) is an obstacle to achieving results in the sport you do, Mr. Đurđanović said:

“It would not make a big difference. I think the social position of all participants in sport is more or less the same, the only thing I can mention is that we are slightly removed from all major sports centers. If we take into consideration the area where we live, and that's a part of the border with Romania, only the distance itself represents a financial problem and the im/possibility of going to a competition, because all the other sports centers are a bit more distant. Yet I believe that this is not a big problem when it comes to creating and finding a new talent, nor for their further development and progress”.

Successful athletes can help the social development of the place where they live and work in different ways. To the given question whether the sports actions of an athlete can help social development in the places where he works and lives, and if so, how he can do it, Mr. Bogosav gave the following response:

“I'm not sure to what extent an athlete can help social development of his home town, but I think that any athlete can promote and affirm his city very much”.

Given the fact that the participant is a prominent sports activist who has been involved in sport for decades, not only as performer, but as a coach and a teacher at school as well, it is expected that we would get the most honest answer when asked to list and describe not only his positive experience of sport engagement but negative experience as well, which teacher Bogosav Đurđanović accepted with a smile and answered:

“This question requires a slightly longer answer, but from my point of view I can say that sport is what brought me this life. Sports helped me to socialize, get an education, it has provided me an easy going and better life, much travel, meeting large numbers of people both in our country and abroad. For this reason, and from my personal examples, I can recommend to younger generations to focus on sport, or to play sports. As for negative experiences, basically, I can say that negative experiences are probably the ones to be quickly forgotten and that one remembers only the good. However, there may have been some bias, but of course without any consequences, given the fact that I, as an educator, I have to be a role model to younger athletes. I believe that one should never manifest injustice through aggression, but one should adhere to the spirit of fair play, correct and decent behavior”.

The last, but not the least important question relates to the future of sport in Kladovo, whether the number of younger participants (actors) in sport (in your club, place of residence) decreases, increases or tends to "even out", i.e. Triggers the same number of young athletes from year to year Mr. Bogosav Đurđanović responds:

"I have one opinion, in the previous period when I began to be involved in sports, there were not a large number of sports. There were, so to say, the basic sports, soccer, basketball, volleyball and handball, but now there are sports like kick boxing, karate, judo club... The conditions that we have to start some sport in Kladovo are more than favorable. In addition to sports halls, sports fields, marking sports hall, there is a sports center "Karatas" where the best Serbian athletes come, like members of the Serbian national junior category teams of all sports, but also foreign nationals for preparations. All this that I have said is supported by the fact that more and more young people, or at least when it comes to Kladovo, start sports, mainly because of the good conditions and opportunities".

The participant, the sport role model-teacher Bogosav Đurđanović, was delighted to agree to an interview and repeated supplementary interviews (telephone conversations, or via Skype), where he generously provided us with accurate data, so the majority of the methodological difficulties were avoided.

CONCLUSION

It is generally accepted that society and some parents do not have positive beliefs towards education today, and that schools increase the quality of leisure time. The purpose of the entire education and training program for students, teachers, parents and society believe that through education, sports activities and school sports the quality of life of the community, the family and the individual increase. As with any profession with a distinct human orientation, the profession of sports educators is characterized by the inability of making sharp boundaries between the professional and personal. A physical education teacher should not only be considered as a professional, but, above all, as a person who performs a specific professional role in the context of defining the essence of the social function of the teacher, as well as the necessary preconditions for achieving notable success in the sport in the border regions. The central part of the work is based on data obtained during the interview with a sport role model. In this paper we have presented his way of life, educational work and sports activities, and the effects of his assistance and support on the residents of Kladovo and the wider area of Eastern Serbia (regardless of nationality) from 1985 to the present. Our interlocutor, after finishing the Teachers Training College, earned a college education at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education in Priština, and before that, for many years, he was involved in sports as a player and as a coach in the native place (Kladovo), as confirmed by the developed characteristics (impacts) of a sport role model in the social reality in border regions of eastern Serbia. In methodological terms, this paper presents an application of a case study method combined with other techniques, primarily testing (in-depth interviews and field test).

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SPORT U POGRANIČJU: BOGOSAV ĐURĐANOVIĆ O SPORTSKOM I PROSVETNOM RADU (KLADOVO)

Rad je nastao iz potrebe, da se iz mikrosociološke perspektive, pregledno izlože društveni problemi vezani za sport, kao način proizvodnje društvenog života, u ekonomski devastiranim pograničnim sredinama Istočne Srbije. Dugoročne demografske promene, problemi tranzicije i egzistencijalne teškoće u savremenom srpskom društvu, umnogome su izmenili sliku društvenog položaja učesnika (aktera) u sportu od ostalog dela Balkana. Autori, polazeći od spornog pitanja: da li su sportski događaji u pograničju faktori integracije ili su oni samo proizvod globalnih integracionih procesa?, čine pokušaj da na osnovu kazivanja Bogosava Đurđanovića o svom prosvetnom i sportskom radu, žitelja opština Kladovo, analizira smisao sporta u pograničju, iz vizure sportskog pedagoga (aktera u sportu). Analiza podataka terenskog istraživanja, dobijenih u produbljenom intervjuu, skromno ukazuje na značaj subjektivnih doživljaja vezanih za sport i njegovu društvenu funkciju u okviru obrazovnog podistema i šire. Dobijeni nalaz potvrđuje da sportsko iskustvo tek u spoju sa energijom mlađih generacija, doprinosi unapređenju društvenog razvoja pograničja, a time i društvenom ugledu sportskih pedagoga, ali i učesnika (aktera) u sportu. Poseban osvrt u radu je učinjen i u opisu individualnih i kolektivnih dostignuća našeg ispitanika (nagrade, medalje, pehari itd.) koji ga potvrđuju kao uzornika u oblasti sporta i obrazovanja u pograničju Istočne Srbije. U radu je primenjen kvalitativni stil istraživanja – dubinski intervju – kao metodološki koristan istraživački instrument u terenskim ispitivanjima.

Ključne reči: *sociologija sporta, sportski pedagog, uzornik, Bogosav Đurđanović, Kladovo.*