



INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

PPB Helps Achieve Sports Dream

The Municipal Budget Reform in Ukraine Project makes it possible to effectively use limited budget resources for the direct benefit of citizens.



Intensive practicing yields results for young soccer players.
(photo from the files of CYFS «Stal»)

Serhiy Huz, a 9th grade student in Alchevsk Sports and Natural Sciences School No.15, dreams of becoming an outstanding basketball player. “But in order to achieve my dream I should keep practicing every day,” the boy said. Despite the fact that the school Serhiy attends specializes in sports, it has only soccer classes so far. Serhiy is a bit jealous of his friends who play soccer because they enjoy the opportunity to study and “kick the ball about”, whereas oftentimes he has to miss school in order to attend basketball practices and competitions.

“Our school had been struggling for a long time to obtain the status of a sports school and in 2004 we finally managed to open one soccer class, and later three more classes – from the 7th through the 10th grade,” said Yevheniya Vihdorovych, Principal of School No.15. “Over this period of time our students have achieved good results and are trained by the best coaches, including Vyacheslav Frantsev, Director of Football Club Stal’s Alchevsk Youth Sports School,” she pointed out. According to Mr. Frantsev, there are very talented and committed soccer players in the school. “They have a wonderful chance to prove that they could get into FC Stal, which currently plays in the First League of Ukraine’s Championship League,” the coach said.

Over several years the school management became convinced that the model of combining sport and academic studies is an effective one. Thus, the teaching staff came up with the idea to create an additional basketball and tennis class. However, in order to accomplish this idea it was necessary to find additional funds, which the school unfortunately lacks. So, the administration of School No. 15 approached the city government soliciting financial support for this idea.

The Alchevsk city government readily responded to the school’s request. Using the efficient financial tool called Performance Program Budgeting (PPB), which has been implemented in Alchevsk since 2006 with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Municipal Budget Reform (MBR) Project, the city division of physical culture and sports developed a program called, “Physical Education – Health of the Citizens of Alchevsk”. The city allocated UAH 105,750 under this program to open new sports classes in School No.15.

“It means that beginning from September 2008 the dreams of the teachers and students will become a reality,” Yevheniya Vihdorovych stated, adding, “Now our soccer players will pass the baton to their successors – basketball players and tennis players. Hopefully, they won’t let us down,” the school principal smiled.

Opening the basketball class means more for Serhiy Huz than all cups he won during different tournaments. The boy is happy not just for himself, but also for his friends who want to commit themselves to basketball, because now they can balance studies and sports and will not have to choose between one or the other. The young athletes said with a smile, “An entire team of professionals worked to solve our problem. They showed the best result! It’s our turn now”.