
The Reorganization of Spanish Republican Popular Sport in Exile and its International Strategy. An Unknown Episode of the Anti-Franco Struggle Through Sport (1946-1948)

Edoardo Molinelli*¹, Xavier Pujadas Martí*^{†2}, and Carles Santacana Torres³

¹Università per Stranieri di Perugia – Italie

²Universitat Ramon Llull [Barcelona] – Carrer de Claravall, 1-3, 08022 Barcelona, Espagne

³Universitat de Barcelona – Espagne

Résumé

The aim of this paper is to present the preliminary results of a research project analyzing the reorganization and activities of the Catalan Committee for Popular Sport (CCEP) during its years of exile in France until the end of 1948. Founded in 1936, the CCEP was one of the leading organizations promoting the People's Olympiad in Barcelona, an event that could not be held due to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. In the final stages of the war, the CCEP's most prominent leaders went into exile in France, where they initially remained in refugee camps in the south of the country. This study examines how, in February 1946, the CCEP was reconstituted in French exile as a representative body of Spanish Republican sport abroad, with the objective of carrying out international propaganda activities against the Francoist dictatorship. These activities were carried out through contact with dozens of workers' sports institutions, federations, associations, and trade unions in different European countries, with the aim of boycotting Francoist Spain's participation in many European sporting events, reinforcing the international isolation of the dictatorship, and contributing to the possibility of regime change in Spain. This activity in exile continued until the end of 1948, when the international political landscape shifted with the implementation of the Truman Doctrine and the beginning of the Cold War. This research, that will allow us to reconstruct one of the lesser-known episodes in the history of popular and workers' sports, is being developed with the personal archive of Francesc Parramon, an exiled member of the CCEP, as well as national and international archives – including the archives of the French FSGT, the funds of the Documentary Center of Historical Memory in Spain, the *Fonds des Réfugiés espagnols* in France or the *Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis* in Amsterdam.

Mots-Clés: workers' sport, popular sport, People's Olympiad, sports diplomacy, anti, fascism

*Intervenant

†Auteur correspondant: xavierpm@blanquerna.url.edu