

BULLETIN 4

WU23SOC/WMSOC/WCup1 – 2026

21-25 January – Batak-BULGARIA



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Dear competitors, coaches and team officials,

On behalf of Bulgarian Orienteering Federation, I have the honour and pleasure to welcome you with a heartfelt "Welcome" to the Ski Orienteering World Cup – Round 1, the World Ski Orienteering Championships for U23 and the World Master Ski Orienteering Championships 2026 in our beautiful country – Bulgaria.

We are truly delighted and happy to welcome you to our country, renowned for its impressive landscapes, rich history and warm hospitality.

This prestigious sporting event represents the pinnacle of athleticism, strategy and passion for ski orienteering.

These championships are not only a stage on which to demonstrate your skills, determination and sportsmanship, but also a wonderful opportunity to create new friendships and unforgettable memories. We are proud to host this major sporting event and are committed to offering you an unforgettable experience.

Our dedicated team has worked hard to prepare technical and exciting competition courses, as well as a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone present. Whether you are elite athletes, young competitors with great ambitions or spectators cheering and applauding from the sidelines, we are thrilled to share this incredible journey together with you.

I wish you great success in all your starts and many joyful moments, both during the competitions and beyond.

May these championships be guided by the principles of fair play, perseverance, mutual support and mutual respect among all present.

Good luck, much success and may each of you achieve your personal best – may the best win.

With warm regards!

Krasimir Danailov – President of Bulgarian Orienteering Federation

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Dear athletes and coaches, guests and friends of Ski Orienteering,

On behalf of all officials and personally in my capacity as Event Director it is my great honour and pleasure to welcome you to Bulgaria, host of the Ski Orienteering World Cup – Round 1, the World Ski Orienteering Championships for U23 and the World Ski Orienteering Masters Championships 2026.

These prestigious international events are organized by Bulgarian Orienteering Federation and NSA SIVEN Orienteering Club with the support of local partners and are held in the beautiful Rhodope Mountains region – an area renowned for its magnificent nature, long-standing sporting traditions and proven experience in hosting major orienteering events.

It is a true honour and a great responsibility for us to welcome the world's ski orienteering elite – athletes and coaches from many nations, united by their passion for the sport, their pursuit of excellence and their respect for the principles of fair play. These championships are not only a highlight of the international sports calendar, but also a celebration of spirit, determination and professionalism.

We are confident that the carefully prepared courses, the excellent natural and snow conditions and the dedicated efforts of the organizers and volunteers will ensure competitions of the highest sporting level, full of exciting races, sportsmanship and unforgettable emotions.

I wish all athletes good health, successful starts and well-deserved results and to the coaches, officials and organizers satisfaction from a job well done. May your stay in Bulgaria be pleasant and filled with warm hospitality and memorable experiences that will bring you back again.

Let these World Championships and the World Cup round stand as a symbol of high sporting excellence, mutual respect and international friendship.

Todor Pedev – Event Director

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ORGANISERS

- MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS OF BULGARIA
- BULGARIAN ORIENTEERING FEDERATION
- ORIENTEERING CLUB "NSA SIVEN"

Event director	Todor Pedev
Course setter	Georgi Hadzhimitev
Event secretary	Ilian Todorov
Tracks & snowmobiles	Ventsislav Venev
IT	Viktor Tsenkov
SPORTident	Lidia Nikolova

CONTACTS

E-mail: ski-o2026@abv.bg

Phone: +359 887 568353

Website: <https://skio2026.eu>

EVENT CONTROLLERS

IOF Senior Event Adviser	Markku Vauhkonen (FIN)
IOF Assistant Event Adviser	Veysel Guler (TUR)
National Controller	Petar Doganov

EVENT CENTRE

HOTEL PARADISE – 41.945542, 24.153330

The event office will be located in the Event centre.

During the competitions, the event office moves out to the competition arena.

The opening times of the Event center are given in the event schedule below.

Only cash payments are accepted except of bank transfer.

There is an information box for every team in the office for start lists, number bibs and other distribution materials.

COMPETITION AREA

Due to the lack of good snow cover at the planned competition terrain, the championships will be moved on the reserved terrain:

Kurtovo – 47 km from the EC – GPS: [42.106419, 23.793797](#)

PROGRAMME

January 21 Wednesday	Arrival
January 22 Thursday	Model Event
January 23 Friday	Sprint
January 24 Saturday	Middle distance
January 25 Sunday	Long distance

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DETAILED PROGRAMME

Wed 21.1.2026

12:00 – 19:00	Event office is open	Event centre
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Thu 22.1.2026

8:30 – 19:00	Event office is open	Event centre
10:00 – 15:00	Model event	Kurtovo
12:00	Deadline for entries (Sprint)	
17:30	Opening ceremony	Event centre
19:00	Team leaders meeting (Sprint)	EC/online

Fri 23.1.2026

8:30 – 19:00	Event office is open	Event centre/Kurtovo
10:00	Sprint – WCUP 1/WU23SOC	Kurtovo
12:30	Sprint - WMSOC	Kurtovo
16:00	Deadline for entries (Middle)	
19:00	Team leaders meeting (Middle)	EC/online

Sat 24.1.2026

8:30 – 19:00	Event office is open	Event centre/Kurtovo
10:00	Middle – WCUP 1/WU23SOC	Kurtovo
12:30	Middle – WMSOC	Kurtovo
16:00	Deadline for entries (Long)	
19:00	Team leaders meeting (Long)	EC/online

Sun 25.1.2026

8:30 – 19:00	Event office is open	Event centre/Kurtovo
10:00	Long – WCUP 1	Kurtovo
12:30	Long – WMSOC	Kurtovo
17:00	Prize giving and closing ceremony	EC
20:00	Banquet	EC

Mon 26.1.2026

09:00 – 12:00	Departure	
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CLASSES AND PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS:

WCUP (M/W 21)

Each Federation may enter up to 6 women and 6 men in each competition.

WU23SOC

In addition for Sprint and Middle distance, each Federation may enter up to a further 2 women and 2 men, who qualify for the Women U23 and Men U23 classes respectively.

WMSOC (M/W 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85):

Open for everybody, the class depends on age.

Sprint distance: Single race event with random start order.

Middle distance: Single race event with random start order.

Long distance: Single race event with random start order.

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SUMMARY OF THE ENTRIES RECEIVED – WORLD CUP 1

Federation	Men	Women	Team Officials	Total
Austria	2	2	3	7
Bulgaria	6	6	2	14
Czechia	6	3	3	12
Estonia	4	3	1	8
Finland	7	8	3	18
Germany		1	1	2
Japan	1	1		2
Latvia	2	3		5
Lithuania	2	1		3
Norway	8	8	2	18
Romania	4		1	5
Sweden	8	6	4	18
Switzerland	8	4	2	14
Sum	58	46	22	126

NUMBER VESTS

Number vests will be used for WORLD CUP and WMSOC. The number vests will be handed out on the day before competition at team officials' meeting or distributed into teams' boxes in the event office.

GPS-TRACKING and TV-STREAMING

Due to the lack of quarantine, GPS tracking will be available after the competition. GPS devices for all competitors in WORLD CUP will be distributed in the pre-start area and have to be worn in the pocket inside the number vest. GPS devices will be collected after the finish of each competition.

There will be live broadcast. Live services of the event include live results, live camera feed and speaker sound from the arena.

Links to the services are available at the event website <https://skio2026.eu>

GPS tracking - <https://gps.tracksport.eu/>

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation level	Type	Place	Price
A Single rooms	3-star Hotel	PARADISE	110 EUR – half board per night per person
B Double rooms and studios	3-star Hotel	PARADISE	65 EUR – half board per night per person

- **Breakfast includes** – traditional Bulgarian breakfast, continental breakfast, fruits, and beverages /coffee, tea, water, juice, fresh milk, and ayran/.
- **Dinner includes** – 6 types of salads; appetizers – fish, hot starters, pasta, pizza, bruschetta, cheeses;
- **Main courses** – chicken, pork, beef, or lamb dishes, and always a vegetarian option.
- **Side dishes** – three to four types.
- **Desserts** – homemade desserts and fruits.

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You can use the hotel's **SPA center completely free of charge**, where the following facilities are at your disposal:

- Indoor swimming pool with a temperature of 30–32°C;
- Dry sauna;
- Turkish bath;
- Steam bath;
- Relaxation area.

The rooms will be provided with bathrobes and slippers for use in the SPA center.

- ☒ Free internet access throughout the entire hotel.
- ☒ The hotel offers free parking.
- ☒ Possibility for bus parking.

Paid Services

- Various types of massages offered in the SPA center;
- Salt room;
- Jacuzzi for two;
- Cleopatra milk therapy with oxygen;

➤ Check out – before 11:00.

❖ **There will be possibilities for hot lunch at the arena – 12 EUR per day.**
Entries can be made on the accreditation at the Event office.

TRANSPORT

Top Rent A Car Bulgaria is an official partner of the championship. If you like to rent a car you can use this link in order to get 7% off the price:

<https://toprentacar.bg/?partner=ofbg7&code=ofbg7>

INSURANCE

The organizers will not be held responsible for the possible human and material damage. All participants should have an insurance and be insured for accident, illness or liability in tort.

PAYMENT

Payment details for entries, accommodation and transport:

Name: NSA-SIVEN

IBAN: BG98BPBI81701745044116

Bank: POSTBANK

BIC (Swift): BPBIBGSF

Address: Sofia, Akademik St.Mladenov 21

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PUNCHING and TIMING SYSTEM

SPORTident AIR+ contactless punching is used as electronic punching and timing system.

Every competitor in WORLD CUP will have two SIACs. Both SIACs must be carried on the same arm (wrist or finger).

The organizers will provide the Si-card for all competitors who need – 15 EUR rent for the whole championships.

To avoid interference, any GPS-watches must not be worn on the same arm!

All SIACs given by the organizers must be returned by team-leaders after the last competition. If a SIAC is lost or not returned, a fee of 75 Euro per SIAC is charged.

One SIAC is marked as "backup" with a black stripe around the red SIAC body. The "backup" SIAC is silent (no beep) and flashes only once at each control. This makes concentrating on the "primary" SIAC easy. By default, only the "primary" SIAC (no black stripe or body) is downloaded after finishing the race. The "backup" SIAC is downloaded in exceptional cases at the organizer's decision only.

In the model event, the control setup used for all competitions is demonstrated.

The punching procedure is as follows: initially, the SIAC (SPORTident Active Card) is inactive.

Before the start, first the "CLEAR" and then the "CHECK" station must be punched "in hole".

After that, the SIAC is in active = contactless mode. Athletes can confirm this by swiping past a provided "TEST" station. The SIAC (not the station!) beeps and flashes for a few seconds. If a SIAC fails to confirm the contactless punch at any control, a traditional "in hole" punch can always be made. Additionally, each control has two SI-stations (one on each side of the track).

At the finish, the time is taken when crossing the finish-line at full speed, no station needs to be punched.

Notice: crossing the finish line during the competition prematurely deactivates the SIAC!

TERRAIN, MAPS and SNOW CONDITIONS

The terrain is moderately hilly to hilly, situated between 1600m and 1800m above sea level with spruce forests and open fields.

The average snow depth in the event terrain on 18th January is 20-30 cm.

Maps will be according to the International Specification for Ski Orienteering Maps 2019. Mapper – Georgi Hadzhimitev

All maps are A4 size (21 x 30 cm) with a 5 m contours interval.

Map scale:

Sprint	1:5000	5 m
Middle	1:10000	5 m
Long	1:15000	5 m

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MODEL EVENT

The Model event will provide relevant examples of mapping, printing, terrain, control situation, punching system, start and finish procedure. Model event maps include map samples in all three map-scales used during the event.

It is recommended for all participants of WCUP and WMSOC to attend the model event on 22nd January between 10:00 and 15:00.

It is not allowed to visit model event area for trainings at other times.

Model event maps will be distributed at the Event office.

Location of Model event: Kurtovo – 47 km from the EC – GPS: [42.106419](#), [23.793797](#)

TEAM OFFICIALS' MEETINGS

Team Officials Meetings (TOM) will be held according to the event schedule at the Event centre and also online. Link will be distributed for each meeting.

COURSE INFORMATION

Due to the exceptional snow conditions prior to the event, it has not been possible to elaborate detailed courses in due time. Final course details will be announced at TOMs.

Winning times are according the IOF rules.

World Cup – men/women	
Sprint	10-15min
Middle	40-45min
Long	85-95min

Sprint distance winning times WMSOC should be about 20 minutes.

Middle distance winning times WMSOC should be 30-40 minutes.

Long distance WMSOC:

W35	60	M35	60
W40	60	M40	60
W45	60	M45	60
W50	60	M50	60
W55	60	M55	60
W60	60	M60	60
W65	50	M65	50
W70	45	M70	45
W75	45	M75	45
W80	45	M80	45
W85	45	M85	45

PARKING

Parking is available at the arena. Parking price – 30 EUR for the whole championships or 10 EUR per day.

Please follow the signs and instructions from the parking marshals to avoid slowing the flow of traffic.

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QUARANTINE AREA

All competitions in the program will be organized without quarantine.

START

In sprint and middle distance competitions (interval start), there is a 4 minute pre-start. A start gate will not be used. The athletes receive the map 15 seconds before start. The start signal is given by sound from start clock. It starts beeping 3 seconds before actual start time and beeps 4 times – the competitor is allowed to start on last beep. There is an organizer keeping a hand on competitor's shoulder until the start moment.

In long-distance competition, there are mass start with assembly beginning 10 minutes before start. Athletes are called to the start area latest 5 minutes prior to the start time. CLEAR and CHECK of SIAC occurs at check-in to the start area. Maps are handed to the athletes between 90 and 45 seconds before the start. Athletes have to keep the map in their hand behind their back until the command "MAP" is given 15 seconds before the start signal. For the first approximately 50 meters, only double poling is allowed.

Competitors must follow the marked route from the time start to the map start triangle.

FINISH

There is a marked route from the last control to the finish, which must be followed by finishing competitors. The competition ends for a competitor when he/she crosses the finish line. After crossing the finish line the competitor shall download the data from the SIAC chip. Competitors wearing GPS device must hand over their devices to the organizers after the finish. The map must be given to the organizers immediately after the finish or changeover unless otherwise stated by the organizers.

TOILETS

Toilets are available at the arena and in Event office building.

START LISTS

Start lists will be published on the homepage of the event, in IOF Eventor, and will be distributed in printed form into the teams' boxes at the event office.

RESULTS

Provisional results will be announced and displayed at the finish area as well as online at www.liveorienteering.com and <https://skio2026.eu> during the competition.

The official results will be published no more than 4 hours after the latest allowable finishing time of the last starter.

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MAXIMUM RACING TIME

Every race has maximum skiing time:

- Sprint, 90 minutes for women and men
- Middle and Long distance, 3 hours for women and men

ABANDONING A RACE

Athletes who wish/need to retire from a race must report to the finish as soon as possible and hand over to the finish staff their competition maps.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints may only be made by accredited team officials or competitors. Complaints should be handed in writing to the organizer at the event office as soon as possible after the incident in question or at the latest within 15 minutes of the publication of the full preliminary result for the class. Complaints received after this time limit will only be considered, if there are valid exceptional circumstances, which must be explained in the complaint. A complaint is adjudicated by the organizer. The complainant will be informed about the decision immediately.

Any protest against the complaint decision shall be presented in writing to the jury no later than 15 minutes after the organizer has informed the complainant of the decision about the complaint. A protest fee of 50 EUR must be paid to the IOF Senior Event Adviser in cash when making a protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is accepted by the jury. When a protest is signed by more than one Federation, each Federation will pay the protest fee.

JURY

Members of the jury:	Reserve members:
Jan Pecka – Czechia	Lars Beglinger – Switzerland
Jaanus Teppan – Estonia	Jarkko Urpalainen – Austria
Max Habenicht – Austria	Joel Karman – Sweden

CEREMONIES

Opening, closing and prize-giving ceremonies will be held at Event centre according to the event schedule.

WAXING FACILITIES AND SKI TESTING

Waxing facilities are not available at the competition arena.

All waxes containing fluoride are banned from IOF competitions. Physical inspections at waxing facilities may take place during the event – [Information for Fluor-ban control](#).

More information can be found here: <https://orienteering.sport/skio/faq-ban-of-fluorinated-waxes-in-skio/> 233.

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EQUIPMENT CHANGE AREAS

There will be a place for equipment change at arena passing in Long distance. Team officials themselves can deposit equipment there. Undamaged ski change is not allowed in any of the distances. In case of very dirty snow before long distance competition, the team officials may agree that undamaged ski change is allowed on that distance.

ANTI DOPING

Doping is strictly forbidden, and the organisers are dedicated to support the Anti-Doping authorities in their work. Doping controls may be carried out any time during the competition period in accordance with the procedures described in the WADA International Standard of testing. The IOF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code apply. Athletes who are selected for doping control must bring an official identification (with photo) to the doping test area. The athlete should also bring along their therapeutic use exemption (TUE) if applicable. In general, it is advisable that athletes bring along their ID to all competitions and events.

For more information and anti-doping documents, please consult:
<https://orienteering.sport/iof/anti-doping/>

HEALTH SERVICE

The organizers will co-ordinate health care services for the participants, but each federation is responsible for insurance for all their team members.

Health-care services will be provided at the arenas of the competitions. The phone number for emergency calls is 112.

MEDIA

We welcome all media representatives. Media representatives can receive information using the e-mail address: ski-o2026@abv.bg

Media centre will be located in Event Centre and Finish area.

Materials for media representatives are available in the Event Office. There is free access to Internet. At the arena, there is very poor mobile internet connection!

Contact person: **Iljan Todorov**

E-mail: iliant@abv.bg

Phone: +359 887568353

WEATHER FORECAST

Latest weather forecast can be found here:

https://www.meteoblue.com/en/weather/week/belmeken-dam_bulgaria_733311

ARENA LOCATION

GPS: [42.090357, 23.803684](#)

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EMBARGOED AREAS

You can see a [detailed map](#) of the embargoed area.

The main road through the High Mountain Sports Complex "Belmeken" is open.

The High Mountain Sports Complex Belmeken is open for training and staying.



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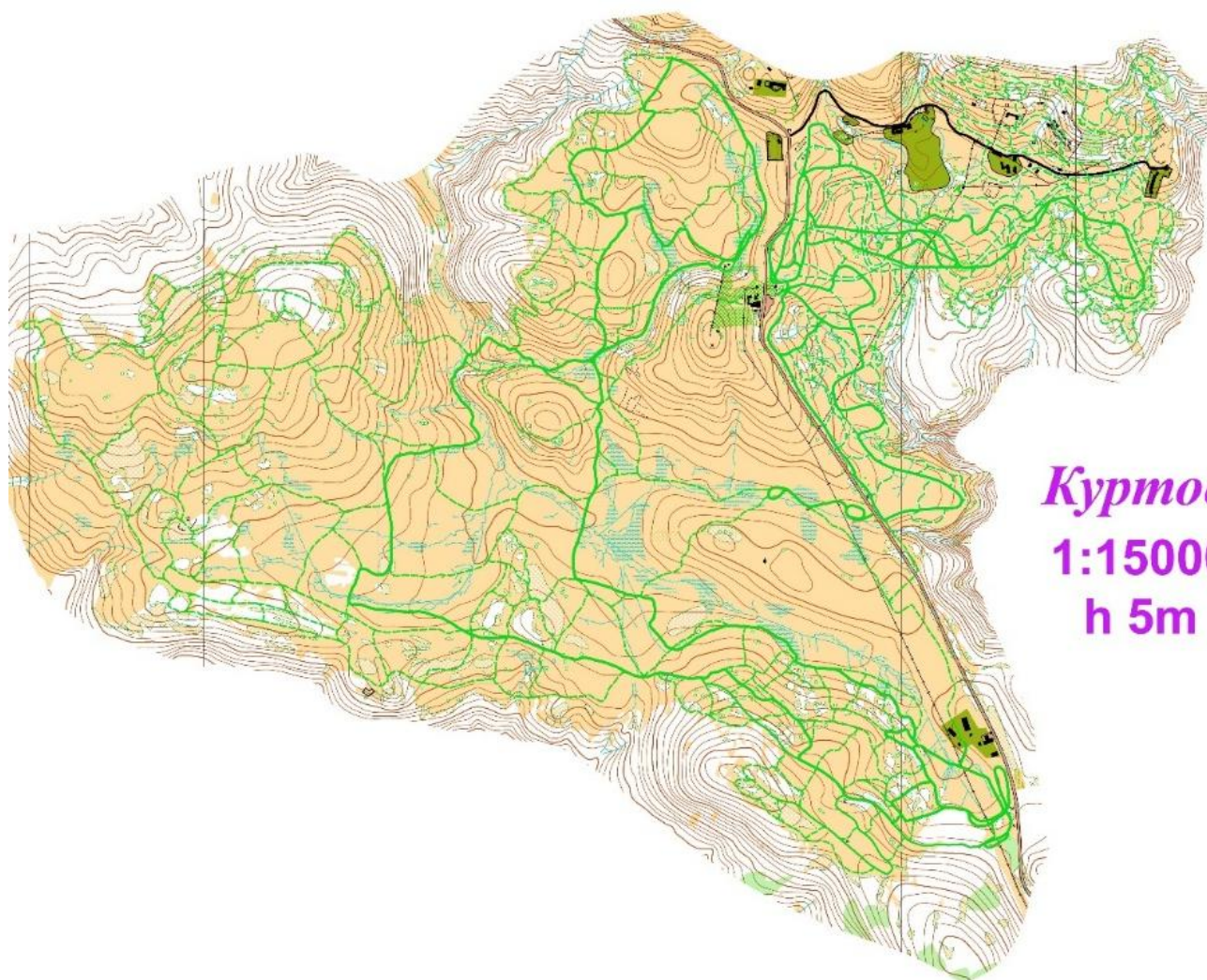
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PREVIOUS MAPS OF THE EMBARGOED AREAS

You can see a [link](#) to the old map of the embargoed area.



Куртово

1:15000

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SKI ORIENTEERING EVENT ADVISERS CLINIC

This season's Ski Orienteering Event Advisers Clinic takes place over four short online meetings in December 2025 and a present meeting during the World Cup Round in Bulgaria from 23-25 January 2026.

The main objective of this IOF Event Advisers' Clinic is to prepare participants to be licensed Ski Orienteering Event Advisers.

People who want to take part in the Clinic can make their entry on the accreditation at the Event office.



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МИНИСТЕРСТВО НА МЛАДЕЖТА И СПОРТА

