

Report

Flags of trade union sports societies in the USSR

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Abstract

Physical culture was an important feature of life in the Soviet Union, and was the responsibility of many Voluntary Sports Associations, associated with trade unions. Some were linked with a single industry, or with that industry within a single region or republic. Yet, despite their prominence, information about the flags of these organisations can be difficult to obtain. The author describes his research methods and their success, and reveals the work still to be done.

Introduction

After the October Revolution of 1917, responsibility for workers' physical training was assigned to *Vsevoluch*, the Central Board for Universal Military Training, before transferring to the new Supreme Council of Fitness Culture (VSFK). In 1923 such VSFKs were set up within every executive committee of each Soviet region. In 1936 the Council became the All-Union Committee for Fitness Culture and Sports Affairs for the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR.

The first of the USSR-wide national sports societies, the Voluntary Sports Society – *Dobrovolnye Sportivnye Obshchestva* (DSO) – Spartak dates from 1935, and in the following years many other sport societies were set up throughout the Soviet Union. Some were closely associated with a single industry; others, with several. The system was completed in the 1950s, when village DSOs were established in all sixteen of the then Soviet republics (which until 1956 included the Karelo-Finnish SSR).

The DSOs worked through a central committee and a series of regional and municipal committees. Each supervised the physical culture collectives within their respective enterprises, whether public-service institution, collective farm (*kolkhoz*), state farm (*sovkhoz*), educational institution etc. They could also be responsible for childrens' sports schools, and for infrastructure such as stadiums, swimming pools and sports halls.

All matters pertaining to the trade unions were overseen by the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (VTsSPS/ВЦСПС), under whose auspices competitions and trade union championships were held in various sports. The competitions often used the flag of the VTsSPS – a white field with the image of a red pennant bearing the letters 'ВЦСПС'. For example, at the opening of the Spartakiad in 1969, this flag was raised directly under the flag of the USSR, on the same halyard. Individual VtsSPS flags could differ in details. For example, on some flags the red pennant could occupy almost the entire length of the field, while on others it was short; on some flags it could be drawn as if flying in the wind, while on others it was flat.

Sources

Information about the flags of the different sports societies is not always easy to obtain. Surviving flags are rarely preserved in museums – they were not 'sacred' in any sense, so did not merit such treatment. Each society had its own statutes, but even where these include flag descriptions they are rarely very detailed.

Many sport societies were founded in 1936-7, but were disbanded in the 1950s, and few documents have been preserved. Some appear in the *Encyclopedia for Young Sportsmen* (1979), and in Ivanov's important work, *Flagi Gosudarstv Mira* (1971).



Left, entry in Encyclopedia for Young Sportsmen (1979); below, K.A. Ivanov, Flagi Gosudarstv Mira (1971), cover and sample page



One important source is contemporary photographs or newsreels, taken between the 1940s and 1960s, showing groups or events, demonstrations or parades.



Flag of Pravda



Flag of Zdorovie



TsSK flag behind the champion Kryl'ya Sovetov ice hockey team



Flags of several societies, including Spartak



Sports teams: left, Metallist; right, Start Vostoka; the badge on the Start Vostoka flag is slightly hidden in this enlarged image but also appears on the kit



Athlete groups: left, Sudostroitel; right, Metallurg Vostoka



Torpedo, 1954



TsDKA football team, 1947



Burevestnik flag at a winter bike competition, 1937



Flag of Kryl'ya Sovetov at a parade, 1938

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Parade, 1945



Parade, 1983

A second source is society diplomas, which are frequently embellished with the society flag.



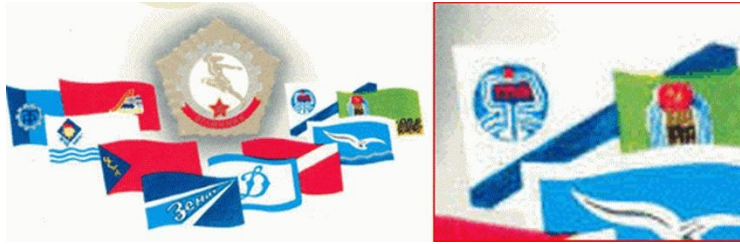
Metallurg diploma



Shaktardiploma



Various flags from diplomas (with enlargement), 1980:
far left, Trud; next to top right, Urozhay (RSFSR)



Various flags from diplomas (with enlargement), 1983:
top right, Trud; next to top right, Urozhay (RSFSR) – note the design changes

Printed ephemera can also show society flags.

A programme published for the Physical Culture Parade (Athletes Parade) held in Moscow in 1938 is illustrated with the flag of each participating society.

Posters and postcards are also a valuable source of information.



Left, second from top, flag of Kryl'ya Sovetov; right, Physical Culture Day poster, 1947, with (left) a variant on the yellow Energia flag



Left, Tovarishch poster with flag (bottom right), 1950s;
right, flags of Spartak, Dinamo, Krasnaya Zvezda,
All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (VtsSPS), Trudiyye Reservy and
Urozhay (RSFSR) on a postcard celebrating holidays, 1954



Left, flags (left to right) of Spartak, Trudiyye Reservy, Dinamo and Burevestnik on a poster celebrating Soviet athletes; right, 1956 poster with the flag of Krasnaya Zvezda



Flags including Burevestnik, Dinamo, TsSKA, Spartak and Urozhay (RSFSR) on a poster celebrating Soviet athletes



Flags including Spartak, Dinamo, Trudiyye Reservy and Burevestnik on a poster celebrating water sports



Flag of Urozhay (RSFSR)

Many societies provided a lapel badge for members, and these frequently include a flag (although given manufacturing limitations such badges must be used with care).

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Sportivnye emblem i znaki (Sports Emblems and Badges), a booklet published in 1955, shows some of these badges. More recently, they have been comprehensively catalogued by V.D. Krivtsov.



Shakhtar flag on an athletics badge



Mashinostroitel flag on a swimming badge



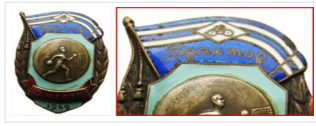
Top left, Tsvetnyye Metally; top right, Gornyak; left, Metallurg – Tsvetnyye Metally was part of Gornyak, and Gornyak was part of Metallurg, suggesting that all three shared a similar flag



Samolet



Khosilot



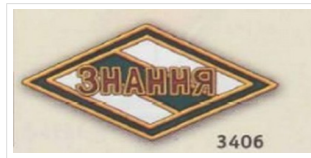
Traktor



*Ruda: catalogued as gilt/enamel;
real example, white metal/enamel*



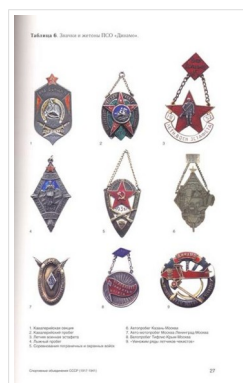
*Strela: a badge with a flag whose true
colours are hard to discern*



Zhnannya, 1936

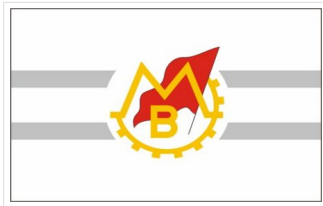


Bumazhnik, 1936



*Nikitov et al., Sportivnye Ob'edineniya SSSR
(Спортивные объединения СССР), 1917-1941: cover and sample page
(A catalogue of sports society badges, published for collectors)*

For many societies, a combination of these different sources is required.



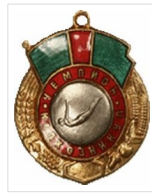
*Metallurg Vostoka: top left, badge;
top right, athletes carry a flag;
left, reconstructed flag*



*Pischevnik: top left, medal, 1954;
top right, photo of the flag, 1952;
left, reconstructed flag*



*Krasnyy Konditer:
top left, badge depicted in catalogue;
above, photo with flag (left), 1937;
left, reconstructed flag*



Kolhoznikul (Moldavian SSR): left, badge, with red diagonal; right, medal, including a flag with a red vertical stripe and no badge

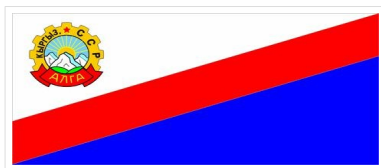


Kolhoznikul (Moldavian SSR): left, diploma shows the flag with a red vertical stripe and a small spot (right of Lenin's portrait) to indicate the badge; right, reconstructed flag, with vertical stripe and badge

Societies

Republic DSO *Alga* (Kirghiz SSR) 1958-82

The emblem of *Alga* ('Forward') featured the mountain peaks and the rising sun from the state emblem of the Kirghiz SSR.



*Alga (Kirghiz SSR).
Ivanov, Flagi*

Republic DSO *Ashkhatank* (Armenian SSR)

Ashkhatank ('Labour'), the sports society of the Armenian SSR, used an emblem comprising the figure of an athlete against the backdrop of the Caucasus mountains within a cogwheel.



*Ashkhatank (Armenian SSR).
Mikhailin, personal communication*

DSO Avangard 1936-57

Avangard ('Vanguard'), the sports organisation of the heavy engineering trade union, was created in 1936. In the 40's or 50's, it absorbed *Dzerzhinets* and *Sudostroitel*. The first version of the *Avangard* flag was represented on shirt badges in a simplified form, and in detailed form, with the emblem, on diplomas.



*Avangard: left, 1st pattern, 1930s and 40s;
right, 2nd pattern. Sportivnye emblem*

Republic DSO Avangard (Ukrainian SSR) 1957-82

In the late 1950s, the name *Avangard* was revived for the Republic DSO of the trade unions of the Ukrainian SSR. From the old society, the Ukrainian society inherited the emblem of a triangular pennant bearing the letter A. But the flag was all blue, and the diagonal repeated the colours of the flag of the Ukrainian SSR.



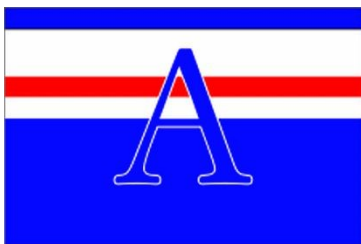
*Avangard (Ukraine SSR).
Ivanov, Flagi*

DSO Avtomotor

The sports society *Avtomotor* ('Vehicle') united the drivers across the southern USSR. In the mid-1940s, *Avtomotor* became part of *Trud*. The flag of *Avtomotor* is shown in a photo of the athletes parade held in Rostov-on-Don in September 1938 but its details are impossible to reconstruct.

DSO Azot

Visible on film footage of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1939) are athletes in vests bearing the name *Azot* ('Nitrogen'), representing the nitrogen fertiliser industry.



*Azot. Film, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1939)*

DSO Boyets

The flag of *Boyets* ('Fighter'), representing the meat processing industry, is

unknown.

DSO *Bolshevik* 1936-50

Bolshevik, the society of the trade union of workers within political education institutions, existed between 1936 and 1950. Over time it also absorbed *Pravda*, *Poligrafist*, *Iskusstvo* and *Samolet*. In 1950, *Bolshevik* joined *Iskra*. Significantly, the flag of *Iskra* retained the design of the flag of *Bolshevik*.



DSO *Bumazhnik*

Bumazhnik ('Wallet') was created in 1936 by the trade union for paper industry workers. Later it became part of *Krasnaya Zvezda*. The member's badge included a flag, so the flag of the society was probably the same.



Bumazhnik

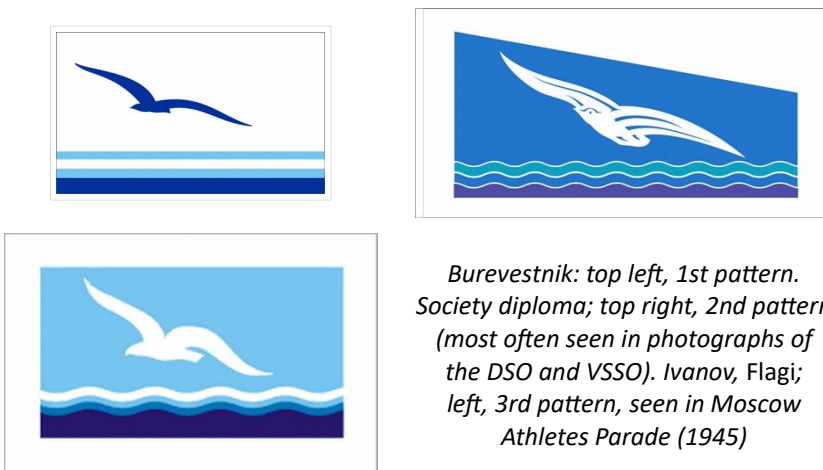
DSO *Burevestnik* 1936-57

Burevestnik ('Storm Petrel') was founded in 1936 as a sports society for workers in state enterprises. In 1950 it absorbed *Molniya*, and in 1955 *Medic*, *Iskra*, *Nauka* and *Trud*, and society's departmental affiliation expanded accordingly. The society's name was inspired by Maxim Gorky's poem, *Song of the Storm Petrel* (*Pesnya o burevestnike*). The eponymous petrel symbolised the hero-revolutionary, and the poem was widely known in the early years of Soviet power and actively used in state propaganda. In the programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938), the flag of *Burevestnik* is drawn with a blue field bearing the image of a flying petrel in a blue triangle (although the drawing may be very stylised). However, photographs from the 1930s to the 1950s show a number of different designs. Some show the 1938 pennant on a white cloth, with a blue band at the bottom of the sheet, and with the triangle turning into a trapezoid. On diplomas of the 1950s, the flag was sometimes depicted as white with the petrel as a blue silhouette. But at the Moscow Athletes Parade (1945), the *Burevestnik* flag had a blue field bearing a white bird flying over dark blue waves.

All-Union Student Voluntary Sports Society VSSO *Burevestnik* 1957-87

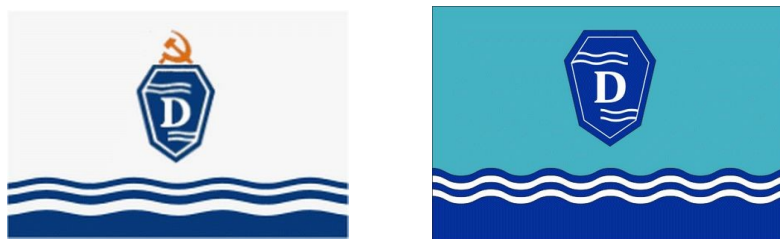
Following a reorganisation of trade union DSOs, *Burevestnik* was liquidated in 1957. But that same year, a new All-Union Voluntary Student Sports Society (VSSO) *Burevestnik* was created. It included students but also employees of

state institutions and state enterprises. By the early 1970s, the society was purely for the education sector, uniting students in higher educational institutions, teachers and university employees. This society represented the interests of the USSR in FISU (International Federation of University Sports). VSSO *Burevestnik* was abolished in 1987 following the creation of the VDFSO trade unions. The VSSO not only took over the name of the trade union *Burevestnik*, but also its symbolism. As before, a white flag with a blue trapezoid depicting a petrel above the waves was the most frequently used. However, from 1959 until at least 1974, the opening titles of the newsreel *Soviet Sport* showed the flags of sports societies flying in the wind. These included the flag of *Burevestnik* in the form of a blue cloth with a bird. The same variants (blue pennant or an all-blue field) are found both on diplomas of the 1970s and on some sports posters. In some sources, instead of a trapezoid, a blue rectangle is depicted in the centre of the white cloth.



Republic DSO *Daugava* (Latvian SSR) 1945-82

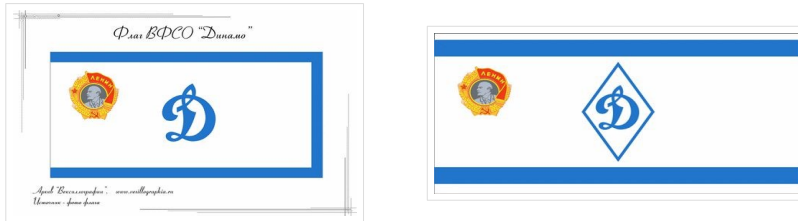
There are images of two flags of *Daugava* ('the river Dvina'), one with a white field, one with a blue, but the difference between the two is uncertain. Sometimes the emblem was depicted ensigned by the hammer and sickle, sometimes these were omitted. Besides the main flag, there was a yacht flag – a white cloth with a red horizontal pall, with a white 'D' on a blue triangle at the hoist (on some pictures the letter is replaced by the full emblem of the society).



VFSO *Dinamo* 1923-92

The sports society *Dinamo* ('Dynamo') was established in 1923. Originally it was planned to be accessible to all segments of the population and was called the *Moscow Sports and Proletarian Society Dinamo*, but it became a departmental society for workers from internal affairs (OGPU/NKVD) and the KGB. The society

received the Order of Lenin in 1937 'for outstanding achievements in work and its leading role in the Soviet physical culture movement'; in 1939, it gained a new charter and a new name – the *All-Union Sports and Athletic Order of Lenin Society Dinamo*. The *Dinamo* emblem was created in 1927 by artist Alexander Borisov, a former football player. (But Basov states that photographs from 1924 show a diamond with a letter 'D', almost identical to the current one, on the athletes' chests). Blue and white were chosen as the *Dinamo* colours in 1924. They are believed to symbolise the words of F.E. Dzerzhinsky about the bright and pure thoughts of Cheka employees (though it may be just a myth).

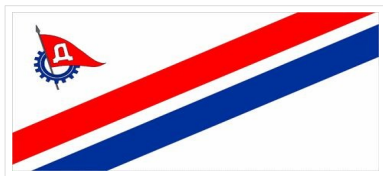


Dinamo: left, 1st pattern. Ivanov, Flagi; right, variant pattern, with border replaced by stripes

DSO Dzerzhinets 1937-53

Dzerzhinets united workers in transport engineering and later became part of *Avangard*.

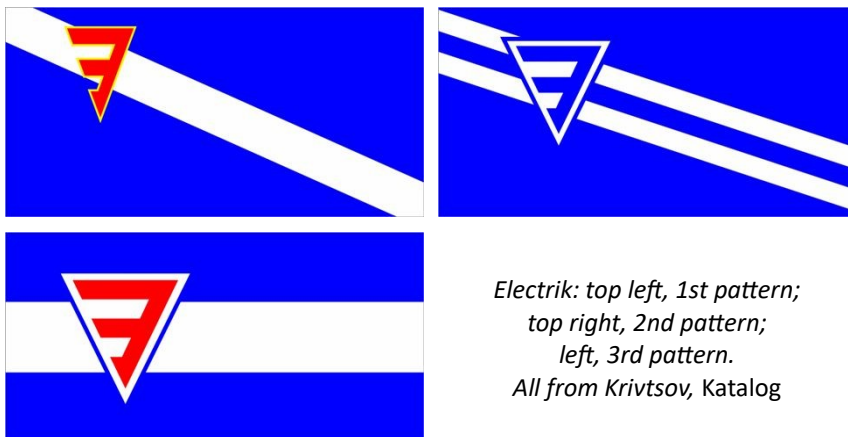
Some photos show the inscription ДЗЕРЖИНЕЦ ('Dzerzhinets') on one of the stripes of the flag.



Dzerzhinets

DSO Elektrik

The flag of *Elektrik* ('Electric') – the DSO for workers in the electrical industry – has several variants: with two diagonal stripes, with one diagonal stripe, or with a horizontal white stripe. In 1953 *Elektrik* became part of *Energia*.



Elektrik: top left, 1st pattern; top right, 2nd pattern; left, 3rd pattern. All from Krivtsov, Katalog

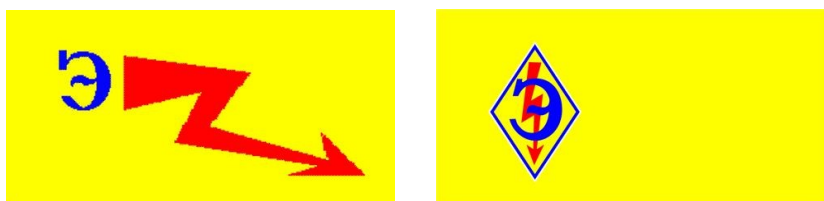
Republic DSO Enbek (Kazakh SSR) 1957-82

Enbek ('Work') was established in 1957 and included all the trade union sports teams of the Kazakh SSR. The society used a device in the form of a white diamond with a blue horizontal stripe in the middle.

We do not have an accurate picture of the flag, but the general pattern is known: white with a blue stripe in the centre, and a national ornament at the hoist.

DSO *Energia* 1936-58

Energia ('Energy') was created as a society of the trade union of power station workers. It later absorbed *Stalinets*, *Electric* and *Peat* (peat industry). The company was abolished in 1957. The programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) depicts the triangular flag of *Energia* as red, but we suspect that this is an error: the colour of the field should have been yellow, and the programme was printed without yellow ink.



Energia: left, 1st pattern. Sportivnye emblemy; right, 2nd pattern

DSO *Entuziast*

Entuziast ('Enthusiast' – sawmill and woodworking industries of the North) was later absorbed by *Krasnaya Zvezda*. The flag is unknown.

Republic DSO *Gantiadi* (Georgian SSR) 1957-82

Gantiadi ('Dawn') was established in 1957 in the Georgian SSR by the amalgamation of all Georgian trade union physical culture groups.



Gantiadi (Georgian SSR): left, 1st pattern. Basov, personal communication; right, 2nd (simplified) pattern. Mikhailin, personal communication

The early version of the *Gantiadi* flag is blue, with an emblem consisting of the Georgian letter 'G'.

The depiction of the letter 'G' varied. The lower element might take the form of a heart, a triangle, or a circle.

DSO *Gornyak*

The *Gornyak* ('Miner') society comprised *Tsvetnyye Metally* and *Iskra*. *Gornyak* later became a member of *Metallurg*.

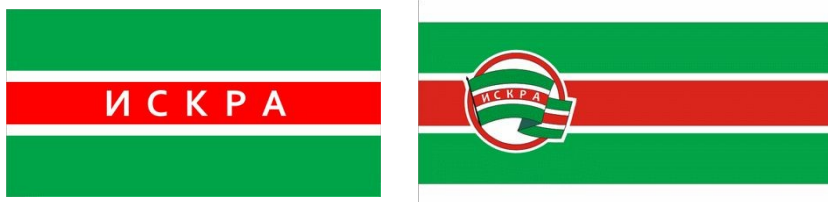


Gornyak.
Krivtsov, Katalog

DSO *Iskra* 1950-5

There were two DSOs named *Iskra* ('Spark'). The first was created in 1936 for workers in the non-ferrous metals processing industry, which later became part of *Gornyak*. The second, which concerns us here, was created in 1950 from the amalgamation of *Bolshevik*, *Uchitel* (RSFSR), *Znaniye*, *Uchitel Kazakhstana*, *Uchitel Gruzii* (Georgian SSR), and *Uchitel Uzbekistana*.

In 1955 *Iskra* became part of *Burevestnik*. The flags of *Iskra* appear on badges and diplomas, and appear to be similar to those of *Bolshevik*.



Iskra: 1st pattern (left); 2nd pattern (right)

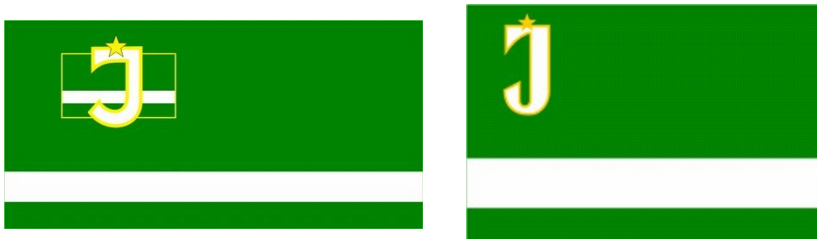
DSO *Iskusstvo*

Iskusstvo ('Art') was formed by the trade union for art workers. Its flag is unknown and it was later absorbed by *Bolshevik*.

Rural DSO *Jõud* (Estonian SSR)

Many photographs of the *Jõud* ('Strength') flag from the 1950s onwards depict its emblem as a letter 'J' against the background of a small version of the flag.

At this time, the emblem appeared in mirror image on the reverse, almost turning the 'J' into a 'C'. For around twenty years, this form appeared in the credits of the newsreel *Soviet Sport*.



Jõud (Estonian SSR): left, 1st pattern. Soviet Sport newsreel;
right, 2nd pattern, 1970s. Mikhailin, personal communication

Republic Rural DSO *Kairat* (Kazakh SSR) 1957-82

Kairat ('Strength') was established in the Kazakh SSR in 1957 by the merging of *Kolkhozhy* with the Kazakh physical training teams of *Urozhay*.



Kairat (Kazakh SSR)

Republic DSO Kalev (Estonian SSR) 1944-82

Kalev (named after a legendary king of Estonia) was founded in 1944 in Soviet Estonia and was named for the Estonian sports club that existed from 1901-40.

Metal badges suggest that the *Kalev* yacht club had its own burgee – a white and blue pennant with a letter 'K' in the hoist.



Kalev (Estonian SSR): left, 1st pattern, 1948; right, 2nd pattern. Mikhailin, personal communication

DSO Kauchuk

The flag of *Kauchuk* ('Rubber'), serving the rubber industry, is depicted in the programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) and appears again in film of the 1939 Parade.



Kauchuk. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO Khimik -1958

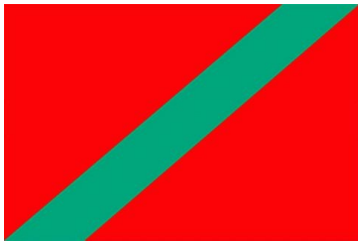
The company was established under the trade union of chemical industry workers. The society was later enlarged to include *Azot*, *Monolit* and *Kauchuk*.



Khimik. Sportivnye emblem

Republic Rural DSO Khosilot (Tajik SSR)

Khosilot was created in 1956, uniting the preexisting collective farmers' *Kolkhozchi* and *Urozhay* in Tajikistan.

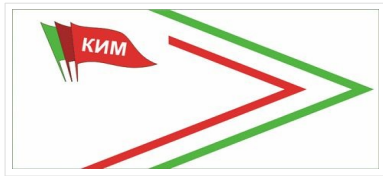


*Khosilot (Tadjik SSR).
Society badges*

DSO KIM -1945

The DSO for housing workers received its name in honour of the Young Communist International (KIM). Soon after its foundation, *KIM* absorbed *Kommuna* and *Rekord*.

The Young Communist International was dissolved in 1943 and in consequence the abbreviation KIM began to be used in the USSR for other purposes. The KIM Plant became the Moscow Small Car Factory, and on Komsomol badges 'KIM' was replaced by 'VLKSM'. In 1946, *KIM* was transformed into *Trud*.



KIM

Republic DSO *Kolgozpnik* (Ukrainian SSR) 1930-63

The Ukrainian village DSO *Kolgozpnik* ('Collective Farmer') was created in 1950 by a resolution of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party. A simplified drawing on a DSO diploma of the 1950s confirms the flag's appearance but it may have included extral emblems.



*Kolgozpnik
(Ukrainian SSR), 1950-7*

DSO *Kolkhosnik* (Estonian SSR)

The Estonian DSO *Kolkhosnik* ('Collective Farmers') predates the creation of *Jõud*. The society badge suggests the flag probably consisted of a red field bearing the emblem.

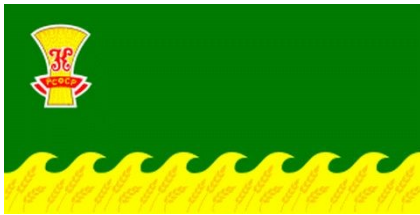


*Kolkhosnik
(Estonian SSR)*

DSO *Kolkhoznik* (RSFSR), 1951-7

Kolkhoznik ('Collective Farmers') was created in 1951, uniting the physical

culture collectives of collective farmers.



*Kolhoznik
(RSFSR)*

Republic Rural DSO *Kolkhoznikul* (Moldavian SSR)

The emblem of *Kolkhoznikul* ('Collective Farm') took the form of a green diamond with a red diagonal and a white 'K'. Some of the society's badges depict a green flag with a red vertical stripe, the origin of the society's flag. One Moldovan diploma clearly shows both the Moldovan DSO flags. However, on the flag of Moldova the white stripe is directed in a different way.



*Kolhoznikul
(Moldavian SSR)*

Republic Rural DSO *Kolhozchu* (Kirghiz SSR)

Kolhozchu was for collective farmers in the Kirghiz SSR. In 1956, it was merged with the trade union *Urozhay* to form the rural DSO *Kolkhozchu*.

Some *Kolhozchu* badges show the flag as white with a green diagonal, but this is likely to be a manufacturing error.



*Kolhozchu (Kirghiz SSR).
Mikhailin, personal communication*

Republic DSO *Kolkhozhy* (Kazakh SSR) 1951-6

Before 1957 there was a DSO *Kolkhozhy* ('Collective Farmers') in the Kazakh SSR. The society flag has been reconstructed from a badge (but note potential colour errors).



*Kolkhozhy
(Kazakh SSR), pre-1957*

DSO *Kolos*

From the 1930s *Kolos* ('Ear of Wheat') united the physical culture collectives of the state farms and district machinery and tractor stations (MTS). After the war *Kolos* became part of *Urozhay*.

Film of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1945) shows a green flag with a white horizontal stripe just below the centre and a large emblem towards the hoist. On postcards with retouched photos of this parade, one can just make out the letters 'КОЛОС' ('KOLOS').



Kolos, 1930s
(emblem unknown)

Republic DSO *Kolos* (Ukrainian SSR) 1970-82

A society that united farmers and their workers, technicians of agricultural organisations, enterprises, establishments, and educational institutions.

It was created in 1950 under the name of *Kolhospnyk* (collective farmer) and changed its name to *Kolos* in 1970. In 1982, it merged with *All-Union Rural DSO Urozhay*, but was revived as a separate society in 1990.



Kolos (Ukrainian SSR)

DSO *Koluketis* (Lithuanian SSR) 1951-7

From 1951 Lithuania had a rural sports society *Koluketis*, i.e. *Kolūkietis* ('Colts'); in 1957 it was replaced by *Nemunas*.

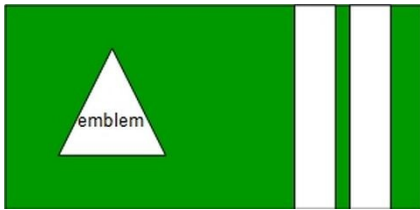


Koluketis
(Lithuanian SSR), 1951-7

DSO *Kommunar*

Kommunar was formed by the workers of the state farms and machinery and tractor stations (MTS) of the Caucasus.

The only source for its flag is the programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); however, the emblem cannot be discerned.



*Kommunar. Programme, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1938)
(emblem unknown)*

DSO Konservshchik 1936-46

In 1946 *Konservshchik* ('Preserver', serving the canning industry) was absorbed by *Pishchevik*. At the Moscow Athletes Parade (1945), a blue flag bearing the letter 'K' appears, which may be the *Konservshchik* flag or the flag of another 'K' society, *Krasnaya Roza*.

DSO Krasnaya Roza

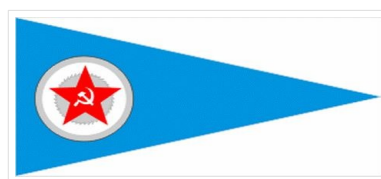
Krasnaya Roza was a union for silk industry) workers. Its flag is not known.

DSO Krasnaya Zvezda 1936-57

Krasnaya Zvezda ('Red Star') was a society of forestry, paper, music furniture, plywood and match industry workers. It included *Krasnaya Zvezda* (sawmill and woodworking industry of the Centre), *Lesopil'shchik Vostoka* (sawmill and woodworking industry of the East), *Entuziast*, *Lesosplav* and *Bumazhnik*. The society was abolished in 1957 by decree of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

The programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) contains a sketch of the *Krasnaya Zvezda* flag. Film of the parade suggest that the details of this flag were somewhat different (in particular, the bands – white-green-white-red – in the lower part of the flag are clearly visible in some frames and are all almost equal in width).

In the 1940s a new design of the *Krasnaya Zvezda* flag appeared. In film of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1939) the flag clearly shows the name Красная Звезда. In some later photographs and drawings, this inscription is no longer evident.



*Krasnaya Zvezda: left, 1st pattern. Programme,
Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); right, 2nd pattern*

DSO Krasnoe Znamya 1936-57

Krasnoe Znamya ('Red Flag') absorbed a number of smaller societies, namely *Krasnoye Znamya* (cotton industry in Moscow and Leningrad), *Osnova* (cotton industry in the Ivanovo Region), *Sherstyanik*, *Krasnaya Roza* (silk industry), *Plamya*, *Trud* and *Proletarskaya Pobeda*. The trade union *Krasnoe Znamya* was abolished in 1957 by decision of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.



*Krasnoe Znamya.
Society diploma*

Republic DSO *Krasnoe Znamya* (Byelorussian SSR) 1957-82

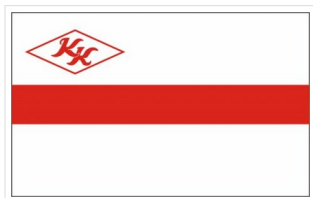
The trade union sports society of the Byelorussian SSR was established in 1957 under the name, *Krasnoe Znamya* (in Belarusian *Chirvony Stsyag*), used by the cotton industry society which had existed since the 1930s. Together with the name, the Belarusian society also inherited the flag.



*Krasnoe Znamya (Belarus SSR).
Basov, Flagi Belarusi*

DSO *Krasnyy Konditer* 1936-7

In 1936 *Krasnyy Konditer* ('Red Confectioner') united workers in the confectionery industry, but a year later it became part of *Pishchevik*. The society flag appears in a photo of a game played against a visiting Basque football team in Moscow in 1937. The colours seem to be the same as those of *Pishchevik*, i.e. white with a central red stripe.



Krasny Konditer

DSO *Kryl'ya Sovetov*

Kryl'ya Sovetov ('Wings of the Soviets') was established in 1936 by the Aviation Industry Workers' Union. In 1953 it became part of *Zenit* (although one source states that *Kryl'ya Sovetov* existed until 1966).

At the Moscow Athletes Parade (1937) triband flags with an image of an aircraft were displayed. The inscription reads 'Крылья Советов' on the emblem. Below this was written, '... профсоюз авиационной промышленности' ('... the aviation industry union'). The programme for Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) depicts a long narrow flag; dark blue with a red aircraft superimposed on a cloud. But this is perhaps a schematic image, because at the 1939 Parade, and in photographs of 1940, the same aircraft superimposed on a cloud is used but on a triband flag.

In the 1950s the flag of the *Kryl'ya Sovetov* became a plain dark blue, in the centre a propeller-driven aircraft with stars on its wings. The aircraft is clearly visible on photos of the *Kryl'ya Sovetov* football team (Samara) in 1947 and 1951, but the aircraft is depicted in the canton.



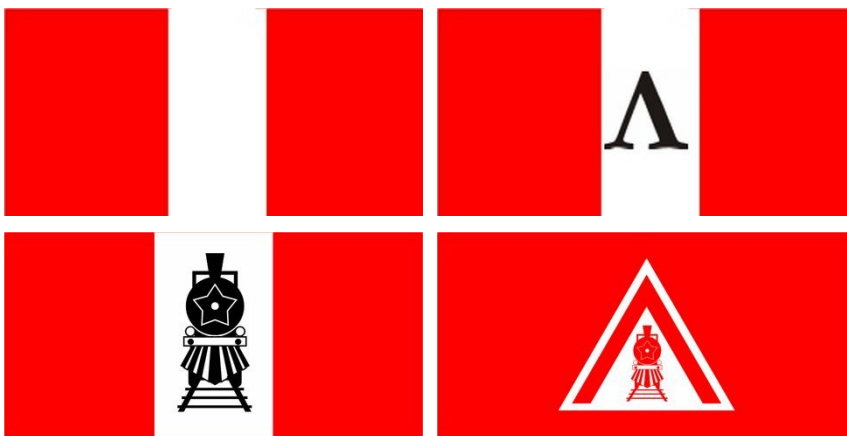
Kryl'ya Sovetov: top left, 1937 pattern. Film, Moscow Athletes Parade (1937); top right, 1939-40 pattern. Society diploma; above left, 1950s pattern. Society diploma; above right, final pattern. Ivanov, Flagi

DSO Lesoplav and DSO Lesopil'shchik
Flag not known.

All-Union DSO Lokomotiv

Lokomotiv ('Locomotive') was established in 1936 and united the workers of the Ministry of Railways. In 1939, it was divided into a number of smaller regional societies: *Lokomotiv*, *Lokomotiv Tsentra*, *Lokomotiv Vostoka*, *Lokomotiv Yuga* and *Lokomotiv Sredney Azii*.

In 1945 the central councils of *Tsentra*, *Vostoka*, *Yuga*, and *Sredney Azii* were merged with *Strela*. Information exists that there was also a *Lokomotiv Zavodov* society. *Lokomotiv* was abolished in 1975 with the creation of the VDFSO trade unions.



Lokomotiv: top left, 1st pattern. Film, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); top right, 2nd pattern; bottom left, 3rd pattern; bottom right, 4th pattern. Ivanov, Flagi

The emblem of *Lokomotiv* – the letter 'L' and the locomotive – has been used for many decades and is still used by the *Lokomotiv* society and by its football, hockey and other clubs. But the details of the drawing have changed many times.

At first, the locomotive was portrayed from directly in front, then it was placed within a triangle. Later, the image of the locomotive 'in profile' was established. In the 1960s the steam locomotive turned into a diesel. In this form, the flag existed until the 1990s.



*Lokomotiv: top left, 5th pattern; top right, 6th pattern; left, 7th pattern.
Ivanov, Flagi*

DSO Luch

The flag of *Luch* ('Beam of light'), formed by the workers of the state farms and the machinery and tractor stations (MTS) of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, is not known.

DSO Mashinostroitel 1946-53

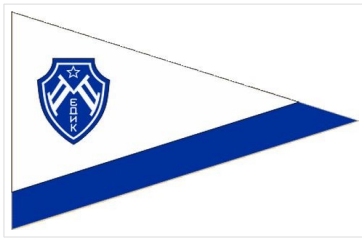
The award badge of *Mashinostroitel* ('Mechanician') of 1951 depicts what was probably the flag of the society.



Mashinostroitel

DSO Mediki 1936-

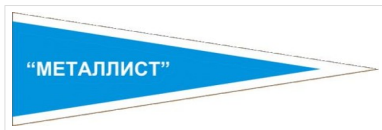
DSO *Mediki* ('Medics') went on to include *Mediki* (RSFSR), *Zdorov'ye* ('Health') (Ukrainian SSR), *Medic Gruzii* (Georgian SSR), *Mediki Kazakhstana* and *Mediki Uzbekistana*, and later became part of *Burevestnik*. In the programme of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938), the *Mediki* flag was triangular with the emblem of the society, but films from the late 1930s also show rectangular versions. Society diplomas from 1940 and 1944 depict another flag, with blue diagonals, which was sometimes used at the same time as the older flag. In many photos, *Mediki* athletes are dressed in T-shirts with two blue diagonal stripes, while also carrying striped flags. In documents of the 1950s, only the flag with the horizontal stripes appears.



Medikl: top left, 1st pattern, seen in Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); top right, 2nd pattern, 1930s and revived 1950s; left, 3rd pattern, 1940s. Society diplomas

DSO Metallist

Metallist united workers of the metal industry. During the late 1940s, the society became part of *KIM* (later *Trud*). Various documents of the 30s and 40s show either blue or red triangular flags with the inscription 'МЕТАЛЛИСТ' ('Metallist'). The society flag is clearly visible in a photograph taken in Uzbekistan by photographer Max Penson. From this we can conclude that the colour of the flag should be blue.



Metallist

DSO Metallurg -1958

From the beginning of the 1930s various societies covered the ore processing industries, such as *Metallurg Tsentra*, *Stal* ('Steel', for the metalworks of the South), *Metallurg Vostoka*, *Ruda*, *Patriot* (coke-chemical industry).



Metallurg: top left, 1st pattern, late 1930s and 1940s; top right, 2nd pattern. Krivtsov, Katalog; left, 3rd pattern, 1950s. Sportivnye emblemy

With the consolidation of these societies, they formed the new society *Metallurg*. Later, the society *Gornyyak* was joined to *Metallurg*. The society was abolished in 1957 by decree of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. The last flag of *Metallurg* appeared after its unification with *Gornyyak*, and

appears to have used the old *Gornyak* symbolism.

DSO *Metallurg Vostoka*

A fragment of the flag of *Metallurg Vostoka* ('Metallurg of the East') is visible in a photo of athletes from the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Plant. On a white field are two horizontal stripes, with the DSO's emblem in the centre. The colour of the stripes is probably blue.



Metallurg Vostoka

Republic Rural DSO *Mekhnat* (Uzbek SSR) 1957-82

The flag of *Mekhnat* ('Labour') is white with a blue stripe along the bottom edge.



Mekhnat (Uzbek SSR).
Mikhailin, personal communication

According to I. Mikhailin, the emblem was located in the centre of the cloth, but in films of the Moscow Athletes Parades it is clear that the emblem was shifted to the hoist.

Republic DSO *Moldova* (Moldavian SSR) 1957-82

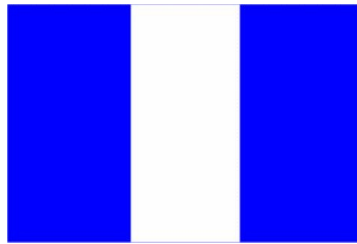
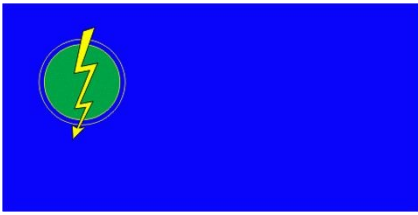


Moldova (Moldavaian SSR).
Ivanov, Flagi

DSO *Molniya* 1936-50

Molniya ('Lightning') was established by the trade union of communication workers and in 1950 absorbed by *Burevestnik* (the trade union society not the student organisation).

The blue flag appears on documents and films from the 1930s and 40s, but a completely different flag appears on the badge of the champion DSO – a vertical triband of blue-white-blue.



Molniya: left, 1st pattern. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); right, 2nd pattern. Krivtsov, Katalog

DSO Monolit, 1937-46

Monolit ('Monolith') was created by the paint and varnish industry trade union.



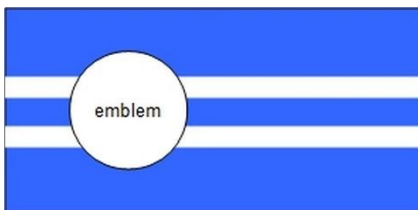
*Monolit.
Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade
(1938)*

DSO Moryak

Moryak ('Sailor') was created for sea transport workers. Its flag is not known.

DSO Motor

Motor was created by the trade union of urban electric-tram workers and later attached to *KIM (Trud)*. The programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) shows a blue flag with two white horizontal stripes, with a central emblem whose details are unclear. Krivtsov shows the emblem as a triangular shield with a picture of a tram but this is clearly not the emblem on the 1938 flag.



*Motor. Programme,
Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)
(emblem unknown)*

DSO Mukomol

The flag of *Mukomol* ('Flour mills') is not known.

DSO Nauka 1936-55

Nauka ('Science') was founded in 1936 as a society of workers in higher education and scientific institutions, and in 1955 joined *Burevestnik*.

Some posters depict the *Nauka* flag as a plain pale blue cloth with a central emblem, but this may be an artist's error.

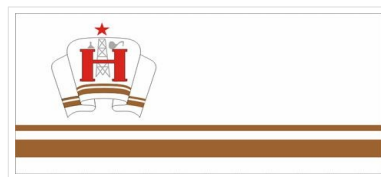
Until the late 1950s, *Nauka* included university and institute sports teams, whose flags were patterned after the *Nauka* flag but with the emblem of the institution or its sports clubs.



Nauka: left, 1st pattern; right, 2nd pattern. Society diploma

DSO Neftyanik 1936-57

Neftyanik ('Oilman') was established in Baku in 1936 by the trade union of the oil industry workers and the oil refinery industry of the Caucasus, uniting oil workers in Baku, as well as the oilfields of Grozneft (Grozny) and Mayneft (Maikop).



Neftyanik: three patterns derived from Society diplomas

Neftyanik also expanded to include *Sprint* (oil refining industry).

The society was abolished in 1957 by decree of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

The *Neftyanik* flag depicted the emblem in different ways.

At that time, oil was perceived to be brown in colour (although today the 'heraldic' colour of oil is black, while crude oil may be yellow, brown or black).

Republic DSO Neftchi (Azerbaijan SSR)

From film footage it is apparent that the red ribbons surrounding the emblem of *Neftchi* ('Oilman') bear inscriptions – АзССР ('AzSSR').



*Neftchi (Azerbaijan SSR).
Ivanov, Flagi*

Republic Rural DSO Nemunas (Lithuanian SSR)

Nemunas was named after the river Niemen.



*Nemunas (Lithuanian SSR).
Mikhailin, personal communication*

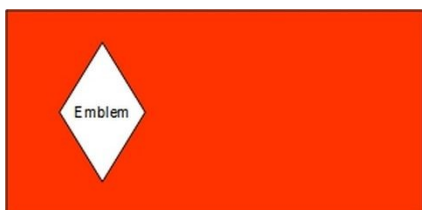
DSO Obyektiv

The flag of *Obyektiv* ('Lens'), the society of the fine engineering industry, is not known.

DSO Oktyabr

Oktyabr ('October') was created by the trade union of employees at state institutions.

The programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) suggests the society flag was red with the emblem positioned towards the hoist. However, an image of this emblem does not appear in any catalogue and its precise appearance remains a mystery. The illustration in the 1938 programme suggests that it may have consisted of a red flag and the letter 'O' within an elongated diamond.



*Octobrya. Programme, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1938)
(emblem unknown)*

DSO Osnova

Flag not known.

Republic DSO Pakhtakor (Uzbek SSR)

Pakhtakor ('Cotton Farmer') was created in 1958 from the DSOs of trade unions within Uzbekistan.

Initially, the society was called the Voluntary Sports Society of Collective Farmers of Uzbekistan *Pakhtakor*.



*Pakhtakor
(Uzbek SSR)*

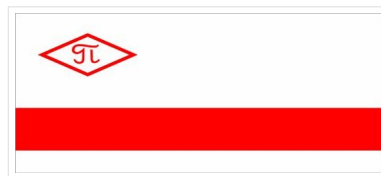
DSO Patriot

Flag not known.

DSO Pishchevik 1936-57

Pishchevik ('Food Processor') was established in 1936 by the trade union of bakery, fish, tobacco and brewing industry workers. By 1946 *Pishchevik* had

grown to include *Boyets*, *Konservshchik*, *Krasnyy Konditer*, *Sakharnik*, *Mukomol Tsentra* ('Flour mills of the Centre'), *Mukomol Yuga* ('Flour mills of the South'), *Rybnik Severa* ('Fisherman of the North') and *Priboy*. *Pishchevik* was abolished in 1957 by decision of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.

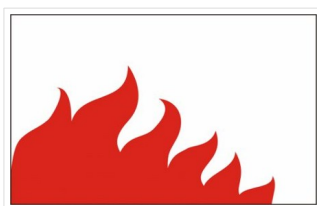


Pishchevik: top left, 1st pattern. Film, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); top right, 2nd pattern; left, 3rd pattern. Sportivnye emblemy

DSO *Plamya* 1937-49

Plamya ('Flame') was the sports society of the sewing trade union. The programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) shows the *Plamya* flag as white with red flames, with the society emblem on a red diamond.

A similar flag was also depicted on its membership badge. But judging by photos of the 1939 Parade, the diamond did not appear on actual flags.



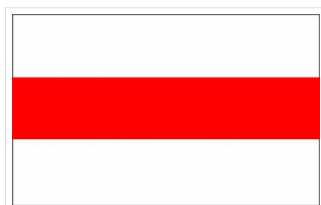
Plamya. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO *Poligrafist* 1936-37

Poligrafist was created in 1936 under the trade union of the printing industry of the North, but in 1937 it became part of *Pravda*.

The membership badge depicted a flag with white, red (?) and white stripes.

The central stripe may have been edged in a different colour but the photo of the badge does not include sufficient detail to confirm this.



Poligrafist

DSO *Pravda* 1936-45

Pravda was created by the trade union of the printing industries of the Centre and the South in 1936. From 1937 *Pravda* also included *Poligrafist*.

The letters C and O stand for 'спортивное общество' - sports society, and the

word ПРАВДА ('Pravda' - 'Truth') uses an identical font to the banner of the Communist Party newspaper of the same name.



Pravda

DSO *Priboy*

Priboy ('Surf') was created by the Union of the Far East Fisheries Industry.

Diplomas from 1940 depict the pennant used by the vessels of the Fisheries Ministry (a white triangle with a green border and two red crossed fish), suggesting that the society flag adopted the same pattern. But the DSO's seal shows another flag – triangular with the inscription 'ПРИБОЙ' (*Priboy*).



Priboy
(colours unknown)

DSO *Proletarskaya Pobeda* 1937-46

Although better known as the name of the famous Leningrad shoe factory, *Proletarskaya Pobeda* ('Proletarian Victory') was established under the trade union of shoe industry workers.



Proletarskaya Pobeda.
Programme, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO *Rekord* 1939-41

Rekord ('Record') was created by the trade union of workers at state dairy, vegetable and pig farms.



Rekord. Programme, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO *Rodina*

Rodina ('Motherland') was organised under the machine-tool mechanical engineering trade union. It was later reorganised as *Salyut*, and *Rodina* was attached to *Torpedo*.



*Rodina. Programme,
Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)*

DSO Rot Front 1937-46

Rot Front ('Red Front') was the voluntary sports society of the medium engineering trade union. The society adopted the abbreviated name of the inter-war German Communist organisation, the *Roter Frontkämpferbund* (Union of Red Front Fighters), led by Wilhelm Pieck and subsequently by Ernst Thälmann.

The Union used the slogan 'Rot Front!' as its greeting, with a clenched fist (palm forward) raised to the level of the shoulder, the five fingers of the fist symbolising the united power of the working class. The same clenched fist is depicted in the emblem of the DSO *Rot Front* but the emblem does not always appear on the flag.



*Rot Front. Programme, Moscow
Athletes Parade (1938)*

DSO Ruda

Ruda ('Ore') was established in 1936 under the auspices of the trade union for workers in the iron ore industry. It later became a member of *Metallurg*. The membership badge was a red triangular flag with a picture of laden ore cars and the inscription 'Руда'. Thus the society flag was probably the same.



Ruda

DSO Rybnik

The flag of *Rybnik* ('Fisherman') is not known.

DSO Salyut

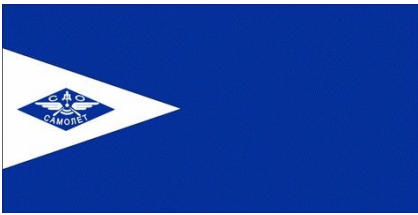
The flag of *Salyut* ('Salute' or 'Fireworks') is not known.

DSO Saharnik

Flag not known.

DSO Samolet

In the film of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1939), the flag of *Samolet* ('Aircraft') is clearly visible.



Samolet

DSO Selmash

Selmash represented the trade union of agricultural machinery workers. By the 1940s it had become part of *Traktor*.



Selmash. Film, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO Sevan

Flag not known.

DSO Shakhtar -1958

Shakhtar was created as a DSO of the coal industry and was later enlarged to include *Stakhanovets*, *Ugol'shchik*, and *Zaboy*.

The society was abolished in 1957 by decree of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.



Shakhtar: left, 1st pattern; right, 2nd pattern. Society diploma

DSO Sherstyanik

Sherstyanik ('Woollen') was created under the woollen industry trade union. It later became part of *Krasnoe Znamya*.



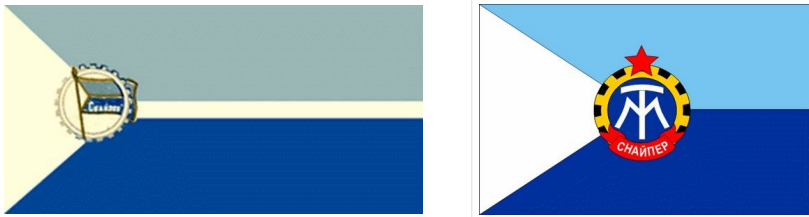
Sherstyanik. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO Shveinik

Flag not known.

DSO *Snayper* 1936-46

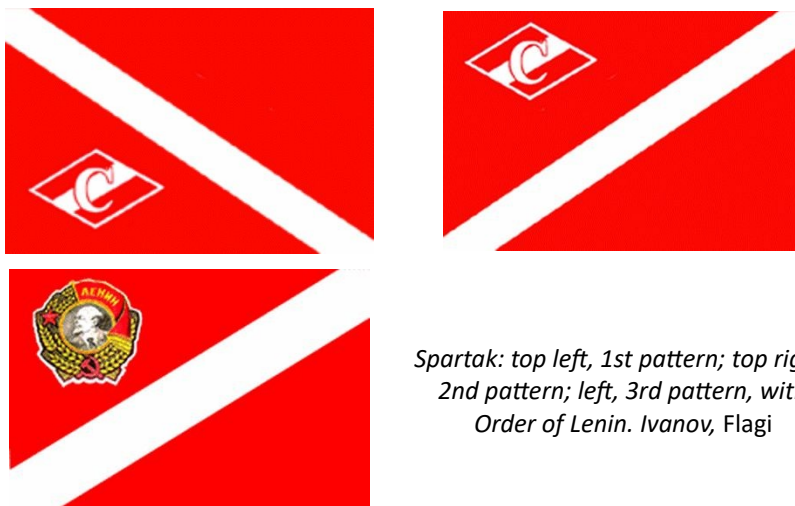
Snayper ('Sniper') was organised as a society of the precision engineering trade union. The emblem can be seen in photos of the parade on 5 December 1937, with the letters 'TM' (i.e. точное машиностроение – precision engineering) in the centre. The same emblem is visible at the opening parade of the ice-skating season in Moscow in 1936. But by the late 1930s, the society's emblem seems to have changed, a small flag with the inscription 'Снайпер' (i.e. *Snayper*) replacing the letters 'TM'.



Snayper: left, 1st pattern, early 1930s. Society diploma; right, 2nd pattern, late 1930s

All-Union DSO *Spartak* 1935-87

The *Spartak* ('Spartacus') industrial cooperative society was founded in 1935. In 1960, it was transformed into a trade-and-cooperative DSO *Spartak*, uniting workers of local industry, communal services, culture, motor transport and civil aviation. *Spartak* was abolished in 1987 with the creation of VDFSO trade unions. The draft flag and emblem of the sports section of *Spartak* was approved by Decree No. 45 of the Praesidium of the All-Union Council of Physical Culture under the Central Executive Committee of the USSR of April 19, 1935, 'On the organisation of the voluntary sports society *Spartak* within the system of Commercial Cooperation'.



Spartak: top left, 1st pattern; top right, 2nd pattern; left, 3rd pattern, with Order of Lenin. Ivanov, Flagi

It is believed that the symbols of *Spartak* were invented personally by N.P. Starostin: its white and red colours may have been borrowed from the symbolism of the pre-revolutionary sports society *Sokol*, of which Starostin was a member. At events of the mid-1930s, plain red flags with the *Spartak* emblem were used, and on some sports badges even show a flag of red, white and red horizontal stripes. But in general, from the mid-1930s a red flag with a white diagonal was used most frequently. The emblem was at first placed below the

diagonal, then moved to the upper corner. In 1937, *Spartak* was awarded the Order of Lenin. In the Moscow Athletes Parade (1939), this does not appear on the *Spartak* flag, which shows only the society emblem. In the 1945 Parade, however, flags with the image of the Order of Lenin were in use. Although the official *Spartak* flag with the Order of Lenin was used on souvenirs (letters, posters, postcards, etc.) until the 1980s, it was often replaced by a flag that replaced the Order with a *Spartak* emblem in the upper hoist. It is latter flag – i.e. with the *Spartak* emblem in the upper hoist – that became the official symbol of the N.P. Starostin International Physical Culture and Sports Society *Spartak*, revived in the Russian Federation in 1991. The same flag is used by the heirs of *Spartak* in some other countries (for example, Ukraine and Kazakhstan).

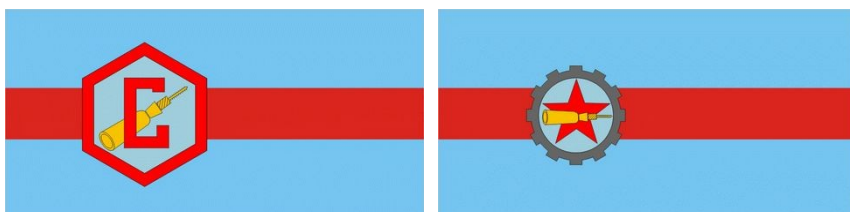
DSO Sprint

Flag not known.

DSO Stakhanovets 1936-46

Stakhanovets ('Stakhanovite') was created in 1936, uniting the workers of the coal mining industry of Donbass (branches of the society were established in its thirty largest). In 1946, *Stakhanovets* became part of *Shakhtar*.

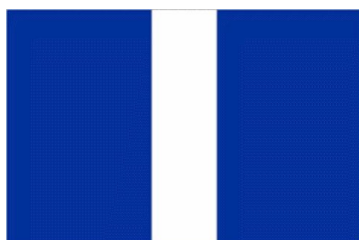
A reconstruction of the 1936-8 flag of *Stakhanovets* is in the museum of FC Shakhtar Donetsk. Soon after this date, *Stakhanovets* finally defined the form, emblem, badge and flag of the society. Its main colours were to be blue and red. In 1938, a new emblem appeared, composed of a star and a jack-hammer within a cogwheel. On the film of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1945), a blue flag with a red longitudinal stripe and an emblem shifted to the hoist is visible. This may be the *Stakhanovets* flag.



Stakhanovets: left, 1st pattern, 1936-8; right, 2nd pattern, 1938

DSO Stalinets

Stalinets ('Stalinist') was created under the electrical engineering trade union in 1936. Later, it was reorganised into *Energia*.



Stalinets. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

The official website of FC Zenit reports that in the 1930s *Stalinets* used a vertical triband of light blue-white-light blue with the inscription 'Сталинец'. Cinema footage of the Moscow sports parades suggests that the white band was narrower than the blue.

Incidentally, the last badges of *Stalinets*, issued just before the society's abolition, were also divided vertically blue, white and blue, with a central letter 'Э' (for Energia?).

DSO *Stal'*

Stal' ('Steel') was created under the auspices of the trade union of workers in the metallurgical industry of the South in the 1930s. It later became part of *Metallurg*.

The badge of *Stal'* consisted of a triangular flag depicting the sun's rays and the name of the society. Some badges show that the sun is white, and the letters and field are blue, so perhaps that was their flag.



Stal'.
Krivtsov, Katalog

DSO *Start*

Start, a society of the drivers of Moscow and Leningrad, was founded in 1936. A rectangular flag of similar design is visible in the Moscow Athletes Parade (1939).



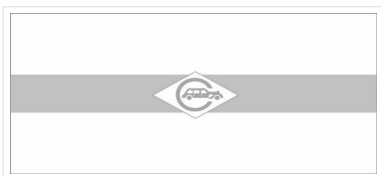
Start. Programme,
Moscow Athletes Parade (1938)

DSO *Start Vostoka*

Start Vostoka ('Start of the East') was created for the drivers of the eastern USSR (other societies existed for the drivers of Moscow and Leningrad, and for the South). *Start Vostoka* later became part of *Trud*.

Max Penson's photographs of athletes in Uzbekistan depict the flag of *Metallist* alongside a flag with a diamond-shaped emblem visible against the background of a dark horizontal strip.

The emblem is composed of a car and the letter 'C'. It seems likely that this is the flag of *Start Vostoka*.



Start Vostok

DSO *Strela*

The programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) depicts the flag of *Strela* ('Arrow'), the trade union of the builders of the metro, as a green field with the image of an arrow and the inscription 'СТРЕЛА'. It should be noted, however, that the programme was published in a limited number of colours, lacking inks in yellow, brown or orange etc.

The membership badge featured a white flag with the name of the society and two lengthwise stripes, presumably yellow and green (although the colours are poorly reproduced in the photo of the badge). A flag with such coloured stripes is visible in the photo of the *Strela* society column at the 1938 Parade.



Strela. Krivtsov, Katalog

DSO *Stroitel* -1957

Stroitel ('Builder') was created by merging several societies: *Stroitel Tsentra* ('Builder of the Centre'), *Stroitel Vostoka* ('Builder of the East'), *Dal'nevostochnyy Stroitel* ('Builder of the Far East'), *Temp* ('Pace'), *Stroitel Yuga* ('Builder of the South') and *Tsement*. The society was abolished in 1957 by decree of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions. According to the programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938) and film of the 1945 Parade, the emblem was a letter 'C' enclosing a small flag. The film of the 1939 Parade, however, features a strange flag of pale green with the inscription 'Строитель' and diagonal dark red stripes. According to *Sportivnye emblemi*, the letter 'C' on the emblem began over time to be depicted without the flag.



Stroitel: left, 1st pattern; right, 2nd pattern. Both from Sportivnye emblemy

DSO *Sudostroitel* 1936-45

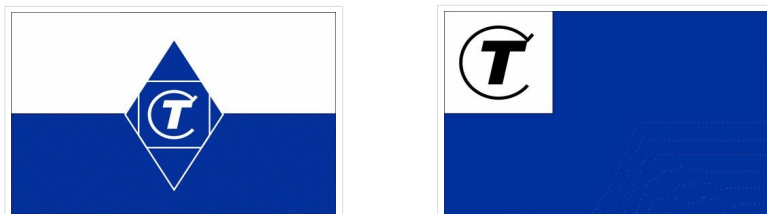
Sudostroitel, under the trade union of shipbuilding workers, was established in 1936 and affiliated around 1953 with *Avangard*. The illustration is based on the society badge and on a flag depicted on the badge of the society football team.



Sudostroitel

DSO Temp 1936

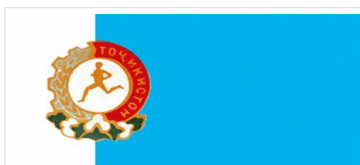
Temp ('Pace') was established under the trade union of communal and housing construction workers. It later became part of *Stroitel*.



Temp: left, 1st pattern, 1930s. Programme, Moscow Athletes Parade (1938); right, 2nd pattern, 1950s. Basov, personal communication

Republic DSO *Tochikistan* (Tajik SSR) 1958-82

In 1958, *Tochikistan* (Tajik for Tajikistan) united all the trade union societies within the Tajik SSR.



*Tochikiston (Tadjik SSR).
Basov, personal communication*

DSO *Torpedo*

Torpedo was created in 1936 for employees of the car industry. By the early 1950s, *Torpedo* had absorbed *Mashinostroitel*, *Salyut*, *Snayper*, *Traktor* and *Selmash*. The society was abolished by decision of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in 1957, and most of its sports teams joined *Trud*. The society took its name from the distinctive streamlined form of sports cars, and the *Torpedo* emblem also depicted a red racing car with a driver and navigator. In early images of the emblem, the inscription 'Торпедо' also appears along the upper crossbar of the letter 'T'. The *Torpedo* flag was one of the most 'stable' of the USSR's sports flags and hardly changed from the 1930s.



*Torpedo.
Sportivnye emblemy*

There is a legend around the emergence of the club colours. In 1938, the *Torpedo* Moscow football team won at the Spartakiade in France. One of the local clubs presented *Torpedo* with a gift of football kit – white jerseys with light green and dark green diagonal stripes – that perhaps became the prototype of the flag. Simplified versions of the flag appeared on various souvenirs, badges and posters: the green stripes appear horizontally, with a letter 'T' instead of the complex emblem. All these options are probably unofficial and were not used on real flags. Some images exist of a flag of yellow colour (e.g. a 1956 poster by M. Dlugacha) but this is probably an error. Several sources show the *Torpedo* flag with the complex logo replaced by the letter 'T' in a circle: for example, on the cover of a 1947 edition of the magazine *Physical Culture and Sport*, and again on the cover a 1949 book, *Our Footballers*. This version of the flag may

have existed in reality. Where the flag is depicted with the simplified emblem, the green diagonals are shown going from the upper hoist to the lower fly.

DSO *Torfanik*

Flag not known.

DSO *Tovarishch* 1936-

Tovarishch ('Comrade') was created under the trade union of workers of economic institutions. It later became part of *Trud*.



Tovarishch

DSO *Traktor*

Our reconstruction of the flag is based on award badges. *Traktor* was created in the late 1930s, and in 1953 it became part of *Torpedo*, combining the sports teams of tractor manufacturers in Stalingrad, Chelyabinsk, etc.



Traktor

DSO *Trud* -1957

Trud ('Labour') – the trade union of the knitting industry – was created in the 1930s but abolished in 1957. In the programme for the Moscow Athletes Parade (1938), its flag was a triangular white-blue cloth with the emblem, which was also carried in 1939.



Trud: left, 1st pattern, 1930s; right, 2nd pattern, 1950s. Society diploma

In the late 1940s another version of the flag appeared, which also appeared on *Trud*'s champion badges.

On badges of the 1950s the direction of the white stripe was reversed.

Republic DSO *Trud* (RSFSR)

This *Trud* was formed in the late 1950s from several sports societies, including

Pishchevik, Torpedo, Kryl'ya Sovetov, Krasnoye Znamya. On membership cards of the 1960s, *Trud* was called 'the society of the trade union of industry and construction of the RSFSR'.



Trud (RSFSR)

All-Union trade union DSO *Trud* 1982-7

In accordance with the Decree of the secretariat of the VTsSPS of 15 February 1982, all Republic trade union societies were united by that April in the All-Union DSO *Trud*.

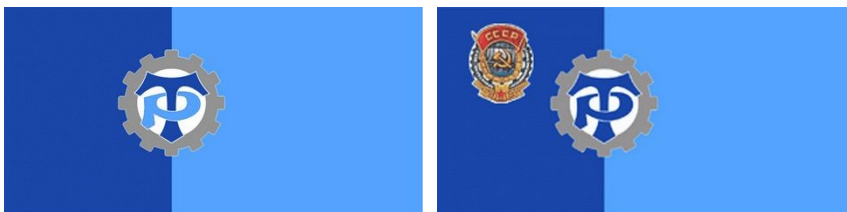


Trud, 1982

All-Union DSO *Trudovyye Rezervy*

Trudovyye Rezervy ('Labour Reserves') was established in 1943 under the Main Directorate of Labour Reserves (GUTR) for students at vocational and technical schools, teachers of professional education, and workers in this industry. It became an independent society in 1959.

A detailed description of its flag was approved by order of the head of the Main Directorate under the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR No. 995 of 30 July 1943: 'The flag is made of silk cloth of electric blue colour. From the flagpole in the full width of the flag is a strip of cornflower blue. On one side of the flag (to the right of the shaft) is the full emblem of the society: the gear-wheel, and inside it the intertwined letters T and P. The gear-wheel is silver, all the letters are cornflower blue with white edging.' Unfortunately, no photographs of this flag have yet emerged. In newsreel footage from the 1940s variations in the colour of the letters can be seen. Although the society was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour, this does not always appear on the flag shown on society diplomas.



Trudov Reservey: left, 1st pattern; right, 2nd pattern. Ivanov, Flagi

DSO *Tsement*

Flag not known.

DSO Tsentral'nyy Sportivnyy Klub Armii / Tsentral'nyy Dom Krasnoy Armii

The Army club underwent a number of name changes in its history. In 1928, it became the sports club of the Red Army headquarters establishment (TsDKA); from 1951 to 1957, the army became the Soviet Army and the club became (TsDSA); and from 1957 to 1960 it became the Central Sports Club of the Ministry of Defense (CSK MO).



Above, TsDKA: 1st pattern



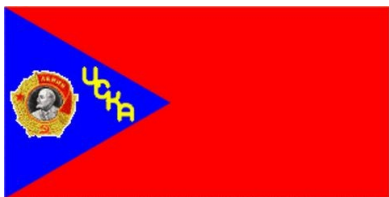
Above, TsDKA: 2nd pattern, c.1945



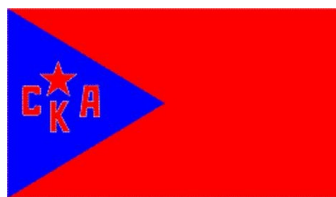
Left, dubious TsDKA flag as shown in Physical Culture and Sports, no. 7 (1947), cover; right, TsSK MO, its shortlived flag



Although the letters on the flag appear in several varieties of of arrangement and style, there seems to be no other evidence, other than the cover of the magazine *Physical Culture and Sports* no. 7, 1947, for an all-red version. During its spell as CSK MO, only three letters – CSK – were depicted on the flag, in the star. For great merit in the development of Soviet sport, the Central Army Sports Club was awarded the Order of Lenin by decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of 27 April 1957, and the badge of the Order replaced the previous emblem.



TsSKA post-1973 flag, after the award of the Order of Lenin



Flag of the Army sports clubs

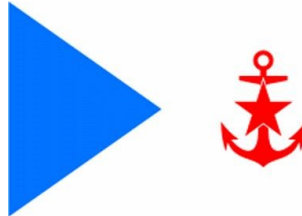


Army sportsmen of the 1950s sometimes competed under a variant of a regimental colour



Air Force sports clubs used the simple Air Force flag. Photos in Physical Culture and Sports show it in use from 1946 to the late 1950s

Navy sports clubs seem to have used the flag of naval yacht clubs



DSO *Tsvetnyye Metally*

Tsvetnyye Metally ('Non-Ferrous Metals'), the DSO of the trade union of workers in non-ferrous metallurgy enterprises, was established in 1937, and later joined *Gornyyak*.

The emblem on its membership badge was the same as that used by *Metallurg* – with the image of the Kremlin tower and the rays of light – so the flag may also have been the same.

DSO *Uchitel*

Uchitel ('Teacher') united the workers of the trade union of primary and secondary schools.



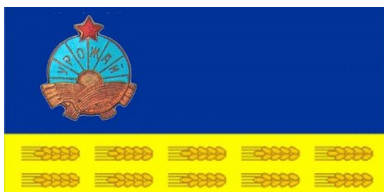
Uchitel: left, 1st pattern; right, 2nd pattern. Society diplomas

All-Union Rural DSO *Ugolshik*

The flag of *Ugolshik* ('Collier') is not known

All-Union DSO *Urozhay* -1950

Urozhay ('Harvest') was the sporting society of an All-Union trade union. Its members were the workers of state farms, machinery and tractor stations (MTS) and so forth (but not collective farmers, who were members of Republic rural societies *Kolkhoznik* ...). The society was composed of several smaller societies: *Urozhay*, *Kolos*, *Luch*, *Rekord* and *Kommunar*.



Urozhay

Republic Rural DSO *Urozhay* (RSFSR) 1954-87

In 1956 DSO *Kolkhoznik* and DSO *Urozhay* were merged into a single all-Russian Republic DSO.

Some souvenir badges of the Soviet era show the society flag as a green field with the emblem in the corner, complemented by a blue and red vertical stripe (recalling the flag of the RSFSR).



Urozhay (RSFSR)

Republic Rural DSO *Uradzhay* (Byelorussian SSR) 1957-82

Uradzhay of the Byelorussian SSR was established in 1956.

The flag was almost identical to the flag of the Russian *Urozhay*, but A.N. Basov states that in some photos of the 1970-80s the field is green, not blue.



Uradzhaj (Belarus SSR).
Basov, Flagi Belarusi

All-Union Rural DSO *Urozhay* 1982-7

In 1982, all Republic rural sports societies were merged into one All-Union DSO *Urozhay*. The flag of the All-Union *Urozhay* was almost identical to the flag of the RSFSR rural DSO of the same name. However, it used a different emblem, based of the emblem of the Central Council of Rural DSOs created in the 1970s.



Urozhay, 1982

Republic Rural DSO *Varpa* (Latvian SSR) 1949-82

Varpa ('Ear of Wheat') was organised in the Latvian SSR in 1949.



Varpa
(Latvian SSR)

DSO *Vodnik* 1938-87

Vodnik was created in 1938 by amalgamating *Vympel* and *Moryak*. *Vodnik* was abolished in 1987 with the creation of VDFSO trade unions.

The society flag had numerous variations. Initially, the bands were straight as shown in film of the Moscow Athletes Parade (1945), but they were later changed to wavy, as on diplomas of the late 1960s.

Equally, the inscription Водник ('*Vodnik*') was sometimes depicted in a straight line below the emblem, as at the 1945 Parade. Other flags omit the blue diamond. According to A.N. Basov, the *Vodnik* yacht club used the same emblem.



Vodnik.
Ivanov, Flagi

All-Union Voluntary Physical Culture and Sports Society (VDFSO) 1987

On 20 February 1987 the Praesidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions adopted a resolution establishing a single All-Union Voluntary Physical Culture and Sports Association of Trade Unions, which absorbed several trade union societies (*Lokomotiv*, *Burevestnik*, *Spartak*, *Trud*, *Urozhay*, *Zenit*, *Vodnik*, *Trudnyye Reservey*). According to its charter, however, member trade unions could create sections based around the former societies (for example, athletic and sports club *Lokomotiv*). In such cases, the flags, badges and other attributes of the former DSOs were retained.



VDFSO, 1987.
Basov, personal communication

DSO *Vympel*

A DSO ('Pennant') of the river transport workers' trade union. Flag not known

Republic DSO *Yenbek* of the Kazakh SSR

Created in 1958 from the sports sections of all Kazakh trade unions.



Yenbek (Kazakh SSR).
Basov, personal communication

DSO of Moscow schoolchildren *Yunost'*

Yunost' ('Youth') was created in 1958, under the auspices of the Moscow City

Council of Trade Unions, and united the schoolchildren of the city of Moscow.

The society existed until at least the late 1970s.



*Yunost.
Society diploma*

DSO Zaboy

The flag of *Zaboy*, a DSO formed by the coal industry of the Moscow region, is unknown.

Republic DSO Zakhmet of the Turkmen SSR, 1957-82

On its mementos, *Zahmet* ('Work') often used a design of red with two blue stripes, based on the flag of the Turkmen SSR.



*Zahmet (Turkmen SSR).
Basov, personal communication*

Republic DSO Zalgiris (Lithuanian SSR) 1944-82

Zalgiris was founded in 1944. Reference books normally translate the name of the society from Lithuanian as 'Green Wood'.

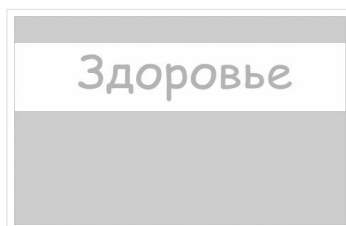
While formally correct, the DSO was named not in honour of an unknown grove but of the historic defeat of the Teutonic Order in 1410 by allied Polish-Lithuanian troops near the village of Grünwald (i.e. 'Green Wood' or Žalgiris).



*Zalgiris (Lithuanian SSR).
Mikhailin, personal communication*

DSO Zdorov'ye

The colours are unknown.



*Zdorovie
(colours unknown)*

All-Union DSO *Zenit* 1936-87

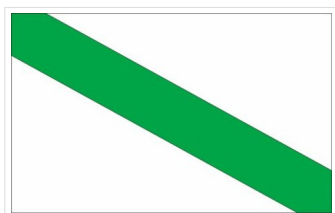
Zenit ('Zenith') was established by decree of the Praesidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions on 26 May 1936, under the auspices of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of the Military Metals Industry. In 1957 the *Zenit* society was transferred to *Trud*; then, by decree of the Praesidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of 14 October 1966, it was amalgamated with *Kryl'yev Sovetov* as a society of the aviation and defence industry trade union. *Zenit* was abolished in 1987 with the creation of VDFSO trade unions. In the 1970s a new *Zenith* logo appeared in the form of the letter 'Z' and a triangle, ensigned with a star, but this did not affect the flags in any way.



Zenit: left, 1st pattern. Basov, personal communication; right, 2nd pattern

DSO *Znannya* (Ukrainian SSR)

Znannya ('Knowledge') united the workers of the Ukrainian SSR and later became part of *Burevestnik*. As the society badge was a white diamond with a diagonal green stripe and an inscription in Ukrainian 'ЗНАННЯ', it is possible that the flag incorporated the same elements.



Znannya
(Ukrainian SSR)

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