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Subject: The educational potential of sports: helping disadvantaged youth find their place in society
- *Good practice and lessons assembled from Member States by the Luxembourg Presidency - November 2015*

By way of preparation for the debate in the field of Sports on 24 November at the Council, the Presidency has collected good practices and lessons from Member States, and compiled the attached compendium. Member States are consequently invited to focus on the identification of synergies and opportunities for European cooperation during the debate.

AUSTRIA (AT)

Young Caritas Käfig League

Since 2010 the *Käfig League* has offered regular soccer practices for all interested children ages six through 14 years in the Vienna “Käfige” public soccer fields. In the beginning of 2015 a self-organized group of participants formed practices to include people up to the age of 18. The *Käfig League* offers an open and accessible space for young athletes. This is particularly beneficial for children and young people who spend a significant amount of their free time outdoors. The varied socioeconomic, cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds of *Käfig League* participants make it a melting pot which reflects the diversity of the city of Vienna. Issues surrounding these differences surface naturally and capture the goal of the *Käfig League*, which is to promote integration and inclusivity through a common passion for soccer. The fundamental goal of the *Käfig League* is to offer kids easy access to sports and fun exercise. In tandem with the promotion of soccer skills, the *Käfig League* strives to reinforce social values that benefit society. We at the *Käfig League* see diversity as an asset, and work to ensure that the *Käfig League* is a place where participants are respectful, tolerant, and generous. Through the bond of soccer, existing prejudice, resentment, and aggression are eroded. The *Käfig League* fights against all types of discrimination and prejudice and actively works to prevent violence among at-risk youth. At the same time, the values of sportsmanship and fairness are taught through the game of soccer.

Käfig League Key Figures

Currently there are 22 “Käfige” in 16 of Vienna’s 23 districts. Four fulltime employees and 42 volunteer trainers run the *Käfig League*. There are approximately 25 regular participants in each “Käfig.” This number is subject to fluctuation due to the openness and easy accessibility of the *Käfig League*. Since the beginning of the year, between 600 and 650 children have participated in the league.

Actions to promote long-term connections within target group

One of the pillars of the *Käfig League* is a commitment to facilitating successful experiences for all of its participants. This success results in a positive sense of self. These experiences are the building blocks of self-confidence as well as self-esteem. Such experiences happen through close

relationships, identifying with the goals of the league, and always working to strengthen those goals. In order to ensure that the participants who have matured out of the programme (those over 14) stay involved, we offer a variety of opportunities for them to stay connected with us. Often ex-participants work as assistant trainers for the league. Those who want to continue playing soccer themselves have the opportunity to join the *Käfig League* under-18 Division. This extended program started with 50 young people (6 teams) and is expected to expand this winter to 100 participants (8-19 teams). The creation of the under-18 *Käfig League* by ex-participants demonstrates the motivation and enthusiasm developed by *Käfig League* participants. Four previous *Käfig League* participants, Yusuf Coskun, Eduard Burada, Saidbek Duraev, and Emre Tunc, have recently become fulltime *Käfig League* volunteer trainers.

Integration and Inclusion

Integration and inclusion are fundamental elements of the *Käfig League*. These elements surface on a regular basis during practice. Cultural and linguistic diversity and the creation of inter-cultural bonds are very important to the *Käfig League*. This value is difficult to quantify, but out of the 46 league volunteers and employees, 29 are of non-Austrian heritage. Our colleagues hail from 16 different countries in Europe, as well as Africa, South America, and the Middle East. These colleagues have positive relationships with their countries of birth and help to promote multiculturalism and tolerance in the *Käfig League*.

BELGIUM (BE)

French Community (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles)

The “Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles” established a Charter of the Sports Movement entitled “Vivons Sport” (Let’s live sports) which attracts attention on the potential of sports to foster social integration and mutual respect. This Charter has become the first version of the “code of ethics” by decree on 20 March 2014. Respect for the code is becoming progressively an indispensable condition for being granted a public subvention. An extract of the Charter “Vivons sport” reads: “the French speaking Sports Movement rejects and condemns all forms of discrimination with regards to age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religious or philosophical convictions, to language, or physical characteristics. ... Sport is a catalyst for integration.” <http://www.sport-adepts.be/index.php?id=4667>

Flemish Community

Rising You(th) - The Vertical Club

Rising You(th) is a social enterprise wanting to create opportunities for entrepreneurial youngsters, in particular migrants and refugees. One of their social integration and development tracks involves educating youngsters to become workers who are internationally skilled and qualified to perform work at places of high and difficult access. They find motivated people via a climbing club, called 'the Vertical Club'. They are trained to clean windows of tall buildings, repair electricity posts, maintain statues or renovate monuments and church towers. Rising You(th) offers its services to companies and organisations who care for quality and social responsibility.

The first step of the project aims to attract youngsters with a passion for climbing. Rising You(th) organizes free climbing lessons and plans to set up its own climbing and training centre in Brussels. It offers people a physically and mentally rewarding sports activity where they learn relevant climbing techniques.

The second stage involves training and education in the safety aspects of climbing, knowledge and maintenance of climbing and safety equipment, first aid, driving, cleaning techniques, installation of telecoms equipment, renovation techniques etc.

Thirdly, they offer training and apprenticeships in companies and organisations, leading to employment based on their specific and recognized skills and expertise. Recently, the Vertical Club has set up a woman's only club to assure an inflow of girls and women.

Rising You(th) is a comprehensive project based on physical activity, well-being, ambition, integration, personal development and professional attainment, supported by the Flemish department of culture, youth, sports and media. <http://nature.be/nl/risingyou/>

CYPRUS (CY)

Organiser: Ministry of Education and Culture - Primary and Secondary Education:

Sport and Physical Activity for Prohibited Immigrants

Sport and physical activity opportunities are provided to Prohibited Immigrants that are hosted in camps aiming to improve their quality of life. The activities are instructed by a Qualified Physical Education Teacher 3 times per week.

Physical Education for students with Special Needs

Aiming to breakdown stereotypes and to promote social inclusion, students with and without intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to practice together during physical education classes according to the curriculum. In addition, specific physical education lessons especially designed to address the needs of students with intellectual disabilities are also offered in the framework of the school curriculum.

Afternoon Sport Activities

Sport activities are offered to students living in rural areas aiming to increase the opportunities for sport engagement and participation. Sport activities are instructed by Qualified Physical Education Teachers during afternoon and they are part of the school curriculum.

Internal Sport Championships

All secondary education schools organise internal championships with the participation of all students aged between 12 to 18 years. The championships take place from October to May and are held during breaks. Students can choose between four team sports (basketball, volleyball, futsal and handball) and have an active role to play either as players, referees, scorekeepers and spectators.

Olympism - Democracy and Human Rights Educational Project

The “Olympism - Democracy and Human Rights“ educational project was developed in the context of the Pestalozzi Programme of the Council of Europe. The aim of the project was the creation of a democratic culture in the school environment by relating Olympism to Democracy and Human Rights (respect, inclusion, diversity, prevention of discrimination). In this framework, two training sessions were developed. The first one was for in-service teachers of different subjects (physical education, Olympic education, Greek language, literature, history) who have a role to play in inspiring their students with regards to issues such as democracy, human rights and Olympic values, principles and ideals in sports and physical education. The second session was a Forum where students presented their work/activities, in a cultural event, in the presence of the Media and Sports and Education authorities of Cyprus.

Organised by the Cyprus Sport Organisation:

“Sport and Physical activity promotion in socially disadvantaged groups” Programme

The programme aims to develop national and local action on interventions and policy formulation in order to promote and support physical activity or adapted physical activity in socially disadvantaged groups, especially to people with different types of disabilities (physical, intellectual, visual, hearing) or chronic diseases. The programme provides equal opportunities of health-enhancing physical activity to the needs of each target group. The budget of the programme is €30.000 (2015) and is part of the overall “Sport for disabled and vulnerable population groups” scheme.

Programme for tackling substance use and preventing drugs addiction through Sports

The programme supports prevention and treatment programmes related to licit or illicit substance dependence as well as other related behaviours, by providing sport and physical activity opportunities as following:

1. Free participation of vulnerable population groups in the *Sport For All* programme.
2. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, sport equipment and clothing is offered to students/athletes that are vulnerable.

The budget of the programme is €10.000 (2015) and is part of the overall “Sport for disabled and vulnerable population groups” Scheme. Partners include the Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council, the *Sports For All* programme, and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Annual financial support of Sport Federations

The programme aims at the financial support of Sport Federations that develop sports for disabled athletes (visual, intellectual, hearing, and motor disabilities). The support covers the financial needs to develop grassroots sports, organisation and participation in pan-Cyprian and international Championships. The budget of the programme is €27.000 (2015) and is part of the overall “Sport for disabled and vulnerable population groups” scheme. Partners include Sport Federations, Cyprus National, the Paralympic Committee, Special Olympics Cyprus, the Cyprus Sport Federation, the Cyprus Blind Association, and the Cyprus Transplant Association.

“Sport For All Programme” Special Physical Activity Schemes

The National *Sport For All* Programme provides equal sport and physical activity opportunities and their promotion to socially disadvantaged groups. The programme provides free participation in its various sport and physical activity interventions addressed to:

- children and youngsters with disabilities
- children and youngster that are hosted in rehabilitation centres, psychiatric clinics, correctional institution
- Recipients of state aid (low-income families and/or unemployed)

Partners include the Cyprus Sport Organisation, the Ministry of Health, rehabilitation Centres, Special Olympics Cyprus, Cyprus Policy, as well as NGOs associated to chronic diseases and disabilities issues.

Organised by Special Olympics Cyprus

“Young Athletes” Scheme

Young Athletes is a sport and play programme for children with intellectual disabilities. The focus is on fun activities that are important to mental and physical growth. Children with and without intellectual disabilities aged 4 to 8 enjoy together games and activities that develop motor skills and hand-eye coordination and promote social inclusion and interaction. Partners include Special Olympics Cyprus and the *Sport for All* Programme.

Unified Sport Programme

The programme promotes social inclusion through shared sports training and competition experiences, and joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. Partners include Special Olympics Cyprus and Sport Federations and Clubs.

CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ)

There are manifold projects aiming to support migrants in the Czech Republic, carried out by NGOs with the support of the government. Many volunteers are involved in the activities aiming to tackle the challenges raised by increased migration to Europe. The projects focus not only on direct

aid to the refugees, but also on the integration of migrants who have been living in the Czech Republic for some time. A few projects also use sport as a means for integration of migrants.

Concept of migrant integration (Government scheme aiming to help integrating migrants at regional and municipal level):

In 2009, **Centres for the integration of migrants** opened in several regions of the Czech Republic as a part of the project of the Ministry of the Interior. The project received funding from the European Fund for Integration for third-country nationals (EIF). During the period of July 2015 to June 2016, the operations of the Centres continue within the project “Operation Centres to promote the integration of migrants”, funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The project target group are third country nationals with long-term or permanent residence and refugees who have been granted international protection.

The aim of the project is to create a long-term and strategic support for the **integration of migrants at local level**. The Centres create, organize and host activities supporting legal and language skills of those in need. The Centres also establish and ensure operation of regional advisory platforms with all stakeholders involved, ranging from regional and municipal authorities to foreign police, state and municipal police, labour offices, tax offices and NGOs. The aim is to create a platform for a better exchange of information and suggestions on taking measures responding to the current needs in the field of integration of migrants.

The Centres are also in charge of educational, cultural, and social events including **sport and physical activities**.

NGOs

In the field of sport, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports aims to support NGOs’ sport activities and sport projects through the national sport state aid schemes. The NGOs work at national, regional and local level and their main task is to provide sport activities for their members. There are also a few examples of the projects with an objective to help integrate those in need:

Campaign Football for Development takes place every June in different regions of the Czech Republic. In cooperation with regional partners football tournaments are organised in different regions of the Czech Republic. These sport events are followed by concerts, workshops, discussions

and film projections about global issues such as poverty, diseases, pollution or wars. Each year a group of 12 youth ambassadors from Kenya participate in all the activities. Each year 1500 secondary-school students are actively involved in the campaign.

Another project at national level is organised by the Czech Olympic Committee (Czech Olympic Foundation) in order to help collecting funds from high-level athletes and distribute the funds among children from disadvantaged families. The contribution helps provide training shoes and clothing in order to integrate children and enable them to participate in sport activities at local level.

GERMANY (DE)

Germany has a great number of programmes and initiatives in place which use sport to help disadvantaged youth and migrants find their place in society.

One example is the Federal-Government-funded Integration through Sport programme, (<http://www.integration-durch-sport.de>), which was set up as early as 1989 and was at first geared to ethnic German re-settlers who had come from the former Soviet Union, Romania or Poland in the 1980s to live in Germany. The programme was extended to migrants in 2001 and asylum applicants in 2015. It is provided by the German Olympic Sports Confederation and its sixteen regional sports confederations. So-called focal sport clubs implement the programme on the ground. These are clubs officially recognized for their efforts to promote the integration of migrants. The aim of the programme is to recruit migrants as active athletes and to involve them in volunteer sports work in an effort to help them find their place in society. Furthermore, the programme seeks to encourage the sport clubs involved to open their offers and structures to persons from different cultural backgrounds.

KICKFAIR's activities illustrate what can be achieved by tapping the potential of sport (<http://www.kickfair.org/?lang=en>). The club uses street football to teach young people social skills, seeking to make it easier for them to take an active part in society. KICKFAIR also forms part of an international learning cooperation, which involves similar organizations from South America, Africa and Asia.

Germany is happy to provide, upon request, further information regarding the projects funded by the 16 regional (federal state) governments.

DENMARK (DK)

Get2Sport

The Danish NOC established in 2005 the programme "Get2Sport". The aim of the program is to establish and develop a foundation for sports associations in socially deprived areas through recruitment and education of volunteers. The program involves projects in e.g. football, boxing, basketball and volleyball for more than 9000 children and young people in Denmark.

The sports clubs in socially deprived areas are not having any problems recruiting children and young people. However, as the Danish association model is built on sports for all, voluntary work, openness and joint responsibility, adult and young adult volunteers as well as help from the parents are vital for the functioning of the sports clubs.

The project therefore focuses on recruiting and retaining volunteers, in order to create a culture of volunteering, which can support an active leisure for the local children and young people. By doing this, the project tries to stimulate an active life in the local associations and thereby give the children and young people in socially deprived areas the opportunity to benefit from the social capital created in voluntary communities.

The project is run by the Danish Sports Confederation /NOC, with financial support from the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Interior as well the local municipals in which the project is running. The homepage of the project (only in Danish) is <http://www.get2sport.dk>.

GAME - a Danish based street sport NGO

Street sports have a role to play in fragile neighbourhoods and societies to prevent conflicts and build a more stable and better future. GAME is a Danish based street sport NGO founded in 2002. GAME has turned to the idea of using sports as a vehicle for social change and through the years, the organization has gained experiences providing for the development of innovative methods to increase the development aspects of the activities.

GAME and their young volunteers, Playmakers, are working in more than 20 GAME zones in less advantaged neighbourhoods in Denmark providing exercising in street basket, parkour, dance and street soccer. GAME also operates in an indoor asphalt facility in Copenhagen and in nine GAME zones in Lebanon.

GAME's mission is to create lasting social change through youth-led street sports and culture. The programme is a fusion of different urban sports, dance, urban culture and an effort to bridge between differences. Activities are implemented by numerous groups of young leaders trained by GAME as street basket and street soccer coaches as well as dance and parkour instructors and event managers.

An important part of GAME's activities is to offer an education to young people in order to empower them to take a role as peer educators. Over the past decade, GAME has shown proof of concept when it comes to street sports and youth leadership. In 2014, GAME had more 80,000 visits at its practices, tournaments, workshops, and open gyms in 42 neighbourhoods in Denmark and Lebanon. Homepage of the organization: <http://gamedenmark.org/en>.

ESTONIA (EE)

SPIN-programme

SPIN is a sports-based intervention programme, targeted at at-risk young people with lesser opportunities aged 10 to 16. The programme reduces risk behaviour and anti-social behaviour through football and various activities that help develop social skills. SPIN is based on the Kickz programme from the United Kingdom that has achieved unprecedented success during the past eight years. Involving over 100,000 young people, Kickz has helped reduce crime levels by 20% and anti-social behaviour by 60%. The Kickz model has been modified for Estonian circumstances (more emphasis on impact assessment, more cooperation with schools etc.).

SPIN is coordinated by the non-profit organization SPIN in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, the Estonian Football Association, the Good Deed Foundation, the city of Tallinn, the Police and Boarder Guard Board, the British-Estonian Chamber of Commerce, the British Embassy Tallinn, the FC Flora, the FC Levadia and many others. Each group is attended by a professional football coach and an assistant coach with experience in social work or youth work (both chosen in cooperation with top-level football clubs). Three sessions take place each week for each group, two of them focused on football and the third on developing social skills.

Goals of the programme:

- Development of social skills, ability to focus, cooperation skills, self-control and discipline.

- Reduction of risk behaviour, aggressiveness, antisocial behaviour.
- Supporting the development a set of positive values, find inspiration from positive emotions, gain a sense of belonging to a team.

The programme is funded by the European Social Fund and coordinated by MTÜ SPIN. For further information, please contact M Andrei Liimets (andrei@heategu.ee).

GRECE (EL)

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF THE ‘SPORTS FOR ALL’ DIRECTION

The General Secretariat of Sports, through the *Sports for All* Direction, is cooperating with detox (detoxification) centres, therapeutic communities, institutions, hospitals, prisons, and sports centres. The main principles and criteria in terms of quality and programme development are:

1. Opportunities for participation to all, regardless of age, gender, or socio-economic situation
2. Provision of services offering sports all over the year
3. Developing volunteering
4. Awareness raising and information for citizens
5. Service provision to handicapped people and vulnerable social groups, as well as to people with chronic diseases

Further measures include the promotion of a natural way of life, treasuring interpersonal relationships and fostering communication. In order to foster the integration of migrants, social contacts with the local population are of high importance, as well as a chance to familiarise oneself with the local environment.

SPAIN (ES)

An SMS of solidarity to help refugees from Syria (September 2015)

Anthony Lake, Executive Director of UNICEF, called for an active minute of silence preceding all matches in the football leagues BBVA and ADELANTE during three days. Everyone involved in any way in the matches was invited to send an *sms* mentioning SMS SOLIDARIO. The funds collected through this action were used to help refugees in Europe. Special t-shirts, television and video clips, were used to further promote the initiative.

House of Spain (Casa España)

House of Spain is a comprehensive socio-educational project including the construction of a workshop school in one of the districts in greatest need in Dakar, Hann Bel Air. This school will give free access to about 300 children. This development project includes measures such as the promotion of the values of coexistence, respect, solidarity and cooperation through the practice of sport, as well as measures for education and employment training.

The objective of this programme is the comprehensive training of students, but also residents in the district as the programme includes participation mechanisms for active citizenship within the area's social life. The Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the "Cabildo Insular of Gran Canaria" (local government body), and the High Council for Sports also participate in this project promoted by the Foundation Spanish Basketball Federation.

DXT for life (Sport for life)

DXT for life is a programme on the education of values and social skills, addressed to children at risk of exclusion. The programme provides inclusive education through physical activity and sport. DXT for life is developed by the Spanish Agency for Health Protection in Sport (AEPSAD) and implemented in school residencies. The collaboration with sports clubs and athletes serves as a positive stimulus for the students participating in this programme.

DXT for life developed the idea of helping to protect vulnerable young people, in particular children who live or spend most of their time in school residencies. The purpose of this programme is thus to promote personal and social development of socially disadvantaged young people through physical activity and sport as means of transmitting values, helping them to avoid situations of social exclusion.

Specific objectives include:

- Encouraging physical activity and sport as means of social integration and conflict prevention;
- Protecting students from unhealthy practices and habits in life through the promotion of physical activity and sport;
- Promoting fair play and equal competition, with sportsmanship being the cornerstone for the acquisition of positive attitudes on a daily basis by these young people;
- Putting students in contact in a situation of vulnerability and / or at risk of exclusion with local sports clubs as a complementary action to their academic training.

FINLAND (FI)

In Finland, the opportunities of various demographic groups to engage in physical activity and equality in sports are recognized as fundamental principles of all sporting activities in the Act on the promotion of sports and physical activity (390/2015). Over the years, several funding schemes and projects have been launched in this regard, including the Development Programme for integrating immigrants through sports in 2010, presented in the EU Sport Directors Meeting in Luxembourg on 15 September 2015.

The Development Programme has been implemented by several measures, which aim to help immigrants participate in sporting activities in the same way as all the other residents. Participating in sport may enhance immigrants' inclusion, employability and social relations. Priority is given to children and young immigrants, health enhancing physical activity for adults, and sport provision geared to immigrants in sport clubs. The Programme is based on inclusion principle, meaning that immigrants can use the services provided by local authorities and sports clubs and associations that are intended for all.

Development support for sport club activities and local development projects

The Ministry of Education grants yearly subsidies to approximately 400 sport clubs as development support of sport club activity and local development projects promoting physical activity of children and young people. The main focus is on grassroots sport activities in which children and young people can easily participate. Some projects include demonstrations of different sports in schools

and in afternoon activities. Parts of the project include measures to prevent young people to drop out from sport clubs and sporting activities. In these projects, young people are taught to be active players in sport clubs, participating in administration, event organization and first and foremost training and instruction activities taking into account their skills especially in social media and information technology.

People with immigrant background have been recognized as one of the target groups in grant decision process. Especially sport activities for families have been successful concepts to attract immigrants to sport clubs. In 2015, subsidies have been granted for example to ice sports, acrobatics and orienteering targeted to families.

Physical education instructor teaching programme for immigrants

Physical Training College Kisakeskus provides physical education instructor teaching programme for people with immigrant background. The aim is to develop training skills of peer instructors in a versatile manner for different age groups. Instructor studies include theoretical studies, practical exercises, guidance, and counselling training in operational environments. Part of the training is organized in cooperation with the Finnish Red Cross. During the programme, an open sports and educational event is organized together with operators, partners and other instructors in the sports sector. The event consists in a wide range of workshops related to various health and fitness exercises, sports, multiculturalism and the development of instruction skills.

KYTKE project by ‘Walter ry’

KYTKE-project, or “connect” in Finnish, is a loose acronym of the Finnish words meaning Intercultural Interaction through Joint Action. The central element of the project is to run 60 minute workshops at middle schools (grades 7-9).

The workshops are run by Finnish present, or former, professional athletes and sportsmen with diverse ethnic backgrounds. They’re suited to involve about 100 students at a time. During the workshops, the presenters explain concepts related to being Finnish, multiculturalism, identity, discrimination and racism. After this, the students work in small groups to ponder these issues more in depth. The presenters participate in these group works and help guide the discussions.

The main purpose of the project is to concentrate on the declining urban areas. The project intends to improve the quality of life of those immigrant and local children and their families who are in

danger of marginalization. Girls with an immigrant-background are a special target-group of the project. Intention is to bring interesting events and hobbies to such declining urban areas, where there are large numbers of young people from risk-groups of social exclusion.

In these events the young can participate in different work-shops, in which street-dance (freestyle), street-music (rap/mc) and street-art (graffiti) are taught and in which it is possible to play street-basketball or street-football. The areas of the project are Helsinki, Vantaa, Espoo and Tampere.

<http://www.walter.fi/walter-in-english/>

Response to current refugee crisis: state subsidies to sporting and physical activities in the asylum reception centres in 2015 and 2016

The Ministry of Education and Culture has opened a call for applications on grants to projects providing sport and physical activities in the asylum reception centres for people in different age groups, including adults, families and children without guardians. Selected projects should create operation models to organize activities for people who have just arrived to Finland and they should also be closely linked to local sporting as well as integration, inclusion and social activities. The main principles for the attribution of grants are cross-sectorial, administrative and occupational cooperation as well as equality, including the equality between men and women. Partnerships and networks of different interest groups are needed for this grant attribution. Especially cooperation across administrative branches and with NGOs, including local sport clubs, is important.

The Finnish Sport Federation Valo has drafted guidelines for sport organizations and clubs on cooperation with asylum reception centres: <http://www.sport.fi/uutiset/uutinen/seurojen-jarjestamaliikunta-tuottaa-hyvinvointia-turvapaikanhakijoille> (in Finnish).

FRANCE (FR)

Implementation of a guide « Sport as a social inclusion factor »

<http://guides.semcsports.gouv.fr/sport-inclusion-sociale>

- Who? : Ministries of the Urban policy, Youth and Sports, Interior, Justice, Social Affairs and Women's rights.
- To whom? : Decentralized services of the State, local communities, sports associations and health and social structures.

- For whom? : young adults; foreign unaccompanied minors; minor beneficiaries of social assistance to childhood.

Three local experiences

Integration of a community of Chechen migrants: measures fostering the social inclusion of Chechen families are implemented since 2008 through educational and Olympic wrestling, a discipline creating links in the heterogenic social environment of the fighting club of Nîmes. Activities include the accompaniment of families and education, training of young people and leaders (parents) with regards to active citizenship, and the creation of a social space through the educational function of fighting sports. Objectives include dual sport and educational projects with a sports excellence course, education and social integration, and training of volunteer leaders.

Le Playa tour UFOLEP

(l'Union Française des Œuvres Laïques d'Education Physique)

This event was organized on the regional level, uniting different institutions to make around 600 young people discover different sporting and cultural activities during 4 days. The event also allows sensitising young people to sustainable development, to overcoming violence and with regards to the prevention of the use of addictive substances. Objectives further include the development of sports and leisure offers for all, making sport a tool of social cohesion by educating vulnerable young people, awareness raising on sustainable development, lifelong sport education, and the fight against antisocial behaviour.

A regional policy with a dedicated association: the Association DAHLIR

(“Dispositif d'Accompagnement du Handicap vers les Loisirs Intégrés et Régulier”)

This project is intended to promote the involvement of excluded audiences in sports, with the aim of contributing to social reintegration. The second issue of this project established synergies between all stakeholders, including professionals and volunteers, and encompassed different cultures, practices and approaches. A sport offer of 1½ hours per week was framed in this regard by professionals, including a variety of disciplines, including sports, badminton, climbing, and mountain biking. Nearly 120 people were able to participate in this pilot phase of the programme in 2012.

CROATIA (HR)

Centre for Peace Studies

Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization promoting non-violence and social change through education, research and activism. Through public events and actions, CPS is trying to influence the general public, the media and the authorities to encourage different stakeholder engagement in achieving historical reconciliation and in the articulation of peace-building policies. Along with other activities, CPS is also engaged with organizing matches, tournaments and social events for refugees, in partnership with the football supporters group from Zagreb called “White Angels” which is also involved in the CPS media campaign promoting fight against racism and xenophobia.

Refugees tend to be involved in all phases of the CPS activities, including project planning. CPS recently organized a football match between migrants in Croatia and football players showing a possibility of tackling integration through football which proved to be a great way of promoting this issue. Through playing football and trainings migrants are given the opportunity to learn about their new society in which they are now living and to create and wider their social network. On the other hand, it provides an opportunity for Croatian citizens to meet and to get to know their „new“ fellow citizens and neighbours through what they have in common - a love for football.

<http://www.cms.hr/en/o-cms-u-tko-je-tko/cms>

MoSt Association: Homeless World Cup (HWC)

A non-governmental organization based in Split, called “MoSt Association” (focusing on local, regional and national activities that value volunteer work, humanity, solidarity, respect for diversity and human rights), is also connected with the goals of the international organization of the Homeless World Cup. HWC is an international sports project which uses the positive influence of football to raise awareness about homelessness and poverty issues. The unique passion for football has the ability to move social boundaries, leading to an example of sport becoming a mean for creating new opportunities and perspectives for people in crisis situations. The main objective of the project is social reintegration of participants. Croatian national team for the first time took part in the World Championships in 2009 in Milan, followed by Rio de Janeiro in 2010, Paris in 2011 and Poznan. Along with participating in different competitions, the Croatian national team is also involved in a series of promotional activities, meetings and workshops. More information:

www.homelessworldcup.org. More information about the Croatian team: www.beskucnici.info (“the Homeless portal”, available only in Croatian language).

National minorities Football Camp

The Croatian Football Federation, as the general sponsor of the National minorities Football Camp, supports the Roma Association Football School called "Little Barcelona" who is organizing this Camp in one of the regions with the largest Roma community in Croatia. The Camp is organized under the motto "Ball united against racism, violence, discrimination and poverty". Around 80 boys and girls between 10 and 16 years old participated in the latest edition of the Camp. <http://hns-cff.hr/grassroots/manjine/>

HUNGARY (HU)

Erzsébet Programme

In July 2012, the Parliament adopted the Act CIII of 2012 on Erzsébet programme, the new social policy programme (holidays, active recreation and meals for socially indigent individuals; child and juvenile protection program) stating that the Hungarian National Foundation for Recreation (HNFR) is the exclusive performer of these social policy-related tasks. The financial basis of these public service tasks is provided by the issuance and distribution of Erzsébet Voucher (meal voucher) that is a part of the fringe benefit system. Based on Hungarian tax regulations, the complete income generated by the issuance and distribution of the Erzsébet voucher has to be spent on social purposes with special regard to social tourism.

In the spirit of the responsible care for children, with the aim of the revival of the St. Erzsébet tradition, building on social solidarity, another important objective of Erzsébet Program is to significantly reduce the number of those children who do not receive multiple meals a day, lack healthy diet, and the opportunity for active recreation, including sporting opportunities.

RESULTS

In 2014, over 160 thousand people, including 80 thousand children were given the opportunity for holiday and recreation in the framework of *Erzsébet Programme*. In the third year of the programme, the Hungarian National Foundation for Recreation provided grants to 34 thousand

pensioners, 6 thousand people with disabilities and 43 thousand people of large families. This year, in the framework of the Erzsébet Camp, nearly 55 thousand children could apply for more than 60 types of camps.

In case of most Erzsébet Camp calls, the amount of the payment to be made by the beneficiary has been bound to the family's income level. It can be seen from the statistics that most of the beneficiaries of the Erzsébet Camp lives in households where the income/person is below the minimum wage of approximately EUR 320.

Over the last three years, starting from the launch of the *Erzsebet Programme*, hundreds of thousands of people who are in need (people with low income, large families, people with disabilities, pensioners and children) have been supported through recreation grants and camping opportunities. This year the organisers were happy to welcome the 400,000th successful participant.

According to the reports, there were many children (exceeded 200,000 by 2014 in numbers) for whom this was the first occasion to leave for a holiday at a tourist destination, not even mentioning the privilege of having meals 5 times a day. This data testifies the success of *Erzsebet Programme*.

REASONS OF THE SUCCESS

Erzsébet Camp is a unique initiative in Europe, bringing summer holiday fun to thousands of children and youngsters in Hungary. Within the framework of Erzsébet Camp, the beneficiaries aged between 8 and 18 have the opportunity to spend a whole week of the summer at Lake Balaton or other popular camp sites in Hungary, at extremely low prices (EUR 3.5 - 35/person/camp) depending on the programme and the income of the family. Many of the camps are organized around certain themes or activities, like scouts, judo, life guard, soccer, box, sailing, arts&crafts, music, fencing, etc. Participants in these theme camps have the privilege to be led by outstanding Hungarian world and Olympic champions and widely recognized artists.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

In the course of the implementation of the Erzsébet programme, HNFR works in close cooperation with civil societies representing the supported target groups, such as National Association of Large Families, National Federation of Mobility Impaired Persons Associations, Hungarian Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted, Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hearing Impaired. The proposals and the feedback of the NGOs are taken into consideration throughout the grant

programme. The NGOs also assist the Program by raising awareness on the actual calls for application, by using their own networks.

IRELAND (IE)

Football Association of Ireland's Late Night Leagues

Since 2005, the Football Association of Ireland has been using football as a way to effect social inclusion. The association has developed excellent national youth programmes, in partnership with other stakeholders, for disability, interculturalism, and women's football. They have also developed programmes for 'at risk' groups which are aiming to encourage young people towards good behaviour.

The Late Night League is a diversionary programme incorporating soccer leagues at various urban locations across the country. It is aimed at encouraging 'at risk' young people to participate in meaningful activities and reducing anti-social behaviour in disadvantaged areas. The Late Night Leagues are open to young people aged 13-21 and take place during prime anti-social hours such as Friday nights. The initiative is based around the concept of using football as a tool for social inclusion and learning.

The leagues continue to be very effective with formal partnerships established with the police and local authorities. Police call-out rates have been shown to reduce by almost 50% during the periods the leagues ran in some disadvantaged communities. The number of participating communities rose from 19 in 2012 to 58 in 2015 and the number of young people participating in the leagues rose from 1,800 in 2012 to over 3,000 in 2015.

Sport Ireland's Youth Leadership Programme

Sport Ireland is the statutory body responsible for the promotion, development and coordination of sport in Ireland. Sport Ireland has recently developed a Youth Leadership Programme to deliver courses for those interested in working in sport development. The programme focuses on fundamental leadership qualities and includes, amongst other things, inclusive sport adaptations and culminates in a module on pathways in sport and recreation. This strand involves the development and delivery of specialised Sports Leadership training for young people providing a stepping stone

for learners into employment and also into further education or training. This programme will develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner.

It will also assist to develop trained volunteers who can assist with the delivery of sport and recreation initiatives within their community. The programme will provide training for young people, keeping them engaged, increasing their responsibility and developing their confidence and self-esteem and will provide an opportunity for lifelong volunteering. The programme has the potential to impact on both early school dropout in disadvantaged areas and dropout rates from sport within the targeted age group.

The recently adopted EU Council Conclusions on maximising the role of grassroots sport in developing transversal skills, especially among young people, highlight how voluntary activities in sport as a method of non-formal and informal learning can help young people acquire skills and transversal competences that complement formal education and enhance their employability.

A total of 60 courses under the Youth Leadership Programme will be delivered by end 2015 with over 1,500 participants.

ITALY (IT)

Sport, through the positive values it incorporates, is certainly a very important instrument to foster integration and to counter intolerance or discrimination. With this in mind, the project “Sports and Integration: the most beautiful victory” is organised in the second year by the Ministry for Employment and Social Policies and the Italian National Olympic Committee, in accordance with the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research. Students realised different projects with the younger ones creating paintings and the older ones writing articles, telling their experience in sport acting as a catalyst of integration.

Thanks to information material including a booklet, an educational brochure and a video entitled “brothers in sport” (www.fratellidisport.it) as well as a didactic kit for school classes, the project has witnessed a high participation rate. The initiative is part of a more general educational campaign which also foresees a series of ten encounters with champions in various Italian cities: Italian athletes who are also immigrants of second generation, tell their experiences on sport fostering integration.

Promoting Integration Policies through Sport

In 2014, an Agreement between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) was finalized, with the aim to develop actions capable of favouring the social integration of migrants first and then second generations, and fighting discrimination and intolerance. Among the main actions are the following: the “Manifesto on the topics of immigration, sports and measures to contrast discrimination and intolerance”; an information and awareness-raising campaign aimed at promoting the spreading, the in-depth analysis and compliance with the universal principles of integration contained in the Manifesto; a series of territorial events.

In 2015, the Agreement was renewed, with the aim to continue along the path undertaken, promoting the inter-institutional cooperation both with the school and the sport environment. Also, the 2015 edition of “Sport and Integration” aiming at promoting best practices has launched a call throughout the territory for positive experiences in favour of the inclusion and integration of young people first and then second generations, coming from a migratory context.

Direct Line with Second Generations

In 2014, on the Migrants Integration Portal, the "Direct Line with Second Generations" was launched involving more than 30 second generation youth associations throughout the whole national territory. The associations had the opportunity to share their experiences and submit their requests. This initiative led to the idea of writing a Manifesto collecting their proposals. The Manifesto is divided into four sections devoted to work, school, culture and sport, active participation and citizenship. It contains proposals and practical solutions for each section, adaptable to the various territorial realities and the addressees' specific needs.

Within the dissemination plan prepared by the associations, the Manifesto has been presented to various institutions and international as well as national organizations that work in the field of migration, integration and youth policies.

LUXEMBOURG (LU)

Encounter without borders - fostering integration through sports and culture

Previously known as "Rencontre des Nations", the "Rencontres sans frontières" event is a football and Beach Volleyball tournament combined with an intercultural festival. Each team is made up of

several nationalities in order to encourage integration and the blending of cultures. The tournament takes place every summer.

Days of Reception and Integration

At the days of reception and integration by the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (OLAI), sport has been integrated as a vital part in awareness raising, sensitisation and animation activities. The importance of sport for quality of living is stressed through various activities and information stands.

Integrating persons with international protection status in sport clubs

An information catalogue provides all actors concerned with relevant information on the procedures and measures necessary for integrating refugees and other persons benefiting from international protection in sport clubs and activities.

Amigo: a meeting place for young people

<http://www.asti.lu/www-asti-lu/le-kannernascht/amigo/>

The meeting space “Amigo” in the North of Luxembourg City offers a series of activities to young people between 12 and 26 years of age, including sport, cooking, creative works, games, and excursions. Young people, accompanied by qualified personnel, are sensitised to reaching autonomy and assuming responsibility in their lives. The centre, which acts as a meeting place, aims to transmit values to the youngsters, including respect for the freedom and opinions of others, as well as self-respect.

LATVIA (LV)

Ghetto Games Movement

Ghetto Games movement is the biggest movement of street culture and youth in Latvia. We consider it a good initiative that uses sport activities to promote the acquisition of valuable skills and healthy lifestyle as well as the principles of fair game and respect. It is aimed to enhance social inclusion of young people from various backgrounds. <http://failiem.lv/u/efrcneo>

Street gymnastics

Street gymnastics is a combination of sports, athletic gymnastics, calisthenics, parkour and hip-hop culture. This combination makes the activities attractive to young people. As no special equipment is necessary and the activities are mainly carried out in urban environment, it is accessible to people from various backgrounds.

Latvian Society of Street Gymnastics

Latvian Society of street gymnastics is a public organization and the objectives of the organization include:

- The development of street gymnastic movement in Latvia;
- Holding street gymnastics demonstrations in schools of Latvia, as well as various children's and youth organizations;
- Holding competitions for children and young people in street gymnastics;
- Promoting healthy lifestyles for children and young people;
- Cleaning up existing and building new street gymnastics workout spots in Latvia;
- Attracting children and young people to street gymnastic workout classes.

The society is a non-profit organization created for the benefit of social formation. Its members are paying a small monthly membership fee (the participation of pupils, students and people on low income is free of charge). The society is organising training sessions taking place in more than 20 cities (towns) in Latvia and participation is accessible to anyone and free of charge. Coaches are present to show the movements and give advice. Engagement in these activities requires motivation and self-discipline, given that they entirely depend on individual willingness to work and commitment. Source and additional information: <http://ieluvingrosana.lv/site/29987>.

Promoting healthy lifestyles and the acquisition of valuable skills

Local municipalities may initiate or support projects or activities aiming to promote a healthy lifestyle and the acquisition of valuable skills for young people through sports activities, as well as social inclusion of young people with fewer possibilities.

An example of this kind of initiatives is the football tournament “BASTA FOOTBALL” in Jelgava. In the summer of 2015 from June-August, this initiative took place the second time and aimed to provide a possibility for young people to spend the free time practicing healthy activities. The

project implements non-formal education activities, developing competencies that would be valuable for future life and labour market, involving young people in voluntary work and promoting the principles of fair play and mutual respect.

The tournament is aimed for young people between 13 and 25 years of age, especially for young people facing risk group of social exclusion. Participation in the tournament is free of charge.

MALTA (MT)

Through its Sports Programme '**On the Move**', Malta's Sport Council (*SportMalta*) offers an opportunity to entities catering for disadvantaged young people including migrants to apply for programmes with the tuition fee being subsidised by *SportMalta*. Moreover, young people who have initial problems of integration within the programme are provided with expert assistance (including psychological if necessary) at the initial stages.

Furthermore, Malta's Youth Football Association has engaged over 150 migrant youth in football activities, in order to ensure social inclusion and to provide for further integration of this youth through sport.

In addition, **Special Olympics Malta** provides weekly training sessions in different sport disciplines throughout the year to disadvantaged youth, particularly those with mental health problems. This takes place across a number of sport facilities across Malta. This opportunity provides such youth with an opportunity to develop physical fitness skills, whilst engaging such youth in the community by enhancing their life skills. To date, Special Olympics Malta athletes have participated in more than 20 international events.

NETHERLANDS (NL)

Sports for youth in low income neighbourhoods

Since 2014, the Dutch government invests €5 million in the program Sports for youth in low income neighbourhoods. Local organizations can apply for grants between €10,000 and €100,000 for 2-years projects. Sport projects for homeless people and martial arts for youth between 8 and 21 years of age, and needing special education have been granted financial aid. First results will be reported in 2016/2017. <https://www.sportindebuurt.nl/sportimpuls/sportimpuls-jeugd-in-lage-inkomensbuurten/>

National youth sport fund

The Dutch government invests €400,000 yearly in the *National Youth Sports Fund*. This central fund coordinates local organizations with respect to fundraising. In this public private partnership, the club fee (€250 per year) is being sponsored for almost 40,000 children whose parents cannot afford the contribution for a sports club. <http://www.jeugdsportfonds.nl/>

Refugees

On 11th November, all 34 professional football clubs of the Netherlands will host a full afternoon of soccer clinics for boys and girls between 7 and 17 years of age at all refugee shelters in the Netherlands. For daytime activities the national table tennis association is collecting and handing out equipment to the refugees shelters.

‘Life Goals Cup’

Life Goals Cup is a programme focusing on the social development through sport for young people (16-35 years) who are socially side-lined due to a serious or multiple problems, including homeless people, (ex-) drug addicts, people with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities, people with severe behavioural problems or a combination of these. The aim of the programme is to allow participants to exercise at the local sport club, to actively participate in society and to gain work experience through voluntary activities at the sport club work. In addition to the specific sports and volunteer activities, the programme also focuses on the personal "Life Goals" of participants. These Life Goals relate to the Work, Housing and Leisure. A psychologist formulates the Personal Life Goals in consultation with the participants and encourages and guides them through the (gradual)

realization of these goals. The Life Goals programme lasts two years and consists of weekly training sessions and volunteer activities at the sports club supervised by community sports coaches from the sports club and the participating healthcare institution. <http://stichtinglifegoals.nl>

‘Respons’

The Respons(e) method has been developed to address issues in education such as bullying, aggressive behaviour, or safety at school. The basis of ‘Respons’ is formed by a teaching method based on martial arts. Sport is used as a teaching tool to transfer the skills and insights to the participants while having fun and being physically active. ‘Respons’ is a collaboration between a martial arts club and at least one educational institution. Students are trained in responding to threatening situations (such as bullying or aggression) in a respectable way by practicing martial arts. They learn to assess situations themselves and to give the right response to events that require a different (flexible) reaction (response). The target group of Response consists of all students in the educational setting, in the age of 9 t / m 22 years.

<http://www.nivm.nl/programmas/sportimpuls.aspx>

‘Alleen jij bepaalt wie je bent’ (Only you decide who you are)

The project 'Only you decide who you are' uses positive role models to stimulate vulnerable school-age youths (aged 12 to 18 years) to participate in a structured recreation group at a sports club. This provides a pro-social network. These young people are urged to join a sport club by using school clinics. In the clinics, (top) athletes introduce team sports such as football, soccer, baseball, or basketball. After the clinic phase, these kids can get a membership at a sport club for free for two seasons under the guidance of qualified coaches. At present, 30 sports clubs and more than 30 schools in 13 municipalities joined the project. This project is also running on the Dutch Antilles (Curacao and Aruba). In total, around 1,000 young people joined a sports club so far. A first analysis by the University of Amsterdam shows a significant positive behavioural change in participating youth. <http://www.alleenjijbepaalt.nl/>

POLAND (PL)

The programme of counteracting aggression and pathology among children and youth through sports

This programme fosters cooperation between several sectors, including sport, education, health, security, and justice, as well as between central administration and local governments. EU funding and national funding are combined in order to implement a variety of measures, targeting effective involvement of troubled youth at risk of social exclusion, in particular inhabitants of youth correctional facilities and temporary youth detention centres.

The main objective is to reduce the level of aggression and social pathologies among children and youth, by creating opportunities for participating in various forms of physical activity. Participation in sports is indeed important for personal development and the sense of identity and belonging. Research indicates that sport may significantly contribute to the prevention and treatment of antisocial behaviour of young people. Even small sport achievements can help to improve self-esteem and self-satisfaction, also resulting in a belief in the possibility of achieving better results in other areas of life.

The programme offers the following activity areas:

- integration, intervention and rehabilitation activities for children and young persons who have committed an offence;
- preventive activities addressed to parents, children and youth, and sports trainers and instructors;
- teaching activities, including sports activities for children and youth, carried out to inhibit the negative influence of the peer community;
- activities promoting healthy lifestyle and healthy eating.

Integration meetings and sports events are organised for inhabitants of youth correctional facilities and temporary youth detention centres from all over the country. These events were attended by heads of ministries implementing the programme, Members of Parliament, famous sports trainers and Olympic athletes. The events included sports competitions, games and other organized activities; materials promoting the programme were also distributed. In total, over 3.500 persons took part.

"Sports Holidays" have been organised for over 1.8 thousand participants, including a summer camp within the premises of the Police Academy in Szczytno. Participants included inhabitants of one of the youth correctional facilities. The sports activities (karate, track and field sports, swimming, boxing, judo, team games) were conducted by qualified sports trainers and instructors and police officers from the Police Academy in Szczytno.

Training for school teachers: Training topics included, inter alia, the impact of computer games on children's behaviour, drug addiction recognition, building motivation through sport, and group and student activation techniques.

Each year, information booklets entitled *The programme of counteracting aggression and pathology among children and youth through sport* were published and distributed among the youth correctional facilities, youth detention facilities and lower secondary schools. Information posters were also sent to 35.000 schools.

PORTUGAL (PT)

Along with its health benefits, the educational potential and social value of sport (integration from and through sports) is clearly recognized. In light of the memory of the human and social reasons which supported the origin of the Ancient Olympic Games, it is important to remind that modern sport roots developed 200 years ago through several authors including Francisco Amorós, Per Henrik Ling, Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, Thomas Arnold, and Pierre de Coubertin, who highlighted the true reasons supporting the essence and the purpose of sports.

In this respect, governments should adopt relevant programmes and provide financial support to the promotion and development of the educational potential and social integration of the disadvantaged young migrant population through sport and physical activity. Portugal has been developing several examples of good practices promoted by both public and private entities in this area.

Through the sport governing bodies, the Secretary of State of Sport and Youth and the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, the Government of Portugal is currently implementing the National *Sports for All* programme based on 3 major pillars: "Education and Training", "Health" and "Sports Development", supporting projects aiming to develop "social integration and inclusion".

Examples of good practice projects fostering "social inclusion in and through sport" of the disadvantaged population, people at risk, poverty, or social exclusion:

- Street football - "Homeless" - soccer;
- "Youth at risk" - delinquency, drug dependence - football;
- "Woman, seniors and intergenerational - sailing;
- "Immigrants - inclusion through sport - immigrants from NGOs;
- Promoting physical activity and sport during the primary school level - partnership between sports, education and health;
- Fight against abandonment and failure at school - football;
- Handball 4 All - sport in prisons;
- Disabled population - inclusion of people with disabilities through sport;
- Inclusion of students with special educational needs and disabilities - Boccia;
- Ethical education through sport, to combat discrimination, social exclusion, xenophobia, violence and gender inequality - National Plan of Ethics in Sport,

SLOVENIA (SI)

1st Roma Children Mini Olympiad

In the Roma settlement Pušča - north eastern part of Slovenia the 1st Roma Children Mini Olympiad took place on 09/19/2015. The honorary patronage was given by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Borut Pahor. The initiative for the Roma children's mini Olympics, which took place under the auspices of the Slovenian Olympic Committee, gave Mr. Jože Horvat - Didi, President of the Roma Sports Association of Slovenia, and the co-organizers were the Municipality of Murska Sobota and Institute of Culture, Tourism and Sport Murska Sobota. The first Roma mini Olympiad was held under the slogan "With sports against discrimination" and it was carried within the European Week of Sport 2015.

Just like the 5 interlaced Olympic rings also this games should encourage young Roma from all over Slovenia to cooperation and friendship. Around 100 young people from 8 Slovenian municipalities participated in the games. They competed in five disciplines respectively in humorous sports games. e.g., Football: shot on goal from the wall on which there are 5 holes. The task was to hit the holes, which were of different sizes and therefore the score had different value; - Golf: a golf strike with modified golf club. They played with large Velcro balls, which pasted on the target; - Throw of Vortex ball into target: Vortex was thrown from a certain distance into the

circle target; - Jumping with bags: contestants carried out both feet jumps in bags; - Walking with long skis: walking with long jumping skis with tapes in which contestants embark.

At each station, there were judges of the Slovenian Olympic Committee, but the results were not at the forefront of importance, it was rather the cooperation among children. At the end, they were all winners. All competitors and participants of the 1st Roma Mini Olympics, at the end of the games won a medal, an award, the Olympic Bracelet and Olympic school notebooks.

This event was extremely important for the inclusion of Roma into sport, into society and to spread the values of Olympism, fair play, cooperation and friendship. The event was organized as the authentic Roma holiday attended by representatives of the state, OKS, the Municipality of Murska Sobota and many other municipalities, since the Roma participants came from 12 Slovenian municipalities. The organisers presented to the guests a special Kindergarten for Roma children, as well as a settlement Called Pušča, which could function as a role model of the Roma settlement for the whole of Europe. It is worth mentioning that the event was exceptionally pleasant, and went on without any complications, disagreements or quarrels ... though it was attended by many Roma from different places across Slovenia. At the end, the organisers agreed to continue with this programme and came up with the idea of proposing to organise Sports games of the Roma at the EU level.

Healthy Lifestyle Programme 2010-2015

The Institute for Sport of the Republic of Slovenia Planica coordinates the implementation of the Programme Healthy Lifestyle (HLS) since September 2010. It is jointly financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund (85%) and by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (15%). Its aim is to further encourage interested and disadvantaged primary school children to establish their healthy lifestyle.

The programme aims at ensuring to all interested students, and in particular to the disadvantaged social categories, at least two hours of sporting activities and together with regular physical education 5 hours per week (sport + programme ZZS) in order to promote a healthier lifestyle and in this way to eliminate the consequences of the negative effects of modern lifestyle (exercise for proper posture, eliminating the flatness of the foot, eliminating obesity, the development of general endurance) . The contents of the programme are free of charge.

This programme aims to involve children in daily professionally guided exercises as recommended by the EU Physical Activity Guidelines, in accordance with the Strategy of the Slovenian

Government in the area of the physical activities, promoting health of children while encouraging them to establish their own model of a healthy lifestyle.

The programme presents at least 12 different types of sports to children, taking place in the school sports hall, in outdoor sports areas or in the natural environment. Urban sports are also presented, and more specifically at least 3 sports disciplines of the sport environment in which the primary school is located, and of course, in collaboration with local sports associations.

The "Experimental" programme HLS resolves problems in those schools (municipalities and regions), which are the in the light of the motoric potential weaker and need assistance the most because we find that:

- The XT value (average of all motor skills) for all age groups in the experimental group is below the national average.
- We note that overweight boys and girls consciously join the programme HLS to regulate their physical state.
- The programme HLS is also attended by pupils with serious health problems (missing more than 14 days of classes in a school year).

Programme HLS is essential to facilitate cooperation between schools and associations, as well as among children of different social origins and disadvantaged groups. The result of cooperation has substantially increased through sporting activity, and significantly contributed to the social cohesion of disadvantaged social groups by way of physical exercise and sport under carefully professional guidance of skilled PE teachers and other professionals from sport partner sports clubs and associations.

“Job & Sports” - Sport as a medium for integrating disadvantaged young people into the labour market – EU handbook

The project “Job & sports” (2002/2006) was a European Union’s Leonardo da Vinci study on the question whether sport can function as the medium for the integration of disadvantaged young people into the labour market.

The result of the project was a handbook as a tool for sports trainers and teachers who work in sports organisations, vocational schools or in institutions for promoting employment. It includes recommendations, and ideas for teaching sporting activities with the aim to enhance education, and

the instructions for the improvement of soft skills through sports, but it is not aiming at the improvement of motor skills. The term “edu-trainer”, which has been created by our partner in Schio, stands for physical trainers, who have the objective of training soft skills instead of motor skills. It is thus an amalgamation of the terms educator and trainer

Five European partners in five different European countries (DE, FR, IT, ES and SI) participated in the project. The project promoter was the Beschäftigungsförderung Göttingen kAöR (Employment promotion department of the City of Göttingen) while the project was implemented by the Stadtsportbund Göttingen e.V. The trans-national partner organisations were the Ministry of Education and Sport in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Don Bosco University College of Education in Madrid, Spain, the Faculty of Sport Sciences and Physical Education in Montpellier, France, the Istituto Salesiano Don Bosco in Schio/Vicenza, Italy and the Zoom prospektive Entwicklungen e.V. Institute in Göttingen, Germany. Each partner operated through its local network that included universities, sport associations, social institutions and vocational schools.

The central objective of this project was to integrate the disadvantaged young people into the job market by teaching and improving their soft skills. Sporting activities are in this sense used as a medium. What does teaching soft skills mean in this case? Soft skills and key qualifications are the abilities that are vital for successful employment. They are allocated at the behavioural level and are the opposite of the hard skills – the technical or administrative skills. A soft skill refers to the cluster of personality traits, social graces, language, and personal habits. Sporting activities can be fruitfully used as an educational tool, although there is no automatic transfer between sporting activities or sport lessons and the development of socially desired attitudes, behavioural models or characteristics. This project simply used the potential capacity of sports for the vocational field and tried to produce the conditions under which sport can be used to promote characteristics, necessary for the successful integration into the workplace.

The target group of the project are disadvantaged (i.e. underprivileged) young people, particularly young women. The reasons for their disadvantaged position often originate in their early childhood, the family environment, and sometimes even in their school or peer-groups. One of the most important consequences of their position was the lack of soft skills or poorly developed soft skills. They used to be unwilling and unmotivated to participate in sporting activities. There were various reasons for this:

- Most of the disadvantaged young people have had negative experiences with school itself, school sports, and also a negative experience, or none at all, with organised sporting activities.
- Their vision of sports has been influenced by school sports and sports on television. This was connected with knowledge of a restricted number of sports disciplines with the focus on elite and competitive sports.
- Sport often has an image as a field where the strongest wins and the weaker ones give up. It is formed by performance and competition. Young, socially disadvantaged people frequently see sports as difficult and have little understanding of it. This fits in with their socialisation experiences and makes the implementation of sport and motor activities a difficult task because such view of sports is not only transmitted by the media but is also found in sports associations and schools.
- The attitudes and behaviours of socially disadvantaged young people are often marked by a strong resistance to innovations and a lack of openness and flexibility. With this attitude they tend to protect themselves from any unknown, and therefore threatening, experiences. The reasons could be a lack of focus of control, a lack of manageability or of self-esteem, formed by negative socialisation experiences. These gaps also reduce the motivation to learn the methods and contents of sports.
- Even if they succeed in their vocational projects and in school, their chances of integrating into the labour market are still very low, because of the general economic situation and the structure of the labour market. This often leads to negative and passive attitudes in schools and activities.

In the **“Job & Sports” project**, sporting activities were used to influence attitudes and behaviour in a positive way. Using sport as a medium to acquire individual and social skills is new for the target group, including the combination of practising sporting activities and gaining important qualifications through sporting activities. The project consisted of two phases: the research phase and the sports practice phase.

During the research phases, the following issues were discussed:

- What are the reasons for the lack of integration of disadvantaged young people into the job market? Is it due to their lack of soft skills or is it due to the labour market? What skills are necessary for vocational integration?
- Can sporting activities improve soft skills? Under what conditions are they beneficial?

In order to answer these questions the project started with literature analyses and qualitative interviews. One of the results of the research phase was a list of about twenty soft skills and objectives that were important for job integration. They were then summarised into five groups of skills: 1) motivation, 2) personal skills, 3) social skills, 4) integration, and 5) task management. These five groups correspond to five modules described in the handbook.

This handbook consists of two parts: the theoretical part – the curriculum, and the practical part – the teaching material. The curriculum provides the theoretical background while the teaching material provides practical examples for each module. The handbook was tested in different areas: for vocational training and vocational integration, in vocational schools, in prisons, in homes, social institutions and in leisure facilities; with girls and boys and young women and men ranging in age from 13 to 30, disadvantaged and partly disabled students.

One of the future objectives might be to transfer the concept of enhancing key qualifications already present in regular schools and in sports associations. In order to transfer key qualifications (soft skills), it would be necessary to develop a concept for teaching trainers, teachers and volunteers in sport associations as well as to produce a set of the guidelines for the education of teachers in schools and trainers in sports and other associations.

The project outcomes have been after the close of the project regularly implemented in practice in the participating countries (DE, ES, FR, IT and SI) and, as it was reported afterwards in Turkey, Chile and Argentina.

SLOVAKIA (SK)

An important task of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic is to support sport projects of civic associations through the annual call for projects named “Sport and Health”. The projects are focused on children and youth, including disadvantaged groups. Besides sports activities, the projects should contain also educational and informative aspects. They should inform young generation about importance of active life style and impact of sport on health, as well as social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. The call for projects is opened to applicants without differences. In case of disadvantaged young people who cannot practise sports activity on sufficient level because of their bad social circumstances, there is also a possibility that sports clubs directly support them.

Apart from the above mentioned, there are various other projects dealing with sport as a tool of developing tolerance, mutual respect and intercultural understanding. Very active in this field is Ms Katarína Ráčzová, Ambassador for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play of the Council of Europe, who is a pioneer in developing projects, both national and international, which address marginal and socially disadvantaged groups. Ms Ráčzová, former Olympian and high level fencer, opens easily very sensitive issues and her projects often use sport as an instrument for social inclusion and help disadvantaged youth find their place in society. The projects created by her are often inspiration for stakeholders in other institutions to develop similar projects for different target groups in various sports.

Hereby we would like to point out at some projects focused on the educational potential of sports which help disadvantaged youth find their place in society.

“Nothing is Impossible, when there’s a will“ was a project organized by the Slovak Olympic Committee with financial support of the Central European Foundation on the occasion of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All. About eighty disabled and non-disabled children and some well-known athletes tried to prove during a week that „Nothing is Impossible, when there’s a will“. The essence of the project was to bring children closer to the world of handicapped people, to expose them to their integration into daily life and encourage them to better understand them. The presence of well-known athletes, their experience and especially personal examples of handicapped athletes proved that no handicap, not even a physical one, is an obstacle to achieve important objectives. Personal examples were used to evidence the importance of sport and its impact on development of self-control and discipline. The mixed teams of pupils – healthy and hearing impaired children – had one week to prepare a creative presentation of their experience in whatever

manner and present it during the pre-Christmas period in a well-attended shopping mall. The passer-byes were interested in the performance of the dancing group of hearing impaired children and also could watch a brief video of the entire week. The highlight of the project was the fifth challenge – representing the main idea of the project: performing a story representing the life of one team member, “This day with my eyes”.

League of Champions from street was organized in the framework of the project “Sport can join, different colors, common play” by civic association Youth of Streets and Institution for intercultural dialogue with support of the Slovak Football Association. The football match was aimed on youth at risk of poverty and social inclusion. Ten football teams consisted of Roma and non-Roma youth. They demonstrated that sport can join them and make them regular football team players.

Sport is beautiful, do not destroy our illusions! was a project organized by the Slovak Olympic Committee to make children understand the sports social value. This was also the main topic of the literature competition that the Slovak Fair Play Club organized as part of the Olympic education program. To better identify best practices and try applying them to fight against corruption, cheating, match-fixing and protecting clean athletes, the Slovak fair play club launched a survey to understand public opinion on these topics. Developing best practices for clean sports starts with investing more time and resources into sports and fair play education at schools. The project highlighted a saying that it is easier to educate children than to change the bad behaviour of adults.

“We are playing for humanity” was the motto of the 8th Tournament of the Bratislava Small Football League which was organized in the framework of the campaign “Sport can join, different colours, common play” and Action weeks of the Football against racism in Europe (FARE). More than 150 football players among them representatives of minorities, foreigners, refugees as well as famous people from sports and social life expressed the idea of solidarity with migrants, who had to leave their homes involuntary because of violence or war. The tournament was held in Bratislava at sports center of Pavol Glesk. Also eight migrants from Syria took part and created one football team. Participants could financially contribute to help families of refugees. Tournament was supported by FARE, Football against racism in Europe and Municipality of Bratislava.

In addition to those best practice examples, we would like to mention following suggestions concerning inclusion of disadvantaged groups, including migrants - refugees - asylum seekers:

- Firstly, the most appropriate sports for inclusion of such groups are those which are **easy understandable** because it might help to break inhibitions to join the others as

well as it is very helpful to overcome a language barrier that is usually a huge problem of social inclusion in the host country.

- Secondly, it is important that the field of play is **easy accessible** for anyone and it does not require any extra financial costs.
- Thirdly, when dealing with sport and physical activities of any marginal and socially disadvantaged group, it is important to take into consideration the aspect of education and competent staff.
- Fourthly, special focus should be paid on children; especially their safety and security should be of high interest when dealing with this topic.

We were reflecting also about the period when migrants wait for asylum process. During that period, the importance and the power of sport can really play a particular role in lives of asylum seekers because regular physical activity can calm negative emotions, prevent depressions and decrease risks of antisocial behaviour. Therefore we propose to pay special attention to this issue, to build the relevant sport facilities, such as fitness play grounds, climbing walls etc. We consider mainly football and street basketball as the most relevant sports in our country for those people.

In conclusion, we would like to propose to develop within the EU a similar concept as it was used in the framework of the Council of Europe with National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play. Appointed sport icons as role models by respective governmental authorities in each EU member state might play a significant role in using the educational potential of sports in various fields of society.

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