

European Conference
Sport and Integration: Challenging social exclusion in and through sport
Vienna, 19-20 September 2011

Date: Monday 19 September and Tuesday 20 September 2011 (Arrival day: 18 September).

Venue: House of Sport, Federal Ministry of Sport
Prinz-Eugen-Strasse 12, A-1040 Vienna, Austria

Organiser: FairPlay – VIDC (Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation)

In collaboration with the SPIN project partners:

- Football Association of Ireland – FAI
- Portuguese Professional Players Union - SJPF
- Unione Italiana Sport Per Tutti – UISP
- Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation (Hungary)
- Camino (Germany)
- Liikkukaa. org (Finland)

Context

In the study “Racism, ethnic discrimination and exclusion of migrants and minorities in sport” published by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), a key finding is that in many of the 27 EU member states there is still a very low awareness on racism and exclusion in sport. This is in particular the case with regard to indirect or structural forms of discrimination. Some sports perceive themselves as “not affected” by racism and the exclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants. Hence they see no need to introduce inclusive policies and the full inclusion of migrants on all levels of their sport.

Structural discrimination refers to rules, norms, routines, patterns of attitudes and behaviour in institutions that represent obstacles to migrants and ethnic minorities in achieving the same rights and opportunities that are available to the majority. Exclusion may be either open or hidden, and it can occur intentionally or unintentionally. The under-representation of migrants and ethnic minorities and their exclusion from positions of authority or status are striking features of most European sports. The lack of advancement of minorities in non-playing positions as administrators, coaches or referees remain a vital challenge.

The conference is the first pan-European event on sport and social inclusion since the Lisbon Treaty entered into force in December 2009, giving the EU a competence on sport. It is supported by the European Commission under the measure “Preparatory Action in the Field of Sport” meant to identify and test suitable networks and good practices in the field of sport.

The conference language is English. No translation is provided.

Download the Conference Programme from here.

http://www.fairplay.or.at/uploads/media/Conference_Agenda_EN.pdf

Focus on Practice

The two-day Sport and Integration conference will bring together European sport / social inclusion experts as well as migrant / grass-root activists to discuss with sport stakeholders and policy makers current challenges, exchange best practice and devise recommendations. In total 70 participants are expected to attend.

Invited sport & inclusion stakeholders include the Sport Unit of the European Commission, UEFA, European Olympic Committee, the UN Office on Sport, Development and Peace, the Council of Europe, European Agency on Fundamental Rights (FRA), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sport and the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB).

The gathering will touch on practical aspects of the issue: How can sport clubs reach out and offer sports and training programmes which are accessible for migrants and ethnic minorities, in particular girls and women? How can sport federations & clubs best implement diversity management programmes and tackle the ‘glass ceiling’ in leadership positions within their institutions? How is the situation in Central and Eastern Europe?

Topics of the 3 Parallel Workshops will be:

- Cracking the Glass ceiling: The role of clubs, associations and public bodies in promoting inclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants
- Innovative approaches, tools and campaigns against exclusion and discrimination in sport
- Self-organisation & empowerment of migrant groups and minorities in sport

Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) Project

The conference is organised in the framework of the EU project "Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) – Involving migrants in mainstream sport institutions". SPIN brings together NGOs and football organisations from Germany, Italy, Portugal, Ireland, Hungary, Finland and Austria. Lead agency of the project, which kicked off in spring 2011, is the Austrian FARE partner FairPlay-VIDC in Vienna.

The event is funded by the Sport Unit of the European Commission (DG EAC), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sport, the Sport Department of the City of Vienna and the Austrian FA.

Expected Conference Results

- Increase networking and sharing of best practices among sport stakeholders (federations, associations, clubs, supporter organisations) how to pro-actively involve female and male migrants in and through sport
- Greater awareness and knowledge about appropriate methods among sport administrators on how to counter the social exclusion of immigrants in their associations or clubs, with a focus on football and other popular teams sports as well as winter sports
- Learning from football and transfer of knowledge to other sport disciplines on mainstreaming intercultural action and equal opportunities' policies (e.g. UEFA/FARE Ten-Point Plan)
- Empower and capacity-build minority football teams and initiatives including refugees and asylum seekers in order to participate in regular leagues and competitions

Registration

The organiser kindly invites sport stakeholders, including clubs, associations, supporters, players' unions, and athletes, ethnic minority and migrant organisations, NGOs, grass-root projects, local authorities, youth and social workers and other interested parties to Vienna for attending the conference.

Participation is free (no fee). Lunch and coffee breaks are included. Please note that participants will have to cover their own travel and hotel costs. The organisers will only cover the expenses of the speakers.

Participants are required to register for the conference until 22 August 2011. We will confirm your place in the conference as soon as possible.

Please complete the **Registration Form**, which can be downloaded here:

http://www.fairplay.or.at/uploads/media/Registration_Form.doc

Return the completed form to engleitner@vidc.org or Fax 0043 1 7133594 - 73.

We are happy to assist you in making a **hotel reservation** for a room in Vienna (please indicate your choice on the registration form).

Contact

Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)

Manuela Engleitner and Kurt Wachter

Möllwaldplatz 5/3

A-1040 Vienna, Austria

e-mail: engleitner@vidc.org

Fax +43 1 7133594 - 73

Tel. +43 1 7133594 – 27

www.sportinclusion.net

www.fairplay.or.at