



Project Outline QUEERING FOOTBALL –

Tackling Homophobia and Promoting Anti-Discrimination around Major Sport Events

Project co-financed under the Erasmus + Sport Programme "Collaborative Partnerships 2015"
Project period: January 2016 – December 2017 (24 months)

Partners:

- fairplay-VIDC (Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation) – Austria (applicant)
- European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) – The Netherlands (European network)
- Football Supporters Europe (FSE) – Germany (European network)
- Fédération Sportive Gaie et Lesbienne – France
- Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP) – Italy
- Spolint Institute – Slovenia

Overall objective is to raise awareness for a wider recognition of homophobia as a main cross-border threat to the integrity of European sport.

The project *Queering Football* aims at using the UEFA EURO 2016 in France as a pan-European networking and communication platform to tackle discrimination and hatred and to establish a more inclusive football and fan culture.

Homophobia – prejudices and violence against LGBTIQs* – is still one of the main and untackled problems in European football. Homophobia like discriminations on other grounds prevents European citizens from participation in sport and in society at large.

Project design

Queering Football is raising awareness through campaigning, training and networking. The main activities will be implemented around the UEFA EURO 2016 in France. Here, a close cooperation with the UEFA social responsibility project RESPECT FAN CULTURE–FANS' EMBASSIES, run by FSE, is envisaged. A diversity campaign in France reaches its peak with a EuroPrideHouse, a safe and visible space for LGBTIQs and their allies in Paris during UEFA EURO 2016. Training tools and workshops will be developed and held to sensitize the different stakeholders involved around the EURO (staff, fans, sport journalists etc.). Using the democratic power and importance of grassroots initiatives, capacity building and the empowerment of LGBTIQ activists, minority and feminist initiatives as well as football supporters and networking between these groups is a key for the *Queering Football* project.

Future Prospects

The anti-discrimination measures in the context of the UEFA EURO 2016 will serve as an example for upcoming major sport events to ensure that questions of inclusion, equality and minority rights are on the agenda. Hence, anti-discrimination activities should be a precondition if a country/city is going to host a major sport event. One main output of *Queering Football* is a handbook on fundamental rights and anti-discrimination standards.

Main activities in a nutshell:

- Campaigning against homophobia around the UEFA EURO 2016
- European Networking and Building Capacity among LGBTIQ and fans
- Developing anti-homophobia educational and training tools
- Promoting anti-discrimination standards at major sport events
- Communication and Project Management

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* LGBTIQ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning/Queer