



Handout

Good Practice Guide – Inclusion of migrants in and through sports

As a product of the SPIN project, the Good Practice Guide presents examples towards the inclusion of migrants in and through sports from eight European countries (Austria, Germany, Italy, Republic of Ireland, Finland, Hungary, Portugal, UK). The compilation presented here is based on the studies and experiences of the European partner organisations and introduces practical examples on various levels and in various contexts.

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Indicators and criteria for inclusion in and through sports

The following refers to indicators and criteria which are helpful for the evaluation of inclusion in sport programmes. Again, the two perspectives of inclusion in and through sports are considered.

Quantitative indicators

The main quantitative indicator for the evaluation of inclusion of migrants in sports is the consideration of migrants' representation on different levels of the sport sector. This is being done in relation to the proportion of migrants in the society or different regional and social contexts.

Representation of people with a migrant background in sport (quantitative)

- Representation of athletes with a migrant background in premiere and professional sports (e.g. national team, Olympic participation, etc.)
- Representation at the different levels of sports clubs and regional and national sports associations (coaches, officials, club chairmen, association president, etc.)
- Representation of migrants in sports institutions (referees, sports tribunals)
- Active amateur athletes (in and outside of clubs)
- Participation in school sports
- Representation of migrants in other sport-related contexts (fans, supporters, sports politics, sports media)
- Public presence of migrants in sport through media coverage
- Health care data (accumulation of certain illnesses due to lack of movement in different population groups) may serve to complete the picture.



Qualitative criteria

In order for a successful inclusion of migrants in sport, a number of criteria are set to counteract socio-structural discrimination and therefore ease initial access to sport.

Access to sport programmes (qualitative)

Are there sport programmes which break down access barriers for migrant groups?

- Recreational activities aimed at introducing young people to club-organised sports and designed to find acceptance also among the parents
 - Free offers or low membership fees for socially disadvantaged people
 - Programmes appropriate to target groups (see below)
- Is availability of sport programmes ensured for social groups which are unable to afford public transport? Are there on-site sport programmes (neighbourhood school partnerships, cooperation with grass-roots clubs)?
- Are there on-site “peer” cooperations which serve as a gateway for the target group and which recognise in particular the needs of the ethnic groups or the local context?

Intercultural accessibility of clubs (qualitative)

- Internal organisational awareness and sensitisation
- Public commitment to interculturalism as a value
 - Prejudice-free education, avoidance of stereotypes (including “positive” stereotypes)
 - Positive role models (peers)
- Social framing/interaction
- Are social activities in the context of sport programmes tailored to the specific religious or cultural requirements of migrant groups, e.g. religious regulations in relation to food and alcohol consumption at club events/leisure activities/travel?
- Special consideration of religious or culturally related regulations with girls/women
- Is sport offered in gender-homogenous groups?
 - Are there female staff members as coaches, lifeguards?
 - Do training times cater for needs of girls/women who are involved in the domestic sphere and consider that girls in particular are not allowed to return home late?
- Is care taken that men/boys are not able to watch the girls/women in sports or swimwear, i.e. spaces not open to public view?
- Co-determination and participation
- Is there an inclusion officer?
 - Are there any coaches/officials with a migrant background?
 - Are migrants active in supporters’ organisations?
- Networking (with organisations active in the migrant/inclusion sphere: migrant associations, NGOs and social organisations, schools, kindergartens, youth clubs, interest groups, media, business)

Inclusion through sport (qualitative)

- Are there possibilities to improve language skills in the day-to-day practice of the sports programme (e.g. language courses)?
- Are there any possibilities for civic engagement designed in such a way that migrants can be assigned important functions and positions (e.g. trainers, group workers, youth officers, etc.) so that they can position themselves beyond the formal membership?
- Are there target group specific training programmes according to the context of the sport which enable people to occupy important positions in the club (club management, trainer course, etc.)?
- Are there sport pedagogic concepts which promote specific social and personal skills (e.g. self-esteem) of young people?