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**Involving migrants
in mainstream
sport institutions**

Background

The under-representation of migrants and their exclusion from positions of authority and the lack of advancement of minorities in non-playing positions is an open secret in European sport. The Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) project is designed to promote across Europe the inclusion and involvement of migrants and other third-country nationals (including refugees) through and in mainstream sport.

The SPIN project brings together a mix of experienced national key players in the field of countering exclusion and discrimination in sport, including the FARE founding organisation FairPlay-VIDC, the Italian sport for all association UISP, the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), the Portuguese FIFPro member association SJPF, the migrant-led MGHRO from Hungary, the multicultural Finnish sport initiative Liikkukaa as well as Camino from Germany, an expert on action-oriented research on sport and youth.

The project "Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) – Involving migrants in mainstream sport institutions" is funded by the European Commission (Sport Unit), Preparatory Action in the field of sport and kicked-off in March 2011 (duration 14 months).

Objectives

- **To strengthen the social inclusion of immigrants** by increasing the involvement and active participation of immigrants in mainstream sport. Furthermore mainstream sport institutions should be made more accessible and open for the migrant communities.
- **Promoting dialogue between long-standing sport institutions**, migrant sport organisations and national/local authorities in order to make full use of the potential integrative and intercultural power of different sports.
- **Raising awareness about the problem of ethnic discrimination** and racism in European sport and foster equal rights in sports. Everybody should have the right to practice sport irrespective of nationality, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender or economic status.

Methods and Measures

1. **Good Practice Guide**
The Good Practice Guide brochure will look at various stakeholders in the seven partner countries plus UK and will present the most promising good practice examples. It will be a tool for awareness raising and generating public support for the integration agenda among sport stakeholders. Based on the good practice examples quality criteria and concluding recommendations will be made.
2. **Train the Trainers Workshops**
In May 2011 UISP is hosting in Bologna a two-days European workshop which trains two trainers of each partner organisation.
3. **Inclusion Workshops for Sport Clubs & Associations**
Each partner organises two Inclusion Workshops in their respective countries. One is targeting the key staff or members of the football association or a professional football club and the second a non-football sport association or club.
4. **Football Refugee Day**
The UN World Refugee Day is observed on June 20th each year. This event honours the courage, strength and determination of women, men and children who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. To mark the World Refugee Day all project partners will organise a public event with refugee football teams.
5. **European Conference: Sport & Integration – Challenging social exclusion in and through sport**
In September 2011 a networking conference will take place in Vienna. The two-days event will bring together sport and integration experts and migrant activists to discuss with sport stakeholders and policy makers current challenges, exchange best practices and devise future priorities.
6. **European Seminar: Involving young immigrants in winter sports**
In January 2012 youth coaches and other multipliers will be invited for a seminar during the first Winter Youth Olympic Games (WYOG) in Innsbruck. The seminar will be one of the first meetings focusing on winter sports and the question of exclusion of traditional immigrant communities. It will touch on questions of stereotypes and how sport organisation can involve young talents from migrant communities.



7. **Project Website**
Results, news as well as resources and documents to download will be published on the project website www.sportinclusion.net

Expected results

- Increase networking and sharing of best practices among European & national sport stakeholders how to pro-actively involve migrants in and through sport
- Greater awareness and knowledge about appropriate methods among sport administrators how to counter the social exclusion of migrants in their associations or clubs
- Learning from football and transfer of knowledge to other sports on mainstreaming intercultural action and equal opportunities' policies
- Empower and capacity-build migrant football teams and initiatives including refugees and asylum seekers in order to participate in regular leagues and competitions