



Background

Following the Russian invasion, Europe is facing an unprecedented refugee crisis. According to UNHCR more than 6,4 million individual refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe since 24 February. The workshop builds on the 2018 UEFA Football and Refugees seminar and will reflect on and share good practice on how to use football as an instrument to bridge the gap between refugees and host communities. The event will bring together key stakeholders including football & social responsibility experts, representatives of associations and clubs as well as NGOs and researchers.

The event is hosted by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) in collaboration with the fairplay initiative at VIDC and the Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN). It takes place in the context of the European Commission funded project "Sport Inclusion of Refugees across Europe" (SPIN Refugees) (2020-2022). The project enhances the social inclusion and participation of asylum-seekers and refugees on the local sport level through training, education, and capacity-building of local sport stakeholders (see www.sportinclusion.net).

Agenda

DAY ONE: Monday, 12 September 2022

13:00 Working Lunch

14:00 Opening Session

Chair: Des Tomlinson, FAI, Intercultural Programme National Coordinator

Kurt Wachter – VIDC-fairplay Initiative & Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) Coordinator

14:30 - 15:45 Panel Discussion Sport Inclusion of Refugees in a Transforming Europe: How to Respond to New Challenges?

Pier Marcello Corrado – European Commission, Sport Policy Officer (remote)

Nick Sore – Senior Refugee Sports Coordinator at UNHCR (remote)

Khalida Popal – Ex-Captain Afghanistan Women's National Football Team & Girl Power Organization

Obert Markaza – The Bridge Project, Direct Provision Support Worker

Helen McHugh – Sport Ireland, Diversity, Inclusion, and Safeguarding Manager

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:45 Workshop Session 1

Interactive Working Group A: Football as an Agent of Inclusion: Current Needs, Challenges, and Good Practices

After 2015, sport associations, grass-roots football clubs and sport-for-all initiatives across Europe played a vital role in the integration of refugees and asylum seekers, in particular on the local level. Russia's war on Ukraine forced more than 10 million Ukrainians to seek protection in other countries and sport can have once

again a positive impact. What are the current needs of the organised sports movement, how can grass-roots clubs best organise sport and leisure activities for newcomers, what are the lessons learned from 2015, how can we avoid shortfalls such as the lack of involvement of women and girls in the programmes? What constitutes good practice?

The workshop will be held in an interactive format: Participants will have the opportunity to hear practical examples and discuss and share thoughts and/or experiences on the topic.

Facilitator: Willie Westerhof – Huis voor Beweging, Project Leader
Chinazo John Nnaya – Founder & Director at Football Friendlies, FAI Grassroots Coach
Input: Obert Markaza – The Bridge Project, Direct Provision Support Worker
Victoria Schwenzer – Camino, Researcher
Rapporteur: Andrew Hardy – Irish Football Association, Community Relations Manager

17:45 Conclusions from the Interactive Workshop

18:00 End of Day 1

19:30 Joint Dinner @ Girl and the Goose Restaurant (10 Merrion Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4)

DAY TWO: Tuesday, 13 September 2022
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9:30 Marketplace of Ideas: Flash presentations of innovative projects and initiatives

Moderator: Stefan Belabed, VIDC-fairplay Initiative, Project Worker

10:15 - 11:45 Workshop Session 2

Interactive Working Group B: Identifying Sporting and Societal Solutions: Networking, New Alliances, and Policy Change

The current crisis constitutes not only challenges but is an opportunity for the sport football movement to demonstrate and deliver its massive potential for social inclusion of refugees and migrants. To advance as a sector, new forms of collaboration are required, both on the local and international level. Stakeholders from different spheres of society and sport need to come together to build alliances and establish new forms of cooperation. Who should be in the driving seat and how can the equal participation of migrant and refugee-led organisations be ensured? Where do we find the resources for our initiatives?

Facilitator: Kurt Wachter – VIDC-fairplay Initiative & Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) Coordinator
Input: Khalida Popal – Girl Power Organization, Denmark
Joao Oliveira – Portuguese Players Union (SJPF), Secretary General
Perry Ogden – Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI), CEO
Saska Benedicic Tomat – International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA), Integration of Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) Platform
Rapporteur: Raffaella Chiodo Karpinsky – Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP), Project Officer

11:45 - 12:15 Coffee Break

12:15 Closing Session: Inclusion of Refugees through Football: Lessons Learned & Next Steps
Feedback from the Workshops and Overall Conclusions

13:00 End of Workshop