

## FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

### Sport Inclusion of Refugees across Europe (SPIN Refugees) EAC-2019-0527

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#### The Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) Implementing Partners (subcontractors):

Organization	Country
Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC) - fairplay Initiative for Diversity and Antidiscrimination - <i>COORDINATOR</i>	Austria
Camino - Werkstatt für Fortbildung, Praxisbegleitung und Forschung im sozialen Bereich	Germany
Unione Italiana Sport per Tutti (UISP)	Italy
Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization	Hungary
Sindicato Dos Jogadores Profissionais de Futebol (SJPF)	Portugal
Huis voor Beweging	The Netherlands
Football Association of Ireland (FAI)	Ireland
Liikkukaa Sports for All	Finland
International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA)	Denmark

## Introduction

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.

Following the Russian invasion, Europe is facing another refugee crisis, which is unprecedented in the history of Europe after 1945. According to UNHCR more than 6,4 million individual refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe since 24 February 2022. Russia's war on Ukraine forced millions of Ukrainians to seek protection in other countries and sport can have once again a positive impact.

The current crisis constitutes not only challenges but is an opportunity for the sport 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.

Against this background, the “SPIN Refugees” project has explored good practice on how to use sport as an instrument to bridge the gap between refugees and host communities. The key objective of the “SPIN Refugees” project was to enhance 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.

Over the period of three years various questions emerged: 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? Who should be in the driving seat and how can the equal participation of migrant and refugee organisations be ensured? Where do we find the resources for our initiatives?

In the following we will report on the various activities which took place in the context of the “Sport Inclusion of Refugees across Europe” (SPIN Refugees) (2020-2022) project. And we will focus on the results and outcomes, which have been achieved.

### **A) Overall Assessment of the Achievement of Objectives**

#### Overall Objective:

*To enhance 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.*

Building on more than 10 years of experience and the development of a series of innovative methods, products and events (see main outputs below), the SPIN Refugees project combined the existing experience of all partners involved to deliver on its objective.

During three years of a collaborative effort by all partners, the SPIN Refugees project has made progress in developing and conducting activities as well as in providing model tools that further the social inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers. We have reached a wide and diverse target group across Europe, providing ample opportunities for participation and inclusion. The project's interventions were designed to yield both immediate and mid-term outcomes. Regarding the baseline of the action, the objectives have been achieved.

Specific challenges encountered in the running of the project included among others the experimental use of open call formats to induce participation in parts of the workstreams as well as disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main outputs include (selection; see section D of this report for more details):

- Publication: *Integration of Refugees through Sport: A Review of Empirical Literature and Evaluation Studies*
- Publication: A Good-Practice-Guide of social inclusion at sports club level
- “Inclusive Sport” multiplier training curriculum for different sport stakeholders (trainers, clubs, federations), including the *Electronic Learning Environment*
- Grant Support Scheme for the qualification of refugees in sport
- Social media campaigns bringing together refugee voices from various sports for social inclusion (Inclusion Ambassadors)
- SPIN Refugees Public Event Vienna (9 June 2022) with more than 100 participants
- Series of 16 events connecting local clubs with refugees and asylum seekers under the motto “United for Inclusion” during and following the European Week of Sport 2022
- Two-day international, multi-stakeholder workshop on *Football as a Tool for Social Inclusion of Refugees* in Dublin, Ireland

*The project was designed to achieve the following specific objectives:*

***1. Facilitate grass-roots sports participation of refugees and asylum seekers through local partnerships with and capacity building of voluntary sport clubs.***

Fostering participation and social inclusion of the target group through sport requires a proactive and coordinated effort. The project set out to achieve that through an open call for participation and allocation of funding prior to the European Week of Sport in 2022. It was designed to involve the target group in sport events hosted by local sport clubs and organizations, laying a foundation for sustained interaction, participation and even membership.

As detailed in section B of the report, the activities covered a wide range of different sports as well as both urban and rural areas across Europe. The parties involved have expressed their wish and will to continue their cooperation, either through regular sport events, the permanent participation of individuals at a club level, or both. A total of 16 events were held across six countries.

Further, based on National Training Sessions (NTS) as part of the European Training Programme (ETP), trainers in the project countries used the knowledge and methods provided to reduce barriers of participation of the target group and develop clubs’ capacities towards their inclusion on a local level.

***2. Training of sport coaches and staff and developing high-quality educational tools for sport stakeholders how to practically foster intercultural openness and inclusion in sport organizations.***

Comprising a new Train-the-Trainers (TTT) Workshop and an Electronic Learning Environment (ELE), the project developed a European Training Programme (ETP) that can potentially serve as a model tool for a larger number of sport clubs and organizations. The initial TTT course on “Inclusive Sport” took place across 3 days in October 2021 in Austria (see details in section B,

2.1). It was hosted by VIDC-fairplay and conducted by Huis voor Beweging (HvB) with input from the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Partner organisations from eight countries sent trainers who found ample time for practical methods, reflection and discussion. Its aim was to provide trainers in the project countries with knowledge and skills to replicate the curriculum and deliver high-quality training on a local level.

The ELE, as an online 'wing' of the ETP, is meant to support the in-person training activities and can be used independent of location and is free of cost. It includes several interactive modules tackling various issues related to interculturality and inclusion and comes with a wide range of activities and methods to be used by clubs and coaches as well as background information to contextualize the training.

### ***3. To generate evidence-based knowledge about best practice approaches and methods of how to integrate refugees into European grass-roots sport.***

Camino conducted both a mapping study based on a review of evaluation studies as well as a Good-Practice-Guide, based on qualitative research through interviews.

The mapping study supports the evidence that sport as a tool for inclusion and integration can be successful. The empirical literature emphasizes that providers need to consider several factors in this endeavor. The study further identified barriers and facilitators on different levels, such as structural, sociocultural, interpersonal and personal. The Good-Practice-Guide provides best practice approaches, methods and strategies within a framework of empirical quality criteria.

### ***4. To capacity-build and empower refugee initiatives to harness the role of refugees, in particular women, as volunteers (coaches, managers, referees) in sport clubs.***

Refugees and asylum-seekers are underrepresented on all levels of sport, from grassroots to professional. The project tackled this challenge in two parallel ways: One is to support training and education opportunities through individual funding. Two is to link local refugee initiatives and sport clubs through a campaign of inclusive events.

First, the Grant Support Scheme, an open call that was advertised by all partners and across diverse channels, was set up. Beneficiaries were identified across different sports and successfully completed their training or courses. Based on their background and experience, they are expected to play a crucial role in getting more refugees involved in sport and shaping a more inclusive culture. Owing to the premiere of using an open call in this project, a limited number of applications, though with great merits, was received.

## **B) Complete Information on all the Different Activities Carried Out** *(Qualitative evaluation of the execution of all tasks)*

### **Workstream 1: Identifying Good Practices in the EU**

#### **1.1. Mapping Study: European Programmes and Projects for Inclusion of Refugees**

*Integration of Refugees Through Sport: A Review of Empirical Literature and Evaluation Studies*, as the first of two research publications prepared by the subcontracting partner Camino, gathers further empirical evidence of the benefits of sport by analyzing evaluations

of sports programmes in terms of their impact and outcome. The study reviews a total of 17 quantitative and qualitative programme evaluations and empirical studies from different contexts. The review also compares different forms of programmes, namely sport events for integration, sport programmes targeted exclusively at refugees, integration of refugees into sport clubs and teams, and qualification programmes with sport for refugees.

The analysis has shown that each model has advantages and disadvantages: Sporting events for integration can bring together many people. In order to create an impact, they should be well-planned and embedded in a larger project. Medium- and longer-term programmes (as well as clubs and teams) targeted exclusively at refugees have the advantage of being a responsive safe space specialized to cater to refugees' needs, while integrative programmes, clubs, or teams have the potential advantage of bringing together different social groups. Sport can also function as a bridge to social, educational or professional integration.

Generally, offers should be accessible (free of charge) and have a welcoming atmosphere. While the studies discussed in the mapping study focus on refugees, asylum seekers, or recent immigrants, the target group should be clearly defined as an asylum seeker's situation may differ a lot from that of a recognised refugee or a recent immigrant, even if all are looking for social integration through sport and exercise offers. While programmes can work well for a mixed group, it is indispensable for programme designers, coaches, and evaluators or researchers to be aware of the differences in legal status and related rights and resources.

The review brochure was published online and in print (500 copies). Printed copies were sent to all subcontracting partners and to a range of key stakeholders of the SPIN network. It was also distributed at #MovingPeople #MovingEurope ISCA Conference event (featuring a IRTS meeting) on 23-24 November, 2022 in Brussels and at the international conference "A Youth Inspired Sport City- Promoting Sport and Social Inclusion" hosted by the City of Ghent on 24 November.

Web article: <https://sportinclusion.net/integration-of-refugees-through-sport-a-review-of-empirical-literature-and-evaluation-studies-2/>

Download: [Integration of Refugees Through Sport: A Review of Empirical Literature and Evaluation Studies](#)

## 1.2. Case Studies of Good-Practice Examples

### *Sport and Refugees: Learning Lessons and Practical Takeaways from four European Cases of Good Practice*

The Good-Practice-Guide contributes to evidence-based knowledge regarding effective methods and approaches for promoting social inclusion by sharing the hands-on learning experiences of four exemplary good practice cases. The work features four diverse sports projects from the SPIN cooperating countries Netherlands, Austria, Italy, and Finland that target marginalized groups with high entry restrictions to sports. The empirical study draws on qualitative interviews with project leaders and sports instructors of the selected projects and describes the practical difficulties they have faced throughout the realization of the program and the creative solutions developed to counteract them. By working out the central

practical takeaways and lessons learned that the projects acquired over time, the guide seeks to assist grassroots organizations in solving practical difficulties that may arise in the execution of integrative sports projects for refugees and asylum seekers.

The Good Practice Guide was published online and in print (500 copies). Printed copies were sent to all subcontracting partners.

Web article: <https://sportinclusion.net/new-spin-good-practice-guide-on-the-inclusion-of-refugees-and-people-with-disabilities/>

## Workstream 2: Sport Inclusion Training for Coaches and Staff

### 2.1. Development of a European Training Programme (ETP)

The ETP consists of the high-quality Train-the-Trainers (TTT) workshop “Inclusive Sport” and its accompanying online component, the Electronic Learning Environment (ELE).

The purpose of the TTT, developed by Huis voor Beweging, was to create and implement a replicable curriculum that, once piloted in the project countries, can be rolled out on a larger scale and offered to clubs and sport organizations interested in developing their capacity for the inclusion of an intercultural audience, especially those with a refugee background. Its first implementation took place in October 2021 in Austria, with the participation of coaches and trainers from eight countries:

Date (Start - End)	Place/ Venue	Participating Organisations	No. of Participants	Implementing Partner
08-10-2021 to 10-10- 2021	Friedrichshof , Zurndorf, Austria	- Janakkala Jana - FC Turku - UISP APS - UISP Roma - UISP Matera - Football Friendlies - Liikkukaa - Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation - Football Association of Ireland - Sindicato dos Jogadores Profissionais de Futebol (SJPF)	20	- Huis voor Beweging (HvB) - Football Association of Ireland (FAI) - VIDC-fairplay
<b><u>Short Description:</u></b>  Partner organizations from eight European countries sent trainers who will provide the training <i>Inclusive Sport</i> for sports organizations in their own country. Day 1 was all about getting to know each other, the project and the theme. Days 2 and 3 were dedicated to trainers and coaching skills. Guiding questions were: Who are you as a trainer and how will you carry out the training in your own country?				

Across all three days, participants were provided with knowledge and tools on how to practically increase local sports participation of refugees, in particular women and girls.

After the TTT-workshop:

- Trainers are able to provide a training course (three detailed 2,5-hour training sessions per group) in their home country;
- Trainers know how to use the electronic learning environment (ELE);
- Trainers have sufficient knowledge to be able to provide the various modules;
- Trainers have access to sufficient tools and instruments to provide attractive training sessions.

In addition to the TTT, Huis voor Beweging, together with FAI and VIDC-fairplay, developed an [Electronic Learning Environment \(ELE\)](#) for trainers and participants of the “Inclusive Sport” training. It is intended for:

1. **Trainers** who provide multiplier training courses to coaches, staff and volunteers of sport clubs and organizations.
2. **Participants:** Coaches, staff and volunteers of sport clubs and organizations, who are motivated to organize their sport club more inclusively.

### Structure of the Training

The training consists of a basic module and 4 in-depth modules. The basic module includes 3 physical meetings in which the participants reflect on inclusivity, inclusivity in their (sport) organization and the interaction with club members.

On top of that, the following in-depth modules are offered: Diversity and Culture, Women and Girls (and LGBTIQ+), Discrimination and Racism, Values and Norms. These modules can be selected separately as desired.



In the ELE, trainers and participants find a trainers' manual, theory on learning strategies, videos, activating methods, detailed materials and background information (theories and scientific reports) on all subjects as well as homework assignments. The training is ready-made, but can easily be adapted to the trainer's own ideas and/or the needs of participants. The key principle of the training is 'learning by doing'.

FAI was involved in bilateral working meetings to support the development of the ELE content. It researched, developed and refined content for both the in-depth and basic modules of the ELE. This content specifically assisted in building out the learning area with regards to the issues of racism and discrimination. Working alongside the lead for the ELE's development, was smooth and productive, due in large part to the collaborative approach to working and dealing with challenges that arose.

## 2.2. National Training Sessions

Date (Start - End)	Place/ Venue	Participating Organisations	Number of Participants	Implementing Partner
08-04-2022	Radisson Blue Hotel, Limerick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newtown Rovers Football Club</li> <li>- Regional United FC &amp; Old</li> <li>- Crescent FC</li> <li>- Shannon Dragons</li> <li>- GAA</li> <li>- Waterzone</li> <li>- IKKI Karate</li> <li>- Limerick LSP</li> <li>- Newcastle West FC</li> <li>- 1 non-club affiliated participant</li> </ul>	12	- Football Association of Ireland (FAI)
<b>Short Description:</b> This session included coaches and sports development professionals from Limerick and its surrounds, attended by 12 people (8 female and 2 males). It covered using interactive learning methods and topics from the train-the-trainer workshops held previously in Austria.				

Date	Place/ Venue	Participating Organisations	Number of Participants	Implementing Partner
14-07-2022	Campus do Jogador (SJPF facility), Lisbon, Portugal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CPR Portuguese Council for Refugees)</li> <li>- Bola p'ra Frente (Portuguese project that works with migrant/minority background youth)</li> </ul>	14	Sindicato dos Jogadores Profissionais de Futebol (SJPF)
<b>Short Description:</b> In this workshop, the trainers helped the participants to understand what mechanisms can be used in integration of refugees through sports. This workshop had both association partners and some of the kids with whom they are working on a daily basis.				



Date	Place/ Venue	Participating Organisations	Number of Participants	Implementing Partner
14-11-2021	Vienna, Sport field and seminar room Rustenschacher Allee, 1020 Vienna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fairplay Initiative</li> <li>- Young Muslims Austria</li> <li>- Eventkistl</li> <li>- Football Club Playtogethernow</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	15	VIDC

**Short Description:**

In this 7 hours workshop 13 participants and 2 trained workshop facilitators (Omid Mansouri, Negina Naseri) implemented activities and methods learned in the ETP. Participants came from three different organisations, 7 with refugee background and all take an active role as coach, manager or board member in their organization. They were between 20 to 40 years. The topics covered through workshops included social inclusion and me, what it means for my sport organization, racism and stereotypes and interactive methods on the field.

Date	Place/ Venue	Participating Organisations	No. of Participants	Implementing Partner
17-11-2022	Turkish Mosque, Ede, Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KNVB (Royal Dutch Football Association)</li> <li>- KNKV (Royal Dutch Korfbal Association)</li> <li>- Mulier Institute (Sports Research for Policy and Society)</li> <li>- Bas van der Goor Foundation (Sports with Diabetes Regional Coordinators from The Hague, Tilburg and Tiel)</li> <li>- Municipality of Renkum, Welfare Policy Officer</li> </ul>	14	Huis voor Beweging (HvB)

**Short Description:**

*"How inclusive are you and do you think?":* In this workshop, co-organized by the Dutch Olympic Committee, Dutch Sports Federation and the Gelderland Sports Federation, participants became acquainted with activating working methods from the 'Inclusive Sports' training.

### Workstream 3: Involvement and Capacity Building of Refugees

#### 3.1. Getting Refugees Involved in Coaching and Volunteering

By way of training, education, and capacity building on a local level, the project aimed to improve the participation of refugees and asylum-seekers in sport. In order to support individuals who are undergoing training or education to become coaches, referees, volunteers, managers et cetera, the “Support Grant Scheme for Refugees” was launched in the spring of 2022. It was designed to co-fund training courses that can support individual refugees and asylum seekers seeking qualification in the field of sport. A grant up to 500 € was provided to individuals based on a simple application procedure. The selection was carried out by the SPIN Refugees organizations in the nine project countries.

The call was spread across the project countries through various channels (newsletters, websites, social media). Being an innovative and experimental tool, its results were not entirely satisfactory and certainly expandable. Some applications did not meet the criteria and had to be discarded. In the end, a total of six participants from two countries were selected for the grant of the funding. A variety of courses in basketball, racketlon and football were supported, increasing the qualification of applicants as coaches and instructors.

### **3.2. Inclusion Ambassadors – Refugees as Role Models**

Sport can play an important role in the social inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers. At the same time, the latter also make highly valuable contributions to their respective sport in the country of residence, both on a grassroots and professional level.

In order to showcase these positive examples, a number of individuals across the project countries were selected and invited to become “Inclusion Ambassadors”. In this role, they recorded short testimonial videos for a social media campaign that was launched on World Refugee Day 2022. They each highlighted the role of sport in their own life and towards the inclusion of refugees in general. The following athletes were selected:

#### **Sheida Ostovari**

Previously, Sheida played volleyball for 12 years in Iran, five of which on the national team. Today, she is playing volleyball for the Dutch national team. She has been ambassador for sport for refugees on the island Lesbos in Greece with the Dutch Volleyball Association in the programme “Let’s keep the ball flying”.

#### **Daniel Abraham Gebru**

Daniel is a Dutch professional cyclist and Paralympic champion (2016) of Eritrean origin. He came to the Netherlands in 2000, started cycling and from 2012 he focused on disabled sport. Daniel coaches a group of young refugees. He goes cycling with them and hopes that he can inspire them with his life story.

#### **Amanda Pereira**

Amanda started playing football when she first came to Portugal in 2018. Until this season, Amanda played for Futebol Benfica W. She is now a player for RP Football Club. Though not a refugee herself, she knows first hand what it means to settle in a new culture. She has utilized football to feel at home and wants to share and spread that message across the country.

#### **Malyun Hassan Farah**

Malyun is a former professional football player from Somalia, now living in Finland. She has been encouraging young people to engage in sport and social activities. To that end she has created a sport association in her hometown Turku for young Somalian girls and boys.

#### **Aker Al Obaidi**

Aker is a passionate and successful wrestler born in Iraq. He now lives in Austria, has completed his education as a kindergarten teacher and in 2021 joined the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in Tokyo. He strongly believes in the power of sport to foster a more inclusive and just society and works toward this goal himself.

It shall be noted that the project partners had selected additional individuals for the potential role of Inclusion Ambassadors. For various personal reasons, they could not be included in the 2022 campaign but can be contacted for further activities beyond the project period.

### **Workstream 4: Promoting Active Sports Participation of Refugees**

#### **4.1. Connecting Local Sport Clubs with Refugees**

Under the “United for Inclusion” banner, SPIN Refugees supported various sport events across Europe to connect local clubs with refugees and asylum seekers during and around the European Week of Sport (23-30 September 2022). Participating sport organizations opened their doors and offered opportunities with the aim to establish lasting partnerships between clubs and people with a refugee background in the years to come.

Earlier this summer, the SPIN Refugees project issued an online call to invite (grassroot) sport clubs who are eager to connect with refugees and asylum seekers and offer ways for more active involvement on a local level. From football, cricket, and volleyball tournaments to swimming courses for women and men, from charity runs to dance competitions, a variety of events across the project countries were successfully held, involving over a thousand refugees and asylum seekers.

#### **List of supported events:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Target Group/Number of Participants</b>	<b>Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner</b>
8-2022 -12-2022	Dance4Peace	Linz, Austria	Children from Ukraine (mostly girls) between 4 and 14 years / 200	Sportunion Tanzsportclub Linz (UTSC Linz) / VIDC-fairplay
<b><u>Short Description:</u></b> A series of 28 dance units took place in Linz, Upper Austria, for children fleeing from Ukraine because of the war. Comment of Maria Emrich, dance teacher at UTSC, Linz: "It's very important that the children don't feel lost. Dancing promotes mental and physical development, but also musicality and creativity and it makes you self-confident." The units included practicing dancing through playing and rhythmical games to cater to the children's needs.				

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
5-2022 to 8-2022	Swimming course for Afghan women	Swim bath Strebersdorf, Johannes-de-la-Salle-Gasse 12, 1210 Vienna	Afghan women, 20 participants	VIDC-fairplay Initiative, Association "Women help Women"

**Short Description:**

The aim of this 4-month small project was to give women a protected space to learn swimming. After a preparation phase and a come together a female swimming coach held four 2-hours swimming session in a "male-free" zone and therefore protected area for 20 Afghan women. After the swimming sessions the project offered discussion and reflection rounds for the participants, led by the trained workshop facilitator of the ETP, Negina Naseri. Next to the aim of learning swimming the main idea of the sessions was to empower Afghan women, connect them to sport offers, talk about body-shaming, sexual harassment, and domestic violence in a protected setting.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
17-9-2023	Cup of Human Rights	Vienna, Austria (KSV field, Prater)	120, a mix of migrant, refugee and Austrian teams (age group 14- 30), predominately male	VIDC-fairplay together with the Afghan (sport) associations "Afghan Wulas" and "new start"and the players union VdF

**Short Description:**

The first Cup of Human Rights, an alternative tournament to mark the controversial FIFA World Cup 2022, aimed at bringing communities together which are exploited in Qatar. The tournament, which promoted values such as solidarity and fair play, consisted of a 7-aq - side football tournament, a cricket tournament and a Mamanet-Cachibol (for women only) try-out station.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
17-9-2022 to 19-9-2022	United for Inclusion	Budapest, Hungary	Pupils of the Vajda Peter School for Music and Sport, 14-18 years / 500	Vajda Peter School, Oltalom Sport Club, Nemet Iskola Sport Club, Hungarian Red Cross Sport Club, Golya Boxing Club / Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization

**Short Description:**

The multi-sport event included football, table tennis, boxing and running and was accompanied by language courses for English and Hungarian. Over 500 children of various nationalities participated and connected with the sport clubs that helped organize the event.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
23-9-2022	Tutti in Campo	Ragusa, Italy	Boy aged 15-17 years from Ghana, Morocco, Senegal, Mali / 30	UISP Iblei, ASD Ragusa Boys, Associazione Allenamento, Church San Paolo / UISP

**Short Description:**

Boys from various countries across Africa who live in Ragusa were invited to play in a five-a-side football tournament. Participants later on expressed an interest to repeat the event and turn it into a regular, longer-lasting activity. The event was rounded up by a multi-ethnic dinner comprising local and Senegalese dishes.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
23-9-2022	Matera United for Inclusion	Matera, Italy	Refugees and local population from 6-80 years / 110	UISP Matera, Soc. Coop. Il Sicomoro / UISP

**Short Description:**

Purpose of the event was to celebrate a day dedicated to sport for knowledge and interaction, creating cultural and inclusion bridges within the "European Week of Sport". Connecting the community with others of asylum seekers and refugees, this is a project in continuity for the past 12 years. The tournament has adopted an original "fairplay" regulation to promote cooperation, including an award to the fairest team. Music, food and dance accompanied the event.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
23-9-2022 to 25-9-2022	Football – United Sporting Inclusion Cup	Turku, Finland	Boys aged 14-16 years from Somalia, Albania, Kurdish regions, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Finland / 80	Turku United / Liikkukaa

**Short Description:**

The football tournament brought together 8 teams of 10 players each. The aim was to have young men from diverse origins play together side by side and appreciate the capacity of football towards social inclusion.

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Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
25-9-2022	5. LebensLauf 2022	Vienna, Austria	People of all ages (especially refugees) who enjoy running / 450+	asylkoordination / VIDC-fairplay

**Short Description:**

The *LebensLauf für eine offene Flüchtlingspolitik* ("Life run for an open refugee policy") - an annual running event in Vienna - is not only an athletic event, it also sends a signal of solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers. It is based on free participation of refugees made available by private or institutional sponsorships. The *LebensLauf* is part of the *Lange Tag der Flucht* (Day of Refuge) by UNHCR.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/ Number of Participants	Implementing Partner/SPIN Refugees project partner
29-9-2022	Sport with Ukraine	Vienna, Austria	Children from Ukraine, 5-14 years / 100+	ASKÖ Integration und Behindertensport / VIDC-fairplay

**Short Description:**

"We started practicing with these kids – around 60 – in the beginning of spring when we noticed that the children that had recently arrived urgently needed some activities (and the parents, mainly mothers, also needed a short relief). We organized a venue, recruited and educated coaches from the local community and played twice a week throughout the entire summer. With the beginning of the new school year we joined a local football club, which is run by local Ukrainians. This event was to celebrate the end of summer as well as the new beginning as part of a football club. All kids participated in a positive environment, they got medals and shirts."

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
2-10-2022	Volleyball tournament #AufschlagGegenExtremismus (#ServeAgainstExtremism)	Vienna, Austria	Refugees and migrants from across Austria, particularly youth between 18 and 25 years / 200	Verein Neuer Start / VIDC-fairplay

**Short Description:**

The aim of the tournament is to provide an opportunity and space for networking and exchange between young refugees, migrants and the majority population. Participants as well as their families are provided with info and perspectives on activities that foster active participation and social inclusion.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
24-9-2022 & 1-10-2022	Be Active Go Wild	Helsinki, Finland	People of all ages (particularly refugees and migrants) / 49	Cosmos Juniors / Liikkukaa
<b>Short Description:</b> This multi-sport (football, hiking, dancing, bowling, cricket...) and multi-activity (open mic poetry, barbecue, outdoor games) event brought together people aged 2-60 from various nationalities and origins to promote social inclusion. Sport was a central tool for the implementation of a programme that promotes physical and mental health, lasting relationships and diversity.				

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
23-11-2022, 3-12-2022, 4-12-2022, 10-12-2022	Community for Dance	Pesaro, Italy	Youth from 15-17 years, from Tunisia, Albania, Pakistan, various countries in Africa / 60	UISP Pesaro Urbino / UISP
<b>Short Description:</b> The goals are multiple and cross-cutting: to bring young refugees closer to the world of street dance; to offer them a form of expression and escape from everyday problems; to open up dialogue with young local residents; to transmit the culture of street dance with the aim of reflecting on street dance as both a sport and an art form; provide an opportunity for all participants to each share their own way of dancing through the culture of their countries of origin.				

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
25-9-2022	Open Day alla Piscina al Femminile	Pesaro, Italy	Refugee and migrant women aged 30-60 years / 35	UISP Torino / UISP
<b>Short Description:</b> The goal of the Open Day ahead of the new swimming season was to involve more women in swimming in the long term. The project coordinator highlighted the good practice of the swimming course. Participants also heard the stories of women who participated in the past. Then a swimming teacher pointed to the benefits of swimming for psycho-physical wellbeing as well as for inclusion and socializing. That day, 20 women signed up for the swimming season and are by now taking part in the activities.				

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
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26-09-2022 27-09-2022 28-09-2022 03-10-2022 04-10-2022 05-10-2022	Open Youth Trainings	ONS Sneek, Sneek, Netherlands	All youth aged 6-18, boys and girls, many of which had a background in African countries	- ONS Sneek - Team Friesland - Asylum Seekers Centers (AZC) - ISK (Int. Language School) / Huis voor Beweging
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**Short Description:**

Open football training sessions took place at the football club ONS Sneek during the European Week of Sport, followed by a number of tournaments. Newcomers were specifically targeted.

These activities yielded good contacts with event partners and local youth. A lasting relationship has been established with some of the participants who became members of the club. A follow-up and the expansion of these activities among the event partners are planned for 2023.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
28-9-2022, 5-10-2022, 11-10-2022, 12-10-2022, 18-10-2022, 19-10-2022	Sport Introduction Carousel / Sport and Refugees Asylum Center Hardenberg	Hardenberg, Netherlands	Refugees (mainly boys aged 14-28) / 30	Stichting in Beeld, Sportservice Groep Hardenberg / Huis voor Beweging

**Short Description:**

The participants from the local asylum centers (origins included Syria, Turkey, Jemen, Eritrea) and volunteers from the Netherlands got together to enjoy a few days of doing sport together (football, kickboxing, volleyball, basketball). The events were successful not only in the immediate sense but also thanks to the fact that all involved are looking into opportunities to continue the series.

Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
6-12-2022 to 20-12-2022	Swimming Course for Refugees	Vienna, Austria	Refugees (male) from Afghanistan / 9	Hemayat ( <i>Support center for survivors of torture and war</i> ) & Vienna Sportclub / VIDC-fairplay

**Short Description:**

The participants who are all clients of local refugee support centre Hemayat were linked with two professional swimming trainers from Vienna Sportclub (WSC) for an introductory course at a public swimming pool in Vienna. The course catered to the different levels of abilities of participants and guided them towards further avenues of exercising the sport beyond this initial period.



Date	Event Title	Place	Target Group/Number of Participants	Implementing Partner / SPIN Refugees Project Partner
3-12-2022 to 7-12-2022	Campaign for Inclusion	Stadion Oststrasse, Gelsenkirchen, Germany	Children and youth from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Iran aged 6-16 years / approx. 400	Forum Afrika FC Sahara / VIDC-fairplay
<b>Short Description:</b> The aim of the event was to give refugee families and local families a chance to come together over a football tournament for children and youth thereby promoting social inclusion. Trainers took time to explain to children as well as their parents the meaning of the campaign and event which was conducted in a very cooperative spirit. As was expressed by many participants, the event shall be repeated in 2023.				

#### 4.2. SPIN Refugees Workshop - Dublin, Ireland

The multi-stakeholder workshop was hosted by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin on the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. This followed a national and international call through various networks for attendees, including through the UEFA network of Social Responsibility Managers. The workshop brought together key social responsibility personnel, senior level policymakers at the EU-Commission and UNHCR, clubs representatives, FA's, researchers and expert NGOs to discuss the key issues related to the participation of refugees in sport.

Topics covered in the two days included: Sport inclusion of refugees in a transforming Europe: How to respond to new challenges?; Football as an agent of inclusion: How to facilitate diversity, inclusiveness and sustainability in the long-term?; Identifying sporting and societal solutions: Networking, new alliances, and policy change; and Inclusion of refugees through football: Lessons learned & next steps.

The workshop was very interactive, employing methods to raise and discuss topics. Three European FAs attended the session alongside NGOs, and other sport stakeholders.

Greater attendance was anticipated though in retrospect the date also clashed with a major event for many UEFA members.

Web article: [SPIN Refugees Workshop in Dublin – Exploring Football as a Tool for Social Inclusion of Refugees](#)

### **Workstream 5: Coordination, Monitoring & Communication**

#### 5.1. Coordination & Monitoring

VIDC-fairplay closely coordinated and monitored the planning and implementation of the project's activities. In spite of the disruptions of the pandemic that coincided with the launch of the project in 2020, a smooth and coherent workflow was ensured through a variety of tools, including monthly Zoom calls (every first Wednesday of the month) with all project

partners in addition to various in-person meetings in the context of project milestones (eg. National Training Session in Austria, Workshop in Dublin, etc.).

A detailed work plan including all key performance elements was maintained, updated and actively communicated throughout the entire project period. VIDC-fairplay conducted stringent financial oversight and managed the timely and efficient allocation of funds for the delivery of the respective actions by all its partners. VIDC's expert staff on budget was in regular contact, including bi-lateral phone calls if required, to supervise and assist with all matters of budget and accounting.

Additionally, standardized feedback questionnaires for key individual activities of the project were developed and distributed to ensure high standards of quality.

## 5.2. Communication & Dissemination

The partners utilized a variety of communication channels and products to inform key stakeholders and the general public about the project activities, to disseminate research findings, calls for participation and further relevant information. This included printed publications, social media (mainly facebook and Instagram), website updates, newsletters, leaflets and campaign material (see section D for more details).

In Work Stream 5 the project was supposed to produce the following deliverables:

- 1 online platform of sport clubs and initiatives for newly arrived migrants across Europe
- Website, social media
- Project flyer (English)
- European campaign materials for sport clubs and partners (poster, T-shirts, banners, stickers, rollups)
- Graphic design

A key output of the project, which will facilitate the dissemination of the learnings and results and therefore contributes to the sustainability of SPIN Refugees has been the new, interactive Wordpress based sportinclusion.net website which replaced an older typo3 website .

The reasons to developing a new website were as following:

- A brand new, up-to date website with which all SPIN refugees partners identify and which are not seen as an attachment to VIDC-fairplay is a positive symbol for wider networking and dissemination efforts
- SPIN Refugees implementing partners have access to the data on the website (not the case with the older website)
- A new website has increase our potential to disseminate and present the results of current SPIN activities and to relate to potential member organisations and new stakeholders in the field
- The new website was designed as an attractive landing page to access the new online learning tool SPIN Refugees Electronic Learning Environment,

Concerning the other communication and dissemination deliverables:

- A [project leaflet](#) has been printed and disseminated
- An advert in the football print magazine *ballesterer* promoting the qualification scheme for refugees and the call for local sport clubs

- Campaign material: “United for Inclusion” A4 cards, poster, “United for Inclusion” bibs and T-shirts, textile banners, SPIN refugees branded gym bags, stickers and roll-ups

#### SPIN Refugees Public Event Vienna

Following a long period of Covid-19 restrictions, which made it almost impossible to have public, in-person events, there was an urgent need to present and share SPIN Refugees activities with the target groups of the project, in particular local sport clubs, refugee & migrant sport initiatives/projects and to sport media.

To promote and communicate the activities of the SPIN Refugees project, we combined it with the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the fairplay initiative (VIDC). The SPIN Refugees / fairplay party event was attended by 100+ participants, including relevant stakeholders and multipliers. Refugee organizations including the Afghan sport association NEUER START were involved in the preparation of the event. The event took place on 9 June 2022 in the multicultural 15th district of Vienna, Austria. The venue was the former gym of the Jewish sport association “Turnverein Maccabi”.

Petar Rosandić aka Kid Pex, founder of the NGO SOS Balkanroute, highlighted the solidarity of the fairplay initiative with refugees at the EU's external border. *"When we started to provide Refugees in Bosnia with clothes in 2018, balls and donations in kind from fairplay were already included. In the meantime, we have joined forces with fairplay to offer free football training in Sarajevo."*

A stage talk focused on the project "Sport Inclusion of Refugees across Europe". Within the framework of this project, social inclusion ambassadors were also nominated. In Austria, we were able to win Olympic wrestler and former refugee Aker Al Obaidi. Aker who was born in Mosul, Irak was a member of the second refugee team of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). At the Olympic Games in Tokyo 2020 he reached the sensational 8th place. In a short video message, he highlighted the role of sport in his life and in social inclusion as a whole. On World Refugee Day, 20 June, the project will launch a social media campaign with the Inclusion Ambassadors from other project countries - true to the motto "United for Inclusion".

#### Integration of Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) Networking Platform

From the very start SPIN Refugees coordinator Kurt Wachter was heavily involved in and contributing to the Integration of Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) platform, initiated by ISCA. Since ISCA was also an implementing project partner (subcontractor) of the SPIN Refugees project there has been an intense exchange with ISCA, mainly with Saska Benedicic Tomat and Jacob Jacob Schouenborg. VIDC-fairplay proposed Des Tomlinson from the implementing partner Football association of Ireland to become a IRTS mentor.

On behalf of the SPIN refugees project Kurt Wachter activity participated in the following IRTS meetings and events:

- IRTS Networking –Conference, Rome, 17 September 2020
- IRTS Webinar “Include everyone”, 15 September 2021 (input on SPIN and the inclusion of refugees through sport)
- MOVE Congress, Brussels, on 17-19 November 2021

- #MovingPeople #MovingEurope Event with final IRTS meeting, 23-24 November 2022, Brussels

In addition, we participated in regular online IRTS partner meetings, including the IRTS Online conference (23 June, 2020), IRTS partner meeting (11 Nov, 2020), IRTS Communication Campaign meeting (9 Dec, 2020) and IRTS Networking platform meeting (16 March, 2021)

### **C) Overall Assessment of the Results of the Action**

The SPIN network partners have demonstrated yet again a strong ability to plan and implement activities, grounded in thorough research, that effectively reach the target groups of the project.

Across the various work streams, tailored and adapted to local contexts and requirements, paired with a coordinated effort to disseminate its activities, the action has delivered on building lasting bridges between local sport stakeholders and the community of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as on laying the groundwork for inclusive training for local sport clubs and organizations in the future. The “United for Inclusion” events during the second half of 2022 were designed to chart paths of more sustainable cooperation in future events. Many participants have expressed their commitment to follow up in the months and possibly years to come.

The action has further facilitated the training of individuals with a refugee background to support them in a professional career in sports (as coaches, referees, managers, etc.).

Finally, the project has responded to the initially unpredicted arrival of Ukrainian refugees in 2022 by reaching out and inviting their respective communities to participate in the project, specifically in the activities during the European Week of Sport in that same year, among other activities.

### **D) List of Published Material**

*(CD, DVD, publication, reports, photographs, brochures, press releases, websites...)*

#### Publications

[Integration of Refugees Through Sport: A Review of Empirical Literature and Evaluation Studies](#) (Download & Print)

[Sport and Refugees: Learning Lessons and Practical Takeaways from Four European Cases of Good Practice \(2022\)](#) (Download & Print)

[SPIN Refugees project leaflet](#) (Download & Print)

#### Videos

[Inclusion Ambassadors - Testimonial Videos](#)

[National Training Session Portugal, July 2022](#)

#### Campaign Material “United for Inclusion” (European Week of Sport)

[United for Inclusion Banner](#)

[United for Inclusion Poster 1](#), [United for Inclusion Poster 2](#)

[United for Inclusion Card](#)

[United for Inclusion template \(black font on white background\)](#)

[Bibs in various colors and sizes](#)

[“United for Inclusion” Gym bags](#)

[SPIN Banner](#)

[SPIN – United for Inclusion \(T-shirts\)](#)

## Website

The existing website [sportinclusion.net](https://sportinclusion.net) served as a central hub for online publishing activities around the project:

<https://sportinclusion.net/spin-refugees-project/>

[Call for applicants: Integration of Refugees Through Sport Awards, June 17, 2021](#)

[European Training for future Inclusive Sports Trainers, November 8, 2021](#)

[SPIN Refugees Project – Focus on Ukraine & Qualification of Refugees, April 12, 2022](#)

[Get Involved! – New Support Grant Scheme for Refugees, April 25, 2022](#)

[Call for Sport Clubs and Refugees to organize a joint event, June 22, 2022](#)

[European Event at Dublin’s Aviva Stadium discusses the Inclusion of Refugees, through Football, September 11, 2022](#)

[“United for Inclusion” Events during European Week of Sport promote refugee integration, September 16, 2022](#)

[Making Sport More Inclusive – Refugee Athletes as Role Models, October 21, 2022](#)

[SPIN Refugees Workshop in Dublin – Exploring Football as a Tool for Social Inclusion of Refugees, November 15, 2022](#)

[Integration of Refugees through Sport: A review of empirical literature and evaluation studies, November 20, 2022](#)

- [Electronic Learning Environment \(ele.sportinclusion.net\)](https://ele.sportinclusion.net)

[Trainers Inclusive Sport \(ELE on fairplay Education website\)](#)

## Web articles by individual partners - selection:

[Introduction to SPIN Refugees, January 2020 \(VIDC-fairplay\)](#)

[Overview SPIN Refugees, January 2020 \(UISP\)](#)

[Introduction to SPIN Refugees, January 2020 \(Camino\)](#)

[Focus on Ukraine and Qualification for Refugees in Sport, April 2021 \(VIDC-fairplay\)](#)

[Train the Trainers, Austria, November 2021 \(VIDC-fairplay\)](#)

[Train the Trainers, Austria, November 2021 \(Huis voor Beweging\)](#)

[Train the Trainers, November 2021 \(SJPF\)](#)

[Für Schwimmkurse für Frauen mit Fluchterfahrung](#) (3 March 2022)

[Support Grant Scheme, May 2022 \(VIDC-fairplay\)](#)

[Train the Trainers, Portugal, July 2022 \(SJPF\)](#)

[Dublin Workshop, September 2022 \(VIDC-fairplay\)](#)

[Dublin Workshop, September 2022 \(SJPF\)](#)

## Social Media Accounts

- [Facebook \(Sport Inclusion Network\)](#)
- Instagram Posts (VIDC-fairplay, selection):

[Inclusion Ambassador Sheida Ostovari](#)

[Inclusion Ambassador Amanda Pereira](#)

[Inclusion Ambassador Malyun Hassan Farah](#)

[Inclusion Ambassador Aker Al Obaidi](#)

[Inclusion Ambassador Daniel Abraham Gebru](#)

[European Week of Sport “United for Inclusion” Event \(Lebenslauf\)](#)

[Call Support Grant Scheme for Refugees \(Video\)](#)

[Call Support Grant Scheme for Refugees \(Text\)](#)

[Train the Trainers, Austria, November 2021](#)

## Miscellaneous

[Call for TTT Workshop in Ireland, April 2022](#)

**Vienna, 15 March 2023**