

Western Balkans got active in the FARE Action Weeks

Activity report 2013



This year *FairPlay. Different Colours. One Game* at VIDC and the *Balkan Alpe Adria Project* (BAAP) acted as the regional coordinators for the FARE network. BAAP and FairPlay-VIDC pro-actively supported and allocated grants for the activities taking place in the Western Balkan region including *Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Albania.*

In total 28 organisations and sports clubs from the region received a small grant in order to implement activities during the FARE Action Weeks from 15 to 29 October, ranging from organising multi-ethnic football tournaments, stadium actions during league match days to anti-racism education in schools. Nine organisations from the FYR of Macedonia put in an application, five came from Bosnia and Herzegovina, one from Albania, one from Kosovo, three from Montenegro, eight from Serbia and one from Slovenia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina showed racism and nationalism the RED CARD

In Bosnia and Herzegovina some well-directed activities were implemented to fight racism and take a stand against nationalism in the Western Balkans. All in all five organisations participated in the FARE Action Weeks. These targeted different sectors of the society such as fan groups and children from different ethnic communities.



Activity in Sarajevo realised by BAAP

The NGO **BAAP Bosnia and Herzegovina** has been participating in the FARE Action Weeks for the third time. This year again the organisation in cooperation with local football clubs and the Football Association Bosnia and Herzegovina planned and realised several activities during three Premier League matches in Bosnia and Herzegovina taking place in Sarajevo, the

capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mostar and Trebinje on October 19 and 26. The activity in Sarajevo was followed by the local media and broadcasted on national TV.



Informal youth group Zenica at the FARE Action Weeks

Besides BAAP – Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NGO **Association Orchid Stolac**, the football school **No Limit** from Stolac, the organisation **Zajedno - Youth Initiative for Human Rights** and the **Informal Youth Group** from Zenica became active during the FARE Action Weeks.

Newcomer Kosovo

For the first time the Kosovar NGO **Gender Equality Movement** from Pristina participated in the campaign especially focusing on the work with sexually discriminated and marginalised groups.

“In the beginning it was very difficult to organise activities dealing with sexual equality and homosexuality as these topics are still a big taboo in Kosovo but I think that at the end we did quite a good job”, Ismail Cakolli from the Kosovar NGO Gender Equality Movement stated.



Workshop on gender equality

The NGO started its activities by promoting the idea of the FARE Action Weeks inviting particularly homosexual women to participate in workshops on gender issues and football tournaments. Gender Equality Movement organised activities in three Kosovar cities aiming to bring together people who are marginalised and discriminated due to their sexual orientation through sportive events.

“In one of the trainings I stressed how important it is for the community to gather together and play football as sport can bring together people and make their problems appear smaller. I went to three cities in Kosovo and met so many lesbians who all live a double life. Their parents want to marry them off which they can hardly refuse as to the strong traditional and patriarchal system that is still omnipresent in Kosovo”, explains Mr. Cakolli.

The rather desperate situation of transsexual people became very clear during one meeting with transsexual Roma people living isolated in a house 15 minutes away from the capital Pristina. Gender Equality Movement provided them with sanitary products and some food and will focus their future work on the social inclusion of the Roma community.

FARE Action Week-kick off for Albania

In Albania the NGO **Intelektualet e rinj Shprese** joined the FARE Action Week organising training sessions against racism on October 15 to 17 and on October 22 to 24. The trainings dealt with the new Albanian law against discrimination but also case studies and further design plans of actions to fight against discrimination using sport as a tool for promoting social inclusion and cooperation.



Training session on racism in Albania

On 26 and 27 October the NGO hosted sport days inviting youngsters to participate. In order to reach a broader audience, Intelektualet e rinj arranged a special edition on the television where the campaign's event was promoted. The activities held in Shkoder were joined by about 25-30 people from different groups (minorities, vulnerable youth, women) coming from Roma communities, universities, the municipality and media.

Serbia – an integral part of the FARE Action Weeks

Also in Serbia the **Balkan Alpe Adria Project (BAAP)** organised activities during the FARE Action Weeks in cooperation with the football association of Serbia, FC Red Star, FC Novi Pazar, FC OFK Beograd and FC Vojvodina. On 19 October a stadium action was implemented during the football match between FC Red Star and FC Novi Pazar in Belgrade in the stadium "Marakana" while on October 26 BAAP in cooperation with its partners implemented another activity during the football match between FC OFK Beograd and FC Vojvodina in Belgrade also taking place in the Serbian capital.



Activity organised by BAAP Serbia

At both stadium actions the players and referees entered the court with a FARE banner and wearing t-shirts with the logo of FARE and their own football club. During the opening ceremony the players and referees showed red cards while the stadium speaker introduced the FARE Action Weeks thanking the organisers and partners for their engagement and reminding the audience of the ideas of the initiative. As both matches were broadcasted on national TV, the anti-racism activities reached a broad audience across Serbia.

Further 7 NGOs, schools and sport clubs participated in the FARE Actions Weeks, such as the NGO **Club for Youth empowerment 018**, the **Elementary School 15 October**, the **Voluntary organization Svilajnac-VOS**, the NGO **Radovi u Toku**, **Sportikul-Serbian Center for Development of Culture and Sport**, the **Local community Lug** as well as the football club **OFK Belgrade**.



Activity organised by VOS

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined the FARE Action Weeks

With 9 NGOs participating in the FARE Action Week, the FYR of Macedonia was the best represented Western Balkan country.

The **Roma Youth Centre** organised five football matches for children of elementary schools and marginalised youths – in particular young Roma people, youngsters from rural areas, youths from poor families, refugees, disabled youngsters and migrants. All in all the tournaments were well visited and reached around 150 people. Furthermore, the NGO arranged a street art event in the city centre of Kumanovo offering workshops on the art of face painting, street theatre, flash-mobbing and dancing. All these activities aimed to raise people's awareness of social exclusion, discrimination in general and racism in particular by promoting the intercultural dialogue as a crucial part of social cohesion thereby using art as an integrative and connective tool.

On 26 and 27 October the NGO **YWCA Skopje Macedonia** organised a traditional women's tournament taking place on an open court of the sport and recreation centre MTP in Skopje. In total 4 teams with around 30 amateur female players participated in the

tournament. The fact that Roma and Albanian girls took part in the sportive event was a big advance. Generally, the women were mixed in age and ethnic and religious background.

"We believe that every year we can break barriers and show to the people in our country especially to the women that they can also play football in spare time just for fun and for hanging around with each other, communicate and so on and show them that football is not male's thing", stated Katerina Georgievska from the organisation.

Also the **National Roma Centrum**, **YMCA Skopje Macedonia**, the **Union of NGO Babylon**, the **Macedonian Center for Culture and Development**, the **Youth Forum Bitola**, the **Informal Youth Group Sv. Nikole** (in cooperation with the NGO "VOS" from Serbia) and the geostrategic institute **Global** implemented various activities during this year's FARE Action Weeks.



Union of NGO Babylon

Another participant in the FARE Action Weeks: Montenegro

During this year's FARE Action Weeks three NGOs from Montenegro got active. **BAAP Montenegro** in cooperation with the Football Association of Montenegro



BAAP Montenegro got active. Here: players showing RED CARDS

implemented two activities during football matches of the Premier League and the Second League. One activity took place during the game between Mogren against Sutjeska which at the same time was a derby of the Montenegrin league.

The second stadium action took place during a Second League match between Bokelj and Bratstvo.



Kulsport Montenegro inviting kids to join their action

Furthermore, the **NGO Kulsport** organised a sport event for children taking place on 26 October in a small village Sukuruc located near the Albanian border. This part of Montenegro was ideal for an anti-discriminatory activity as it is ethnically mixed being populated mostly by Albanians (Catholics and Muslims), Montenegrins, Serbs and Roma. Around 50 children and their parents attended the activity.

Besides BAAP Montenegro and the NGO Kulsport, the NGO **Forum MNE** also got involved in the FARE Action Weeks mainly focussing on the inclusion of young people from minority- and marginalised groups, especially the Roma community. The Forum MNE organised a sport tournament in "small football" inviting 4 teams (young members from Konik (Roma youth), young players from Podgorica high school, Forum MNE staff and young football players students' group) aiming to develop a sense for accepting differences, to foster team spirit and tolerance and to motivate young people from the Roma community to become part of public football events.

Slovenia – part of the FARE Action Weeks

On 24 and 25 October the **Roma Sport Association Slovenia** (*Romska Sportna Zveza Slovenija*) hosted a congress tackling discrimination and racism in sports. Under the motto "With Ball Against Discrimination and Racism" representatives of Romani associations from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Ibro Beganovic) and Croatia (Toti Dedic), city representatives and sport stakeholders came together in Murska Sobota (Slovenia) to discuss how discrimination against minority- and marginalised groups in sports can be overridden. Joze Horvat-Didi, president of the association Romska Sportna Zveza Slovenia opened the conference.



Roma congress in Murska Sobota

The city of Morksa Sobota was represented by the mayor Anton Stihec. As representative of the football association of Slovenia Rajko Korent attended the conference. Furthermore, Stane Baluh from the Office for National Minorities, Janja Roser, president of the Romani Community Council in Slovenia, Jozek Horvat Muc president of the Romani Union in Slovenia, Edvard Kolar from the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports in Slovenia and Branko Znidaric, vice president of the Slovenian Olympic Committee joined the conference in Murksa Sobota.

All participants, countries and activities at a glance

#	Name	Type	Country	Activity
1	Intelektualet e rinj Shprese	NGO	Albania	Trainings on racism; sport days for youths
2	BAAP BiH	NGO	BiH*	Activities during football matches (professional league)
3	Association Orchid Stolac	NGO	BiH	Football tournament for children of primary schools
4	No Limit – Stolac	Football school	BiH	Football tournament for kids between 12 and 14
5	Zajedno-youth initiative for Human Rights	NGO	BiH	Friendly football tournament (focus: ethnic mix)
6	Informal Youth Group-Zenica <i>[Cooperation with VOS]</i>	NGO	BiH	Futsal tournament “Be a pal – play futsal” and educative workshop “Everyone equal, everyone with the same rights”
7	National Roma Centrum	NGO	FYROM**	Informative campaign in schools “Accomplishments have no colour”; football games (ethnically mixed)
8	Roma Youth Centre	NGO	FYROM	Football matches for children and creative workshops
9	YMCA Skopje Macedonia	NGO	FYROM	Indoor football tournament
10	YWCA Skopje Macedonia	NGO	FYROM	Women’s football tournament
11	Union of NGO Babylon	NGO	FYROM	Excursion and creative workshop for youths and adults; football matches; evening event for the participants
12	Macedonian Center for Culture and Development	NGO	FYROM	Activities during matches of the Premier League; work with fans
13	Youth Forum Bitola	NGO	FYROM	Press conference; meetings with relevant stakeholders; workshop in a multicultural primary school
14	Informal Youth Group Sv. Nikole	NGO	FYROM	Educative workshops; football tournament;
15	Geostrategic Institute Global	NGO	FYROM	Anti-racism activities during matches of the first and second League
16	Gender Equality Movement	NGO	Kosovo	Trainings, workshops and tournament
17	Kulsport-Montenegrin Center for Culture and Sport	NGO	Montenegro	Sport event for children
18	BAAP Montenegro	NGO	Montenegro	Activities during football matches (professional league)
19	Forum mladi i neformalna edukacija	NGO	Montenegro	Sport tournament (small football) for youngsters
20	BAAP Serbia	NGO	Serbia	Activities during football matches (professional league)
21	Club for Youth Empowerment 018		Serbia	Education camp for youngsters (focus: marginalised groups such as Roma)
22	Elementary School “15 October”	School	Serbia	Football tournaments for children
23	Voluntary organization Svilajnac-VOS <i>[Cooperation with Informal Youth Group Zenica]</i>	NGO	Serbia	Futsal tournament “Be a pal – play futsal” and educative workshop “Everyone equal, everyone with the same rights”; forum theatre dealing with discrimination
24	Radovi u Toku	NGO	Serbia	Football matches for disabled children from elementary schools
25	Sportikul-Serbian Center for Development of Culture and Sport	NGO	Serbia	Football tournament for children
26	Local community Lug	NGO	Serbia	Football tournament for kids and competition in penalty kicking
27	OFK Belgrade	Football club	Serbia	Football games for children
28	Roma Sport Association	NGO	Slovenia	Congress on discrimination of marginalised and minority groups

*BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

**FYROM – Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia