

FOOTBALL FOR EQUALITY

FANZINE

SPOTLIGHTS ON HOMOPHOBIA & DISCRIMINATION IN FOOTBALL



2012
GO EAST
YOUNG
(WO)MEN

- ▶ CROSSING BORDERS ▶ LGBTIQ-RIGHTS IN HUNGARY, UKRAINE & POLAND ▶ FANS & DISCRIMINATION
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www.footballforequality.org



Football for Equality

Tackling Homophobia and Racism with a Focus on Central and Eastern Europe



Ulrike Lunacek is an Austrian Green Member of the European Parliament, her group's Foreign Affairs Spokesperson and the President of the EP's LGBT Intergroup

SHOW THE RED CARD TO HOMOPHOBIA & TRANSPHOBIA

WELCOME STATEMENT BY ULRIKE LUNACEK

With two major sports events only a few days ahead attracting thousands of fans of any sexual orientation or identity, the EURO Football Championships 2012 in Poland and Ukraine and this year's EuroGames, the European Gay & Lesbian Championships, in Budapest are a welcome opportunity to take a closer look at the situation of LGBTIQ* people in the countries where these events take place.

In fact, prejudice, homo- and transphobia are wide-spread phenomena in sports arenas all over Europe. We all know the aggressive slogans of radical football fans at the expense of ethnic or sexual minorities. Or maybe you have heard that the EuroGames 2012 do not receive any public subsidies from the city of Budapest. Therefore, as an openly lesbian politician and an active participant at the EuroGames, I highly welcome the initiative by the EU-sponsored project "Football for Equality" to issue this brochure in order to raise the awareness of the situation of discrimination and exclusion many LGBTIQ people in Europe are still facing in sports and beyond.

Let us, however, also be aware of signs of resistance and hope: Be it an openly gay and a trans Member of Parliament in Poland or be it more and more Pride Events taking place in Eastern Europe. Nevertheless, the need for a fan and sports culture free from discrimination, with respect toward "the other" and in line with European values has been acknowledged by fan clubs and football organisations like UEFA.

Still, much remains to be done. Precious projects like "Football for Equality – Tackling Homophobia and Racism with a Focus on Central and Eastern Europe" and initiatives like "FairPlay. Different Colors. One Game" contribute to establish sports as a means for the promotion of fundamental rights and intercultural dialogue. I fully support this approach and therefore also call on you to show the red card to homophobia and transphobia – in order for all sports people and their fans to be able to live their sports as well as their private and professional lives without fear and with joy for who they are!

* LGBTIQ: Acronym for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Intersex/Queer.

EDITORIAL

You can read a lot about Timoschenko, dogs or hooligans these days. What's it all about? The EURO is held in Poland and Ukraine. And the European Gay & Lesbian Sports Championships (EuroGames) will take place in Budapest. In this fanzine we will discuss discrimination and homophobia in football, focusing on Central & Eastern Europe. How is the situation of LGBTIQs in Poland, Ukraine and Hungary? What are the main political issues in the fan-scenes and how does homophobia work differently in the context of women's football? We will also have a look at actions against discrimination. I wish you an interesting reading and: Kick Homophobia out!

Nikola Staritz



FOOTBALL, FANS & SEXUALITIES

A TIRESOME TOPIC

It is said to be the last taboo but it is talked about all the time: Homosexuality obviously plays a specific role in the football-arena. Mainly a negative one: Homophobia happens on a daily basis. About a special relation.

Why isn't there a professional football player coming out? Who is playing a pass like a "fag-got"? Do all female football players tend to be Lesbians, because "real" women don't play? Problematic questions like these show that sexuality is a big issue in football. Homophobic banners and flags, verbal assaults by trainers, insulting chants "outing" the opposite team as gay and therefore inferior, all these are incidents of discrimination that happen in European stadia from North to South and East to West.

UNTACKLED PROBLEMS

Sport and especially football seems to be a space, where diversity does not really fit. After years of hard work and fights, anti-racist initiatives and NGOs successfully managed to get the problem of racism on the agenda of political authorities as well as football stakeholders. Other forms of discrimination against minorities (and majorities, women for example) still need to be acknowledged as untackled problems. That's why this magazine focuses on the question of homophobia in football.

CROWDS AND POWER

What's the special case with homosexuality, homophobia and foot-



ball? Of course discrimination has not been invented on the football pitch but is a question inherent in a society based on social inequalities. But football is a place where homophobia is expressed in a more direct and open way. Football as a worldwide mass phenomenon brings thousands of people together, no matter if it snows or the sun burns. To be confronted with homophobic assaults whispered by someone next to you in the train is bad enough, but shouted by a large group of roused supporters the assault becomes an even bigger (physical) danger.

LAST MAN STANDING

Another crucial point is the masculinity that is promoted through football. On the pitch and on the terraces

gender identity is constructed. Masculinity functions first and foremost through exclusion – of women and anyone who may destabilize a heterosexual consensus. The consensus is necessary in order to exhibit intimacy without being suspected of being homosexual. Intimacy is common in football – when a goal is scored everyone is celebrating, hugging and kissing. As the theoretician Judith Butler points out, homophobia has the important function of proving non-homosexuality. Anyone who does not fit, may s/he be homosexual or not, transsexual or not, wanting or able to identify with any gender or sexuality can be offended to secure one's own territory. But resistance is growing.

Nikola Staritz



GO EAST!

SPORT EVENTS CROSSING BORDERS



DON'T TALK ABOUT POLITICS

"Poland and Ukraine? That's where you're going?" For many people Central and Eastern Europe seems to be even less familiar than South Africa, where the last World Cup took place.

Although from a German perspective, Poland has moved a bit closer as a vacation destination or at least a place to get cheaper dental work than back home. But Ukraine? Every town has to be found in an atlas first – "Oh, that's where that is, and yikes... look, there's Chernobyl."

When you are there it's much more familiar than not. Gdansk is a beautiful hanseatic town much like German hanseatic cities; it's just that Catholic masses are taking place in the red brick churches. Kiev is a wonderful, sparkling metropolis. The fact that a few unreadable Cyrillic names can be spotted in between the signs advertising all the Western brands is an added bonus. Kharkiv not only has a gigantic Lenin statue in an even more gigantic square, it also has beautiful art nouveau facades and parks with carousels. And Lviv looks like a small version of Vienna. But you are repeatedly reminded that so much is arranged in a com-

pletely different system of coordinates. Like when someone in Poland drops the phrase "back then during the civil war" or "patriotism" is considered code for resistance. And when people in Ukraine don't want to have their picture taken, because in their experience you never know what happens with the photos – even without Facebook.

Or when Stepan Bandera is revered as a freedom fighter in the western part of the country and condemned as a Nazi collaborator in the east. "Your best bet is to never talk about politics," advises the intercultural trainer on interacting with the locals. How is that supposed to work? Talk about football instead? "What do you think of Metalist?" I ask. "I don't like them, because hardly any Ukrainians play." So much for that. Only talking about football and not about politics was the goal when Euro 2012 was awarded to Poland and Ukraine. A few weeks before it starts that's not working so well.

*Editorial note: in the meantime Kyiv Pride is cancelled because of expected homophobic violence.

Suddenly someone noticed that where the Germans are playing, in Kharkiv, an opposition politician is sitting in prison, possibly unjustly and being treated badly. People are protesting and threats of boycotts abound, which means people are indeed talking about politics. Before this it was all about finishing construction of stadiums and streets or killing rabid dogs. But does that really mean talking about politics in a strange and distant land or is it just campaigning in your own country? Amnesty International advised politicians to go there and open their mouths instead of boycotting at home. And not just asking about Julia Tymoshenko, but also about police assaults and corruption. For those who have no interest in football, there is also Kyiv Pride, which is taking place in Ukraine's capital*. For the first time. Just like the Euro.

Nicole Selmer is a freelance journalist and translator and is going to the Euro to work.

CAN YOU IMAGINE? YOU SHOULD!

EUROGAMES 2012 IN BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

On 27th June the EuroGames will open their doors for the first time in the Central and Eastern European region, in Budapest. FairPlay talked with **Enikő Várhelyi**, who is in the organization team about the Championships, what they are all about and how they came to Budapest.

Hello Enikő, times are getting busy now. What can we expect from the EuroGames?

Enikő Várhelyi: It's very busy these days. For the football tournament we are expecting over 500 players, men and women. The expected number of athletes for all the 18 sports is 3,800.

Tell our non-informed audience a little bit about the idea of the EuroGames...

Enikő: EuroGames, the European Gay & Lesbian Championships, is the biggest athletic event for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Europe governed by the European Gay Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF). Besides getting in touch with each other, doing sports and having fun, the EuroGames are in first line promoting political and social goals: the fight against discrimination in sport on grounds of sexual preference, enforcing inte-

gration in sport and emancipation of lesbians and gays as well as enabling and supporting the coming out of gay and lesbian sports men and women.

It's great that the Games this year are in Budapest – how did you manage to succeed and what does it mean, that the EuroGames will take place in Hungary?

Enikő: As one of the first LGBTQ sport clubs in Hungary FriGo applied to host the EuroGames in Budapest in 2012, in cooperation with EuroGames 2011 Rotterdam. With hosting the EuroGames in Budapest we would like to improve the reputation of Hungary as an open minded country and to support the Hungarian LGBTQ community. As the first bigger international LGBTQ sport event in Central-Eastern Europe, EuroGames in Budapest would support the LGBTQ communities and their initiatives in

the neighbouring countries and in the region. We would also like to build bridges between the Hungarian LGBTQ community and the majority in society and to improve the level of tolerance.

→ www.eurogamesbudapest.hu
→ www.eglstf.info



EVERYTHING DIFFERENT?

LGBTIQ RIGHTS IN HUNGARY, POLAND AND UKRAINE

BLAME THE QUEERS ON HOMOPHOBIA IN HUNGARY

This year the EuroGames are taking place in a country where homophobia is increasingly rampant in politics and everyday life. On the situation for LGBTIQs in Hungary.

The same procedure as every year? Budapest Pride (parade for visibility, rights, and social recognition of LGBTIQs) was prohibited by the police at the beginning of April, but it will now be held on July 7th thanks to major protests from LGBTIQ organizations and interventions on the European level.

In the 90s Hungary was considered the most liberal post-communist country when it came to gay and lesbian rights. But since the 2000s the extreme right has been gaining ground, accelerated by an economic-political crisis, which again attempts to make minorities the “guilty ones”. Like every year, violent assaults against parade goers by fascist groups and vigilantes are expected again this year.

Political developments like the new Hungarian constitution that came into force in 2012, which not only restricts freedoms of speech and the press but also marks a socio-political backlash, are taking hold in people’s minds and giving Hungary the dubious reputation of being problematic regarding human rights.

Considering the political situation in Hungary, how will you deal with homophobia during the EuroGames?

Enikő: There are radical groups in Hungary with very strong homophobic views, but most of the population in Hungary does not support these radical groups. One of the reasons the EGLSF chose Budapest as the host city for the 2012 EuroGames was that the member clubs of the EGLSF wanted to show their support and solidarity with the Hungarian LGBTQ community. Hungary is part of the EU, and one of the goals of the EuroGames is to bring some of the freedom and acceptance of LGBTQ people to Hungary that is already natural in countries like the Netherlands, Denmark, or Spain. We don’t have an easy situation, but it’s not as bad as one would imagine from abroad.

Some LGBTIQ groups say that it is irresponsible for the EuroGames to be held in Hungary this year because of homophobic violence and that it is impossible to guarantee security.

Enikő: As Jan Frölih, General Secretary of EGLSF said after having spent a weekend in Hungary:

“I met an extremely motivated, young, and gender-balanced team of organizers. One day I was walking around the city with a t-shirt stating that I belong to a ‘lesbian & gay’ association. According to press reports, I should be dead by now, but in reality nobody cared. Whatever happens, in two months our community will make history by celebrating EuroGames in an Eastern European country for the first time. My biggest worry is that some of us will miss the chance to be part of it. I call on all of you who haven’t registered yet: Re-think your decision and don’t leave our young friends from Budapest alone! Be part of a historic moment! Register for the EuroGames! You will not regret it.” (Jan Frölih) We all do our best to ensure the security of our guests. We are working together with the Budapest Police, with a private security team, and our security volunteers.

How would you describe the situation for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders in Hungary and especially in Budapest at the moment?

Enikő: LGBTQ people don’t need to be afraid of physical attacks in Hungary, but we have to constantly struggle for our rights. At the moment we are unfortunately not fighting for more rights, but for keeping the existing ones. However, we believe in change. We see a bright future ahead of us, but we know that we have to do a lot to improve our situation.

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EVERYONE’S BAD-MOUTHING US... CONVERSATION WITH ALLA OLIYNYK ABOUT HOMOPHOBIA IN UKRAINE

Homosexuality was decriminalized in Ukraine in 1991. Nevertheless, acceptance and/or normalization are still very far off. At the event Queer in (Eastern) Europe, organized by the Football Supporters Europe (FSE), FairPlay met the former hobby footballer and activist, Alla Oliynyk.

Alla, you are on the board of the NRG sports club in Kiev. On your website you describe yourselves as a women’s sports club. What would you have to deal with if it said “lesbian” on your site?

ALLA: We can’t be open, not so much because we are afraid of being attacked directly – which is not to say that can’t happen, there are physical attacks at LGBT gatherings – but more because every door would be slammed in our face. For instance, if we request use of a gymnasium or want to organize something. Another issue is that women are afraid of being associated with homosexuality, like being outed at work. They would run into problems and not everyone has the strength to deal with that.

What would you say are the main issues behind homophobia in Ukraine?

ALLA: The problem with homophobia in Ukraine is that people constantly hear negative things about

gays and lesbians. Politicians, the church, everyone badmouths us. And there are no messages that contradict this. Many people think that it’s like a disease. In the media you hear that homosexual relationships are a threat to national security, lead to an HIV/AIDS epidemic, that we are responsible for the demographic crisis and are destroying the institution of family. It’s nonsense. We don’t want anything special, no special treatment, just the same as everyone else, the same rights. Nothing more.

I heard that a new law is being discussed...

ALLA: A bill was recently introduced for a law to prohibit what they call “homosexual propaganda.” If the law passes, we wouldn’t be able to meet anymore. Anyone who openly says or shows that he or she is gay would be arrested, and convictions range from fines to up to 5 years in prison.

FACTBOX HUNGARY

- Homosexuality was decriminalized in 1961
- In 2002 homosexuality and heterosexuality were deemed equal (in the eyes of the law)
- Registered partnerships possible since 2009
- No constitutional law against discrimination
- Marriage defined as a union between a man and a woman since a 2012 constitutional amendment
- Pride parades disputed, banned, and attacked

FACTBOX POLAND

- Under Polish Law Homosexuality was never illegal
- 42% of LGBTIQs experience physical violence more than 3 times a year
- Hate speech against homosexuals from conservative politicians (PIS) and catholic church
- 2004 Equality March violently attacked by ultra-nationalist group
- Pride parades in Poznan and Warsaw banned in 2004 and 2005
- Anti-discrimination laws only protect explicitly against discrimination in the employment context
- In the 2011-elections the pro-LGBTIQ Palikot-Movement became 3rd largest party in parliament

FACTBOX UKRAINE

- Homosexuality legal since 1991
- 65% of Kyiv’s residents consider homosexuality a mental disease
- 89% of people who live their homosexuality openly experienced violence, mostly on the part of the police and in the workplace.
- Several attempts to organize demonstrations by LGBTIQ groups either banned or attacked
- 2012 first Pride Parade was allowed, but didn’t take place because of expected violence
- No legal recognition of same sex couples
- No explicit mentioning in Anti-discrimination laws

(Source: Mash Mir, Kyiv, 2011: Overview of LGBT Human Rights Situation in Ukraine in 2010) [NISJ]

→ <http://nrg.in.ua>

→ A full version of the text was published in the magazine MALMOE Nr.59, www.malmoe.org



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INSIDE THE STADIUM

A LOOK AT THE FIELD FROM WROCLAW TO ODESSA

BAD, BUT NOT SO BAD THE SITUATION IN POLAND

Along with legislation changes from 2009, 2011 and 2012 atmosphere between fanbases of clubs nationwide and authorities is becoming more tense. That leads to overall hostility. It seems the language of public discourse is more and more aggressive on both sides. Supporter groups seem to feel threatened by growing restrictions and so their defensive stance is no surprise.

What should also be highlighted is that inclusion of disabled supporters is greater than ever. Fans with disabilities are being empowered to attend not only home, but also away fixtures. Last year saw the first disabled fans groups being formed as well as the first official fan association distancing themselves from any form of discrimination. So even though Euro 2012 raised huge tensions and problems are still obvious and partly severe, the situation inside Polish stadia seems to be improving.

Michał Karas

This opportunity is used by radical groups to gain power. Right-wing political movements or hooligan groups seem to have more influence recently and their attitudes are represented more frequently inside stadiums. Though these are still incidental cases, it should raise concern. Thankfully there is opposition, like the case of Kibice Razem Wrocław distancing themselves from what was regarded as right-wing political demonstration in November 2011. On the other hand, these tensions often seem to be symbolical.

On the practical side, examples of open racist behaviour are less frequent. Cracovia's first African players received great support and fans of various ethnic descent are more visible. Black or Arab supporters can be seen inside biggest clubs fanatic sections, indicating overall inclusion is growing.

RIGHT-WING CONSENSUS UKRAINIAN FAN SCENE

The fan scene in Ukraine is very dynamic and vibrant, with increasing quality of support year after year. Clubs in the Ukrainian Premier League from East to West have dedicated supporters who organize performances and choreographies almost every match. The most numerous and colourful groups may be found in Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava and Odesa. The relationships with

the clubs' administration and authorities are a bit more problematic. Major clubs control small 'puppet' fan clubs and treat active supporters and ultras as a source of problems. In the last year before the Euro 2012 fans experienced increasing levels of repression from police which confirmed the negative image of the tournament in the eyes of active supporters. The atmosphere at the stadiums is often spoiled by instances of racism, anti-Semitism and violence. There exists a right-wing consensus among the ultras which excludes other points of view and prevents non-nationalist groups from development.

Neo-Nazis have the strongest influence in Kyiv and Lviv, where they are linked to the 'autonomous nationalist' movement and the extreme right-wing party 'VO Svoloda'. In Kharkiv the local ultranationalist paramilitary organization 'Patriot of Ukraine' established a group among 'Metalist' ultras. The organized nature of the neo-Nazi presence at the terraces and the violence they incite is a matter of concern for the future development of the Ukrainian fan scene. The fans of 'Arsenal' Kyiv are the only ones who do not tolerate neo-Nazis at their terraces, and they are constantly being attacked by the fans of other clubs for their political views, often with the use of weapons.

Pavel Klymenko, 'Football Against Prejudices' Kyiv

WALKING HAND IN HAND

NOTHING NEW IN THE WEST EITHER? HOMOPHOBIA IN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

In 1974 my grandma said, "That's unacceptable! Girls don't play football!" – "The Beautiful Side of 20eleven" said the marketing campaign for the Women's World Cup in Germany.

Almost four decades have passed between these two statements. My grandma didn't want to let me play in 1974, because it was inappropriate for girls to fight or slide around on the field. Back then it was a sport for boys and men – and for "manly women." And today?

Today it seems like the "manly women" from yesterday don't exist anymore, because these days the "beautiful" women play football. There is even a slim, longhaired, blond Barbie who can supposedly play football. Many efforts are made to distance women's football from the cliché of being a lesbian sport. Football is – on the field and in the stands – a place for conventional notions of masculinity. The last place where "true masculinity" can be experienced. The masculinity of football is achieved by excluding women and gay men and thus through sexism and hostility towards gays and lesbians. Bad players are called "girls" or "fags." Women football players are

"manly" or "lesbians," even today. This clear exclusion and disparagement is necessary so that a wide variety of behaviours can be expressed on and around the field without fans or players being considered unmanly. These are "football's powers of masculinization," which make, for example, metrosexual David Beckham or men with "girls' headbands" appear masculine.

Women football players also encounter these masculinizing powers, and anyone who does not want to be considered a lesbian or manly has to work hard to live up to the usual cliché of a beautiful heterosexual woman. Sexual orientation is almost never mentioned publicly and, amazingly enough, that applies to both men's and women's football. People rarely say openly that women football players are all lesbians anymore, but these kernels of wisdom are often heard behind closed doors and in conversations between male sports experts. Clubs don't want any lesbian players on their teams.

It is always stressed that players shouldn't/don't want to talk about their personal lives. You can be a lesbian privately, but it shouldn't be made public.

Even though an acceptance of homosexuality could help break down prejudices and clichés. The world of football could become even larger and more colourful if something were finally done about the clichés of masculinity and femininity associated with it. But as long as sponsors and the media continue to joke about women's football under their breath and try to devalue it as a lesbian sport, not much will change in the oh so enlightened West.

Tanja Walther-Ahrens: former professional football player for Tennis Borussia Berlin and Turbine Potsdam (GER), delegate of EGLSF and active in the fight against homophobia

FACTBOX WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

- POLAND:** 1921 first amateur club is founded → official league since 1979 → record champion KKS Czarni Sosnowiec → current most famous player: Marysia (Maria) Makowska → national team never qualified → 4 divisions → media coverage: nearly zero
- UKRAINE:** first international appearance of in 1995 → official league since 1992 → 1 national division, 9 teams → national team participated in EURO 2009 in Finland → all time champion: WFC Lehenda Chernihiv → media coverage: only national team
- HUNGARY:** biggest success quarter final EURO 1991 → record champion and best name: 1. FC Femina Budapest, founded 1970 → 1 national division with 10 teams → getting more and more and more popular → status: too often not taken as serious → media coverage: unknown



KICK HOMOPHOBIA OUT!



Against Homophobia in Football

QUEERING THE PITCH

FANS & SPORTS-PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!

© Franziska Vollborn, 2006



ENTERING STRAIGHT COUNTRY

GAY AND LESBIAN FAN CLUBS IN GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND

By now, gay and lesbian fan clubs have become part of the “normal” stadium crowd in Germany and Switzerland. Whether in the Third League in Bielefeld, in the Champions League in Munich, or the Super League in Zurich – members of the rainbow family can be seen everywhere among fans, celebrating, cheering, suffering.

It all started about ten years ago in Berlin with HerthaJunxx; Stuttgart followed shortly after, then Dortmund and St. Pauli. When the World Cup took place in Germany in 2006, the fan clubs joined together under one umbrella organization. Queer Football Fanclubs (QFF) was the name of the network that coordinated activities between different fan organizations and football associations, thereby giving the small groups a louder voice.

At this point, it's hard to imagine German and Swiss football without QFF. 21 fan clubs of various men's football clubs work together with international anti-discrimination groups, with football associations, and with their fans. They organize events against homophobia and sexism; they speak up when play-

ers or those in charge make homophobic remarks. The members, who are not necessarily gay or lesbian, meet twice a year at an international conference where, along with internal matters, the focus is always on the exchange with other football or fan organizations. Besides that, the fan clubs visit each other frequently when their clubs play together. In the process, the network sets an example for other fan groups, reminding us of something that has unfortunately gotten somewhat lost: yes to competition, no to hate! The agreement is that the only way to fight discrimination and homophobia is to work together, in spite of the different jersey colors.

And this goal is still at risk, because despite many efforts, the stadium still seems to be the last “reserve of

the white, heterosexual man,” who thinks his masculinity is threatened. QFF caused its first international stir when it protested awarding the 2022 Football World Cup to Qatar in an open letter to FIFA (in Qatar homosexuality is against the law and punishable by imprisonment and torture). The group also gets involved in fan issues like the price of tickets, banning certain fans from stadiums, the use of pyrotechnics, etc.

Because whether they are gay or lesbian, first and foremost they are football fans who are actively committed to a culture in the stadium that makes watching a game one of the greatest pastimes in the world for every person (who does not discriminate against others).

Dirk Brüllau for
→ www.queerfootballfanclubs.org

SAFE AND FREE ZONE ON GAY* FOOTBALL TEAMS

The constant stream of homophobic remarks such as “don't pass like such a fag” or “you run like a queer” are only the most audible belches of a (verbally) rooted homophobia in men's football.

Anyone who is not heterosexual (not to mention people who are not clearly male – heaven forbid!) has three options: 1. Silence, keep up the mask of heterosexuality and develop a thick skin. 2. Deal with it openly and trust that prejudices will be broken down through personal contact. 3. Find a different club, i.e. a gay* club.

So far, this rare species has only been sighted in large cities. The first gay football teams in Europe were founded in the 1980s, driven by the passion for football, discomfort in mainstream teams, and frustration with the misconception that gays, as “effeminate pansies,” couldn't play. These teams were by gays for gays, especially in the early days. Over time this principle of exclusion loosened up, beginning with the discussion of the “straight quota.” At this point they are considered gay-lesbian-bi-trans-straight football teams, like Vorspiel SSL Berlin, and as such, they challenge the golden rule of the game: gen-



© Antonio Marcello

der segregation. Football is only one of many aspects. Most of the teams see themselves as more than just a football club. Vorspiel also describes itself as a “meeting place, recreational center, crisis center, happiness filling station, dating service, family, and a piece of home.” Gay* football teams often have conspicuous names like Stonewall FC or Hotscots FC; this way they send a clear signal that they are different. Aside from these differences, much remains the same. You get mad at the referee during the match, players on the bench are unhappy, after practice you go for a beer together. This swinging between normalcy and difference is typical of such clubs.

The degree to which this has a subversive effect on football in general remains to be seen. But this is not the main issue. What is important for the players* is that they have created a space in which they feel comfortable as footballers* AND as gays*. A space in which they don't feel alone with both of these identifications and where they don't represent a contradiction. And that is a good thing.

The asterisk () emphasizes the openness of the term as well as its dominance. When people talk about gay* football teams, this means that the majority of players are gay, but not all of them.

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GET VISIBLE!

FIGHT IGNORANCE THROUGH VISIBILITY

*There are some who are in darkness
And the others are in light
And you see the ones in brightness
Those in darkness drop from sight*

(Bertolt Brecht, 1930)

CELEBRATE FOOTBALL, FIGHT HOMOPHOBIA

EURO PRIDE HOUSES 2012

This year the UEFA EURO celebrates more than one premiere: it is in Central- and Eastern Europe, for the first time, but also for the first time ever a Pride House will be set up.

As at the Olympic Games 2010 in Vancouver and as was planned for the Olympic Games in London 2012, the Pride Houses in Poland will be cultural meeting points for LGBTIQs and create safe spaces for queer fans who visit the EURO and want to celebrate football together. The Euro Pride Houses will be in Warsaw and Wrocław and are implemented by the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF).

SAFETY AND TOLERANCE

The idea of a Pride House is to create a visible and safe space for LGBTIQ people, at least a small place where homosexuality can be lived out without having any fear. Pride Houses are meeting points, discrimination-free areas and zones of empowerment. LGBTIQs can find support, will be encouraged and can exchange experiences. Platforms for discussions enabling international networking and

strengthening LGBTIQ communities in their diverse local struggles. Everyone is invited to the Pride House, no matter what their gender, sexual orientation or nationality may be. Pride Houses raise awareness and challenge a homophobic environment.

MATCHES & PARTY

The Euro Pride Houses in Poland will open on Friday, 8th June with a big Greek Night-Party. All games of the EURO 2012 will be shown and many side events will take place. You can play football or participate in the table football-cup. The Houses will be open daily from 4pm until the end of the matches. You'll find the Pride Houses in Warsaw in the middle of the fan zone and a second one next to the main stadium. In Wrocław the Pride House will be at the Tolerancija Club. Watch out for the detailed program!

→www.footballforequality.org

IS FOOTBALL COMING OUT? THE EXHIBITION AGAINST THE RULES

Martina Navratilova, Amelie Mauresmo or Marcus Urban – just to drop a few names of sportspeople most of you know. What do they have in common? They came out, live their homosexuality openly and challenge the ignorance of homosexuality in the sports world.

By portraying these and many other queer athletes and drawing attention to various forms of discrimination against sexual minorities in sport as well as moments of resistance through self organisation, the touring-exhibition "Against the Rules – Lesbians and Gays in Sport" not only tries to fight ignorance but aims to help removing the taboos from the subject of homosexuality and sport.

There is hardly a single area of society in which the participation of homosexuals seems as abnormal as in sport. Even though society's attitudes to sexuality have changed, the assumption still remains that sport and homosexuality do not fit; lesbians and gay men are still largely ignored or openly rejected in sport. Gender, sex and sexuality play a central role in the arena

of sports and on the other hand are constructed through sport; Masculinity and femininity as norms of "physical" appearance and bodies as well as behaviour and attitude are formed and learned.

The original German version of the exhibition was organised by SC Janus, Cologne's Centrum Schwule Geschichte (Gay History Centre) and others, and was updated by the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) in 2009 and translated into English. As part of the Football for Equality project the exhibition has been updated and translated into Slovenian, Polish, Italian and Slovak in 2012 and will be shown in 7 European cities. (EGLSF/ NiSta)

→ Watch out: www.footballforequality.org/football-for-equality/touring-exhibition-2012-2013
→ www.eglsf.info

To be confronted by ignorance is a strong tool of discrimination. A necessary requirement for a society free of discrimination is the acceptance of who you are.

So a first step to equality paradoxically is making difference visible. We present two examples within the EU-funded Football for Equality-project, how to get LGBTIQs visible.

The exhibition "Against the rules" creates role models and documents the (hi)stories of LGBTIQ people in sport and the Pride Houses during the EURO 2012 enable safety in public spaces.



GET ACTIVE!

INITIATIVES AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

FUSSBALLFANS GEGEN HOMOPHOBIA FOOTBALL FANS AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

→ Berlin, Germany
→ www.fussballfansgegenhomophobie.blogspot.de/

Whether in the stands or on the field, homophobic insults are still widespread in football. Remarks like “Ref, you queer” or “queer pass” show that queer is a frequently used insult in the stadiums. People have been identifying as gay or lesbian for a long time, but it still seems to be unacceptable in football, the last male bastion. The Football Fans against Homophobia initiative is trying to counteract this. The group is made up of active football fans of Berlin’s sixth division Tennis Borussia. They want to banish homophobia from the stands with their violet banner depicting two football players kissing.

OUT IN SLOVENIJA

→ Ljubljana, Slovenia
→ <http://outinslovenija.blog.siol.net/>

It is the first sports and recreational group in Slovenia, founded in 2000 and since 2003 part of the NGO Društvo za integracijo homoseksualnosti (DIH, Association for Integration of Homosexuality). The aim is to offer social activities and fun through sport, to participate in mainstream and LGBTIQ Sports events to organize actions to raise awareness f. ex. during the FARE action week.

FOOTBALL V. HOMOPHOBIA UNITED KINGDOM

→ www.footballvhomophobia.com

“FvH is an international initiative opposing homophobia in football. In England it is the FA’s endorsed campaign to tackle homophobia and prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in grassroots football. The Justin Campaign uses FvH to work around the year to enable people to take action against prejudice and discrimination based on sexuality or gender identity in football and to celebrate and welcome diversity. FvH offers a lot of material for actions against discrimination worldwide.”

LAG LESBEN IN NORD- RHEIN WESFALEN LAG LESBIANS IN NORTH RHINE- WESTPHALIA

→ Düsseldorf, Germany
→ www.lesben-nrw.de/Fussball.htm

“Football is everything – even lesbian! Leading up to the 2011 Women’s World Cup in Germany, LAG Lesben in NRW called attention to the discrimination and invisibility of lesbians in the world of football as players, coaches/assistants, fans, referees, etc. The Düsseldorf photographer and media designer Monica Brauer compiled four poster motifs along with clap banners, door hangers, and two large banners. The goal of the initiative is to promote the visibility and self-confidence of lesbians in sports along with encouraging the elimination of prejudices and clichés. The poster motifs address the homophobic atmosphere and attitude that is still present in parts of society as well as the fear of gays and lesbians. It is about the intimate space of the locker room, but also being visible in the stands.”

Gabriele Bischoff/
LAG Lesben in NRW e.V.

FRIGO – FRISS GONDOLAT EGYESÜLET ORGANISATION FOR FRESH IDEAS

→ Budapest, Hungary
→ www.facebook.com/frissgondolat

“FriGo is one of the first LGBTIQ sport clubs in Hungary. The members and partners of FRIGO are idealists: we believe that we can make our world – or at least our own environment – a better place to live. Not only do we believe in this, but we have done volunteer work for a better world since 2002.

Currently, as you know, we are working with hundreds of volunteers on the organization of EuroGames Budapest.”

Enikő Várhelyi

NRG

→ Located in: Kiev, Ukraine
→ <http://nrg.in.ua>

“We started as a football team, but now we are a Women’s sport club and have different kinds of sports, most strongly represented by us are football, basketball and volleyball at the moment. We also do cultural things, theatre and try to organise get-together meetings. We have an online forum where people just chat. For people to use us as a platform for meeting each other, communicating, getting in touch. There is also a section for LGBTIQ fans visiting the EURO 2012!”

Alla Olyiynik

UISP-CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOMOPHO- BIA IN FOOTBALL

→ Italy
→ www.uisp.it

Within the Football for Equality-project we want to fight every kind of discrimination. In Italy Uisp began to focus on homophobia in October 2011 with a mini football tournament and also the “Quindicinale di Silano di Cosenza” produced and distributed pamphlets about the realities of homophobia in European sports. The next step for Uisp is the presentation of an Italian campaign tackling homophobia. The slogan is: The “differences” in equality. The campaign challenges stereotypes of LGBT-people and works towards a future, where the visibility of LGBT people in football is both accepted and celebrated. Today homophobia is still prevalent – in grassroots as well as professional football. We also promote anti-homophobia initiatives in sport clubs. Uisp member-associations develop anti-homophobia campaigns and are working in collaboration with relevant public authorities and with other organizations like Arci Gay and Gruppo Pesce Roma.

Francesca D’Ercole/UISP

KPH – KAMPANIA PRZECIW HOMOFOBII CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

→ Warszawa, Poland
→ kph.org.pl/english

“The Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH) is a nationwide public-benefit nongovernmental organization with non-profit status working for the equal rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We were established in 2001.” Besides offering legal and psychological support for victims of discrimination, KPH takes part in (inter)national equal rights initiatives and networks, organizes educational and awareness-raising campaigns. Working towards gender equality is for KPH a crucial point in the fight against homophobia.



Fußball findet Stadt



PLACE HOMOPHOBIA AND RACISM OFFSIDE!



Since 2009 several organizations throughout Europe have been working together in the "Football for Equality" project which is funded by the European Commission under the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme.

In June 2011 the second part of the project which emphasizes on the promotion of football without homophobia, racism and ethnic discrimination started, but this time focusing on Central and Eastern Europe.

For the first time ever the European Gay & Lesbian Sports Championships (EuroGames) are held in Eastern Europe, in Budapest.

Also the European Football Championship, UEFA EURO 2012 will be hosted by Poland and the Ukraine.

Just to name two events which are addressed in the project "Football for Equality – Tackling Homophobia and Racism with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe". The aim is to raise awareness through activities like this fanzine. In addition, the exchange of know-how and transfer of knowledge between Central and Eastern Europe and between LGBT (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender) groups, migrants and ethnic communities are at the fore. The Football for Equality project is led by FairPlay-VIDC (Austria) in partnership with experienced NGOs and sport organizations including EGSLF, the Italian sport for all federation UISP, Football Supporters Europe (FSE), People Against Racism (Slovakia) and SPOLINT from Slovenia.

FSE is partner of UEFA and responsible for the Fans' Embassy programme at the UEFA EURO 2012. All project partners are members or linked to the FARE-network (Football Against Racism in Europe).



→ For more information visit: www.footballforequality.org

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THE POSTER: KICK HOMOPHOBIA OUT!

On the occasion of the EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland, Qwien Kultur (Center for Gay/Lesbian Culture and History, Vienna) organised a European wide competition for posters dealing with the issue of football and homosexuality ("Homo:Foul"). For this Fanzine we reprinted the poster submitted by the artists Kasia KOZOKOWSKA and Artur CHOJECKI from Warsaw, Poland. | www.qwien.at




Football for Equality  **Tackling Homophobia and Racism with a Focus on Central and Eastern Europe**



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