



REPORT

11th international FairPlay youth football tournament

“Vienna meets Balkan“



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From May 18th until 30th, FairPlay-VIDC and the Balkan Alpe Adria Project (BAAP) – in cooperation with the FAC team for Vienna and the SC Süßenbrunn – organised an intercultural youth football tournament. Under the slogan "Vienna meets Balkan" teams from the U10 and U12 age groups from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria met in this sporting event. Not only the sport of football but also the strengthening of intercultural exchange and dialogue had priority.

For the 11th time, Vienna was the venue of the intercultural youth football tournament "Vienna meets Balkan".

Vienna is located in the center of Europe and thus represents an ideal venue for an inclusive football event like this.

Christian Oxonitsch (Vienna City Councillor for Education, Youth, Information and Sports) was pleased that the city hosted the event again:

„Vienna meets Balkan is more than ‘just‘ an international football tournament. It is about people from different cultural backgrounds meeting each other, having fun together and taking a united stand against nationalism, racism and intolerance. As City Councillor for Youth and Sports in Vienna, I am especially pleased that our city is hosting this event for the 11th time. Vienna stands for tolerance and togetherness, and it has always been an important centre at the heart of Europe, which, in my opinion, makes it a perfect venue for the tournament“.

In total, 49 teams with over 500 children and adolescents participated at the "Vienna meets Balkan" tournament. It took place on the football grounds of the FAC Team for Vienna in the 21st district of Vienna, the SC Süßenbrunn in the 23rd district and the FS Elektra in the 2nd district. The final day, in particular, attracted many viewers to the FAC ground.

Trainer seminar

Prior to this year's youth tournament, FairPlay-VIDC – in cooperation with the Croatian NGO *M Status* – invited the coaches of the clubs to a seminar at the hotel Sophienalpe. The aim of the seminar was to provide a basis for discussion as well as an exchange platform for the coaches. During the seminar, David Hudelist elaborated on the basic idea and the values of FairPlay-VIDC, which should come to life especially at an event such as the intercultural youth tournament. The colleagues from *M Status*, Natko Geres and Mislav Mandir, discussed predominant roles in football and started an open discussion with the coaches, who took the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas with the group.

Framework programme

A framework programme, which was organised by FairPlay-VIDC on all matchdays at the FAC ground, provided entertainment for the adolescents. Away from the tournament action, the children and adolescents could prove their football skills and play together in mixed teams in an inflatable FairPlay Streetkick-Court. The FairPlay team also offered a creative workshop in addition to the Streetkick, where the kids could let their creativity run free and produce banners about the main topic of the project, their club logo or suchlike. Another element of the framework programme was the microsoccer-facility, which FairPlay-VIDC introduced at the youth tournament for the first time this year. A wooden frame (4 x 2 metres) with two mini goals served as a playing field and invited the children and adolescents to play football in the mode "1 against 1". The mini football pitch was used intensely by the adolescents and children and will be a permanent element of the FairPlay framework programme.



Opening

The tournament was officially opened by Safak Akcay and Ing. Anton Waltz, district councillors from the 2nd district *Leopoldstadt*, Goran Bradic of the Serbian embassy in Vienna, Markus Pinter of FairPlay-VIDC as well as Alexander Rakowitz of the Balkan Alpe Adria Project (BAAP) on May 18th 2013 at 7 o'clock pm in the Vienna Prater (venue "Buddy Grill").

Evening event

A special highlight was the joint celebration for players and trainers at the Vienna Ost*Club on May 19th 2013, which combined need-to-know with fun, dance and music. At the evening event, the children had the opportunity to learn the art of break dance and rap in workshops as well as to participate in a workshop on "FairPlay and role models in football". A lottery with a total of five prizes and the music of DJ Burnee completed the evening event.



Results

In the U10 age group, *AS Novi Pazar* (Serbia) won the first place and could thus defend its title and take the trophy back home. Second place was the *AC Fav Picks* from the 10th district of Vienna, the *FAC Team for Vienna* from the 21st district made third place. The Serbian club *Vojvodina Novi Sad* had to settle for the fourth place. In the U12 age group, the Viennese club *FC First Vienna* came out on top. The second place went to the club *Pale Piksi* (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the 3rd place was achieved by *GR Mostar* (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the fourth by the club *Buducnost Srpska Crnja* (Serbia).

The borough mayor deputy Ilse Fitzbauer represented the district *Floridsdorf* at the trophy presentation at the FAC ground on the final day, May 20th at 4 o'clock pm.

Youth brochure



On the occasion of this year's youth tournament, FairPlay-VIDC published a [youthbrochure](http://www.fairplay.or.at/balkan) (→ Download under: www.fairplay.or.at/balkan) in German and English as well as Bosnian / Croatian / Serbian, which was distributed to the adolescents during the tournament and the evening event at the Vienna Ost*Club. In addition to an interview with SK Rapid Vienna player Branko Boskovic and statements by adolescent players, the

booklet provides information on current and planned projects.

Support

The "Vienna meets Balkan" youth tournament was sponsored by the City of Vienna and supported by the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) and the Sports Ministry within the scope of the FairPlay-Service Point as well as the Viennese districts Leopoldstadt, Floridsdorf and Donaustadt. The youth tournament is part of the international "Football Unites the Alps, Adriatic and the Balkans"-project, which is carried out in cooperation with UEFA, the football associations of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro and supported by the King Baudouin Foundation and FARE.



Vision



The tournament combines integrative and intercultural objectives with development-political Public Relations. Under the slogan "**Vienna meets Balkan**" a connection between Vienna's youth teams, migrant groups living in Vienna and teams from non-EU countries in the Western Balkans such as Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as from other countries, will be created .

In recent years (2006-2011), FairPlay-VIDC – in cooperation with BAAP – organised activities to overcome nationalism, ethnocentrism and racism in the Balkans. In the course of this, FairPlay-VIDC was supported by the Belgian King Baudouin Foundation and UEFA. With the support of and in cooperation with football associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the measures in the Balkans will continue in future projects. In addition to the foreign activities in the Balkans the

exchange with Vienna also represents an important contribution to overcoming chauvinisms in the Balkans. Moreover, this kind of tournament strengthens the intercultural dialogue in Vienna since adolescents from the Balkans also constitute the largest migrant group in Vienna.

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