

BACKGROUND European Seminar “Involving Young Migrants in Winter Sports”

Innsbruck, 12 January, 2012

Haus der Begegnung, Rennweg 12, A-6020 Innsbruck; www.hausderbegegnung.com



Brief context of the seminar

This multipliers' seminar is the first of its kind in Europe to address the issue of minority involvement in winter sport. This is an initiative by an independent group of organisations a day before the opening of the maiden Winter Youth Olympic Games (WYOG) 2012 in Innsbruck. The seminar will be attended by youth coaches and workers, sport administrators, and other multipliers and stakeholders in sports.

Organiser

The one-day seminar is organised by the anti-discrimination initiative “FairPlay. Different Colours. One Game” of the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC). VIDC is a non-profit, international NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC of the United Nations. Over the years, FairPlay-VIDC has also worked with major sport governing bodies including UEFA, FIFA, IOC and also with the UN.

SPIN Project

The multiplier seminar is organised as part of the ongoing project “Sport Inclusion Network (SPIN) – Involving migrants in mainstream sport institutions”, co-funded by the European Commission – DG Education and Culture, Sport Unit.

The SPIN project is designed to promote and share good practices across Europe on the inclusion and involvement of migrants and other third-country nationals (including refugees) through and in mainstream sport. The project aims to raise awareness about the potential positive role of sport in terms of social inclusion of migrants and intercultural dialogue.

The EC project is carried out under the leadership of VIDC-FairPlay (Austria), together with the following European partner organisations: Camino (Germany), UISP Emilia Romagna (Italy), Liikkukaa (Finland), FAI – Football Association of Ireland (Ireland), Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation (Hungary) and SJPF – Portuguese Players Union (Portugal).

The seminar will be co-funded by the Austrian Ministry of Sports.

Focus on Winter Sports

The first WYOG will gather more than 1000 young athletes from 14 to 18 years, and hundreds of youth coaches and sport administrators will be welcomed to Innsbruck. Sport disciplines to be competed in include ice hockey, skiing (Alpine and Nordic), ski jumping, snowboarding, biathlon, bobsleigh, curling, luge, figure skating etc.

This seminar is going to use this window of opportunity to discuss the issue of the under-representation and absence of immigrants in some of the traditional winter sports and the uniting, intercultural power of sports.

The seminar will be one of the first meetings focusing on winter sports and the question of the exclusion of traditional immigrant communities, with a focus on the Alpine region and Scandinavia. It will touch on questions of stereotypes and how winter sports can attract and recruit young talents from migrant communities.

Objectives of the Multiplier Seminar

- Raise awareness and sensitize about the problems of exclusion and ethnic discrimination in European sport and foster equal rights in sports (everybody should have the right to practice sport irrespective of nationality, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender or economic status)
- To promote dialogue between various sport institutions and federations, migrant sport organisations and public authorities in order to make full use of the potential integrative and intercultural power of winter sports for young migrants and ethnic minorities
- To make mainstream sport institutions (clubs, associations, federations) more accessible and open for the needs of young members of migrant communities

Funders



Partners



"Non-discrimination is a fundamental principle of the Olympic Charter and international law. For my part, I recalled in my first official speech that the IOC should aim for greater universality, in its administration, in the election of its members and in the attribution of the Games, in order to enrich cultural diversity. It seems to me to be the most effective way of fighting against racism and exclusion".

JACQUES ROGGE (Olympic Review, 2001, Vol. XXVII No. 41.)

spin
www.sportinclusion.net

Sport Inclusion Network

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Expected Results

- The seminar will provide up-to-date training for youth coaches and youth sport administrators about intercultural methods and they will learn and extend their knowledge about best practices in other countries or sport federations
- In the long run, the seminar will contribute to use all available sporting talent including the talent of young immigrants, previously not fully integrated in some of the sport disciplines including winter sports
- The seminar will add to the fulfilment of the fundamental values of sports and highlight the social responsibility sports stakeholders

Target Group / Participants

The seminar will address in the first place coaches, sport administrators, youth and social workers and winter sport stakeholders from Austria and other European countries. It is hoped that after the seminar, the participants – coaches and administrators – should make use of the acquired knowledge and strategies in their respective clubs and federations. They will then act as multipliers for intercultural dialogue in the various countries with the aim of increased involvement of young immigrants in winter sports.

Format & Date

The seminar will take place on the 12th of January 2012, which is a day before the opening of the first Winter Youth Olympic Games (WYOG) in Innsbruck.

The seminar will kick off in the morning at 09:30 and close at 17:00 in the afternoon.

In the opening session, there will be key note addresses by experts and representatives of sport governing bodies and public institutions. Speakers will include the Mayor of Innsbruck, the European Commission, the Austrian Ministry for Sports and the Austrian Ski Association (ÖSV).

Afterwards the seminar will split into two working groups on practical issues relevant for the targeted groups. Participants will then come together in a closing plenary session where conclusions for future work will be drawn.

The seminar language will be English. Depending on the availability of additional resources, interpretation for German will be also be added as a seminar language.

Shortly after the seminar, an online seminar report will be published on the project website and disseminated via like minded project websites.

Registration and open invitation

The organisers kindly invite sport stakeholders including clubs, associations, supporters, players' unions, and athletes, ethnic minority and migrant organisations, NGOs, grass-root projects, local authorities, youth and social workers and other interested parties to Innsbruck for this maiden multipliers' seminar.

Participation is free. Lunch and coffee breaks are included (no conference fee). Please note that participants will have to cover their own travel and hotel costs. The organisers will only cover the expenses of the speakers and resource persons.

Participants are required to register for the conference by the 15th of December 2011. We will confirm your place in the conference as soon as we receive your registration.

Registration form and Programme

Please complete the Registration Form, which can be downloaded at:

www.footballforequality.org/fileadmin/mediapool/pdf/spin/SPIN-Multiplier-Seminar-Registration_Form.doc

The programme can be downloaded here: www.footballforequality.org/fileadmin/mediapool/pdf/spin/SPIN-Multiplier-Seminar-Drafted_Programme.pdf

Please return the completed form to engleitner@vidc.org or Fax 0043 1 7133594 – 73.

Hotel reservation

We are happy to assist you in making a hotel reservations for a room in Innsbruck (please indicate your choice on the registration form).

Contact

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