

Sport Welcomes Refugees (SWR) Social Inclusion of newly arrived migrants in and through sport

Erasmus+ Sport Project

Implemented by: Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation - VIDC
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EVALUATION INCEPTION REPORT

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The object of this Evaluation Inception Report is the European Commission funded, ERASMUS+ sport project, entitled “Sport Welcomes Refugees - Social inclusion of newly arrived migrants in and through sport ” (SWR), proposed by eight partners: VIDC-fairplay (Austria, Lead Organisation), FAI (Ireland), Camino (Germany), Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation (Hungary), UISP (Italy), Liikkukaa (Finland), SJPF (Portugal) and Faros (Greece). The project period runs from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2018. This report covers the period of the first project year, namely 2017.

Objectives of Sport Welcomes Refugees (SWR)

The overall objective of the project “Sport Welcomes Refugees – Social inclusion of newly arrived migrants in and through sport” is to enhance and promote social inclusion of newly arrived migrants in and through sport.

The project is designed to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Facilitate grassroots sports participation of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants through training of sport coaches and capacity building of mainstream sport clubs
- To generate evidence-based knowledge about the needs of sport organisations and sport multipliers (coaches, instructors) how to best integrate newly arrived migrants into sport
- Further develop a European framework for quality criteria regarding intercultural openness and inclusion of refugees and migrants in sport clubs
- To capacity-build and empower migrants and refugee initiatives to challenge exclusion and discrimination and harness the role of migrants as volunteers (coaches, administrators, referees) in sport clubs
- Develop educational tools and raise awareness among sport stakeholders about issues of exclusion and discrimination and how practically foster social inclusion in sport organisations

Target groups

The Sport Welcomes Refugees project has been designed to address issues of the following target groups:

- Mainstream sport stakeholders (sport clubs and associations; sport coaches and other grassroots multipliers and sport governing bodies)
- Refugees, asylum seekers and other newly arrived migrants; migrant-led sport / football clubs
- Informal sport initiatives who work with refugees
- Public institutions including local authorities, ministries and the European Parliament
- Women and girls and in football initiatives and fans
- Local and regional media

Workstreams SWR

In brief, the SWR Work Programme encompasses the following Workstreams:

- Workstream 1.: Towards an Evidence base: Assessing Needs, Developing Quality Criteria and Good Practice
 - 1.1. Assessment of the needs of sport educators in view of the actual challenges
 - 1.2. Description and analysis of Good Practice examples in Europe
 - 1.3. Developing of quality criteria for projects including refugees in/through sports

- Workstream 2.: Training and Qualification of Sport Educators and Clubs
 - 2.1. Training Programme for Sport Coaches and Sport Instructors
 - 2.2. Online-Platform: Sport Clubs open doors for refugees and migrants
- Workstream 3.: Respect Refugees - Campaigning and Raising Public Awareness
 - 3. 1. Refugees Welcome Events during the European Week of Sport (Sept. 2017)
 - 3.2. Refugee Welcome Events during FARE Action Weeks (Oct. 2018)
- Workstream 4.: Capacity building of Sport Initiatives with newly arrived Migrants
 - 4.1. Get structured – Network Meeting: “Grassroots Initiatives meet the organised Sport” (May/June year 1)
 - 4.2. Basic Packages - Providing support for Sport Initiatives working with newly arrived migrants (ongoing)
- Workstream 5.: European Networking and Policy Development
 - 5. 1. Public Meeting at the European Parliament (Sept. 2018, EWoS)
 - 5. 2. European Conference: The Role of Sport in Building a Diverse and Inclusive Europe - Challenges and Opportunities (Nov. 2018, Lisbon)
- Workstream 6.: Coordination and Communication

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

The approach, applied for the monitoring and evaluation of the SWR project, consists of three elements being monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL):

- Project monitoring to review the project progress
- Project evaluation based on monitoring, but adds a "judgment"
- Project learning to build on what goes well and improve in areas where the project falls short.

This approach assumes that learning is the most important aspect or goal of monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The aim of MEL is to improve the way that the project team does things during the implementation of the SWR project, rather than changing things radically. This results in monitoring and evaluation being seen as less of a separate activity and a mandatory assignment, and more as adding value to the project, improving the quality of our work, judging it by the outcomes and impact we achieve.

Therefore the project partners, and people they work with on other levels, like stakeholders and different target groups, should participate actively in different steps of M&E.

Evaluation Methods

In order to stimulate participation in M&E and learning, various participatory M&E methods are deployed, which can be used, apart from the more traditional methods like questionnaires and observation, like timeline evaluations, most significant change method, walking scales, reporting in pictures and focus group interviews. In addition to the interactive methods above, also the effective, but more traditional methods of data collection are deployed, such as online questionnaire surveys and qualitative analysis of shared knowledge/experiences.

MEL Activities and Methods used in 2017

In 2017, a number of activities carried out by the SWR project partners have been evaluated. In addition, the cooperation between the project partners has also been part of the monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) activities. Below is an overview of activities carried out in 2017 within the framework of MEL.

- Evaluation of cooperation between network partners Jan-June 2017, June 2017
used method: timeline evaluation
- Evaluation of Partner Meeting II, June 2017 in Rome
used method: walking scale
- Evaluation of the Training Programme for sport coaches and sport instructors, June 2017
used method: online questionnaire afterwards
- Evaluation of the Refugees Welcome Events in the European Week of Sports, Sep 2017
used methods: questionnaires and most significant change / reporting in pictures
- Evaluation of National Meetings and distribution of Starter Packages
used method: questionnaire

This Evaluation Inception Report is a report of all MEL activities mentioned above.



1. SUMMARY TIMELINE EVALUATION SWR-PROJECT FIRST HALF 2017

During the partner meeting in Rome (June 2017) it has been evaluated and discussed what went well in the implementation of the first half year of the SWR-project and how cooperation could be improved. The timeline method was used. This is an interactive method, whereby a group of collaborating partners reflect together on and evaluate the progress of a project. The focus is on what each partner thinks about what runs well and what not in the project. While the participants evaluate the project, they identify immediately also action points for improvement.

Key results of timeline evaluation

The atmosphere between the partners in de SWR-project is good. In general the partners are satisfied about the collaboration and the achieved progress and results. Though those partners, who are responsible for one of the various work streams, experience that good collaboration is not obvious. They need to put a lot of energy in collecting input from the other partners and receiving it before the set deadline. This may lead to delays in the project.

• Skype meetings

The monthly Skype meetings are well appreciated, especially because of the good focussed discussions. However some points for improvement are mentioned. The following actions were agreed upon:

- More discipline regarding participation in Skype meetings
- Absence must be reported in advance
- Two days before the skype meeting, a reminder need to be sent by VIDC to all partner organisations
- For each skype meeting an agenda is drawn up and circulated by VIDC
- Ten minutes before the Skype meeting, connections will be tested technically

• Focus group meetings

The project partners are very pleased with the results of the focus group interviews. The focus group interviews provide a good evidence-based basis for future work. Regarding the implementation, the partners are pleased with:

- the enthusiasm and active contribution of the participants
- the diversity in the participant group
- the expansion of the network as a result of organising focus groups interviews

Reflection on the process led to the following recommendations:

- Guiding a focus group meeting requires some experience and skill. Plan less questions or more time for a focus group interview
- The guidelines for focus group interviews need to be further elaborated with more details on how to guide the group/interview and how to ask questions.
- Those guidelines need to be followed more strictly, especially when it comes to the way the results are reported.

- **On-line Platform**

The design of the website is presented at the partner meeting in June. The website must be filled with data from the different partner countries. Data collection seems to be more difficult and time-consuming than expected. The platform's online launch is delayed. The timetable has been modified and new/more realistic appointments for data delivery have been made.

- **Diversity in target group**

Partners note that women and girls are underrepresented in activities and results. Extra focus is required.

- More focus on women and girls in SWR project.
- More attention for equal participation of women and girls in activities and in the choice of cooperation with organisations and grassroots initiatives in each partner country
- More attention for the different cultures within the target group and how to handle mixed cultures within the context of sport

- **Other remarks**

- The changed political climate and the changing public opinion on refugees, complicate the implementation of the project. This effect is more present in one country than in the other.
- In northern countries, it is more difficult to finance activities within the limits of the project budget because they are forced to organise more expensive indoor activities



2. WALKING SCALE EVALUATION OF PARTNER MEETING ROME, JUNE 2017

The partner meeting has been evaluated with all participants (project partners) at the end of the meeting. The method used was the walking scale. Participants had to answer various questions about the meeting by indicating on a scale of 1-10 (10 is best) their opinion.

Main conclusions

- there should have been more time available to execute the timeline evaluation, with which the partners reflect on the past project period (since the last project meeting) and its activities. The 45 minutes available for timeline evaluation were considered too short.
- the timeline evaluation was considered a very useful and interesting method to discuss project progress and improvement
- there should be more time for the project meeting (now including evaluation 3 hrs)
- the results of Camino's report of focus groups were very well received and appreciated
- the content for the website with sport organisations that have activities for refugees is limited due to low input from partners
- deadlines and points of agreements should be followed (up). There is too much delay in completion of agreed tasks by various partners.
- more time is needed to prepare and execute a national meeting. In general there is more time needed for all activities.



3. EVALUATION EUROPEAN TRAINING COURSE FOR SPORT EDUCATORS

From 23-25 June 2017 the European Training Course for Sport Educators, organised by UISP and FAI, took place in Rome.



Aim of the training course

To train qualified sport operators, about working with people with past traumatic experiences (war, violence, flee from country), to give them necessary skills and instruments to work with these people and deeply involve them in sports activities.

People trained by the project will conduct national training programmes addressed to qualified sport educators. The guideline for replicating the training on national level will be available by the end of 2017. National multiplier trainings will take place between January and November 2018.

Target groups

- sport educators working with young people
- coaches of grassroots sport clubs

Evaluation report

From all partner countries ± 4 participants participated in the course. In total 39 participants have followed the course. The course has been evaluated using an online questionnaire, filled in by 25 participants and conversations with participants and partners during and after training. The following is a summary of the participants' answers.

● Rating of the Course and its trainers

The training as a whole is valued with a 3.8 on a scale of 1 - 5. All trainers were valued with a figure higher than four.

Suggestions for improvement:

- reduce the size of the group or work in smaller groups
- more attention to the aspect of train the trainer and handouts to support trainers
- accommodation with better facilities for sports activities
- different time aspects: longer course, starting on time, more speed in training,...
- training in English language (for the Italian speaking trainers)

- **Importance of training course**

Participants assessed the importance of the training course with a 4 on a scale of 1 - 5.

Comments:

Participants find the training course important because it provided them with information on how to match activities with the needs and wishes of the target group (refugees) and to respond better to the specific issues of this group. Participants in the course appreciated the special international composition of the training group in Rome and the interaction and exchange during the training.

Suggestions for improvement:

- more attention for aspects of train-the-trainer; insufficient preparation for training sport educators and -coaches in participants' countries
- participants prefer training in English language. Interpreter intervention interferes with and complicates coaching of and responding to questions of participants.

- **Motivation for attending the European Training Course**

The main reasons of participants for attending the training course were to gain more knowledge about the target group of refugees and/or to exchange more knowledge and experience with colleagues from other countries (64%). 55% of participants wanted to improve their skills on working with refugees and 50% of the attendants wanted to learn how to assist sports coaches in their own countries.

- **Theoretical knowledge**

Participants rated the theoretical knowledge provided by the Training Course with 3.5 on a scale of 1 - 5.

Suggestions for improvement:

- more in depth theoretical knowledge
- less focus on young children and more on all age- and sex groups

- **Practical activities during the course**

The practical components provided in the Training Course were rated with 3.7 points on a scale of 1 - 5.

The practical (sports) activities were highly appreciated by the group. Some participants advocated being careful with activities that evoke emotions.

- **Improved skills**

Attendants rated the extent to which they improved their skills as a result of the Training Course with a 3.7, on a scale of 1 - 5.

- **Use of knowledge**

On the question how participants will use the new knowledge in their own country, half of the group answered that they will use it within their own sporting activities while the other half of the group answered that they will transfer the knowledge to other sports coaches (train the trainer).

- **Missing aspects/approaches**

Whether there were missing aspects or approaches in the training course was answered by 61% of respondents with 'none'. The following suggestions for improvement were given:

- more attention for methods of dealing with refugees (language and trauma)
- more focus on women and LGBT
- more focus on train the trainer

- **Unnecessary components of the course**

Half of the group indicated some aspects of the training that were not useful to their opinion. Most mentioned are:

- the aspect of racism
- too much time spent on explanation of games and comments/answers from the entire group (instead of some people)

4. REFUGEES WELCOME EVENTS DURING EWOS 2017

During the European Week of Sport (Sept 2017) all partners of the SWR-project were to organise one or several multicultural sport events. The sport events should facilitate cooperation between refugee organisations and mainstream sport clubs in order to develop stronger bonds between refugees, asylum seekers and host communities, to overcome exclusion and to promote intercultural understanding.



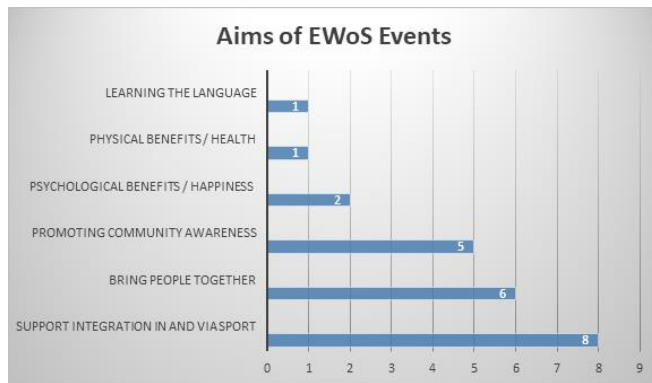
The evaluation of the Refugees Welcome Events during the European Week of Sport (EWoS), consists of:

- evaluation of the activities, organised by local (sport) organisations. By means of an online format the activities have been monitored
- monitoring of the experiences of the refugees (men and women) that took part in the activities, via photo and most significant change method

Results evaluation SWR-events

Seven partner organisations in seven countries organised Refugees Welcome Events during the European Week of Sport. Project partner Uisp – Italian Sport for All association - has chosen to organise these activities in Feb-June 2018, during the campaign “Aspettando I Mondiali Antirazzisti”, a series of initiatives Uisp organises in the frame of antidiscrimination and sport.

- In total 15 different sport events took place during the European Week of Sport 2017.
- Between 400-450 asylum seekers and refugees participated in the EWoS activities.
- Some activities took place over two days, and some activities served as a step towards structural participation in sports.
- All activities were organised in collaboration with local organisations, varying from local sports clubs and sports associations to local authorities, educational institutions, social (cultural) work, self-help organisations, reception centers, red cross, etc. and combinations of these organisations.
- Most activities were organised outdoors (9x), some activities were indoors or combined outside and inside. Most outdoor activities took place on sports fields (in stadiums and at local clubs), but also in schools (schoolyard and playing fields) and in community parks and squares. For indoor activities use was made of sports centers, schools and cultural institutions.



- The objectives of the events differed. The most mentioned aim was to support integration in and via sport (8x), followed by celebrating the SWR message / bring people together (6x). In addition objectives addressed to the target group were mentioned, such as physical benefits / health (1x), psychological benefits / happiness (2x) and learning the language (1x). Finally, promoting community awareness about inclusion, tolerance and diversity.

- Football was offered the most (8x). Furthermore, the following activities were offered: jeu de boules and mixed games (2x), table tennis, rope climbing, yoga, kite and board, mini golf, mini tennis, mölkky (cone game), leisure activities, rugby and volleyball (all 1x).
- The character of the activities varied. Joint training sessions/open club days were organised (2x), matches (4x), tournaments (3x) and various mixes of introductory activities (7x) were organised.
- The sports events were often combined with educational activities about diversity, anti-discrimination as well with social and cultural activities such as (traditional) sauna, food and drink.

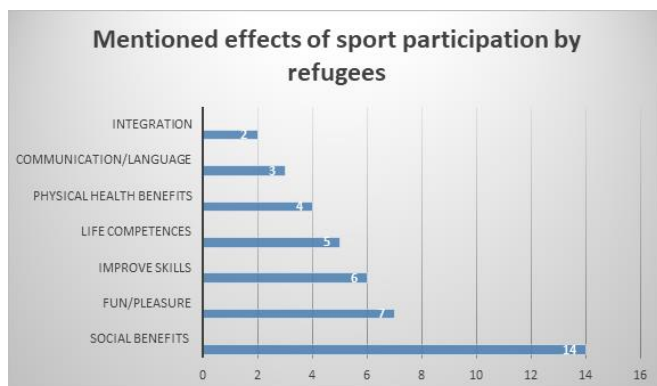
The organisers were very satisfied with the results of the organised events and rated the activities on average with an 8 (out of 10). Some points for improvement were mentioned:

- more involvement in the preparation of the co-organisations and the target group,
- this type of activities should be organised more often in order to generate more impact.



“A picture is worth a thousand words”

Pictures and images provide another way of presenting information, and increasing understanding of project results. The partner organisations were asked to portray and interview three participants in the SWR events. Ultimately, 23 participants from the target group participated in the collection of stories from grassroots level. People were asked which most significant changes they experience since they participate in sports activities.



One participant answered *“It does not mean that much to me. I came to this event to have fun and play football with my friends.”* Any social event would have met this interest. All other participants confirmed the importance of sport in their lives. They formulated it in the following ways: *“It is an important part of my life”, “Football has helped me a lot in my life” and “It changed my life completely”.*





Sport brings people together and I have made many friends thanks to football. It makes my integration into Hungarian society easier.

Overwhelming, have time to reflect and think, have to make effort and connect with people



I have not played the game before but I like it so far. I would like to play with other kids and get better at the game.



5. EVALUATION OF NATIONAL MEETINGS AND DISTRIBUTION OF STARTER PACKAGES

This chapter describes the evaluation of the organisation of national meetings and the dissemination of starter packages among local (sports) organisations/initiatives within the partner countries.

Purpose of the national meetings, as described in the project plan, is to provide practical support and foster the capacity building of informal sport initiatives and mainstream sport clubs who work with newly arrived migrants. In addition, as follow-up of the national meetings, the new (informal) initiatives who work with newly arrived migrants get provided with so-called “starter packages”, which include sport materials, to facilitate their daily work in sport sessions (training, tournaments, games).

Timeline

- Network Meetings will take place in each partner country in the first half of year one (2017)
- The starter packages should be provided to participating grassroots initiatives which fulfil certain criteria after the national network meeting

Outputs and Deliverables

- provide 45 starter packages (set of equipment such as bibs, cons balls and basic campaign material (e.g. SWR flag.) for initiatives in sport with newly arrived migrants
- several counselling and supports for refugees, asylum seeker and migrants in Sport
- 8 national Network meetings with an average of 25 participants each (200 participants)

Results

- **Planning**
 - Planning of the national meeting

At the moment of writing this report 7 partner countries have hold their national meeting and have reported about that. Only one country Hungary, has hold its meeting in the first half year of 2017. 6 other countries have hold their meeting in the second half of 2017, because that suited better with regards to timing and planning. Italy will hold their meeting in 2018. So the report of the latter is not included in the results.



- Planning of the distribution of starter packages

Local sport/migrant initiatives that have participated in the national meeting and that meet certain criteria will receive a starter package. At the moment that the national meetings were held, the starter packages have not yet been distributed to the participating local refugee/migrant organisations. Most of the partners will do that some time after the national meeting.

Finland and Ireland have made a start with distribution of sport material. In Finland 5 local clubs (sport initiatives) received each of them training vests, a football, brochures and leaflets. A number of 150 refugees (110 men, 35 women, 5 children) will benefit from that. In Ireland the distribution of starter packages has also started, and is planned for also next year. At this moment 11 refugees benefit from these, while playing football at Galway Hibs.

- **Aim of the national meetings**

Most of the partners organised their national meeting with the following aims:

- Build capacity of migrant lead sport initiatives and support them to further develop their work
- Encourage and support migrants to join the structures of organised sport (competitions, leagues,..)
- Exchange good practice between newly started initiatives and experienced sport clubs
- Connect refugee/migrant led initiatives with local sport organisations

Finland had as aim to promote linkages not only between refugee/migrant led initiatives and local sport organisations but also with local authorities.

Portugal had as aim of the national meeting to build capacity of the school community, both refugee students and (sport) teachers, in the field of sport and integration.

Ireland has held its national meeting rather on city level than national level. There the focus is on connecting city sport organisations with the (public) city community network.

The meeting in Greece had the focus on exchange of good and bad experiences of (development and sport) organisations, that have already worked quite a bit of time in the field of refugees and sport.

In the project plan was mentioned that supporting refugee sport initiatives with basic sport gadgets should be an aim of the national meeting. Only the meeting in Finland and Ireland contributed to reach this goal and the set results. As mentioned already, for the other partners it was not yet suitable to actively distribute starter packages at the national meeting. They will first make a selection of local sport initiatives, following certain criteria.

All meetings organised the programme in such a way that there was a lot of opportunity for presentations of participants, good/bad examples, dialogue, and networking.

- **Participants**

In the national meetings participated the following organisations:

- Refugee sport initiatives and migrant lead community groups
- Local sport clubs and sport associations
- Local, regional and national public bodies dealing with sport

Most partners also invited refugee themselves, who are involved in sports, to the meetings.

As mentioned Portugal focussed on the school community (students and teachers). In

Finland as well as Ireland also local authorities were present at the meeting.

| Country | Participants | grassroots initiatives | sport org. | other |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hungary | 15 (2 women, 13 men) | 7 | | |
| Austria | 36 (women, 31 men) | 18 | 23 | |
| Finland | 23 (women and men) | | 7 | |
| Portugal | 30 refugees, 9 organisations? | | | Portuguese Inclusion school |
| Greece | 9 (mix) | 5 | 1 | national organisations |
| Ireland | 18 (6 women, 12 men) | 1 city comm network org | 1 sport network | refugee centre |
| Germany | 23 (about 50% women) | 5 | 9 | |

Linkages are made between the participating sport organisations and migrant/grass roots initiatives.

- **Success of the meetings in relation to the goals**

The average score that the partners gave to the national meetings that they organised rated 8,7.

The following successes were mentioned:

- recognition of same experiences and challenges
- discussion about better ways to do things, solutions
- concrete tips and tricks (e.g. how to involve girls)
- organisations get to know each other, learn about and understand each other perspectives, which is the first step to help each other
- organisations know now what other organisations offer, and what they can expect from each other
- awareness raising
- it was a way to transfer the knowledge from activities from the SWR project (like results focus group interviews) to the field

Suggestions for improvement:

- organise these meetings more often
- take more time for discussions
- increase number of participants

Conclusions and recommendations

In relation to the set outcomes for this activity, mentioned in the project plan, it can be concluded that the national meetings have contributed to:

- connect and link grassroots and organised sport
- exchange of good and bad practises between migrant lead clubs and initiatives working with refugees and asylum seekers
- enlarge the understanding about working with newly arrived migrants in sport

Concerning the rate of participation in national meetings, being total 163, this stays behind the target, mentioned in the project plan, which was pointed out to be at least 25 participants per country (8 countries in total 200 participants).

During the second year of the project there is still the opportunity to involve more people and organisations.

As only two countries have started with distribution of starter packages, at this moment it is not clear yet to what extent the participating grassroots initiatives will make use of starter packages, and organise really start up sport activities. Each partner should follow this up!



OVERALL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It should be underlined that all partners collaborate well together, and do their best to contribute to all the work packages and implement activities! In each of the former chapters has been described what worked well in each of the activities and suggestions have been given on how to improve. In addition to this the following general points of attention can be given.

- Most of the activities that were planned for this year have been executed. Though it is a challenge for each partner to keep up with the original planning and to stick to deadlines. So this requires from the partners to plan well ahead the activities for 2018!
- Up till now it happens to be still difficult to involve a reasonable number of women and girls in the local sport activities. So this remains an important point of attention for the partners. They have a task to stimulate local partners to also focus on women's and girls' sport participation!
- Only two countries have started with distribution of starter packages. Don't wait to long for distribution of the packages so that new activities can be set up and refugees can be reached through sport.
- The development of the website is important to reach the set of results for providing a good overview of sports organisations that welcome refugees. All partners should contribute and identify such open sport clubs and list them in order to realise a well-stocked website!