



# “Welcome diversity – Let’s move Europe”

EUROPEAN YOUTH AND SPORT FORUM 2007

17<sup>TH</sup> TO 22<sup>ND</sup> OF JUNE 2007 - BONN, GERMANY

# DECLARATION

## Introduction

The European Youth and Sport Forum 2007 took place from the 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 in Bonn, Germany.

The Forum brought together young people from 22 European countries to discuss and exchange ideas on intercultural communication, discrimination, diversity and social inclusion in sport. The themes of the EYSF2007 were chosen to compliment the German EU-presidency themes including social inclusion and diversity.

The participants engaged in a variety of learning methods, both formal and non-formal. The actions that the participants ask you to implement have been divided into three fields that they feel cut across all of the themes: formal education, non formal education and communication, which are all of equal importance. The participants felt strongly that the principles underlying youth sport should include fair play, tolerance and understanding, and equality through opportunities for all regardless of ability.

The enthusiasm and engagement of the participants throughout the Forum was a credit to them and their countries and the recommendations outlined in this document are wholly those of the participants, arising from their ideas and discussions.

The Declaration reflects the beliefs and desires of young people directly involved in sport and are designed to assist in the development of future policies on sport in Europe.

At a time when physical activity amongst young people is increasingly being discussed in Europe, we hope that the European Commission, the Ministries responsible for sport and youth and sport organisations across Europe will take note of the recommendations.

The participants do not ask you to do this alone; involving local communities and organisations is seen as integral to the success of any work in these areas. For the future it is important that we all work together to achieve our vision of society in Europe.

The case studies provided are examples presented by participants at the Forum. They are projects and programmes that the participants have been directly involved in and in many instances have led to their participation in the Forum. They are offered as examples of successful initiatives involving young people and are recommended for implementation in other European countries.

## The participants of the EYSF2007

## Formal Education

Formal education settings provide a coordinated platform for information and knowledge to be shared. Individuals within youth sport may engage in formal education; and therefore it is an ideal method for the messages of social inclusion, diversity and anti discrimination to reach the maximum audience. Discrimination is learnt throughout life and we believe it should be addressed as early as possible. Sport has the ability to break down these barriers to promote inclusion and diversity.

### Recommendations and actions

1. Create a coordinated system for educating coaches, trainers, teachers and youth workers in social inclusion, diversity and anti discrimination practice.
  - Training in these issues to be included in all teaching and coaching qualifications
  - Ongoing platforms for officially recognised education such as seminars to be made available online and throughout Europe.
2. Include education on social inclusion, diversity and anti discrimination in the curricula.
  - Coordinated approach agreed by supporting networks who work with youth and sport.
  - Enable accredited organisations to have access to schools and universities as a platform where their expertise in working with young people can be utilised.

### Special Olympics Schools Unified Sports® – Sabine Brecklinghaus

Special Olympics schools Unified Sports is one mechanism for promoting social inclusion through sport among youths from special and mainstream school settings. Unified sports is a special Olympics initiative that provides opportunities for sportsmen with intellectual disabilities (called athlete) and without intellectual disabilities (called partners) to play on integrated sport teams.

The goals of the 2005-2006 Schools Unified Sports project were to improve the sport skills, social skills, and self-esteem of students with and without intellectual disabilities. In addition, the project aimed to improve the understanding and acceptance of students without disabilities towards people with intellectual disabilities. The evaluation of the project shows that 900 participants from 5 European countries made significant gains through participating in unified football, including learning new sport skills and increasing their self esteem; they made friends with teammates across disability status; they greatly enjoyed all aspects of their unified football experience – training, competition, and spending time with teammates; they felt that they made important contributions to their team's performance; they placed teamwork, fun and fair play ahead of winning. Though separated by their educational settings, these students with and without intellectual disabilities have come together on the playing field to learn about sport and one another.

[www.specialolympics-eu.org](http://www.specialolympics-eu.org)

## Non-Formal Education

Non formal education and sport have been identified as key methods in the development of understanding and dealing with integration, discrimination and social inclusion issues. Through the Forum and the use of non-formal education the participants have shown that everyone can be included in community and society without discrimination, and thereby celebrating diversity.

### Recommendations and actions:

1. Provide education to parents, teachers, coaches, young people and all people involved in youth sports on the importance of social inclusion, diversity and anti discrimination
  - Provide a package to all parties involved in sport that includes information on these issues.
  - Facilitate the opportunity for peer education on these issues.
2. Enable and encourage intercultural exchanges to facilitate greater understanding among those involved in sport
  - Provide resources and information to enable people to organise and undertake exchanges,
  - Organise more opportunities such as this Forum.

### LOS project of the city of Bonn in co-operation with local sport club SSF Bonn

The LOS project targets young people with fewer opportunities and problematic social behaviour in parts of the city of Bonn, Germany. The project offers sporting opportunities for young men in their neighbourhood. The sport club SSF Bonn provides a facility where youth may gather in a safe environment where they may reach common understanding through sport and develop relationships and friends.

The young people come from various ethnical backgrounds and spend their free time boxing and weight training. This is provided free of charge and facilitated by a coach who is paid by the sports club. The club provides not only opportunities to do sport, but additional social benefits. Life coaching and the development of the young people's social skills is the main aim of the coach. A side effect and strength to the programme is that the young people learn to respect rules for life through their involvement and often apply them in society. The coach comes from a similar background to participants and can relate to the youth as they are members of the same community. He guides them through problematic situations regarding friends, parents, or teachers offering a helping hand they can count on, if they stick to the club rules. A decrease in violence and increase in community welfare is seen as one of the major successes of this project.

## Communication

Communication is seen as one of the most important tools in reaching people across Europe. Used in the right way we believe that communication can help to create a world without discrimination and where the possibilities of social inclusion and diversity may cease to be a utopian ideal but reflect real life. We wish for communication to be used for developing awareness and knowledge in the hope that it will empower society to come together and make our dreams a reality.

### Recommendations and actions:

1. Develop and strengthen links between all organisations, both government and non government, within youth sport.
  - Set up a network with a recognised lead agency for cooperation and coordination of projects.
2. Provide opportunities for networking and the exchange of information for individuals working in youth sport.
  - Promote opportunities that are already available such as European Voluntary Service
  - Establish platforms such as virtual places
3. Request that every country in Europe promotes the messages of social inclusion, diversity and anti discrimination.
  - Introduce a pan European campaign using role models and modern media. Internet communities, instant messaging services and open source concepts can support the campaign.
  - Create a logo that is used and recognised across Europe for example placed on tickets to sports events.

- Create a code of conduct in sport for all people, including politicians, coaches, teachers, athletes, parents and fans.

### From the bench to the pitch – Onur Taylan Erdem

Brøndby IF is a professional football club with approximately 1500 members, of which 30% are of foreign origin. Since 2003, the club has used the project “From the bench to the pitch” to assist immigrants in obtaining full time jobs or trainee jobs.

The project uses its 350 sponsors to provide a unique opportunity for immigrants to be introduced to both companies and job opportunities, providing personal contacts and a job guide. These are networks that the young immigrants would otherwise have difficulty in gaining access to.

The project also matches young immigrants to a mentor; adults with a professional background who are members of networks that the immigrants can use. Young people can establish contact with sponsor’s whose field of work matches their interests. The trust-based relationship between the companies and Brøndby IF provides young people with information and a more direct access to the relevant decision makers in the company.

Since 2003 the project has helped more than 400 people – e.g. members of Brøndby IF, the member’s family, friends, immigrants or other connections – in gaining a job.

[www.fbtb.dk](http://www.fbtb.dk)

## More information

ISCA: [www.isca-web.org](http://www.isca-web.org)

DSJ: [www.dsj.de](http://www.dsj.de)

## sponsors

The European Youth and Sport Forum 2007 is sponsored by

DSJ - Deutsche Sportjugend, DTJ - Deutsche Turnerjugend (German Gymnastic Youth), ENGSO Youth (European Non-Governmental Sports Organisation), ISCA (International Sport and Culture Association)



and by the "All Different - All Equal Campaign". Gefördert durch Mittel des Bundesministeriums für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend.



thank you.  
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