

Summary report

Workshop: „Education through sports“

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Intruduction

Some 14 years after the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina key football stakeholders and human rights groups from nine European countries met in Sarajevo to find practical ways to overcome nationalism and racism in the Western Balkans and Europe in general.

The workshop „Education through sports“ was hosted by the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina and was opened by its Vice president **Bogdan Čeko** and **Walter Posch**, director of the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (vidc). The High Representative and European Union Special Representative in Bosnia & Herzegovina, **Valentin Inzko** also joined the gathering in the Hotel Europe.

In various workshops best practise examples and initiatives were discussed that contribute to overcoming nationalism and racism with an emphasis on initiatives in the field of sports and networking of regional and international players and stakeholders.

The opening session presented international perspectives and contributions by **Patrick Gasser** (UEFA), **Ann de Mol** (King Baudouin Foundation) and **Des Tomlinson** (Football Association of Ireland).

A panel discussion on the positive impact of football in tackling racism and nationalism brought together high level representatives from four football associations in the Balkan region including the General Secretary of the Bosnian FA, **Munib Ušanović**, Croatian FA Security Officer **Zoran Cvrk**, **Vladimir Bulatović** from the Football Association of Serbia and the Head of Competition at the Macedonian FA, **Miroslav Gerovski**. The present director of Partizan Belgrade, **Slavko Drljača** also joined the discussion.

NGOs and human rights groups had their say when the workshop was dealing with best practice in the field of awareness raising and education through sports.

Experienced partner organizations of vidc and members of the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network such as **Saša Dupor** from the Croatian Step Ahead youth association, **Aleksandar Misevski**, Youth Forum Bitola in Macedonia, **Alexander Rakowitz** of the Balkan Alpe Adria Project (Austria/Serbia) and **Ranko Milanovic Blank**, youth initiatives programme consultant of the Norwegian People's Aid in Bosnia & Herzegovina presented their projects and initiatives as innovative best practise examples.

The workshop was organised by vidc in cooperation with the **FARE network** and the **Football Association of Bosnia & Herzegovina** and is financially backed by the **Austrian Development Cooperation**.

Michael Fanizadeh (vidc), **Markus Pinter** (vidc/FARE)

Morning Session:

Chair: Michael Fanizadeh, vidc

Summary of welcome notes:

Bogdan Ćeko, Vice president of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (on behalf of Sulejman Ćolaković, President of the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Mr. Ćeko started by greeting the participants in his own name and on behalf of Sulejman Ćolaković, president of the football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed how satisfied he was to see the workshop organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo. He said that FIFA and UEFA are paying a lot of attention to the problems that will be discussed during the workshop. Mr. Ćeko said that there were no racial issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Problems were more on a national basis, but in the last couple of years the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its national team have showed great progress on every possible level. The last match of the national team in Zenica is the best example. Mr. Ćeko pointed out that Bosnian politics are working against any form of discrimination. At the end he wished all participants a good conference.

Walter Posch, Director, VIDC

At the very beginning Mr. Posch welcomed all participants on behalf of vidc and FARE. He started by explaining the activities and work of his organization. For the past twelve years vidc has been taking action to fight racism in Football. Since 1999 FairPlay-vidc has been coordinating the European network FARE – Football Against Racism in Europe. The network's goal is to make racism and the exclusion of minorities in European football visible and to act against it in order to contribute to establishing and sustaining a human rights standard. At the moment over 250 projects by fans, antiracism football projects, migrant organizations, clubs and player unions in 38 countries are currently part of FARE. One of FARE's most important activities is the annual FARE action week against discrimination in European football and football clubs from Balkan countries have gradually been becoming more and more active in this event during the past.

Further on, Mr. Posch explained the reasons that made his organization get active in the Balkans. The purpose is to encourage clubs and associations to launch their own anti-nationalism/anti-racism programmes and to foster exchange amongst youths in the Balkans and Austria. One of the reasons for choosing the Balkans was also a special connection between countries of Former Yugoslavia and Austria; 200000 people from this area live in Vienna today.

Mr. Posch proceeded with his speech by explaining the reasons for organizing this workshop. He pointed out the need for showing examples of best practice and talking about initiatives and possibilities of networking between active organizers and NGOs, the government and associations. Mr. Posch spoke about racism and discrimination as a global phenomenon. He said that in the period after World War I, not only economic suffering and unemployment but above all racist symbolism and the language assured the storm and enthusiasm of the masses provoked by the Nazis. Mr. Posch spoke about the atrocities committed by the Nazis. He wondered if it is possible for Europeans in democratic countries to live together in peace. Horrible events that happened during the 90s in the Balkans were mentioned and the fact that every nation has to take responsibility for its own history was underlined.

Racism is destructive. It not only creates a void in countries it destroys trust by doing everything to reduce human beings to a one dimensional existence and identity. That is why vidc is active, doing the things they do. With the awareness that they cannot create big change, but with their politics they are making their own contribution to better communication between people from different backgrounds and places and to show racism's horrible face the red card.

At the end Mr. Posch wished everyone a successful conference.

Valentin Inzko, The High representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina

At the beginning, Mr. Inzko expressed his pleasure to be there and underlined the importance of vidc and FARE network activities, because sport is a major tool in connecting different nationalities. For the same reason in 1970 Mr. Inzko established a football club in Klagenfurt, Austria. There were lot of gifted students in southern Austria who were bilingual, speaking Slovenian and German. They were invited to join the club SAK (Slovenian Athletic Club). This club is now playing in the third league in Austria.

Mr. Inzko proceeded with his speech thanking vidc and FARE for inviting him to this workshop. Sport and tourism can be an engine for economic growth of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Inzko expressed his satisfaction to see this seminar organized exactly there. Tourism and sports have a social, economic and political impact which can be either positive or negative. Recently in Mostar, there was an outburst of hooliganism, which was quickly handled by police. Football hooliganism has to be tackled in the proper way, with right policies and severe sanctions for such behavior. In some countries, there are also funds available for the struggle against hooliganism.

Public activities such as sport are a major force for promoting positive and inclusive attitudes. Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as other countries in the region, have much success in football competitions, especially this year and that can be used in positive branding of South-Eastern Europe. At the moment some of the best football players in Europe are from Bosnia and Herzegovina or from the region. Football is an important indicator of the situation in the country and it can play a unifying role in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It can also be a significant instrument to support political endeavors. For example, during the last match of the national team in Zenica against Belgium the whole stadium with mostly Bosnian supporters was chanting the name of the goalkeeper who is Serb. Just a couple of years ago, Bosnians, Serbs and Croats had their own leagues within Bosnia and Herzegovina. But now, they are all playing together in one consolidated national league.

At the end, Mr. Inzko once again highlighted a strong and positive role of football in fighting racism and congratulated the organization on the workshop.

Summary of the opening plenary: Fighting Discrimination, the European perspective



Des Tomlinson, Michael Fanizadeh, Ann de Mol and Patrick Gasser.

Patrick Gasser, UEFA, Football and Social Responsibility

Mr. Gasser expressed his satisfaction to be in Sarajevo and to participate in the workshop and started his speech by describing what has been done in the field of fighting racism in the last ten years.

The first pan-European conference entitled "Unite against racism" was held in London in 2003, followed by the 2006 conference in Barcelona and the last conference of the kind was held this year in Warsaw. During the last conference, main topics were the overview of achievements in the past years and plans for EURO 2012 which will take place in Poland and Ukraine.

Every season UEFA also contributes to the "FARE Action Week" and the third match day of the UEFA Champions League is dedicated to the fight against racism. Social campaigns in form of advertising against racism are regularly present nowadays in stadiums during UEFA matches.

The video "Different Languages. One Goal", promoting the fight against racism, was produced in partnership with FARE and the European Commission and was shown during the EURO 2008 and the Champions League Season 2008/09 on television across Europe. Mr. Gasser also highlighted the influence of television and the importance of social marketing. Severe sanctions were enforced and the president of UEFA Mr. Michel Platini declared zero tolerance for racism.

There was also a UEFA financial fund for social responsibility projects available for all 53 UEFA members. Since July 2008 the new HatTrick Assistance Programme offers all 53 UEFA member associations support for investment programmes mainly aimed at improving

infrastructure and education. Each FA can apply for a maximum of 2.5 Mill €. The new element in the HatTrick programme is that national FAs have to spend 20 % or 500.000 on social or grass roots projects. This means that associations have the possibility to spend up to 20 % on issues such as anti-racism.

Discrimination and racism are first and foremost a problem of society and not of football. There is however a moral duty to fight this problem on a social level. Racism has many faces and each region of Europe has its own problem. Mr. Gasser stated that it is difficult to eradicate racism in society but that it is part of UEFA's social responsibility strategy to campaign against it.

At the end, Mr. Gasser wished a successful conference and offered help and advices. He suggested that all captains should wear armbands against racism.

Question:

Mr. Fanizadeh asked Mr. Gasser for the overview of plans for EURO 2012. He responded that the first step taken by UEFA was the last conference held in Warsaw, Poland. For EURO 2008, UEFA collected licensing fees for public viewing screens and this led to an income of 2000000 swiss francs to be invested in Fan Embassies projects and in antiracism projects for EURO 2012. The social responsibility concept in all its forms is also included in the plans for 2016.

Ann de Mol, King Baudouin Foundation, Belgium

Ann De Mol started by greeting the participants and expressed her satisfaction to see some women participants as well. Mrs. de Mol underlined the fact that she doesn't know the region well but that her knowledge in sport and tackling racism problems can be useful.

King Baudouin Foundation is a non profit organization, established in 1976 by the king of Belgium himself who wanted to improve the situation for the people. This organisation has its own capital; certain amounts come from the national lottery and also from hundreds of individual donors. King Baudouin foundation is independent and has its own board composed of academics, politicians etc. Their annual budget is about 40 million Euros. They are present with their projects in Europe, the Balkans but also in Central Africa. King Baudouin Foundation has its official seat in Brussels and works closely with the European Commission and other European bodies. The actual strategic three year plan (2009-2012) is composed of 10 activities. One of them is special project in the Balkan region and within 3 issues. They are supporting 9 NGO's in assisting the victims of human trafficking and trying to increase student mobility from the Western Balkans toward the European Union. They recently established a European fund for the Balkans whose objective is for the Balkan countries to join the European Union as soon as possible. This fund consists of three foundations (KBF-Belgium, BOSCH-Germany, San Paolo-Italy), and each member puts one million euro every year into this fund. They organize debates and seminars in Brussels for policy makers to tackle the above mentioned issues.

King Baudouin Foundation not only functions as a charity organization, but also advocates and lobbies for a better society. Mrs. De Mol highlighted this fact, as the reason why it is so important to work with different methodologies. They are working with various tools: grants, support of grassroots projects, change of policies, involving the participation of citizens and strategic grants for bigger organizations.

In early 90s they started to work on sports projects where sports served as a successful tool for integrating Turkish and Moroccan minorities. It was not easy to include migrant people in these sport structures, so different campaigns were organized and measures taken to do so. They financially supported various clubs and sport organizations to realize projects to involve the migrant population. They came to the conclusion that sport has an important educational role and that special attention needs to be paid to migrant girls. After several years of work they also figured out that they need migrant coaches and trainers so they launched a new campaign for this purpose. KBF also organized football tournaments in neighborhoods of the big cities together with national the football federation, in order to involve migrants. There was also an infrastructure problem so they used a school's sport facilities in the evening and during the weekends. As the result of this 10 year work, they became a sort of organization-benchmark, succeeded in convincing main stakeholders, organized different programs with local and regional partners and increased the attention of politicians.

In 2001 a new chapter was started when NIKE came to KBF offering a three year financial support for programs where sport acts as a social cohesion tool. In those three years, more than 100 grassroots projects in Belgium were supported. In the period between 2005 and 2009 they worked on increasing employment and training in sports. They provided 45 young people with jobs, organized training after school as a sort of child care and organized training programs for young people interested in sports and tourism.

NIKE again came to the KBF in 2005 with an idea for the "Stand Up Speak Up" program. All this thanks to Thierry Henry, who played for Arsenal at the time and who like other players was a victim of racism. He came to NIKE asking them to take action. The objective was to give a voice to a so called "silent majority", people who are against racism but their voice cannot be heard due to the loudness of racism. The wristband was a symbol of this campaign and it cost 2 Euro. They succeeded in raising 5.000.000 Euros through this campaign. It is difficult to keep the issue of racism on the agenda of politicians, because it is something which often does not get a lot of media attention. The final result was the support of 238 projects in 12 countries, thousands of young people, media, schools, parents and coaches raised awareness for the subject and new networks and initiatives were established etc.

Mrs. De Mol concluded by saying that it is important to continue to fight the racism in sports, because there is a still a lot to do in Europe as well as globally.

Des Tomlinson, Football Association of Ireland

At the beginning Mr. Tomlinson expressed his satisfaction by being in Sarajevo and replied to the comparison between Ireland and the Balkan area saying that there are similarities but that Ireland had changed a lot during the last years.

The national intercultural football program focuses on achieving two things: providing opportunities for people to interact and dealing with racism through football. Their approach is multicultural and provides space for interaction. For example Ireland has a significant number of migrants from Poland. Often they do not speak English, so FAI translates some of its materials in order to allow people to understand what they are doing.

Mr. Tomilson pointed out Nelson Mendela's words that sport can inspire. It can help fight discrimination. This is of course only an aspiration and there has to be a move from aspiration to implementation. Ireland developed a national action plan against racism and it is the key framework document used by the government to promote inclusion and challenge

racism. In 2007, Ireland appointed a first junior minister for its integration policy. FAI developed an intercultural plan and established an advisory board made by NGO's having expertise in fighting racism. The aim and objective of this intercultural plan were to fight against racism in football, to promote minority participation and to develop football culture. This intercultural program touches and influences every other program within FAI. They realized that knowledge, information and contact opportunities are crucial for delivering their strategy.

Mr. Tomlinson highlighted that every stakeholder, from government to referee, has to play his part in fighting the racism. Intercultural awareness raising is the major part of the job done by FAI. They also deal with issues of rulebooks, rule number 73 being that of racism. This rule was adopted by FAI in 2007. Until now three clubs now have been fined for not respecting this rule. They work with national clubs in the fight against racism as well. They encouraged them to adopt the UEFA's 10 points action plan and FAI have made it mandatory for all clubs in the league.

They worked with the Polish community and a friendly match between Ireland and Poland was organized. Mr. Tomlinson showed a video presentation of this activity. He proceeded by explaining their other activities such as work with local support partnerships. In terms of outcome, FAI is looking for a clear pathway into mainstream football opportunities. They are trying to achieve about 10 to 15 percent minority involvement in their activities. There are three programs: a program for children and their parents, young people and adults. Club open days and various activities within these days are organized. Publications for club open days are produced and distributed in 4 different languages. FAI collects data on ethnicity and nationality in order to increase participation of less involved groups. At the end, Mr. Tomlinson thanked the audience for their attention.

Summary of the Panel Discussion: Tackling Racism and Nationalism through football in the Balkans



Slavko Drljača, Zoran Cvrk, Munib Ušanović, Vladimir Bulatović and Miroslav Gerovski.

Munib Ušanović, General Secretary of the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr. Ušanović opened his speech with a definition of racism. He said that racism as a problem doesn't have any roots in Bosnia but is "imported". This "imported" racism appeared on several matches when a player of another colour scores a goal and some supporters made monkey noises, which should be sanctioned by match organizers.

Very severe sanctions are imposed by the Discipline Regulations of the Federation with a purpose of implementing the FIFA requests, that is, sanctioning any person who publicly insults, discriminates or backbites another person in a slanderous way, for racial reasons, because of colour, language, religion or ethnical origin, or if he commits any other discriminating or insulting act, so he will be suspended with at least 5 matches at any level. The committer will be banned to enter any stadium and fined with 20.000 CHF. But if a committer is a football official, the fine will be at least 30.000 CHF. The same will be implemented for fans.

Mr. Ušanović pointed out that Bosnia and Herzegovina is among the youngest associations in Europe but for sure with least percentage of racism and significant percentage of nationalism.

He mentioned two contradictory examples:

Four years ago the Bosnian national team played a friendly match in Sarajevo with Serbia and Montenegro without any special difficulty or problem. However when they played an official match with the same national team a few years ago in Belgrade, about 15.000 fans of Serb nationality from Bosnia went to Belgrade to support against Bosnia, and they caused huge problems sanctioned by FIFA.

On the contrary, at the last match between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belgium, the entire stadium, mostly Bosniac nationality supported the head coach who is, by the way, Croat nationality and the goalkeeper who is Serb nationality, which represented a big step for solving the accumulated problems of such kind.

A banner saying "Stop Nationalism and Racism", has been regularly used at all matches, even at "A" matches.

Regardless of the last happenings within Ex-Yugoslavia, Bosnian national teams and clubs at all age levels played many friendly matches with teams from Serbia, Montenegro and Croatia for conciliation and tolerance, as well as part of a campaign against nationalism.

Furthermore, the Football Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded each year in the Executive Board and the General Assembly, which have been absolutely mixed, to unanimously adopt all reports and documents, especially the statutes, with a notice that they were the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina to come together and compromise for tolerance, which is completely different from all other subjects within all life and work areas. Mr. Ušanović also stated a successful campaign slogan: against nationalism - by football.

At the end, Mr. Ušanović highlighted the visa problems for Bosnian players, non-existence of Ministry of Sports on the state level and high taxes on equipment as the key issues of the Football Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

Miroslav Gerovski, Head of Competition, Football Federation of Macedonia

Mr. Gerovski congratulated the organizers of the workshop. The problem discussed during the workshop are directly connected with the job performed by Mr. Gerovski. He insisted on separating the notion of racism and nationalism. During the matches of the Macedonian national team and those of all Macedonian leagues, racism as a problem doesn't exist at all. But there is another problem, created by fans, and this problem is nationalism. The Football federation of Macedonia, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Agency for Young People and Sport are successfully preventing outbursts of nationalism in stadiums through seminars and workshops.

Question:

Mr. Fanizadeh asked Mr. Gerovski about integration projects for the Roma community through football in Macedonia. Mr. Gerovski answered that the Roma community in Macedonia is included in football activities as much as the other ethnic groups are. There are no problems whatsoever; one former Yugoslav football player was a Macedonian Roma and today in Macedonia there are Roma players in both the first and second league.

Zoran Cvrk, Security Officer of the Croatian Football Federation

Mr. Cvrk greeted the participants on behalf of Croatian Football Federation. He continued his speech by pointing out the match Croatia-Turkey, where there was an outburst of Nazism and racist insults by some of the Croatian fans. In consequence, the Croatian Football Federation was fined with 100.000 Euros. The important thing is that they are aware of this problem and that clubs' fans are very different from national team fans.

In order to improve the situation, Croatia took an entire set of measures, changed laws on this matter and introduced more severe sanctions in the new regulation code of the Croatian Football Federation. This new regulation code emphasizes the role of the organizer and underlines that any intolerant behaviour of fans is unacceptable. Because of the above mentioned outbursts, Croatia is one of the rare countries in the region with the possibility to play its matches without fans.

Concerning racism under directives of FIFA and UEFA, the Croatian Football Federation changed its discipline code. This new code previews serious sanctions (such as playing three matches without supporters), within national clubs for racist and discriminative behaviour. Lately, a lot of attention is being paid to work with fan groups. According to new rules, every football club must have an action plan of work with fans. The Football Federation of Croatia is fully participating annually in the FARE action week. They also participated in organizing of Fan Embassies for EURO 2008. A national supporter group "Always Faithful" has been formed and its statute is in line with antiracism and antidiscrimination practices. FARE activities have also been promoted through qualification games. The Football Federation of Croatia has 24 different national teams and among them, priests, women and one of the youngest ones: a Roma national team. The World Cup of Roma national teams was organized last year in Split. One of the UEFA HatTrick programs was developed in Croatia. Mr. Cvrk concluded by saying that football is a "mirror of society" and that Croatia will be a real European country only when it will have answers to all forms of intolerant behavior.

Question:

Mr. Fanizadeh asked Mr. Zvrk for more details concerning work with fans. Mr. Zvrk said that all forms of communication with fans are available. Through the national supporter group "Always faithful" they are trying to assure its independent functioning through the Croatian Football Federation. One of these independent activities is "good manner supporting rules", created by a Croatian language professor. Through the national supporter group "Always faithful", the Croatian Football Federation has a better view on what's happening on stadiums and prevents possible outbreaks of intolerance more easily.

Vladimir Bulatović, Football Association of Serbia

The Serbian Football Association has completely eliminated the question of nationalism over the past years. Their main problem is the weak participation of supporters during the matches. At the same time that's the reason why nationalism and racism are not present anymore in stadiums. The racist incident provoked by fans of FC Borac, Cacak was severely sanctioned by the Association. In the past years, a lot of players came from Africa and Brazil, but racist incidents haven't been noticed so far. The Football Association of Serbia has full legal support and the support of the Ministry of Sport.

The Serbian Football Association's most serious problem at the moment is the matches of the national team abroad where the supporters are mostly the Serbian Diaspora. They are trying to pass the message to fans that only fair and tolerant supporting really stimulates players on the field. Before every match abroad a promotional brochure containing 11 rules is distributed to fans. Among these rules, the first one on the list is to say no to racism. They are planning to introduce advertising billboards with famous Serbian players like Vidić and Stanković who invite the fans to support their team in a fair and correct way.

At the end, Mr. Bulatović was thankful for the opportunity to present the actual situation and issues of the Serbian Football Association and expressed his hopes to take maximum advantage of this workshop.

Question:

Mr. Fanizadeh asked Mr. Bulatović about their application for new HatTrick program in the next several years and if antiracism and social issues are part of this program. Mr. Bulatović said that antiracism concepts are the central part of every program they have. They are trying to build the awareness of this problem also at the youngest population level.

Slavko Drljača, Director, FK Partizan Belgrade

Mr. Drljača started by presenting club activities. The reason for collaborating with vidc and FARE was to overcome racism and discrimination problems. FK Partizan is supporting all FARE activities. Mr. Drljača highlighted the official title of the workshop saying that it is just what this region needs: education. Generally speaking, there is no racism problem apart from those two incidents in Cacak. In that occasion FK Partizan supported the player who was attacked. FK Partizan doesn't have problems with players of other nationalities and was always a multiethnic and multinational club. Problems of the club are connected with fan groups; there we see nationalism outbursts during matches with former Yugoslav republics. Fans know that behaving in such way can be only harmful to the club or national team, however they keep doing it. It will take time and the right education to resolve this problem. Mr. Drljaca expressed his dissatisfaction by the incident that happened in Mostar, even if the sanctioning of the club was the right thing to do from the point of rules and ethics. Even though Partizan scored 11 goales and their oponent scored only 1, Partizan was eliminated. In total FC Partizan has paid approximately 500.000 Swiss Francs for various fines.

FK Partizan works closely with fan groups. He described this work as very difficult and not always successful. This is a long term collaboration, but FK Partizan can never be sure what they did and how well they did it. However in the last two years, there have been some results. Mr. Drljaca gave the example of basketball club Partizan, which is fully supported by its fans and where incidents never happened. Thanks to these fans, KK Partizan is among the best basketball clubs in Europe, despite its tiny budget.

FK Partizan has a great collaboration with the entire FARE network. For the occasion of FARE Action Week, they created a very successful slogan: "We don't divide black and white, we unite". This slogan is very symbolic and has a strong antiracism and club supportive message at the same time.

Mr. Drljača underlined the existence of 71 clubs of friends of FK Partizan. They came up with this idea exactly in the moment when they were experiencing problems with fans. FK Partizan is planning to double the number of these clubs and is ready to pay for their transport and tickets to make them come to matches. The objective is to show the fan groups that they are not only supporters of the club.

FK Partizan is working in elementary schools as well. Visits of professional football players and matches are organized and gifts and brochures about FK Partizan are distributed. At the end of all the annual activities a kids' tournament is organized under the slogan "Welcome to Black and White Family".

At the end, Mr. Drljača stressed the value of this workshop and exchange of experiences in general.

Afternoon Session:
Chair: Markus Pinter, vidc

Summary of the Panel Discussion: Awareness raising trough education and sports



Saša Dupor, Ranko Milanović Blank, Aleksandar Misevski and Alexander Rakowitz.

Alexander Rakowitz, Balkan Alpe Adria Project, Austria/Serbia



Mr. Rakowitz pointed out that with the European wide Action Week against racism in football in 2003 BAAP has established partnerships with NGOs, clubs and football associations in the Balkans and organised several activities with these partners to fight racism and nationalism with support from FARE. The activities had been intensified through the partnership with the King Baudouin Foundation in the framework of NIKE's "Stand Up Speak Up"-campaign since 2006. Today's workshop is for him the logical next step to develop new partnerships and projects and to organise joint activities.

Mr. Rakowitz then briefly summarized the main activities of BAAP last year: Following the successful initiation of a campaign against nationalism in the Balkans in 2006 the activities were set to continue in August 2008 with two youth tournaments and a youth camp. BAAP's activities in 2008 got under way with a tournament in the Serbian town of Kragujevac in August 2008, when youth teams from Serbia and Bosnia took on a team of Roma from Slovakia. The event continued with a game between a multi-ethnic eleven and a women's team from Kragujevac. Workshops and discussions also offered an opportunity for a more detailed exchange of views on racism and nationalism. Additionally a press conference was organized with the mayor of Kragujevac, officials of the supporting club FK Kragujevac and FARE in the forefront of the event.

Later the event uprooted to Cetinje in Montenegro, where with the support of the Montenegrin Football Association a youth camp was held. Teams from Mostar (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and Montenegro celebrated a festival against racism, chauvinism and intolerance in the Balkans. Besides the youth camp a tournament with other teams from the Balkans has also being organised in Podgorica.

To accompany these youth events BAAP has produced a FARE information brochure containing statements by leading players against racism and nationalism in the Balkans that has also been used in school workshops.

BAAP has also hosted a "Fan Friendly" tournament against racism and discrimination in cooperation with the Football Association of Ireland and the Football Association of Montenegro during the FIFA World Cup qualifying match between Montenegro and the Republic of Ireland in September 2008. Also in the evening at the World Cup qualifying there have been activities against racism and discrimination in the stadium such as banners and cards against racism as well as announcements.

Mr. Rakowitz concluded by expressing his hopes to see more similar events and more unity in the future.

Saša Dupor, NGO Step Ahead, Croatia



Mr. Dupor presented the activities of the last five years such as working on promotion of tolerance among different national groups and initiatives for tolerance on the football field as well as in society. At the match Hajduk- Rijeka there was a slogan "Stop Racism". In 2005 they organized a match Ladies vs. Gentlemen, female national team vs. politicians, with the participation of NGOs. They are working on promotion of sports among the Roma population. NGO Steap Ahead also organized mini tournament of supporters of Croatia vs. supporters of England. There was an exchange of supporting habits of Croatian and English supporters.

60 of their volunteers went to Klagenfurt to help host the EURO. They organized various activities like web-portal, info center, lost and found, open phone lines... to help the supporters.

Their proposed program:

- Education through live discussion,
- National fan conference,
- WEB portal,
- Fan's embassy

Aleksandar Misevski, President, Youth Forum Bitola, Macedonia



The Youth Forum Bitola has been in existence for ten years and its objective is on human rights and tolerance. They work through culture arts (theatre, film, video...) and also organize various sports activities between different ethnic groups as a best tool for fighting against discrimination of all kinds. The organization considers it as the most effective way for future prevention of racism, if you bring small kids to implement some activities together. They are constantly exchanging ideas with other EU members also through their volunteer exchange programme sent a lot of young people from Macedonia abroad. Mr. Misevski highlighted the fact that a majority of Macedonian youngsters never went abroad and volunteer exchanges present a great opportunity for them to learn about new cultures.

Youth Forum Bitola is fighting for free flow of information and new ideas. They are editing a youth magazine, BLOK where youth can express their ideas which are not available in mainstream media. We have an ambition for a football academy for different ethnic groups whose projects can be implemented with support from the UEFA program. The idea was presented in front of all participants and the representative of the Macedonian Football federation agreed to support the project.

Mr. Misevski pointed out that all their members and sympathizers are very enthusiastic about implementing awareness on human rights and tolerance and they have a plan for the near future to implement various projects against racism besides FARE action week in which they have taken part for 5 year's.

Ranko Milanović Blank, Youth Initiatives Program Consultant, Norwegian People's Aid, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mr. Milanović Blank presented the work of Norwegian People's Aid, active in the Balkans since 1993 and having different programs in various sectors like: mine action, media, youth initiative, refugees etc. He spoke about ethnic problem as a problem of society in the region. There is also a machismo phenomenon which means gender issues.

Focus: Anti discrimination initiative

- Establishing communication between youth of different ethnicities,

- Mapping of discriminatory actions.

How do they do it:

- Street actions,
- Public debates,
- Surveys, polls, research,
- Media campaigning,
- Festivals/ engaged art,
- Visit exchanging,
- Promotional material dissemination.

Question:

Des Tomlinson asked Ranko Milanovic Blank following question: How does NPA work with institutions to fight nationalism and racism?

Mr. Milanović Blank answered that NPA mostly doesn't work directly with institutions but there are some points where they work next to each other. Mr. Milanovic Blank also said that he is hoping for an adoption of antidiscrimination laws, through first mapping discriminative behavior in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Summary of questions and comments:



Vladan Ivanović, Montenegro Football Association

Mr. Ivanović said that Montenegro has the youngest football association in Europe, however their sport experts are experienced and willing to work, cooperate and share experiences.

There are some foreign players with a different skin color in Montenegro; however Montenegro doesn't have any racial problems so far. Those players are well accepted and supporters, as well as fellow players, are proud to have them. Nationalism also is not a problem. He gave a positive example of FC Jezero, where the football club in the mono ethnic city consists entirely of players of another ethnic group and is still fully supported by fans.

This workshop is a precious experience because Montenegro is a young country and has the youngest football association.

Anders Levinsen, Open Fun Football Schools, Denmark

Mr. Levinsen spoke about his impressions on how war divides people and about the idea that he had for a program that would mix children of different ethnic groups. From 1998 till 2008 Open Fun Football School spread across almost all ex Yugoslavian countries. Their activities are:

- Bringing children to football clubs,
- Training coaches,
- Encouraging the implementation of football in the local area,
- Using football in building relationships and confidence between different people.

Until now 200000 children went to Open Fun Football School and they are planning the same project in Iraq. In his opinion, a solution for the problem of discrimination and racism in sports is in the constant dialogue at the same time among all stakeholders. Football is a platform to bond and all stakeholders have to encourage and facilitate activities that can create that platform.

Raffaella Chiodo, Unione Italiana Sport Per Tutti

Mrs. Chiodo started with a video presentation of activities of her organization. Racial issues in Italy are not only expressed by the people but also by some institutions and they are fighting for the practice of sport and against the social exclusion. They are currently implementing a program against human trafficking in Mozambique.

Mrs. Chiodo also appealed for help by Mr. Gasser, concerning the lack of reaction to racist behavior and the lack of willingness to cooperate both expressed by Italian Football Association. Mr. Gasser promised to provide it.

Hasan Šišić, Sports Association City of Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Mostar was divided for a long time but not between the sport activists. The Sport federation in Mostar is working as one body. Mostar became the city of sport and the city of good people. Children of all ethnic groups are working one and so are the coaches. He pointed out the importance of the collaboration with sports activists in Kragujevac, Serbia and Split, Croatia.

Mr. Šišić said that sport federations from all over the world may take the sport federation of Mostar as an example of how to work together and how to implement the true sport values and they cannot be lacking in the results.

Željko Todorovic, FK Kragujevac, Serbia

Kragujevac and Mostar are brother cities and are going to Vienna together to a tournament "Vienna Meets Balkan".

Even though the NATO bombing in 1999 destroyed the industry of Kragujevac its sport life continued to work. Of course those were the harsh times but sport life did not vanish.

Kragujevac is highly supportive towards its sportsmen and sportswomen and is paying all the expenses for all of them. It also has a Roma football club „Zvezda“ which exists since the 1920s and is the oldest Roma club in Serbia. Roma football club " Zvezda" is part of the

history of the town of Kragujevac and the citizens are aware and proud of that fact. Mr. Todorovic said that there is no place for any racial or ethnic issues in the city of Kragujevac.