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Recommendations for National, Regional and Local Decision-Makers on Social Inclusion of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities in Mainstream Sport

Sport can help Europe and its Member States to address some of the challenges related to the integration of people from less privileged groups, such as migrants and persons of foreign origin. “Creating a Level Playing Field” was a project on social inclusion steered by ENGSO, the European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation. This project received an EU grant in 2010 as part of the preparatory actions in the field of sport under the theme of social inclusion in and through sport. It was implemented in cooperation with 11 organisations across Europe during the period from January 2011 to April 2012.

These recommendations will serve politicians and public authorities at the national, regional and local level in developing their own policies or programmes in order to promote social inclusion of immigrants and persons of a foreign origin in a coherent and sustainable manner.

National/ Regional Level

- > Develop, implement and evaluate a strategic policy plan regarding social inclusion of migrants and ethnic minorities in sport, e.g., in terms of positioning mainstream sport
- > Establish partnerships with and stimulate coordination between different stakeholders regarding migrants and ethnic minorities in sport (e.g., governments, federations, NGOs, etc.) in terms of capacity building and competence development
 - *Consult relevant stakeholders, in particular organisations dealing with migrants and ethnic minorities*
 - *Provide necessary facilities*
 - **Education and competence training** for coaches, leaders, referees, trainers etc. to develop intercultural skills

Local Level

- > Stimulate **collaboration** between different policy domains and complementary and mutually reinforcing relevant partners (multi-sector) with clearly defined distribution of tasks and responsibilities
 - *e.g., by means of subsidisation policy*
- > Design **flexible and innovative programs and facilities** adjusted to the local environment that take into account the characteristics of the target group, the setting, the goals and with an emphasis on accessibility and sustainability
 - *e.g. plan sport facilities taking into account the special needs of target groups*
- > Stimulate and support organisations in the **creation of 'developmental' opportunities**
 - *e.g. through active engagement, volunteer work, guidance, intercultural training*
- > Create **systems of cost reduction** for sport participation of migrants and ethnic minorities
 - *e.g. leisure pass, public transport reduction, child care, equipment*
- > Consider social inclusion in tenders for sports financing
 - *Facilitate the work of local actors by providing coordination, dissemination, access to consultation and collecting data on social inclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants in sport*