

## Study Visit at the German Olympic Sports Confederation in the Frame of “Creating a Level Playing Field”

### Visiting Partners

- Bulgarian Ski Federation (BSF)
- Olympic Committee of Slovenia - Association of Sport Federations (OCS – ASF)

### Date and Place

- 12 - 13 July 2011
- Otto-Fleck-Schneise 12, Frankfurt/ Germany

### Participants

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Aff	Barbara	DOSB, Steering Committee European Women and Sports
Althammer	Norbert	SKG Sprendlingen, Local Project Coordinator "Network Project"
Andreeva	Mila	Bulgarian Ski Federation, International and PR Manager
Axmann	Gitta	DOSB, Head of Office, Gender Mainstreaming and Women Equality
Curtius	Johannes	DOSB, Programme Manager International Relations
Dietzen	Stephan	DOSB, EOC EU Office, Policy Officer
Dimitrova	Veneta	Bulgarian Ski Federation
Fehres	Karin	DOSB, Director Sports Development
Janković	Sandra	Olympic Committee of Slovenia - Association of Sport Federations
Krušič	Katarina	Olympic Committee of Slovenia - Association of Sport Federations
Strauch	Melanie	ENGSO, CLPF Project Manager
Vogl	Stephan	DOSB, Programme Manager "Integration through Sports"

## I. STUDY VISIT SUMMARY

- **Monday, 11 July 2011**

The first section of the study visit included a welcome by the German Olympic Sports Confederation and intercultural activities focusing on getting to know each other.

It further contained an exchange about the participating sport organizations:

- a) **The German Olympic Sports Confederation** providing an introduction to the organization including its structure, financial conditions and programs in the field of social inclusion.
- b) **The Olympic Committee of Slovenia - Association of Sport Federations** conducting a project for Yugoslavian communities in a neighborhood of Ljubljana with 15 social workers, using sport as a medium to reach young people.
- c) **The Bulgarian Ski Federation** introducing the structure of the BSF and its aim to promote winter sports by two inclusion projects: 1.) Skiing courses for Roma kids and 2.) Skiing courses for deaf people.

The following status quo on inhabitants with migration background among the project countries (about 20%) was elaborated:

Germany: mainly Turkish and former Soviet Union communities  
Slovenia: mainly Former Yugoslavian communities (Croatia, Serbia, etc.)  
Bulgaria: mainly Roma people and a population of Muslim Bulgarians

The afternoon session provided more detailed information on "Social Inclusion – Policy and Projects" of the German Olympic Sports Confederation. Stephan Vogl introduced the program "Integration through Sports" and provided a definition on social inclusion and integration along with further information on the financial situation, structure, implementation and content of the project and aspects of integration work with regards to a) Base Clubs b) Ambassadors / Testimonials c) Qualification, Education d) A "Lighthouse-project" More volunteers with migration background in sports e) A network project for women with a migration background.

Gitta Axmann gave a more detailed overview of this network project "More Migrant Women in Sports", introducing good practices with regards to the project idea, its research situation, aims, implementation and conflict solutions.

- **Tuesday, 12 July 2011**

The second day of the seminar contained a field visit to the local Sports Club "SKG Sprendlingen", functioning as a partner of the network-project "More Migrant Women in Sports". Mr. Althammer and Mr. Schroeder from the SKG Sprendlingen as well as Ms. Kanisicak from the advisory board of foreigners in Offenbach county provided first-hand knowledge, experience and advice to the group. This contained information of collaboration with network partners, suggestions for future work and a visit to the different facilities.

## II. CONCLUSIONS AND EVALUATION

The study visit has successfully provided information on the social inclusion projects conducted in Germany and by the visiting organizations and gave opportunities for peer learning. Objectives were

in particular met by exchanging information on programs and discussing their current status and possibilities for enhancement. In the example of Slovenia, an idea could be to work together with additional partners in order to initiate synergetic effects in terms of money or human resources.

The study visit was composed of three very different partners with each different roles: The DOSB functioning as an umbrella organization with a perspective on all aspects of sports, the Bulgarian Ski Federation with a focus on Bulgarian skiing sports, and a network partner of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and the Association of Sport Federations. In this context, the comparison of projects and transmission of knowledge would have been more efficient between organizations with similar functions. I.e., the German Ski Federation might have been an ideal partner for the Bulgarian Ski Federation.

However, feedback from the participants underlined the concrete insights, useful theory and practical ideas they could gather during the seminar and field visit of a sports club and its social inclusion initiatives.

### **Suggestions for Future Study Visits and Conferences**

- A need to define the term “social inclusion” in all delegations, particularly at the beginning of a seminar (For both visiting partners, social inclusion had a different meaning and therefore practical implementation.)
- Provide more detailed information about the funding of programs in the scope of EU activities
- Integrate practical units of intercultural learning on social inclusion to assume an own attitude towards people with a migration background

*Person in charge of the report: Gitta Axmann*