

## Study Visit at the Regional Government of Styria and the Caritas Styria in the Frame of “Creating a Level Playing Field”

### Visiting Partners

- Finnish Sports Federation (SLU)
- Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports

### Date and Place

- 17-20 May 2011
- Jahngasse 1, Graz/ Austria

### Participants

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
Beurling	Juha	Finnish Sports Federation
Hirschböck	Thomas	Regional Government of Styria, Department of Sports, Project Manager
Jäger	Thomas	Caritas Styria, SIQ! Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports
Johnsen	Kent-Rune	Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports
Landvik	Kathe	Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee and Confederation of Sports
Lanzmaier-Ugri	Katharina	Integration City Tours, Graz
Loibner	Michael	Female Basketball Sports Club Graz
Maijala	Hanna-Mari	Finnish Sports Federation, Resarch Center for Sport and Health
Mandl	Benjamin	Regional Government of Styria, Department of Sports
Mayer	Fritz	Taekwondo – Speedkickers Feldbach
Richter	Andrea	Caritas Styria, SIQ!
Schmied	Harald	Caritas Styria, Homeless World Cup
Teichmann	Michael	Caritas Styria, SIQ!

## I. STUDY VISIT SUMMARY

- **Wednesday, 18 May 2011**

After participants have arrived on Tuesday, 17 May 2011, the first day of the seminar included workshops and a panel discussion on the topic of "Muslim Girls and Sport" at the Caritas institution in Graz, the workplace of SIQ! (sports - integration – qualification). This session was conducted by Thomas Jäger from the Caritas of Styria. Different perspectives and problem solutions were presented by all project partners and could be shared and compared.

- **Thursday, 19 May 2011**

In the morning, the group visited the department of sports of the Regional Government of Styria with its training facilities and sports courts.

In this context, the initiative "Taekwondo" aiming at joining young migrant people and their families with locals by the aid of sports clubs was presented. It provides an opportunity to establish acceptance and enhance self-development in the community or city through combat sports by saying "yes" to power and "no" to violence, thus developing a positive perception towards one's own body.

Through workshops and associated work in clubs such as organizing events or creating event invitations contact between families and local residents can be established.

In the afternoon, the group watched a basketball training session integrating girls and boys with a migration background. This provided space for open discussions with coaches and athletes.

- **Friday, 20 May 2011**

The fourth day included the presentation on the global project "Homeless World Cup", a soccer tournament for homeless people. Harald Schmied, founder of the initiative, presented the programme to the audience. The initiative has been established in 2003 in Graz along with the nomination of the European Cultural Capital 2003. Since then, it has been conducted on a worldwide scale such as Kapstadt, Mailand or Paris. Its success is also mirrored by the reception of the UEFA charity award in 2005. In addition, a recently published study illustrated that the living conditions of two thirds of the homeless participants have significantly enhanced throughout the project life cycle.

## II. CONCLUSIONS AND EVALUATION

The objectives to share experience, establish contact with organizations active in social inclusion through sports and getting together with immigrants in the town of Graz have been successfully met. The varied and elaborate programme of the Austrian organizers has touched on ideas and examples of regional good practice initiatives that participants could learn from and take back to their organizations. Partners from Finland and Norway were very satisfied with the visit, its arrangements, content and learning output.

*Persons in charge of the programme and report: Thomas Hirschböck, Thomas Jäger*