

„MigrAtion and SporTs – a CHallenge for Sports Associations and Trainers”

Report from the peer review meeting UK-HR

The 1st peer review meeting of project partners was held on the 3rd of April 2013 in Zagreb, Croatia. The Croatian Olympic Committee was hosting a bilateral meeting with the CVS Broxbourne and East Herts from Ware, UK. Besides the representatives of the Croatian Olympic Committee and CVS Broxbourne and East Herts, the other participants were the representatives of the National Federations (badminton, hockey, cycling) and the Croatian Olympic Academy who is in charge of the education in the field of sport in Croatia.

The main goals of this meeting were: learning from the exchange of the approaches and experiences in the field of integration of migrants through sporting activities, exchange of experiences, knowledge and competencies about intercultural issues, and developing key competencies of the key stakeholders in the Croatian sport system.

The peer review meeting was a successful learning process for the Croatian participants considering the level of knowledge and competence of the UK partner in the field of migrants' integration. Their attitudes and insights were greatly appreciated by the Croatian participants and it helped raise awareness of migration issues in Croatia.



The following topics were on the agenda:

1. Presentation of the project “Migration and sports – a challenge for sport associations and trainers”
2. Presentation of the work and actions of the representatives of sport associations in the field of integration of migrants through sport
3. Presentation of the work and actions of the partner organisation CVS Broxbourne and East Herts
4. Exchange of practices and views about the contribution and impact of sport on the integration of migrants in the Croatian society
5. Q&A

The participants have agreed that sport attracts European citizens, with a majority of people taking part in sporting activities on a regular basis. It generates important values such as team spirit, solidarity, tolerance and fair play, contributing to personal development and fulfilment. Sport involves people regardless gender, race, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and social or economic background. Active and passive sport participation can contribute to this processes and foster teamwork, solidarity, tolerance and fair play in a multicultural context.

However, representatives of the National Federations have expressed their concerns regarding the limitations they face in finding resources for additional activities, i.e. raising awareness and/or organizing sport activities for migrants. They have showed appreciation for the topic and a general interest in getting involved in the action provided they receive adequate support. They have raised the question of support by the governing bodies that finance either projects in sport or projects designed specifically for migrants.

In conclusion, it is important to strengthen the role of sport in the process of integration of migrants. However, there needs to be more support for developing intercultural competencies and other related preparatory actions.

For CVS Broxbourne and East Herts this was an opportunity to exchange views and ideas about the integration of migrants with the representatives of the Olympic movement in Croatia, as well as to create foundations for future partnership. Representatives of the Croatian sport associations and educational institution appreciated the opportunity to

learn from the practical experiences of the guest organization from the UK. They have been able to hear about practices from out of sport that could be easily translated and implemented in sport associations as well.



On the 2nd day of the visit from the UK partner, they have met with the leadership of the Croatian Olympic Committee and discussed the needs for the development of the intercultural competencies in the field of sport in Croatia. This meeting provided a platform for an in-depth discussion and future cooperation between organizations. The UK and Croatian partners have established a good connection and decided to keep working together on developing intercultural competencies not only through this project but in the years to come, especially in the light of the accession of Croatia to the European Union when Croatia can begin to experience more immigration.

The visit had a special dimension since it took place in the last phase of the preparations of Croatia to join the EU in July 2013. This meeting created an „added value“ to the accession of Croatia to the EU by raising awareness of the opportunities for EU funding and cooperation with other stakeholders from EU Member States.



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