

Activity, Sport and Play for the Inclusion of Refugees in Europe - ASPIRE

Coordinator

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Summary

In the light of the well-known migrant and refugee crisis, in the course of which more than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe only in 2015, ASPIRE could serve as a pioneer in long-term perspective, offering a solution for inclusion during and after the settlement of refugees, when it comes to facilitate the access of refugees to social services.

ASPIRE has the main aim to offer suitable participation opportunities for refugees in and through sport, physical activity and play. This aim can be best achieved by the development and implementation of a training module that is based on underpinning evidence and enhances the skills and competences of facilitators in sport organisations how to adapt existing coaching activities to the specific context of refugees and migrants. The training module, developed by experts in the field, such as ICSSPE, Caritas Styria and ENGSO, promotes the psychosocial support of refugees and intercultural dialogue between refugees and host communities, and takes shape in the form of a handbook with accompanying video clips. It also compiles innovative cross-sectorial approaches for sports organisations to make sport more accessible and meet today's expectations towards them with regard to health-enhancement, social inclusion, employment, etc.

The implementation occurs through the organisation of training sessions for national or regional sport umbrella organisations in 9 European countries with a wide geographical coverage, which are at the end awarded with a refugee-friendly quality symbol. The project also provides guidance how to organise training sessions in the form of a brochure. Continuous awareness-raising and dissemination activities are integral part of the project, for which project partners' networks are used, especially that of the Council of Europe, European Lotteries and ENGSO to create a strong link with the grassroots level.

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