

ETHNIC MINORITIES SELF-EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FOOTBALL



FARE believes in the ability of sport to tackle social exclusion. We have supported groups from an ethnic minority background and sought to empower migrants and refugees since the network was established. Amongst the ethnic minority groups active this year:

The Center also participated in *Think And Draw Together*, an event organised by the Congress of National Minorities of Ukraine which brought together youth groups, refugees and various ethnic minorities for workshops on combating discrimination in sport. Participants designed t-shirts and created a banner in support for Olaolu Femi, a Nigerian student in Lugansk charged with assault after defending himself during a xenophobic attack.



University of Athens students Roma project, Greece

As austerity measures in Greece place marginalised groups at greater risk of becoming entirely excluded from mainstream society and some political parties ferment tensions that are leading to increased racial attacks, there are also new social projects responding.

A group of students at the International Studies department of the University of Athens launched an *Education for Roma children* project in the Roma camp of the district of Halandri, which has been repeatedly targeted by the far-right Golden Dawn party. The students organised an activity day and a football match with an anti-racist message to the district.

The young people, who are confined to the camp, made their own banners and medals for the match and experienced the inclusive power of football beyond barriers of race, borders and nationality.

African Centre Kiev, Ukraine

The African Centre represents migrants to Ukraine of many African and Asian countries. For the 2012 Action Weeks they organised a football tournament in co-operation with the Dombass National Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture with participants from Angola, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Congo, D. R. Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and locals from the Donetsk region.

Representatives distributed flyers promoting diversity and mutual understanding; spoke about the reality of racism and intolerance in everyday life and encouraged members of the public to join them.

African Care Ry, Finland

Founded in 2001 by African women working in the health and social sector in Helsinki, African Ry is committed to empowering women, in particular from African communities, in Finland.



To encourage women and girls from immigrant and refugee communities to try out football, African Care Ry facilitated a discussion for grassroots organisations working with women and girls to devise better ways of targeting female migrants to participate in football and other sports. The well-attended meeting yielded positive results with the group now working with the Helsinki City school board.

An open football taster session was the second part of the activity. The event was open to the wider community, male and female players with South American and European migrants attending the session.

Black and Asian Coaches Association, England

The Black and Asian Coaches Association (BACA) held a training session and panel discussion that focused on the safeguarding of young players from minority communities. Youth players, their parents, and coaches across London joined a panel discussion, featuring Clark Carlisle, professional footballer and Chairman of the PFA, the English players union.

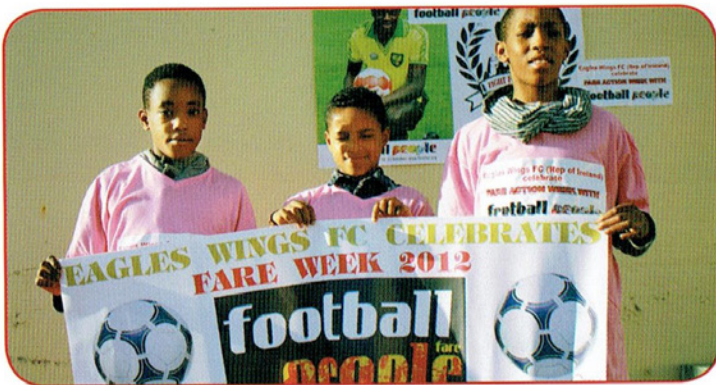


The south London group also invited young players and their parents from the ethnically diverse neighbourhood to the local community sports centre to take part in inter-cultural training. The children were taught footballing skills and techniques with Clark Carlisle leading the session, but also the importance of commitment and determination, using his own life as evidence for achieving success.

BACA's activities were aimed at making young athletes aware of the values that can come from football, irrespective of the prospect of being involved in professional football.

The Eagles Wings Youth Club, Ireland

The Eagles Wings celebrated the Action Weeks with a series of activities in their local youth club in Louth, Ireland.



The group, which brings together migrants and local youth, ran football matches in local schools with coaching classes with pupils from both Irish and ethnic minority backgrounds.

After a week of sporting activities, the groups came together at a joint dinner party at the youth club for an open discussion to exchange ideas and make suggestions for future events.

Centre for the Rights and Interests of Indigenous Roma, Moldova

The Support and Protection Centre for the Rights and Interests of Indigenous Roma, which works for the empowerment of Moldova's national minority, joined FARE in 2012 for the first time.

Embracing the *Football People* theme, the group held a three-day tournament for youngsters living in Roma settlements and communities in



the cities of Bender, Tiraspol and smaller villages from the Slobozia district. Around 30 children and teenagers, many of whom have never shared the experience of playing in an organised event, took part in the action.

Other groups representing ethnic minorities taking part in 2012 included: FC POLSKA, Austria; Forum Afrika e.V., Germany; Fundacja dla Wolnosci, Poland; FURD, England; KVO Róma, Slovakia; Salaam Peace, England, Swiss Minorities Sports Culture & Integration (Swiss Minors), Switzerland; Union Vienna Türkücü SKV, Austria; Zimbabwe Newport Volunteering Association, Wales.

ACTIVITIES BY SUPPORTERS GROUPS



Organised supporters groups play an important role in ensuring the health of football and the Action Weeks rely on the support of progressive supporters and ultra groups across Europe. Many groups set out their message by producing what are often quite stunning choreographies, organise football tournaments and peer education activities.

German and Spanish fan groups took the lead in the 2012 Actions Weeks, setting the standard for impressive fan choreographies and activities within their local communities outside of stadiums. Italian groups also organised some innovative and exciting activities.

Action Days in Cologne, Germany

A broad alliance of supporters, educational organisations and the Cologne fan project developed the *Action Days Against Discrimination in Sport*. The ultra group Coloniacs, BiBeris and the Cologne fan project ran a series of projects aimed at raising awareness and educating young people, fans and the wider public to take a united stand against discrimination.

Lectures and presentations were accompanied by choreographies and activities in the Rhein-Energie stadium where the ultra group Coloniacs set out their message during the Second Bundesliga match, 1.FC Köln v 1.FC Kaiserslautern.

Events kicked off with the launch of an educational exhibition about far right and neo-nazi activism in the Cologne region, followed by a series of lectures and discussions which dealt with antiziganism, homophobia and global fan cultures.

Representatives of the ROM e.V promoted inter-cultural understanding of Roma and Sinti communities, introduced the topic of antiziganism and reported of their own experiences on social inclusion projects.



A panel discussion about homophobia in football which was organised in co-operation with members of the gay and lesbian sport club, Cream Team Cologne, and Cologne's LGBT fan club Andersrum Rut-Wiess, featured a visit to an exhibition celebrating LGBT sports athletes' achievements over the past 20 years.

The activities came to a conclusion when 50 young Cologne supporters learnt about and visited the former concentration camp in Dachau on their way to the club's away game in Munich.

Kolectivo Sur (Xerez C.D.) and Brigadas Amarillas, Spain

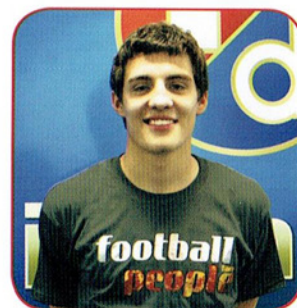
In recent years Spanish fan groups have taken the lead on showcasing stunning choreographies in their stadiums during the Weeks. Kolectivo Sur an anti-fascist ultra group of Xerez CD in Andalucia has participated for the third consecutive year. In 2012 they handed out magazines and information material and unfurled a huge banner during their home match against Lugo.



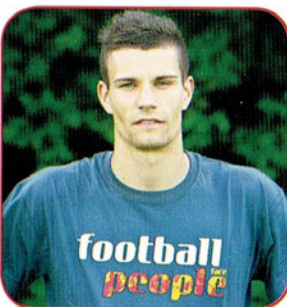
Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Macedonia | Swiss Minors, Switzerland | NEVER AGAIN, Poland | Zespół Szkół we Wrzosowej, Poland



EVROALTERNATIVI, Macedonia | Faninitiative Innsbruck, Austria | Mateo Kovačić, GNK Dinamo, Croatia | Chrzaszczyki, Poland



New Israel Fund, Israel | Nicklas Helenius, Aalborg BK, Denmark | OJF The Door, Albania | OZ Stara skola Kanas, Slovakia



NATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS 2012

Eleven national partners and one transnational partner supported the event by co-ordinating and organising activities within their own countries. All partners are established campaigners who have been working within

FARE for many years. During the Action Weeks they support national level initiatives and work in partnership with professional leagues and national football associations to increase activities. The FARE partners for 2012 were:



Bündnis aktiver Fußballfans e.V.
(Germany)



Black European Women's Council
(Greece)



Colectivo de Prevención e Inserción
Andalucía (Spain)



FARE Netzwerk Switzerland
(Switzerland)



FairPlay-Vidc
(Austria)



Kick It Out
(United Kingdom)



Ludia proti rasizmu
(Slovakia)



Never Again Association
(Poland)



SPOLINT – Sport Policy
International Institute
(Slovenia)



Ligue Internationale Contre le
Racisme et l'Antisémitisme
(France)



Unione Italiana Sport Per Tutti
(Italy)



European Gay & Lesbian Sport
Federation