

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS EUROPE (FSE)

**ALL
COLOURS
ARE
BEAUTIFUL**

Football Fans Against Discrimination



FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS EUROPE (FSE)

OVERVIEW

FOUNDED IN 2008

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS
MEMBERS IN 45 COUNTRIES

MEMBERSHIP BASED ON
COMMITMENT TO

4 CORE PRINCIPLES
(ANTI-DISCRIMINATION,
REJECTION OF VIOLENCE,
BOTTOM-UP APPROACH,
GOOD GOVERNANCE AND
FAIRPLAY)

MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

INTERNATIONAL
NETWORKING

CONNECTING
FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS
ACROSS EUROPE
AND BEYOND

CAMPAIGNING

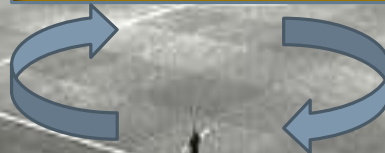
ON TOPICS
RELEVANT TO
FOOTBALL FANS

INSTITUTIONAL
LOBBYING /
CONSULTATION

FOR FANS ISSUES
AND BEST
PRACTICE OF FAN
DIALOGUE

EMPOWERMENT

PROVISION OF
ADVICE, INFO AND
SUPPORT SERVICES
TO FANS



DISCRIMINATION IN FOOTBALL - THE FANS - ONLY THE PROBLEM?



WHY IS THERE RACISM IN SPORT?

Potential reasons:

- ❑ **Sport crowds / athletes = a mirror of society**
- ❑ **Racism as means of provocation in the sporting competition**
- ❑ **Particularly team sport / spectator sport: “us” against “the other”**
- ❑ **Sport infrastructure supports the exclusion of certain groups of society**



WHERE ARE THE COUNTER-REACTIONS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION?

Potential reasons:

- Lack of education / information?
- Non-racist fans are afraid to speak up
- Anti-racism seen as breaking an established “no politics” consensus within the fanbase
- Clubs / Football Associations / Authorities are marginalising / rejecting the issue of racism and/or condemn the messengers (e.g. NGOs, match monitors)
- Football officials/players/police are part of the problem = encouraging racist fan behaviour
- Solidarity effects / victimisation in case of indiscriminate punishments



DISCRIMINATION IN FOOTBALL – THE SOLUTION?

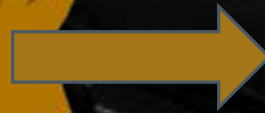
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Crowd Dynamics

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE from CROWD PSYCHOLOGY research in football:

- ❑ Indiscriminate top-down use of force against entire crowd for action of a minority is perceived as illegitimate



- ❑ **RESULT:** solidarity effects of crowd with minority of perpetrators against “the outside” - potential short-term success but long-term backlash effect



DISCRIMINATION IN FOOTBALL – THE SOLUTION?!

SCIENTIFIC Background

THE AIM:

- ❑ The crowd regulates itself – undesirable behaviour is prevented through peer pressure without the need for intervention from “the outside”



DISCRIMINATION IN FOOTBALL – THE SOLUTION?!

BEST PRACTICE EXPERIENCE in football:

- Need for a multi-agency approach**
- Overlapping key elements of successful prevention:**
 - ✓ **Avoidance of indiscriminate treatment**
 - ✓ **Empowerment of majority of non-racist fans**
 - ✓ **Clear messaging and credible long-term strategy and ongoing joint action from governing bodies/ authorities and fans together**



FAN EMPOWERMENT AGAINST RACISM

HOW DOES IT WORK?

KEY PRINCIPLES / OBJECTIVES

- ❑ CONDEMNING THE NEGATIVE – credibly reduce tolerance levels towards and recognize discriminatory incidents in sport
 - ✓ Clubs/FAs/Authorities: clear recognition and communication of racism as a problem
 - ✓ Clubs/FAs: Development of clear messages and measures against all forms of discrimination - inclusion in stadia regulations/disciplinary codes/club constitutions
 - ✓ Clubs/FAs/Authorities: Consequent, but proportionate execution of targeted (not indiscriminate!) exclusion and sanctions against individual racist offenders both among fans & (own) officials, clubs
 - ✓ Clubs/FAs: Encourage & protect fans to monitor and report incidents of racism – don't condemn the messenger!



FAN EMPOWERMENT AGAINST RACISM

HOW DOES IT WORK?

KEY PRINCIPLES / OBJECTIVES

- ❑ **STRENGTHEN THE POSITIVE** – support **SELF-REGULATION MECHANISMS** amongst fans against racism as overarching aim of a long-term strategy → **KEY TARGET GROUP: (young and older) adults**
- ✓ **Clubs / FAs / Fans: support / promote ethnic and gender diversity inside the stands and beyond as asset to football (jointly with fans)**
- ✓ **Clubs / FAs: prioritise cooperation with non-racist / anti-racist supporter initiatives – put them on a pedestal as role models**
- ✓ **Clubs / FAs / Fans: establish ongoing networks / cooperations with local diversity groups and ethnic minority NGOs**
- ✓ **Clubs / FAs / Authorities: Establish legislation and regulations that can ensure a welcoming and inclusive infrastructure for both players and spectators**
- ✓ **ESTABLISH INTERMEDIARY TOOLS with expertise on anti-racism SUCH AS FAN PROJECTS & SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICERS**



FAN EMPOWERMENT AGAINST RACISM

INTERMEDIARY TOOLS

FAN PROJECTS

- Existent in a number of countries in Europe
- Social workers conducting education work with young fans on a long-term basis
- Part of a safety & security strategy at club or national level
- Funded by national and local authorities



KEY AIMS OF FAN PROJECTS:

- ✓ Supporting the creation of a diverse and positive fan culture
- ✓ Challenging all kinds of discrimination & violence



FAN EMPOWERMENT AGAINST RACISM

INTERMEDIARY TOOLS



SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICERS (SLOs)

- Part of UEFA Club Licensing and Fair Play Regulations in European football
- SLOs= employees/officials of clubs with core task to facilitate structured dialogue with fans on behalf of the club
- Part of a holistic system of stakeholder involvement in sport

KEY AIMS OF SUPPORTER LIAISON OFFICERS:

- ✓ Building a bridge between all sets of supporters & decision-makers at clubs
- ✓ Reducing the likelihood of supporters becoming disenfranchised
- ✓ Using the fans' affiliation with the club to promote a discrimination-free supporter culture



BEST PRACTICE - EXAMPLES

WACKER INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA
STANDARD DE LIÈGE, BELGIUM
SLOVAN LIBEREC, CZECH REPUBLIC
NK ZAGREB 041, CROATIA
BK FREM, DENMARK
NEWCASTLE UNITED, ENGLAND
GIRONDINS DE BORDEAUX, FRANCE
BORUSSIA DORTMUND, GERMANY
ANCONA 1905, ITALY
BOHEMIAN FC, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
SK BRANN, NORWAY
MALMÖ FF, SWEDEN
YOUNG BOYS BERN, SWITZERLAND
GENCLERBIRLIGI ANKARA, TURKEY
PORTLAND TIMBERS, USA

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CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Adopt & enforce clear & credible national action plans against discrimination in sport**
- **Ensure proportionate and targeted sanctions against individual perpetrators (not against groups or crowds) as judicial basis**
- **Introduce long-term prevention strategies of dialogue & empowerment as mandatory addition to restrictive measures against discrimination in international regulatory frameworks**
 - ✓ **Introduce intermediary education tools such as Supporter Liaison Officers & Fan Projects**
 - ✓ **Support establishment of cross-stadia spectator initiatives to foster peer education & self-regulation among fans against discrimination**
 - ✓ **Establish community work schemes at club level to promote diversity among the youngest supporters**
 - ✓ **Establish national funds / foundations financing innovative grassroots projects against discrimination**
 - ✓ **Promote & foster multi-ethnic stadium crowds and athletes and staff as key element of marketing and recruitment strategies in all sports**
 - ✓ **Ensure inclusive stadium infrastructure for spectator sport**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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FOOTBALL WITHOUT FANS IS NOTHING

