

THE SOUND OF SPORT PROJECT

FINAL CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE

Sport is a good tool for social inclusion of migrants and refugees, but commitment from decision-makers, training for people in sport, funding opportunities for long-term initiatives and more cross-sectoral co-operation are needed

Salzburg, 16 November 2018

The Sound of Sport Final Conference took place in Salzburg, Austria, on 16 November 2018, on the International Day of Tolerance, featuring the closing accord of the Sound of Sport project. Bringing together European and local stakeholders, the conference aimed at sharing the conclusions and lessons learned from the Sound of Sport project and raising awareness on the possible role of sport in preventing the exclusion and radicalisation of young people with migrant background, including refugees.

The Sound of Sport Final Conference gathered around 35 participants from diverse backgrounds from 8 different countries, including sport coaches, sport instructors, PE teachers, leisure educators, youth and social aid workers as well as decision-makers from sport organisations and governmental establishments from local, national and European levels.

After the opening remarks from BSO President Rudolf Hundstorfer and Council of EPAS Governing Board Chair of the Council of Europe Zorav Verovnik, the audience was able to gain insight into personal experiences on radicalisation and sport coaching. The keynote speakers shared their views and experiences on how sport can be a tool for anti-radicalisation and social inclusion.

The sequence of presentations followed with information on EU sport policy and programmes in order to provide information on the European policy background of the Sound of Sport project.

Then, the Sound of Sport project, its conclusions and recommendations have been presented. Although the expected results were ambitious, the knowledge and experiences gathered throughout the year are valuable lessons learned, which conclude that successful project in the field are only possible with the commitment of decision-makers, adequate training for people in sport, long-term funding opportunities for programmes and more cross-sectoral co-operation.

The conference used a bottom-up logic, moving from individual to community, then national, and international levels. After presenting the local pilot project, participants could broaden their perspective with national and international project examples.



Existing strategies, policies and initiatives have been presented by BSO President Rudolf Hundstorfer, EPAS Governing Board Chair Zoran Verovnik and President and Member of the Parliament of the Federal State of Salzburg Dr Brigitta Pallauf.

Then, Human Rights Lawyer and Athlead UK CEO Kat Craig shared the greatest challenges of refugees and host communities, providing scientific background to the topic along with SPIN – Sport and Innovation Managing Director Dirk Steinbach.

Good examples of successful projects were introduced by GAME Denmark Head of Innovation and Social Programmes Marie Traasdahl Staal and Fairplay Initiative Project Manager David Hudelist. The panel finished with possible commitments from decision-makers to support similar initiatives and projects.

After inspiring project examples, the conference concluded with concrete opportunities to implement similar project with the help of local and European funding opportunities.

In the light of the high number of migrants and refugees in Salzburg (approximately 26.5% of Salzburg's residents do not have Austrian origin), the Sound of Sport Project had set itself the aim to help youngsters to find a sense of belonging to the local community through sport.

We in ASVÖ Salzburg are glad to have won the interest and support of experts and significant local organisations to implement the Sound of Sport project. Co-funded by the European Union, the project has been running from January to December 2018 to support the access and participation of youngsters at risk of exclusion and radicalisation, including refugees, into sport trainings of ASVÖ Salzburg member clubs.



Co-funded by the
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