



#59 FOOTBALL WITHOUT BORDERS

Developed by: Erasmus+ project – European Commission
Year and country: 2016–2018, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spain
Type of project: Youth Exchange

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details-page/?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/0f49a190-a857-49dd-8b0d-e757a17e8407>

Synthesis of the case study

The Youth Exchange took place between the 27.06–07.08.2016 in Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The participants were 24 young people from Spain, Germany and BiH, aged between 15–19.

Context and approach

"It is clear that girls and women still face numerous barriers when it comes to participating in sport at all levels. This is happening in both amateur and professional sport" (Androulla Vassiliou former EU Commissioner for Education, Culture and Youth and Multilingualism). This problem reflects the general gender inequality and discrimination in our society and is one of the two main topics - beside the achievement of the transcultural understanding - which the Youth Exchange "Football without Borders" deals with.

Objectives / Challenges

The overall objective of this camp is to break these stereotypes about gender roles. It should reach the consciousness of young people to show them the social construction of gender and to empower them for different fields in the society which may have been closed to them before. However, it should also interfere with the overall society, meaning that the field of sport is not restricted to people who represent a special type of masculinity.

Target

Youth interest in sport and gender equality from Germany, Spain and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The deliverable (What did they do specifically?)

To offer young people two weeks with a diversity of activities and to interfere the contents, the organisers had planned to construct a football field, to have common football games and a public tournament, workshops on the themes and a trip that includes a visit of various religious institutions and women's football teams. The young people had to merely bring an interest for the topic of sport and gender equality, but did not have to know how to play football professionally, since playing together is intended rather as a carrier for convey the content of the exchange by playing in "mixed (by origin and gender) teams".

Key learnings / Questions to think about

With the construction of the field, the common games and the public tournament created the possibility to inspire young people to become more active in sports and to strengthen their self-confidence and creativity, and to bring up their self-understanding as a responsible part in a democratic society. As a long-term project, the product – soccer field – and the transmission of the tournament was to encourage local young people for sport activities. With the meeting of the teams as an exchange platform, the experience of the activities and the workshops, the young people could be notified of the forms of discrimination, and the construction and use of gender norms. Through a wide range of leisure programs enough space for the expansion of international friendships was given. Through the release of the Youthpass, the recognition of non-formal learning was intended.

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