pro supporters www.prosupporters.net

Theme 2: Prevention violence and intolerance supporters

pro supporters – Prevention Through Empowerment

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Funders and national co-funders
Partners

Project Summary

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- Eight partners from six countries: FairPlay-VIDC (Austria); Football Supporters Europe (Germany); FIFPro (The Netherlands), Fanprojekt Slovan Liberec (Czech Republic), Football Association of Ireland (Republic of Ireland), Durham University, Loughborough University, Irish Football Association (all UK)

- Project period: 1 March 2012 to 30 June 2013 (16 months)

- Started with a kick-off meeting in Dublin hosted by the FAI at the national football and rugby stadium and ended with a European seminar organised by FairPlay-VIDC and hosted by the Austrian Ministry of Sports

- Project divided into 7 different modules

Context of the Project

- Dominant approach to curb public disorder of young fans at sport events in most EU countries has been repressive measures
- Typically, the nature of addressing such disorder has been to implement repressive measures – such as the tightening of security procedures or other supporter punishments – without consulting or involving supporters or other relevant stakeholders
- Most often they are introduced on a short-term basis after a major incident occurred and the media and the public are asking for quick and drastic solutions
- Growing awareness that also long-term social preventive measures are necessary in order to tackle the problem
- The EC ‚White Paper on Sport‘ + UEFA /FARE’s joint ‘Tackling Racism in Club Football’ document promote supporter engagement projects such as ‘fan coaching’
- Football related racism and discrimination on one hand and violence on the other hand are not the same social phenomena and therefore different methodologies should be applied in order to be effective
- At the same time anti-racism programmes involving supporters, clubs, players and ethnic minorities can have a positive impact on building a non-violent, inclusive football fan culture

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Main Goals + Objectives

- Promoting non-violent and inclusive fan and football cultures
- Deepening social preventive measures and social dialogue – as an alternative to punitive sanctions – to address issues of football related violence and intolerance, with the aim of addressing the underlying causes of such disorder
- Fans' empowerment to self-management and self-regulation measures by fans for fans and to promote dialogue with football supporters as integral means of prevention with football governing bodies
- Developing socio-preventive fan work approaches and networking of fan projects in various countries
- Establishing a dialogue between fans, players, football governing bodies and other relevant stakeholders
- Development of creative anti-racism and sectarianism awareness-raising initiatives for and by young fans

Target Groups

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- Football supporters, organised fan clubs, and young non-organised active fans (male and female)
- Football governing bodies (professional clubs, national football associations, professional leagues and UEFA) and professional football players
- Fan project workers, fan coaches and social workers
- Migrants and ethnic minorities targeted by intolerance
- Public sport stakeholders (national ministries for interior and sport)

The 7 Modules

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- MODULE 1: Supporters Charter and Self-policing of fans
  1.1 Handbook on Supporters Charters in Europe
  1.2 Speak up! Fans' Events
- MODULE 2: Connecting Fan Projects across Europe
  2.1 Exchange Training Workshop for Fan Project workers
  2.2 Study Visits
  2.3 Catalogue of Criteria (Handbook on Socio-preventive Fan Work in Europe)
  2.4 Closing Meeting for involved fan project workers (at the European seminar)
- MODULE 3: Round Table Meetings on a National Level (in Austria, Rep. of Ireland + Northern Ireland/UK)
- MODULE 4: European Seminar - Promoting non-violent and inclusive fan and football cultures
- MODULE 5: Creative Anti-racism Youth Initiatives in the framework of the annual FARE Action Weeks
- MODULE 6: Monitoring and Evaluation
- MODULE 7: Communication, Dissemination & Coordination

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Aims, Criteria + Results

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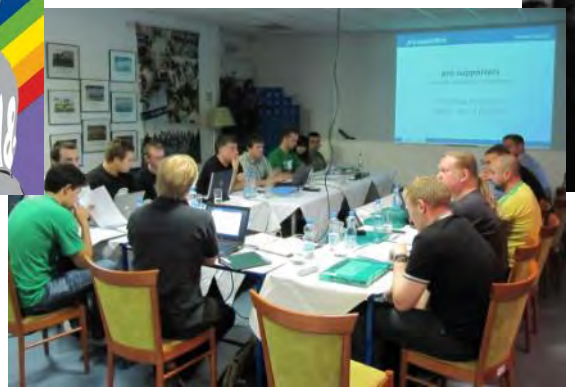
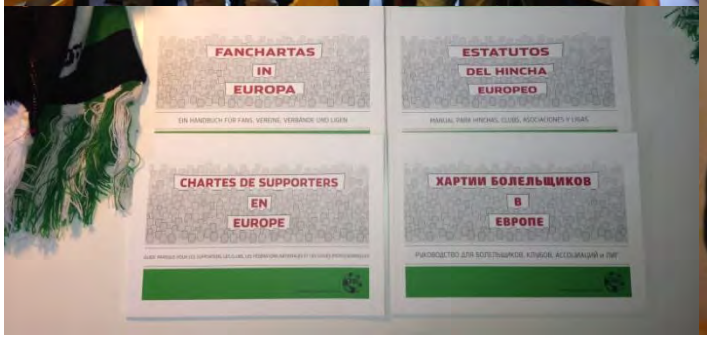
Aim: Participating fan groups feeling empowered and taking self-regulating measures for fans – and by fans – to create, develop or enhance a sustainable, positive fan culture.

Criteria: A high volume of fan groups taking part in consultative meetings and being involved in the organisation of Speak Up! Fans' Events; qualitative feedback on match days.



Aim: Governing bodies promote active dialogue with fans as an important way of preventing violence and intolerance.

Criteria: Degree of participation in the Supporter Charta working group and input; no. of governing bodies disseminating SC handbook via their website; attendance of governing bodies & fans at 3 national round tables.



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Aim: To have developed social preventative fan projects in European countries without established fan coaching structures and to have developed a network of social preventative fan projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

Criteria: Number and quality of participation of fan projects in Module 2; existence of new fan projects at the end of the project period, degree of voluntary involvement of established fan projects.

Aim: A pan-European exchange of good practice and a European-wide network based on social dialogue which places the empowerment of fans as a means of overcoming violence and intolerance.

Criteria: All major stakeholders receive a Handbook on Supporters' Charters and a Handbook of Socio-preventative fan work in Europe; positive feedback from stakeholders on the material and the process; key partners to work together after the official end of the project.

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Aim: To have developed creative and anti-racist awareness-raising that target young fans.

Criteria: Quality and quantity of youth projects during FARE Action weeks; feedback during stadium visits and media coverage.

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Key Outputs

- The Handbook on Supporters Charters in Europe in five languages
- Handbook of Socio-preventive fan work in Europe in four languages
- Speak Up! Fan Events organised in Germany, Scotland, Poland, England, Finland designed to promote self-regulation and empower football fans to organise responsible and to represent their views to prevent problems and tensions
- Three National Roundtable events in the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland/UK and Austria discussing a range of issues that focused upon club licensing and the role of Supporter Liaison Officers (SLOs).
- Monitoring and Evaluation Report
- Project website www.prosupporters.net; facebook + twitter channels, newsletters
- Production of campaign materials like banners, pens, stickers, badges, posters, flyers etc.

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