

## SWEDEN

### Local development

**Location**

Fagersta

**Programming period**

2014 – 2020

**Priority**

P6 – Social inclusion & local  
development

**Measure**

M7 – Basic services & village  
renewal

**Funding (EUR)**

Total budget 86 932

EAFRD 28 930

National/Regional 42 326

Private 8 693

Other 6 983

**Project duration**

2016 – 2017

**Project promoter**

Fagersta Södra IK

**Contact**

[stef.ostlund@gmail.com](mailto:stef.ostlund@gmail.com)

**Website**

[www.laget.se/FSIK](http://www.laget.se/FSIK)

A sports club used RDP support to renovate its facilities and offer a space that contributes to the integration of immigrants in the local society.

### Summary

Fagersta Södra IK (Fagersta Södra Sport Club), is the largest sports association in Fagersta municipality. Its youngsters and members can play several different sports like football, skiing and chess. Between 2012-2015 some of the immigrants asking asylum arrived in Fagersta. The association decided to include young immigrants into sport activities in order to facilitate their integration in the local society.



However, the increased number of members meant that the facilities were used to their maximum capacity and beyond. RDP support was used to upgrade the facilities by creating two new dressing rooms, a new laundry room, a service house, disabled-accessible toilets, etc. The clubhouse, kitchen and the kiosk were also renovated.

### Results

The number of youth teams increased from 9 to 11.

The number of youngsters in the association from another country increased from 50 to 100.

The number of team leaders from another country increased from 1 to 4.

The number of gatherings (meetings, education, conferences, training camps, school activities, etc.) that are hosted in the association's new facilities increased from 4 to 12 per year.

### Context

Fagersta Södra IK (Fagersta Södra Sport Club), is a sports association established in 1939 and is located about 8km from the Fagersta urban area. In FISK youngsters and members can play several different sports like football, skiing and chess. FISK is the largest association in the municipality (300 young people). Its members come from both the country side and the Fagersta urban area.

Between 2012-2015 the number of people of applying for asylum in Sweden increased. Overall, a total of 342 324 people applied for asylum during this period. Some of these immigrants were placed in Fagersta and FISK noticed the increasing number of immigrants in the area. Football is great for many reasons, including that it is a universal sport and it is one of the cheapest sport to play. Hence, the association saw football as an opportunity to contribute to society and to young immigrants by including them into sport activities.

Since then, FISK increased in members mainly because of the many young immigrants that arrived to Fagersta. However, the increased number of members meant that the facilities were used to their maximum capacity and beyond. The club house was no longer working as meeting place anymore, it is more used as a storage or a dressing room. The “over-use” of the facilities hindered the association’s effort to integrate the young immigrants.

### Objectives

The association aimed to make the football club a facilitator for integration. By restoring the association’s facilities, it would become possible to function as a meeting place where people with different backgrounds can meet, enjoy themselves and learn from each other.

### Activities

Support from the rural development programme was successfully used to upgrade the facilities. Two new dressing rooms were built, along with a new laundry room and service house. The clubhouse, kitchen and the kiosk were renovated. Three disabled-accessible toilets were also built and the entrance was converted to become disabled-accessible. Moreover, the heating system was changed into a downhole heat exchanger.

In addition, FISK worked hard to make it possible for new immigrants to attend the practices. Because the facility is 8 km from Fagersta, the municipality FISK lent a minibus that is driven by the team leaders to pick up the players before and after the practice.

### Main results

The upgraded association’s facilities, helped the association to achieve its quantified targets:

- Increased the number of youth teams from 9 to 11.
- Increased the number of youngsters in the association from another country from 50 to 100.
- Increased the number of team leaders from another country from 1 to 4.
- Increased the number of gatherings (meetings, education, conferences, training camps, school activities, etc.) from 4 to 12 per year.

A group of young people asked the municipality if they could hire a facility to play football just for fun. However, only associations can hire a facility. Thus the municipality asked FISK if they could help, by being the association behind the activity and now FISK also runs the activity “Spontaneous Football”. This activity is organised by young leaders, some of them are “recently” arrived immigrants.

FISK also offers leadership and referee education in its clubhouse. While the recruitment of referees has been successful, more leaders are still needed because of the increasing number of teams. The clubhouse is also used for school activities and external meetings.

FISK started a team for people with disabilities, called Fagersta Södra Flyers. The minibus is also used to transfer to and from the association's facilities the members of the Fagersta Södra Flyers.



### Additional sources of information

n/a