



YOUTH VOICES AGAINST RACISM

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECCAR YOUTH FORUM (BOLOGNA, ITALY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2008)

The project

Young people have a say in the struggle against racism and discrimination. With this in mind, UNESCO and FC Barcelona, in close collaboration with the European Parliament, launched the project "Youth Voices against Racism" on 4 June 2008. Its objective is to allow young people to play an active role in the fight against racism by becoming involved in policy-making and the design of activities at the municipal level. Young people, aged between 15 and 18, are the central actors of "Youth Voices against Racism" project.

The project is implemented through the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) which currently includes 82 cities in 17 countries. Between June and August 2008, ECCAR member cities organized consultations with young people of their municipalities to discuss the issue of racism and sport. In schools, sports associations, youth councils, or via the local media and on-line forums, the participants were able to consider the following questions: What actions can cities undertake to counteract racism in sport? How can sport and physical education promote tolerance, mutual respect and solidarity?

The Bologna Youth Forum

About 20 young people from 9 European cities - Barcelona (Spain), Bologna (Italy), Botkyrka (Sweden), Erlangen (Germany), Graz (Austria), Malmö (Sweden), Nuremberg (Germany), Serres (Greece) and Uppsala (Sweden) - were selected to participate in the Youth Forum that was organized on 19 September 2008 in Bologna (Italy) within the framework of the 2nd General Conference of the ECCAR. Together, they shared ideas raised during the local discussions and presented a set of practical recommendations to

municipal authorities. These respond particularly to the manifestation of racist phenomena in the professional practice of sports on the one hand and to physical education and the practice of sport as a hobby on the other.

Two youth delegates, elected among the participants, presented the following recommendations at the closing plenary session of the ECCAR General Conference on 20 September 2008:

- Include an anti-racism and anti-discrimination clause in the contracts signed by athletes when they join a sports' club.
- Establish prizes to be awarded to the team/club/city whose fans and players have racism-free attitude.
- Pass anti-racism advertisements in the stadiums on the occasion of amateur and professional sport events, using the matrix of the stadium, the perimeter board, etc., and promote anti-racism slogans/chants to be used by fans.
- Print anti-racism slogans, rhymes, messages on beverages sold in the stadiums.
- Use commercial articles relating to sports, such as sportswear, flags, rubber wristbands, etc., to transmit anti-racism messages.
- Organize in public places, on the occasion of games public viewings and – before, during and after the game– parties/gatherings encouraging the fans of all teams to celebrate together.
- Apply strict penalties for the teams whose player(s) are responsible for racist incidents and establish penalties not only for racist incidents occurring in the stadiums during a game but also outside, both before and after a game.
- Launch sensitization campaigns that could include:
 - a. Messages in the media (TV, radio, printed media, internet), in particular before sport events;
 - b. Awareness-raising activities in schools and in particular in the area of physical education;
 - c. Activities involving famous athletes from various popular disciplines, like football, basketball, etc.
- Organize multicultural public sport events, either in open public spaces (parks, squares, streets, etc.) or in sport facilities, which bring together people from different ethnic backgrounds with the aim of forging mutual understanding and respect and of deconstructing racist stereotypes.
- Take measures so as to allow and encourage persons belonging to ethnic, religious and other minorities to practise the sports that they wish. These could have the form of constructing and providing access to public sport facilities, establishing special scholarships, special days of practice (e.g. women's swimming day), etc.