



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



YOUTH VOICES AGAINST RACISM

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT AND RACISM.

FINDING AN EFFECTIVE MUNICIPAL RESPONSE. THE VIEWS OF ECCAR YOUTH

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Background

On 23 November 2007, UNESCO and the FC Barcelona signed a partnership agreement which affirms their joint commitment to raise public awareness on the role of education and sport in the development and well being of children and youth and in promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and social cohesion. One of the Agreement's specific objectives is to use sport as a vehicle to combat racism, discrimination and violence in general and in sport in particular targeting notably children and youth. Because sport is a means to bring closer together people regardless of their social, cultural or ethnic background, their age or their sex and therefore to eliminate barriers and negative stereotypes. Sport creates a universal language and common references and teaches essential values such as tolerance, respect and solidarity. An important partner for the implementation of this agreement will be the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), launched by UNESCO in December 2004 with the aim of establishing a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia. Indeed, cities, as places where people from various backgrounds come together, can play a central role in the struggle against racism and discrimination given particularly the increasing autonomy of local governments in the design of policies, their means of intervention and their partnership with vibrant local civil society networks.

The project

FC Barcelona, UNESCO and the ECCAR in partnership also with the European Parliament decided to develop a project addressing an issue of joint concern: racism and sport. The purpose of this project is to equip municipalities with practical recommendations on fighting discrimination through physical education and sport, [O]to be elaborated by the youth of the ECCAR member cities. In this way, it will serve to involve young people in the long-term struggle against racism and discrimination through their participation in local policy-making. Youth will be asked to engage in a discussion on the specific role of sport in eliminating racism and discrimination and to formulate practice-oriented recommendations in this regard for municipalities and local governments. Young people are meant to be this project's central actors.

The project that will officially be launched through a common statement by all parties involved at the beginning of June consists of the following two main steps:

1. Local consultations with youth through the ECCAR (from June to end of August) and gathering of youth representatives at a youth forum to be organized on the occasion and in parallel to the second General Conference of the ECCAR in Bologna, Italy (18 – 20 September 2008)
2. Presentation of the outcomes of the youth forum at the European Parliament (tentatively on 16 November 2008)

1. Consultations at the Municipal Level culminating in a Youth Forum

Objective: Produce policy recommendations in the area of physical education and sport for municipal authorities of the ECCAR elaborated by youth

Description: This step will be composed of 2 interrelated stages: (a) a series of consultations at the municipal level; and (b) a Youth Forum on the side of the ECCAR General Conference.

a) Consultations at the municipal level

ECCAR municipal authorities are invited to carry out and coordinate local consultations involving their respective youth communities. The target audience will be young people from 15 to 18 years old. Various channels could be used for communicating information about this project and for mobilizing young people's participation, such as schools, youth and sports associations, local youth councils or working groups, as well as relevant UNESCO partners (i.e. UNESCO clubs or Associated Schools). The Cities are encouraged to employ innovative ideas for the consultations (for example, youth radio stations, online discussion forums, etc.) with a view to rendering this process more inclusive and more likely to capture young people's attention.

What should be discussed?

The young people should discuss the role of physical education and sport in combating racism and discrimination and in promoting tolerance, mutual respect and solidarity. They should particularly reflect upon practical means and ways of how physical education and sport could serve to combat racism as well as upon concrete actions to eradicate racism from stadiums. Their proposals should pertain to actions at the municipal level drawing particularly upon the specificities and experiences of the local context (i.e. composition of the population, manifestations of racist and discriminatory behavior, local policies and activities, etc.). A list of indicative questions will be elaborated in order to guide the debate and ensure its relevance and coherence. At the end of this process a set of common recommendations for municipal authorities should be agreed upon. These will be presented by the youth delegates of each city at the Youth Forum in Bologna.

ECCAR municipal authorities will select two representatives among the youth participating in the local consultations, (see selection criteria below) who will participate in the Youth Forum to be held in parallel to the ECCAR General Conference (18 - 20 September Bologna, Italy, 2008) The selection will be based on such criteria as age (15-18 years), gender balance, participation in the process, language skills, background, etc.).

Timeline and submission of the outcomes:

The consultation process at the municipal level shall be concluded by 29 August 2008. Documents summarizing the process of consultations at the municipal level in different cities and presenting their outcomes will be sent to the Administrative Secretariat of the European Coalition and to UNESCO.

An online discussion could be held at the end of August – beginning of September 2008 and for a period of two weeks (exact date and duration to be confirmed) with the participation of all ECCAR youth delegates. This exchange will serve to determine the thematic focus of the Forum and will allow youth delegates to prepare for the Forum and better acquaint themselves with each other.

b) An ECCAR Youth Forum

The ECCAR youth delegates selected as a result of the local consultation process will participate in a Youth Forum to be organized on the occasion and in parallel with the General Conference of ECCAR (18-20 September 2008, Bologna, Italy). During this Forum, the outcomes of these consultations will be presented, discussed and enriched. The programme of the Forum will reflect the issues raised during the local consultations phase. A drafting group elected among youth participants in the beginning of the Forum will prepare a final recapitulative document with the Forum's recommendations and present it at the closing plenary session of the General Conference (Saturday, 20 September). In addition, a youth delegation, elected at the end of the Forum will present the results at the final event to be hosted at the European Parliament in November 2008.

A shorter round of online consultations could be held after the Forum in order to further refine its final document (Nuremberg, Barcelona and Bologna could play a lead role in this regard).

Who: ECCAR youth delegates, ECCAR representatives, UNESCO, FCB & UNESCOCAT, European Parliament

Time: 18-20 September 2008, Bologna, Italy
Final round of online consultations from September to October 2008

2. Presentation of the Outcomes at the European Parliament

Objective: Raise awareness of and communicate the results of the consultation process and the Youth Forum and to obtain a commitment on behalf of the partners involved with regard to possible follow-up action.

Description: A youth delegation (see Step 2) shall present the Forum's results and recommendations to the European Parliament at a special event to be organized around November 16th 2008, International Day for Tolerance. This session will also bring together players from the FC Barcelona, members of the European Parliament, representatives of ECCAR members, UNESCOCAT, UNESCO, as well as youth of the City of Brussels.

Who: Youth delegation, parliamentarians of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, UNESCO and FC Barcelona and its Foundation, UNESCOCAT, ECCAR representatives.

Time: Around 16 November 2008, International Day for Tolerance

Where: European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Duration: 1 day (a morning or afternoon)

Useful contacts:

ECCAR Administrative Secretariat
Bürgermeisteramt – Menschenrechtsbüro
Rathausplatz 2
D – 90403 Nürnberg
Germany
E-mail:
menschenrechte@stadt.nuernberg.de

ECCAR Technical and Scientific
Secretariat
UNESCO - Struggle against racism and
discrimination Section
1, rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail: k.guse@unesco.org
k.tararas@unesco.org