



Sport and Social Inclusion: Future for Children



WELCOME TO THE FIRST FUTURE++ PROJECT NEWSLETTER!

In the first issue of the Future++ Newsletter, we review:

- What is inclusion?
- Research Cycle results
- Highlights from the project meetings in Barcelona and Lousada
- What's next?

At the end of the newsletter, you can find information on who the partners are behind FUTURE++ project, as well as contact information.

Happy reading!

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO FUTURE++

FUTURE++ project aims to promote, develop and share a European evidence-based coach education programme that could help coaches foster quality motivation and make sport not only engaging, empowering, and enjoyable but also a tool of added value for social inclusion. This is achieved by proposing a comprehensive and appropriate training related to inclusion allowing coaches to become skillful in delivering quality services to their students.

WHAT IS INCLUSION?

By TUM, INEFC

A broader and wider definition of inclusion understands it as a collective and a bidirectional process which involves all citizens. This way, it implies the readjustment of all parts which jointly develop a new model of coexistence. In fact, it is not a matter of changing, correcting or adapting the difference of the person, rather than enriching the entire community with it. Then, inclusion is also understood as an integral process considering several aspects such as legal, economic, political, educational, social, cultural, and ideological, among others. In addition, if the interaction between stakeholders takes place equally and holistically, there will be a greater chance of success with the inclusion process. The result of this process would be the development of an organization (school, club, company, etc.) and an inclusive society which are in a continuous process of transformation that guarantees the full involvement and participation of all groups in the social, economic, cultural, and political level.

Children can benefit tremendously from being physically active, especially in an organized context. Underprivileged children often times face barriers excluding them from participation in sports. Practical barriers (e.g. time, cost and transport) should be addressed by clubs and/ or local authorities in order to provide children with access to organized sports. Once access and engagement is established, personal barriers (e.g. self-esteem, athletic ability, peer disapproval) should be addressed by the coaching staff in order to ensure sustained participation and increase the likelihood of its beneficial impact on children. Therefore, in the development of an education program, it is logical to consider and address all barriers children and everyone involved in organized sports might face by including the sports club as well as the coaches.

In this context, the coaches have to recognize the structural and social conditions that influence the participation in PA and sports of the children, and they need skills for social action. Therefore, training PE teachers and sport professionals for social action should be both theoretical and practical.

RESEARCH CYCLE RESULTS

Research Cycle was the key starting point. The overarching goals of this task were to 1) explore the key components necessary for a Europe wide coach education program, and 2) gather information from existing programs, coaches, and scholars. A combined report was produced that includes:

Preliminary Findings: We provide an overview about the scientific evidence regarding the problem at hand, define the term "inclusion" as well as barriers to organized sports, which low-SES families tend to face regularly. We explore the roles of coaches, sports organisations, and the participants in the context of inclusion in organized sports.

Final Findings: Based on research on already existing education programs for coaches regarding social inclusion of low-SES children, we summarized these findings and extracted the most relevant information for our project.

Draft for a Model: We provide a first rough draft of the coach education-program. We cover practical aspects such as duration, format and accessibility as well as theoretical topics to cover within the program.

Model: We propose our final model addressing coach and the management of the sports organization alike. Topics are summarized in modules and can be selected individually.

You may find the report here:

The partners meet for the first time in Barcelona

On April 19 and 20, 2022, partners met in Barcelona, Spain to discuss the progress of the project and the implementation of all the activities.

This first meeting in face-to-face mode laid the foundations for getting all the organisations to know each other and to strengthen their network.

The partners also visited the La Mina district of Barcelona, one of the most problematic in the city, and known closely two sports realities that since the 2000s actively struggle to provide better life opportunities to young people through the practice of sports: the wrestling club La Mina and the La Mina Gymnastics Club.

The second day of the meeting, the Barca Foundation hosted in its facilities, presenting some activities and projects carried out in the field of social inclusion and prevention of violence in sports contexts.



The partners meet in Lousada

On July 5 and 6, 2022, partners of the project met for second time in Lousada (Portugal) to talk about the progress in the implementation of activities and to define the next steps of the project.

The partners also visited the Lousada sport complex, with its huge and amazing hockey field, multifunction fields, tennis complex and the municipal football stadium.



What's next?

The partners are going to meet in Munich, Germany on 13th December 2022. The aim of that meeting is to discuss the progress on the main outcomes of the project which are:

- Creation of an Online Learning Centre.
- Establishment and launch of the European Network of coaches for social inclusion.
- Manual for a coach education programme.

Stay tuned!



Project Consortium

Gedi Gestio I Disseny SCCL (GEDI), Spain

International Center for Promotion of Education and Development (CEIPES), Italy

Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany

Creative Thinking Development (CreThiDev), Greece

Municipality of Lousada (MoL), Portugal

Institut Nacional d' Educacio Fisica de Catalunya (INEFC), Spain

Nefinia, Netherlands

Fundacio Privada Futbol Club Barcelona (BARÇA FOUNDATION), Spain



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