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Editorial - sport is an universal language



Antonio Saccone,
editor

Nabran, Azerbaijan, Caspian Seacoast. I am part of an international group, during one break of the conference that we are attending. We are on the beach; a local family invites us to join their picnic. Everyone speaks Russian but me. Everyone is laughing, often they are translating: I am just eating and smiling. Until Ilkin knocks at my back. Showing me the ball he says »Italia – Azerbaijan«: his finger points the beach. The message is clear, the idea just great. We start to play football, zero words in common: I ask him to kick alternatively with both feet, he obeys. We will never meet again, we will have completely different life, but we established a connection, we had fun. I am sure he is telling this episode to his friends – I don't think it happens so often to play football with an Italian guy in Azerbaijan – as I have done with mine.

Two years have passed since I was in Azerbaijan, but I still think that sport overcomes any cultural and linguistic barriers, gathering the people together. The »Global Dialogue« team was not with me in Azerbaijan but we share the same idea of sport. In this pages you can find out more about what we think about sport, what are our opinions, our experience and also what are our suggestions to fully use sport as tool of social change. Enjoy your reading.



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Leadership team message

The Global dialogue participants have the potential to earn the place in history. Through their dreams, desires and goals that they have within them, they already have the incredible power to take those dreams and to continue the Global dialogue initiatives and to work on the topics in their own organisations after the training.

From Global Dialogue group of leaders' point of view, this training was a pleasure to observe, how 19 young people from all over the globe foster their mutual understanding and gained the knowledge to overcome the cultural differences. This final product is embracing sustainability practices and collecting young people's ideas in the constructive approaches to the issues of intercultural dialogue through social inclusion, voluntarism and non-formal education. By addressing these issues, young leaders stimulated growth as well as tackled long-term challenges that put intercultural dialogue as a fundament.

The Global dialogue participants are key factors in creating social change and youth initiatives play important contribution to the democratic development and mutual understanding. Youth are the opportunity. Let's start with listening and sharing. This newspaper shows good start. Enjoy reading.



Message - participants

Intercultural dialogue consists of sharing experiences and knowledge with people with different backgrounds. It is a chance to learn and to accept common and different aspects between different cultures. Intercultural dialogue is communication and cooperation, with the aim to find common solutions to common problems and to achieve social goals. Intercultural dialogue is necessary to better understand the others and ourselves, to fight against discrimination, prejudices and stereotypes, to share good practices and good ideas. To gather the people together, through sport and cultural festivals, is the core of the intercultural dialogue. Intercultural dialogue gives a useful contribution in improving democracy, social inclusion and active participation, especially of minority groups.

We strongly connect the involvement of the citizens in the decision making process as very important element in every democracy. The citizens have to have equal rights and freedom, which are the two main elements in elections of authorities: the society has to be based on social equality, the will of the majority has to be followed, but the minorities have to have the right to exist and to express their opinions. Every policy has to be non-discriminatory and inclusive: it has to be based on principles such as respect, responsibility, human rights and equality.

Events like »Global dialogue« are useful to get a deeper understanding about different cultures, to acquire new information about good practices in sport, youth and social inclusion domain, to stimulate the social change in our local communities and to extend our network of youth social-change-makers. We will do our best to organize inclusive sport events and to stimulate respect and mutual understanding in our daily life. We want to be involved, we want to volunteer, and we want to be the first promoter of social change. Please help us.

SUS message

»Sport as a tool to promote active citizenship, social inclusion of young people and intercultural dialogue« was the main topic of »Global Dialogue«. It was a pleasure and honor for SUS to host 19 young leaders from the 13 different countries in Ljubljana in Slovenia.

»Global Dialogue« training illustrated how we can use sport for all as a tool to promote citizenship, to raise the participation of young people in their communities and how to become more aware about the importance of such engagement. ISCA, SUS and all participating Associations use the sport for all concept, meaning that they promote sport and physical activities to bring people together, from all social groups, and engage them into dialogue. By providing the space and tools for dialogue, we provide the platform for increased tolerance among young people. Through the Global Dialogue, young leader from different countries and cultures met, started the dialogue and raised the level of awareness about different cultures. Using this training, young people learned how to overcome the cultural

differences and work together in a healthy environment, local, national or international.

We as »sport for all associations«, all play very important role in Europe and around the world, we play Sport for all to become a popular tool used to further integration, inclusion and the development of society. Global Dialogue provided a common space for brainstorming about sport as a popular tool and sector in the discussions on intercultural dialogue, about life learning strategy through youth participation and about integration through sport.

We are sure that results of the Global Dialogue training gave the path for developing a long-term strategy for the sport intervention and activities at local, national and international levels and to encourage young trainers and the Sport for All civil society organizations for intercultural intervention. Let's promote Sport for All via these kinds of events while shaping the youth programmes and youth policies.

ISCA message

ISCA is proud to be able to contribute to the non-formal learning of young people with an interest in sport and culture. With Global Dialogue, the participants have among others tackled the key issue of social inclusion. Sport certainly has a contribution to make towards social inclusion. However, this contribution cannot be taken for granted. It must be nursed, developed and challenged on an ongoing basis. The social inclusion through sport is primarily a local, interaction-based phenomenon. Nevertheless, it must be put into perspective to sustain its momentum. And with Global Dialogue, this perspective is indeed global – and based on the prerequisite of inclusion – namely intercultural dialogue.

We have no final expert answers to the challenges of intercultural dialogue and social inclusion. We have, however, the drive from engaged citizens to develop the knowledge and methodologies – and make a difference. And most importantly, we have the young people that will frame the societies of tomorrow. From countries across three continents, they met in Slovenia to give their contribution in Global Dialogue. They are the experts. I will leave the floor where it belongs – to them.



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Under the Same Sun



LEADERSHIP TEAM

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

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...THROUGH THEIR PERFORMANCES, SUCCESSES OR DEFEATES, THROUGH THEIR WORDS OR THEIR SMILES, THEY SHARE FEELINGS WITH SEVERAL SUPPORTERS LOCATED ALL OVER THE WORLD. THEY INSPIRE KIDS IN PLAYGROUND, THEY PROMOTE MEDIA CAMPAIGN, THEY SMILE ON THE FIRST PAGES OF NEWSPAPERS. THE PROCESS OF »IDENTIFICATION« WITH A CHAMPION IS A COMPLEX PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESS, AND TO DEFINE WHO IS »THE CHAMPION« IS NOT AN EASY TASK.

Who are the champions?

The question »who is your favourite sport idol?« can get creative and original answers. It is the case, for example, of Juraj Mikus, from Ollerup Accademy: »I would surely mention one of my former basketball coaches and one of my former team-mates in Slovak Junior national team. Through them I have learned that the most important things are the passion for sport and the dedition during the training: if you strongly commit in sport activity, fully engaging body and hearth, you improve«. His Argentinan colleague Tomas »Tomasito« Gil, smiles and adds: »My favourite sport idols are Maradona, Messi, Micheal Jordan and Federer: the »champion« is able to play in spectacular way and he is the number one in his discipline. Maradona for example is one of the three better football players in all the history: he was able to do things impossible for others, and for me as Argentinian, it was a pleasure to see him playing«.

But when the focus of the conversation become broader, Juray explains that »for a »champion« is very important also to respects rules, referee and competitors. The contemporary mass-sport events involve athletes, supporters and spectators from different country: through the competition, they share feelings and emotions, taking

part, with different roles, to the same event«. Thomas confirms through moving his head up and down.

Also Ivan Zivkovic, from Sport-For-All Association of Belgrade, points out that »the »champion« »is a role-model for thousands of fans and youngsters: Djordjevic is my number one. I really appreciate him not just on the field, but mainly because he was devolving half of his salary for charity. I know just because I work in sport-domain: I think that every champion should behave in this way. I appreciate also Novak Djokovic, because he never gives up in everything he does«.

Marko Sakovic, from the Montenegrin Sport for All association, explains that »the champions plays for the team: without a team the »champion« cannot do anything. The champion is the best in a discipline, has strong personality and caracter, but he/she doesn't have to overwhelm the team: to be fair with team-mates makes the »champion« an authority and a complete athlete. According to this authority, the »champion« should be engaged in social campaigns and social causes: all his fans will be listening, considering him/her as reliable voice. But, once again, the »champion« doesn't have to forget the team«.

ICONS IN OUR GLOBALIZED MEDIA SISTEM, POPULAR FACES IN MASS-SPORT EVENTS, IDOLS FOR KIDS AND SYMBOLS FOR THEIR NATIONS, THE »CHAMPIONS« ARE THE MAIN PROTAGONISTS OF SPORT...



THE WORD »CITIZENSHIP« CAN BE DIVIDED IN TWO WORDS:

What is active citizenship?

»CITIZEN« AND »SHIP«. THE ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP CAN BE REPRESENTED BY A SHIP WHICH SAILS ON THE EUROPEAN SEA. IF YOU RISE UP YOUR SAILS, YOU BECAME ACTIVE BY FREELY SAILING THROUGH EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES, LIKE TRAINING, COURSES, SCHOLARSHIP, INTERNSHIP OR VOLUNTEERING, FROM HARBOUR TO HARBOUR. SAILING IS A SPORT AND SPORT CONNECTS PEOPLE: IN EVERY SEAPORT WHERE OUR BOAT STOPS, WE LEAVE SOMETHING AND WE PICK UP SOMETHING. THE BOAT IS CALLED PARTY-CIPATION AND EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN US: THIS IS ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP«. MARIA CRISTIANA NASTASE, SMILING ROMANIAN PROJECT MANAGER IN LEAGUE EDUCATION CULTURE SPORT, HAS FOUND PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO EXPLAIN WHAT »ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP« IS.

GARD is a ship sailing on European and Macedonian sea, promoting sport and recreation for all: »the aim of our association – explains Elena Timova - is to make citizens active through sport: we promote social inclusion and active lifestyle for all: everyone participate in our events for free. Our country is multicultural: our aim is to offer leisure opportunities in the nature. While walking on the mountain, the most important thing is to walk together, to do physical exercise and to enjoy nature. To be Albanian or Macedonian or any other nationality is not relevant at all«.

Vuk Radojkovic, from PRONI, individuates two main elements of »active citizenship«: »the first is represented by the freedom of expressing opinions: everyone has this right and every opinion deserves to be listened. The second element is the problem solving: »active citizenship« to participate in strategies and policies to solve real problems. In my country, we have a lot of problems: we have tried to solve them for years following the same models. But models successful elsewhere, not necessarily work in Bosnia Herzegovina. The policy makers should pay more attention to the opinions of the citizens directly affected by the problem: it is the only way to solve the problems and to improve our society«.

Sport is a great tool to promote social change and development policies. And you don't need necessarily to be an expert or a professional coach to make the change. Lenka Schropferova, from Czech Republic NGO INDEX-SDA, is going to Nigeria to volunteer for six months in »football for development« domain: »I don't know anything about football, but luckily I will have a German colleague: she is a football coach. I look forward to leave, to learn more about football, sport and mainly development policies. I have decided to volunteer in Africa because I am keen to work in international affairs and diplomacy: I consider volunteering as a very useful educational experience«. Also Igor Netkovski, secretary general of Integrity ALFA&OMEGA, uses sport to promote social change: the »running towards the goal« is a marathon where more kilometres each runners runs, more money will be donated for charity. Igor is satisfied with the first edition in Macedonia: »We donate money for three relevant causes, like the promotion of education of Roma, to renew toilet in old schools and to the scientific research about breast cancer. We cooperate with several Embassies and Institutions: they are gathered together by the wish to do something of good for social causes. When the idea behind the project is good it isn't so hard to find sponsors: sport is a great tool to promote social change«.



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ДОБРОДОШЛИ
- ВИТЕЈТЕ
- ДОБРОДОШЛИ
- ВЕМ-VINDOS
- ДОБРОДОШЛИ





Sport maguchi - how we see the future

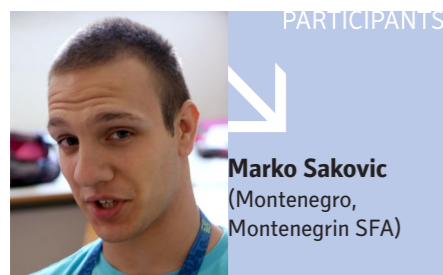
»Sport-maguchi« is the idea which has inspired the following declaration: it is necessary to take care of sport, to make it as an effective tool of social inclusion and intercultural dialogue. After participating in several debates and workshops about these issues, we - the »Global dialogue« team - include in this declaration our ideas, suggestions, concrete recommendations and actions to fully utilize the aggregative value of sport, underlining the educational and socialization values. The declaration is divided in three

chapters, related to non-formal education, volunteering and social inclusion.

We recognize the »champions« as relevant role-models for youth: they should be engaged in media campaigns to promote awareness about volunteering and social inclusion. The »education« is a key sector: more seminar, trainings, conference and events should be organized, with the aims of gathering together people with different backgrounds and educating people to inter-

act in multicultural environment. The value and the benefits of volunteering should be recognized and better promoted into society.

The »Global Dialogue« team strongly believes in every single word of this declaration and in the values behind it. We will do everything in our possibility to transform this declaration into reality, acting as »active citizens«, fair and open-minded sportsmen and sportswomen at local, national and international levels. Enjoy your reading.



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Non-formal education

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION IS A FORM OF EDUCATION THAT IS NOT OBLIGATORY AND NOT STRUCTURED. IT IS A GREAT TOOL TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT SPORT ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP, INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE THROUGH DIFFERENT EVENTS SUCH AS SEMINARS, TRAINING COURSES, WORKSHOPS, SPORT FESTIVAL, CAMPS, AND YOUTH EXCHANGES.

R1 To create new campaigns and marketing actions to raise awareness about the potential of non-formal education.

A1 To create social communication campaigns involving sport athletes, to get a deeper media coverage.

R2 Motivating young people to participate in projects, sport activities and decision making process

A1 organizing seminars, training courses, youth exchanges, workshops, intercultural events with the active participation of sports and health experts

R3 To educate young people to become effective leaders, trainers and youth workers in the field of sports

A1 providing causes held by experts well educated persons with the aim of teaching future youth workers, effective leaders and trainers

R4 To invest in university research groups and statistic institutes concerned with youth lifestyle, sports and non formal education

A1 To establish specific statistic institute and organizations in charge to produce qualitative and quantitative indicators about youth lifestyle, sports and non formal education;

A2 To create specific funds to support academical research groups in order to support planning policies for young people, sports and non-formal education



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Volunteering

VOLUNTEERING IS A PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF FREE TIME, GENEROSITY, SKILLS, EXPERIENCE AND GOOD WILL IN FAVOR OF SOCIAL CAUSES. VOLUNTEERING IS AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE BASED ON »LEARN BY DOING« APPROACH WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.

R1 Motivating people to volunteer in sport for all projects

A1 Involve unemployed people in exchange of benefits as meals, discounts, less taxes.

A2 Awarding volunteers with certificates.

A3 Provide the opportunity for sport students to volunteer as an accredited compliment to their studies.

A4 Ask celebrities to invite people to volunteer in sport-for-all events.

Social inclusion

SPORT IS A TOOL TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS IN OUR SOCIETY. IT IS A METHOD OF FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION ABLE TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION AND TO IMPROVE SOCIAL COHESION. SOCIAL INCLUSION IN SPORT DOMAIN IS MAKING SPORT AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE, RELIGION, FINANCIAL STATUS, BELIEFS OR ANY OTHER KIND OF DISCRIMINATION.

R1 Increase the number of suitable and accessible sports facilities and activities for minority groups in order to offer them equal opportunities.

A1 Use »proceeds of crime« money to found sport activities and facilities in the community.

A2 Organize fundraising events such as football tournaments to provide money for activities for minority groups.

R2 To educate and to integrate the young people through sport activity in order to break down barriers and prevent discrimination.

A1 Organize a sport&education event including minority groups to educate young people about social values then put theory into practice through sport.

A2 Ask professional sport athletes to donate a percentage of their salary to found the event. Also ask them to be »the face« of the fundraising, support the project and promote social values.

R3 To use sport to decrease the level of violence in society.

A1 Promote sport in jails to encourage integration into society when the people come out of jail and to decrease the percentage of violence.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION is a fund established in 1972 by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. Its purpose is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity.

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ISCA



International Sport and Culture Association has been created with the aim of providing an alternative to the increasingly performance-based attitude of the international sports federations, ISCA has grown rapidly since its foundation in 1995. Today, the organisation has more than 130 affiliated member organisations (primarily non-governmental) in five continents and more than 40 million individual members. ISCA promotes the use of sport as tool of active lifestyle, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, volunteering and youth leadership empowerment.

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SUS



The Sports Union of Slovenia (SUS) is an umbrella organization of sport-for-all clubs and associations. It includes 100 clubs with altogether approximately 95.000 members. SUS activities are oriented towards clubs and individuals; however, the emphasis is laid on further development and modernization of sport for all activities. The SUS purpose is also to attract and include as much people as we can into sport, as well as to include various expertises and to exchange experiences.

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SUS

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