

# ***Sport and Cultures in Dialogue***





# **STATEMENT FROM CITIZENS' PANEL IN ZAGREB**

**2010 October 1- 3**

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## International visions

**The Citizens' Panel in Croatia,** representing local authorities and leaders from the grass-root sport and health sector, calls for higher ambitions on capitalizing the full potential of the Sport for All sector in fostering societal coherency through dialogue and understanding across cultures.

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**The Panel** further call for visions and initiatives to boost partnership between the Sport for All sector, the world's largest civil society community, and the Health sector in increasing the access to grass-roots sport and physical activity for the billions of citizens worldwide who are not yet regularly physical active. This should be our common goal.



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## Recommendations for stakeholders in Croatia

strongly encourage the  
health and grass-root  
sport sectors in Croatia  
to seek further synergies  
and together:

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A. apply health enhancing physical activity in the combat against obesity, taking in international experience and also make use of the good practices already existing used in Croatia, e.g. when treating cardiological diseases.

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B. advocate with a common voice for the societal potential of health enhancing physical activity (HEPA).

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C. work to create political support for a national strategy on health enhancing physical activity in Croatia, involving actors from the governmental (incl. Ministry of Health), intergovernmental (incl. WHO), private, and, not the least, the sport sector in the process.



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D. work on securing better baseline data and evidence based health programs including certified/verified activities inspired by regional and international best practices.

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**Put attention** to the limited usage in Croatia of key international policy documents, such as EU White Papers on Sport, and Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues. Stakeholders in Croatia are encouraged to utilize this international knowledge bank and find ways to translate and disseminate these policies nationally.

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**Highlight** the current challenges of obtaining political support, including financial, to the Sport for All sector. Limited political attention constitutes a barrier to the outreach of health enhancing physical activity in Croatia, and special attention must be drawn to the bias towards competitive clubs when providing access to sport facilities.

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**Call for attention** to the high exemption rates from physical education lessons in the Croatian public school system, a situation partly caused by the pedagogical focus on competitive elements.



**Direct attention** to a political focus on creating a legal framework conducive for promoting volunteering in civic associations.

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**Sport's unique potential** to create societal change and engage citizens (Eurobarometer 2010) must receive increased attention when seeking to reach out to soci-ally disadvantaged groups.



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**Special programs** are needed to be developed, responding to the specific needs of the target group in question, such as ethnic minorities, elderly, women, socially excluded youth and people with disabilities.

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*»As citizens, it is our responsibility to become active participants and to make sure that we take responsibility for our health. As professionals in the health and Sport for All sectors it is our responsibility to develop action plans in Croatia for health and physical activity.« (S. Heimer)*



**SPORT**

**CULTURE**



**HEALTH**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !**