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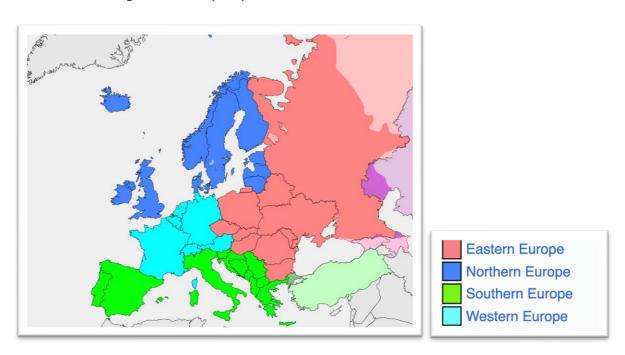


REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATE OF INCLUSIVE SPORTS IN EUROPE

Inclusive Sports

Inclusive education is a process which aims at providing everyone with quality education that continues by respecting the different needs and skills, characteristics and learning expectations of students and societies. In the international arena, inclusive education is a holistic subject which embodies health and social welfare. The concepts of inclusion, integration, consolidation, and inclusive education have emerged out of the struggle against building disability in society and supporting the individual rights of people with special needs. The main principle is for all individuals to learn and do sports together wherever possible regardless of the difficulties or differences they have¹. In this respect, to be able to create a sustainable European model, there is a need to analyze the current situation in the European continent. For the project partners to be able to identify the current situation of inclusive sports in Europe, the countries to be analyzed by the project partners according to the United Nations geoscheme are shown in Table 1The regions were designed in line with the M49 coding classification by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The United Nations geoscheme for Europe involves Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe (Picture 1).

Picture 1. Subregions of Europe by the UN Geoscheme







Eastern Europe Countries: Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Northern Europe Countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom

Southern Europe Countries: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Turkey (Eastern Thrace), Gibraltar, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Southern France, Spain

Western Europe Countries: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Switzerland

According to the classification of UN presented above, the project partners will be analyzing the current state of "Inclusive Sports" in the European continent. The distribution of the project partners according to countries is shown below. It was given care to present the country of the project partner as well during the distribution of the countries.

The analysis of the current state in European countries to stable and sustainable European Inclusive sports requires the analysis of the disabled sports federations, nongovernmental organizations and educational institutions of these countries

The answer to the question, "What has been done in the name of inclusive sports in Europe in this research report, where are the good practices related to inclusive sports?" is sought. The difficulties faced by various institutions and organizations in Europe in promoting inclusive sports in their environment, and the characteristics of various environments and related factors which affect these difficulties are discussed and reported.





SOUTHERN EUROPE COUNTRIES

Albania

Project Title: Active Disable People Albania

Active Disable People Albania; is an organization that can develop self-confidence, motivation and learning skills through sports activities and has a mission to empower disabled people to lead independent lives. Its purpose is to develop social capacity to ensure human rights for all persons with disabilities, to develop skills and awareness of persons with disabilities and their families on personal care and participation in social life. It aims to enable people with disabilities to participate fully in society, to benefit from equal rights and opportunities, and most importantly, to ensure that people with disabilities participate in education and adapted sports.

Bosnia Herzegovina

Project Title: Inclusion through Sports for children with developmental Disabilities

The implementation of the project called *Inclusion through Sports for children with developmental Disabilities* started with the Special Olympics held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is funded by the EEA and the Norwegian Grant Fund for Regional Cooperation. Through this project, the Special Olympics in Bosnia and Herzegovina will contribute to the creation of better conditions and a more inclusive society for children with disabilities. Apart from inclusion through sports, this project not only worked on inclusion but also trained families, local communities, coaches, students to create the conditions for a sustainable inclusive program in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This project has been a program attended by high school students, students, athletes and coaches in Sarajevo and Banja Luka. More than 200 million people with intellectual disabilities (ID) around the world face stigmatization and isolation. In this project, which covers more than 5,200 children in 80 locations in 55 provinces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 520 trainers took part and nearly 350 competitions, 150 family health forums are planned to be organized and it is considered that 6,620 family members will participate in all activities (sports events, trainings, family forums). A new cycle of family health forums is being prepared, as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Special





Olympics kicks off with an education program and inclusive competitions. Together with partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is planned to bring together more than 5,000 children who have difficulties and do not experience sports activities by organizing training and competitions. The project focuses on integrated play for children and offers a solution to social exclusion when children with ID are separated in private schools. It improves motor skills because children with ID who participate in Special Olympics have been shown to develop social, emotional, and motor skills twice as fast as children who do not. It provides children and the wider community an opportunity to learn about ID and be more inclusive.

Greece

Project Title: Aetoi Thessaloniki (AETOI)

Aetoi Thessaloniki (AETOI); It is an organization whose main goals are to support people with disabilities. The organization works approximately with 80 children and adults with disabilities targeting social inclusion. The organization works with a professional staff consisting of physical education teachers, psychologists, social workers, and educators to learn non-formal education techniques, encourage volunteering, and develop inclusive sports to support socialization. It continues its activities in three different sectors. In terms of sports, AETOI operates with 3 teams in athletics, 2 teams in basketball, and 1 team in swimming and table tennis. Each year, teams participate in national champions. In 2017, AETOI became the club with the highest number of athletes in national championships among nearly 80 disabled sports clubs. In addition, within the scope of its dissemination strategy, the club organizes basketball tournaments for special education schools every year. In terms of training programs, AETOI organizes training programs for people with disabilities as part of their general education. In addition, staff, board of directors and athletes participate in European programs such as Erasmus +. It organizes seminars and conferences related to disability and disabled sports and ensures participation in such organizations. In addition, it accepts and quides university students who want to do internships. It carries out a project called Erasmus and aims to regularly include individuals with mental disabilities between the ages of 6-18 in the practices.





Italy

Project Title: Federazione Italian Sport Paralympian Degli Intellectivo

Federazione Italian Sport Paralympian Degli Intellectivo with the support of Relazionali (Fisdir); 2023 Italian Alpine Skiing and Scandinavian Ski Championships were organized by SCI Club Monte Bondone ASD. It has reached a significant number of athletes participating in an event held in Geremia, which represents an absolute first for both the state of Trento and Monte Bondone. Representatives of companies with disabilities Valcamonica, Avres associazione Valdostana Amateur Sports, Asd Sci Club Due Monfalcone-Ronchi , Us Ruffre ' - Mendola Asd , Gsa Grole Asd, Lebenshilfe, Libertas Incontro senza Barriere, PandHa, Sci Club Monte Bondone (organizing company), especially Sport & Friends South Tyrol, Sport di Più, Asd Compagnia Arcieri Tor Di Quinto and Osha ASD – Aps have been backers for the exciting season after a two-year mandatory hiatus and limited recovery.

Project Title: ASI

ASI; tor di in Quinto via delle in Fornaci Sapienza: More than 700 athletes from Italy and abroad are expected to participate in indoor rowing, organized by ASI's ASD C2 Team Italy at the Sports University's sports facility. Rowers will be divided by age and weight categories, and there will also be individual trials and relay races, as well as competitions devoted to Para Rowers (categories PR1, PR2 and PR3 and PR3II). It will also be possible to compete with 40 athletes registered in the Special Olympics category. Mondelli Challenge is an organization open to everyone from under 12 to over 80. Unlike the first edition, which included the 500metre distance, anyone with a rowing machine in any corner of the world can participate in this year's Challenge In one minute. All proceeds will be donated to cancer research. The "International Rowing Championships" is a force for the growth of tourism, economics, and sports practices, organized for Sport and Health and like all major sporting events that are inclusive sports, it is eco-sustainable, green, innovative and technological. Together with the Italian Rowing Federation, we undertake good initiatives such as "Rowing in Freedom" in prisons, "Integrated Sports Therapy" for individuals over the age of 65, and "We will study in the family" in schools. Projects, actions and facts to help reaffirm that sports is a right for everyone and everyone. C2 Open Rowerg Championships 2023 will be participation-based,





with competitions reserved for hurdles and relays that will allow them to try their hand alongside the major champions of the discipline.

Project Title: Una Meta Per Crescere

Una Meta Per Crescere; Undoubtedly, CAPITOLINA RUGBY UNION positions itself as a viable alternative to traditional sports and sedentary life, but also as a propagator of a culture based on the values of sports in general, if not exactly a lifestyle. It was established to include some children with Down Syndrome in the mini rugby team and to support their socialization and integration. The project, which started in Rome in 2006 and today includes 8 children between the ages of 6 and 12, was established for this purpose. Growth Goal Capitoline Rugby Union and Italian Downs Association (AIPD) are coming together for this purpose. They argue that with a court, a ball and a team, they can help children with Down syndrome discover their potential and their ability to reach a goal. The project, which was started in 2006, was built on this assumption. Coaches and AIPD educators work collaboratively. The Capitoline ONLUS Association, which promotes rugby in society, was established in 2003 to enable children and youth with social and family difficulties to do sports and to develop basic human values such as solidarity. In fact, ASD Unione Rugby Capitolina contributes to social cohesion through both sports practices (from mini rugby to Veterans) and large spaces that surround the pitch and are sometimes a meeting place for families with children: It was reminded that the building in which the company operates is equipped with a restaurant, clubhouse and some children's games located in a safe area in the club park. This Integration reaches its maximum expression through the organization of charity events and summer camps that put disadvantaged children in touch with our reality and our junior athletes. The existence of some children with disabilities is a reality and there is a perfect integration with children in mini-rugby. This allows people from different backgrounds to communicate and share their life and/or work-related experiences. Ultimately "integration" arising from the possibility of coming into contact with different cultures. Thanks for the following:

- Possibility to contact foreign players
- The presence of foreign children playing on mini rugby teams





• The possibility of touring abroad or hosting foreign teams is often seen in clubs from the other hemisphere as well as Great Britain, French or Spanish teams: New Zealanders, South Africans, Argentines, Australians.

AIPD (Italian Down People Association) and Capitolina Onlus enabled this ten-year project involving the inclusion of children with Down Syndrome (up to 14 years old) in various Capitolina teams. The aim of the project is twofold: allowing children with Down Syndrome to experience an integration that helps them achieve a good level of autonomy with the support of a professional figure, educator, who supports the child, if necessary, not later in practice, games and matches' away and enabling other children and their families to experience diversity as something unifying and natural that goes beyond the walls of Capitolina and leaves its mark. Last season, 6 children aged between 6 and 15 played in various teams of Capitolina. In ten years, about 60 children with Down Syndrome have had this extremely positive experience.

Project Title: Chuang

Chuang; Play International social and educational sports activities are designed to integrate all groups in society, regardless of ethnicity, gender, or ability. Play International is designed to promote active learning through games, develop young people's self-confidence, and teach core values such as fair play, respect, and team spirit. Since 2018, its mission has diversified its work by collaborating with organizations from neighboring countries in the Western Balkans through the Spor4Youth programme. It aims to encourage civic participation of young people in debates of national importance through human rights clubs and to develop educational skills and opportunities for physical education teachers through the Sport4Education program. It initiated the adaptation of Playdagogy and other methods to specific problems in the Western Balkans region. Nonprofits work directly with national education authorities to integrate PLAY International's unique educational approach into the formal education system. Sports encourage education and inclusion for all. By using sports as educational levers, we support educators in training the content of education that will enable the society to raise awareness and prevent some problems. Non-Governmental Organizations work especially on issues such as access to school, gender equality, community reconciliation, prevention of health, environmental education, coexistence, and changing the perspective on disability. At the heart





of all PLAY International programs are teachers, educators, who supervise children aged 6 to 15. The NGO's projects turn into concrete activities for the beneficiaries, especially where the intervention is most needed and the needs are greatest. PLAY International continues to fulfill its missions around the world with the same passion. It is to create collective solutions through sports to ensure the education, participation, and peace of everyone. Since 1999, PLAY International has run humanitarian and education missions in more than 20 countries.

Moldova

Project Title: Futsal Arena FMF Sports Complex

"Futsal Arena FMF" Sports Complex in the village of Ciorescu, Moldova. Approximately 200 children aged 3 to 8, including children with special needs, participated in a sporting event aimed at promoting the participation of young children through sports, where sports activities and football matches were held. The event was organized by Special Olympics Moldova in partnership with the Football Federation of Moldova, UNICEF Moldova and the Chisinau Public Health Center to promote the inclusion of all children through sports. About 100 volunteers mentored young athletes, while their parents had the opportunity to interact with early childhood development experts. It was set out with the principle that children can unite, discover, and realize their potential thanks to sports. Sports is inclusive - everyone can participate, regardless of age, gender, disability, or social status. UNICEF and Special Olympics have worked together since 2007 to protect and promote the rights of children with intellectual disabilities, with a focus on changing perceptions of children with disabilities and promoting social inclusion. Sharing the commitment to support the rights of children with intellectual disabilities indicated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the two partners signed a Global Memorandum of Understanding in Greece in 2011 at the Special Olympic Games in Athens. Joint activities under the MOU include inclusive sports participation, free medical checkups, healthy early childhood development activities, and family health planning training for parents and caregivers. This partnership is intended to empower children and youth with intellectual disabilities from 35 countries to contribute and participate fully in their communities and countries. Thanks to this cooperation in Moldova, more than 1,000 pre-school children, 600 parents and educators and





30 community leaders have participated in sports activities organized in Chisinau, Straseni, Ungheni, Taraclia, Telenesti, Dubasari, Criuleni and Rezina since 2014.

Romania

Project Title: SPADS- Sports Activities for People with Down Syndrome

SPADS- Sports Activities for People with Down Syndrome; participates as a partner in the initiative supported by ASD Running of Matera, which is endorsed by the European Commission EACEA executive agency, Erasmus+SPORT 2020 programme. The project, which started in January 2021, mainly aims to train girls and boys with Down Syndrome between the ages of 12-30 to participate in sports activities in athletics, orienteering, equestrian, basketball, table tennis and swimming branches, and to train trainers for these branches.

Project Title: EU-COLBOL

EUROPE COLPBOL (EU-COLPBOL) is an; Erasmus + Sport project running from January 2021 to December 2022. The project aims to expand COLPBOL's potential as a sports promoting cooperation and participation at European level. It is an innovative and inclusive sports model that has been successfully implemented in Spain for the last 20 years. It is a collective sport that encourages the highest possible participation of all players, regardless of their physical abilities and motor skills, and minimizes individual differences, as it requires the team's cooperation and collective communication to achieve the ultimate goal of the game. COLPBOL is defined as a sport played by two mixed teams of 7 players in a clearly defined area, the aim of which is to get a ball into the opponent's goal through a hand kick. The aim is to create a dynamic, coeducational, inclusive and supportive sport while promoting fun and creativity. The two main pillars that define the essence of the game are cooperation (it is a compulsory first contact game) and coeducation (always a mixed game). Based on the abovementioned features, COLPBOL is a powerful tool to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities (PwID): (1) its simplicity in terms of technical movements and rules that make it easier to play by PwID and therefore increase their participation in physical activities by benefiting their health; (2) the ability to allow people of different abilities to participate, PwID can play with people without any disabilities, thus increasing their social participation. By expanding the potential of COLPBOL to the European level, EU-COLPBOL is considered to





be a complementary and innovative educational project that will promote the transferability of a new model of inclusive sport from Spain to other EU countries, while also developing specific guidelines for different stakeholders. Involved in the successful implementation of COLPBOL (PwID, sports professionals and PwID supporters) in a good quality of life approach. It will also strengthen cooperation between organizations in the field of sports and disability to integrate both perspectives and create a multiplier effect at local and EU level.

San Marino

Project Title: Per una Comunita Inclusive

Per una Comunita Inclusive, *a* project aiming at social inclusion and compatible with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been carried out for 8 consecutive years. It is a project that aims to announce what can be done despite all the negativities of the psychological, physical, and sensory situation that may be encountered. The slogan that characterizes the project is "For an inclusive community!" and the goal is to work to build inclusive societies by experimenting with the reciprocity of relationships: the right of every person to desire their fulfillment is often hampered not by the disadvantaged situation of persons with disabilities, but by the environmental and social conditions in which they live, where often even the minimum requirements are not met. It is thought that this fact is not due to the unwillingness of the managers in public institutions, but due to lack of information.

Serbia

Project Title: Games Without Borders - the project called Sports for All

Games Without Borders - the project called Sports for All; "Sports for All", a unique event that brings together children with and without disabilities, aims to promote sports, physical culture, and inclusion as an important approach to the social values of a community. It aims to bring together hundreds of children and young people with different types of developmental difficulties and disabilities through unlimited games, basketball, volleyball, badminton, golf, goal ball, racing, rowing, table tennis, darts and other sports branches. One of the main objectives of the project is to prevent children and young people with disabilities





from being segregated and excluded, who are often ignored or systematically excluded from physical activities. It is thought that their exclusion is not due to deliberate efforts, but due to a lack of understanding of abilities. For this reason, the "Sports for All" initiative will enable these children and young people to demonstrate their potential, promote inclusion and open up new avenues of opportunity. Sports Association for the Disabled, Belgrade Municipality, the Sports and Youth Secretariat and the Belgrade Municipality Social Protection Secretariat and UNICEF make valuable contributions and support the initiative.

Slovenia

Project Title: Inclusive Judo in Slovenia

Inclusive Judo in Slovenia; Judo clubs, members of the Slovenian Judo Association, have been training children and adults with various disabilities for 25 years. The Slovenian Judo Union has been developing the inclusive sports project for over 25 years. The project has pioneered a social and also a health innovation in Slovenia. It is based on modern, generally accepted principles of social work/profession, the primary profession dealing with vulnerable groups. The project achieves the overall effects expected in close cooperation with the sports profession in judo training programs that take place in a normal judo club in a normalized manner. In general, the inclusion of vulnerable groups in a regular sporting organization or sport, if they are not accepted or because of their disability or personal deficiencies in sporting activity, social, sporting, health, and spiritual spheres.

All vulnerable persons capable of practicing judo are full members of Slovenian judo clubs, with all duties and obligations arising from membership. In general, athletes are named differently from the names given to other judokas/athletes. In the Slovenian Judo Federation, terms such as parasport, parajudo, paraathlete, para-student, sport for the disabled, sport for amputees, adapted sports are avoided. Vulnerable people are initially disadvantaged in many areas of their lives because of their disability. Through involvement in inclusive sports and acceptance in society, vulnerable people can best make up for this gap. Efforts for personal self-actualization are no different from the top athlete, and even more complex. The terminology of the sensitive population in the field is constantly changing. In particular, the social, pedagogical and sports professions are constantly striving for more appropriate terminology. Inappropriate terms are a remnant of the developmental history of professions





that deal with the treatment and positioning of vulnerable groups in society (including sports) who still live their lives using legal and everyday language. This is partly so because some vulnerable people, their representatives, organizations representing vulnerable groups, specialized sports organizations, some professions and the state also accept their use.

In addition to intensive networking with similar initiatives across Europe, establishing coaching practice in Slovenia, linking professions and systematically placing activities in the Slovenian Judo Federation, we have established active links with the local community, institutions, and associations. One of the most important goals we pursued in our work was to create an inclusive culture in the main judo club. We soon found that the presence of vulnerable groups in the club sensitized the emotion and focus of each practitioner's needs in order to mitigate the social harm caused by choosing the (sport) training process in the club, and that this process connects sports at large. Club in the local community different disciplines, stakeholders, and resources. In this way, the sports club was established as an important socially beneficial organization in the local environment, contributing to society rather than just a sporting outcome. The club aims at reducing the social harm caused by the process of training selection in the club (sports), and this process connects the sports club mostly between different disciplines, stakeholders, and resources in the local environment. In this way, the sports club was established as an important socially beneficial organization

We achieved all this not with sports equipment, but with sensitive social communication and action!

The same is true at a higher level of a national judo organization. The project of inclusion in the Slovenian Judo Association has the same effects - it makes it a better organization and more humane in all respects. On a personal level, as a judo master whose primary mission is to care for the overall lifelong well-being of the practitioner and society (but not just for sporting results), I have found the true meaning of my work in sports only after I finished my competitive career. Around 150 judokas of various disabilities and age groups are currently involved in inclusive judo in the seven clubs of the Slovenian Judo Association. This means a real participation in the sport in the first Slovenian national branch sports association. There are many judo initiatives and programs for vulnerable groups in different countries of the world. The number of vulnerable people involved is growing rapidly and the Slovenian inclusive model is held in high esteem. This project, which introduced more than 70 disabled children





to judo, is managed very well, Slovenian judokas are very well received and medals in all competitions in Europe and the world. An inclusive trainer works with the group and adds aides as needed when it has a very heterogeneous group. Autistic judokas are provided, for example, with one assistant per athlete. Slovenian terms are used instead of Japanese for the convenience of mentally disabled judokas. The learning of judo techniques is adapted according to the physical abilities of the practitioners and the basic performance principles behind the techniques are followed. A suitable inclusive club environment is created as the judoka progresses so that they and the coach can attend standard club judo training sessions. The type of exercise is always individualized to the individual.

Inclusive judo involves recreational judo training with added positive effects (social activation, creating a sense of belonging to a group, creation of new social networks, positive health effects on the trainee), judo practice with predicted target effects (pronounced in some vulnerable groups, e.g. autism spectrum, mental health). It is aimed to gain the practice of judo for competitive sports (the possibility of participation and personal realization in competitions organized within the Slovenian Judo Association or in competitions held in Slovenia and abroad within special sports systems for individual groups of vulnerable groups). The judo trainer plans and researches the best sequence and combination of exercise types for the practitioner's maximum benefit. The trainer's attention is always focused on taking into account the judoka's obstacles and developing the full potential of the trainee. With the concept of networking and promotion in judo clubs and local communities, the project is aimed at helping local communities, professional institutions/professions, politicians, disability associations, volunteers, parents, supporters, etc. grows naturally (bottom-up) due to participation. It uses the available resources in the field of sports and care for the disabled in which it invests, in a logical, rational, and efficient manner. When decision makers and consultants decide that participation in sports can be promoted from the ground up with national promotional events, artificial organizational structures, and even new organizations, it seems to go beyond many failed attempts with its own internal development logic. An inclusive intergenerational society is the strategic direction and commitment of the Slovenian state and the EU. This is because of the finding that community-based forms of care for the vulnerable, cohesion and intergenerational cooperation are the least expensive for society and also the most ethically acceptable. In Slovenia, persons from vulnerable groups of the





population are included in all aspects of life. In this regard, both a social consensus and high standards have been achieved.

Spain

Project Title: DELYRAMUS

DELYRAMUS; project, Psico Ballet Maite Leon Foundation participates in the project by organizing a community performing arts workshop. It aims to involve adults with and without disabilities through art and creative expression. The project aims to work on labeling, isolation, social exclusion, the difficulty of accessing the cultural and artistic world through empowerment, education, and the creation of participatory spaces.

Dansei Dance and Rhythmic Gymnastics School has been an indication that the discipline knows no obstacles. The dance school has an adapted rhythmic gymnastics team. There are currently 8 athletes and they have requested an additional day to the training days. Their coaches state that they are working for the regional and national rhythmic gymnastics championships as well as many projects.

Project Title: El Club De Las extraordinaries

El Club De Las extraordinaries; Algar Sports Club, Alberola It was founded by the Garvi brothers in 1992 in Elx. Algar Sports club may not be the biggest or the most modern club in Spain, but it is one of the best. Giorgi Khachidze and Juan Anthony and with its promising young athletes like López, it stands out in national and international competitions in Olympic disciplines such as judo besides rhythmic gymnastics. The coaches of the club, which has athletes with Down syndrome, were training his sister and the potential of the athlete with Down Syndrome was noticed. The club participated in rhythmic gymnastics competitions for the mentally disabled, world championships, ten ties individual national championships ten times and group championships nine times. Rhythmic gymnastics is not yet part of the Paralympic Games, but it has won five gold medals at the first Trisome Games to try to fill that void. Although gymnasts with and without mental disabilities compete separately, they train together. They argue that





athletes with Down Syndrome, who have coordination and hypotonia problems, can overcome obstacles in this manner

Turkey

Project Title: Inclusive Early Childhood Education Project for Children with Disabilities

The Inclusive Early Childhood Education Project for Children with Disabilities is an Inclusive Early Childhood Education Project for Children with Disabilities, which has been implemented in 90 schools in 6 provinces. This initiative aims to provide disabled and nondisabled children the chance to develop, learn and grow together, both in their classrooms and in the community. With the project, it is aimed to increase the number of children with disabilities participating in early childhood education. By using the available detailed data on the subject, the project is also thought to increase the awareness of families, caregivers, decision makers and community leaders about inclusive education rights and opportunities, and the importance of school-family cooperation. In addition, through the project, it is aimed to equip teachers, administrators and other education personnel with basic knowledge and skills that will develop inclusive education environments. With this project, it is planned that the coexistence of children with different developmental characteristics and learning needs in learning environments will support the development and academic success of all children, not just those with differences. The project is implemented in close cooperation of the Ministry of National Education and UNICEF, with the financial support of the European Union. Despite possible differences, every child has the right to learn, starting from the pre-school period. Ensuring that all children, boys and girls, with or without disabilities, have access to quality inclusive education opportunities is critical not just for children and their families, but for society as a whole. It has been stated that this is the goal the Ministry of National Education, the European Union and UNICEF want to achieve. Within the scope of the project, many innovative educational materials are prepared to meet the learning needs of children. These creative resources will help further strengthen teaching and learning environments for all children in Turkey. Children with special needs, like all children, deserve quality education that will develop their skills and help them achieve their dreams. This project will help all children in Turkey to provide quality education services that every family can benefit from.





WESTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES

Austria

Project Title: The Special Needs Team

The Special Needs Team; as a private club, SK Rapid would like to include players who want to continue their favorite sport despite various disabilities, for example mental or physical impairments as well as visual or hearing impairments. That's why the SK Rapid Special Needs Team was established in 2014 in collaboration with the Vienna Disabled Sports Association. The SK Rapid Special Needs Team now consists of approximately 30 players between the ages of 16 and 35 with both physical and mental disabilities. The project is designed to be sustainable and long-term. Since then, the team has participated in local competitions and international tournaments, where they compete with disabled teams from other countries. There is also a weekly educational session for children aged 6-13. They state that the most important requirements that the players should bring with them, no matter what disability they have, are team spirit, the fun of football and the opportunity to do sports. They invite all disabled people who love football to join them.

France

Project Title: BaskIN

BaskIN; It is a sports branch adapted from basketball that allows the so-called "valid" people and "disabled" people to work together and holistically. It is an innovative team sport with certain rules that allow people with heterogeneous motor and mental abilities to play together. BaskIN is inspired by both basketball and an overarching logic, allowing everyone to practice. The rule, which is adapted by differentiating the roles of the players according to their functional abilities, provides the possibility of everyone to play according to their physical potential. Everything in inclusive basketball, such as the height of the basket, the size of the





ball, the protected side areas for players with reduced mobility, is planned to encourage cohesion and participation of all.

Born in 2003 in Cremona, Italy, BaskIN is cerebral in the school setting. It was started by Antonio Bodini, the father of a child with palsy, and coach Fausto Capellini, . In 2006, Baskin Italy was founded and submitted its regulations. BaskIN is the inclusive basketball success reflected by more than 10 amateur sports clubs in Italy today.

In France, BaskIN is represented by the BaskIN France Association with 2 regional leagues. Born in Italy, BaskIN is now practiced in many countries such as Luxembourg, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Spain, and the United States. Training and internships organized by BaskIN France facilitate the integration of this event within clubs and thus reach new licensees. The school environment is a privileged space to learn about coexistence and inclusion, and to learn its values. Getting started with BaskIN is a great step to make students aware of the world of the disabled with a fun educational approach. BASKIN comes from the well-known sport of basketball, but at the same time reflects a new sport that allows people, whose regulatory architecture is radically heterogeneous in motor and intellectual abilities, to play together. BaskIN reflects the real cultural challenge of inclusive logic.

Project Title: Semaine Olympique & Paralympique (SOP)

Semaine Olympique & Paralympique (SOP); The French Olympic and Paralympic Week (OPW), events were organized to introduce more people to sports and to change young people's perceptions of disability. It has created an opportunity to combat disability discrimination and raise awareness among young people about the Paralympic Games, Para athletes and various Para sports. In addition, the OPW will highlight the importance of physical activity in the daily lives of students at all levels of the French education system. In total, more than 7,000 schools and institutions were involved in the project, with the participation of one million students. It was emphasized how important it is to fight against stereotypes and misunderstandings from an early age to prevent disability discrimination. These events offer the education community the opportunity to explore the potential of sports to support teaching. Its primary goal is to raise students' awareness of Olympic and Paralympic values while promoting the Olympic and Paralympic disciplines. In addition, OPW aims to change the perception of young people by encouraging them to look at disability from a new perspective.





The initiative was launched in partnership with Paris 2024 and the Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports.

Project Title: Gymnastics volunteer, a solution for inclusion Athletic

La Gymnastique volontaire, une solution pour l'inclusion sportive, Over the recent years, the FFEPGV has been acting in favor of the reduction of social inequalities and the struggle against isolation against the so-called "defenseless" people, such as isolated and socially degraded people and individuals with disabilities. The health question, aimed at the personal, mental and social well-being of its practitioners, is thought to be a solution in reducing these inequalities. An Ask activity promotes the inclusion, professional integration, and social cohesion of these so-called vulnerable groups of practice. FFEPGV has integrated the support of its network into its political project to ensure that these weakened and vulnerable populations benefit from an accessible sports app, regardless of age, health status, place of residence and financial situation.

Through these actions, the FFEPGV promotes the inclusion of sports. It responds to two different challenges by contributing to sports prowess through integration and integration as well as social and professional integration. The FFEPGV dynamic is based on 5 main commitments that include actions against the different audiences it wants to support;: to show solidarity, make physical activities accessible, promote the professional integration of young people, contribute to social cohesion and fight against sedentary lifestyles in every region. FFEPGV takes actions in favor of the vulnerable populations for social, economic reasons or because of regional distance.

Project Title: COME IN

Come in; It is a European Union project supported by Erasmus+ Sports programs OPES, Organizzazione per l'Educazione allo Sport is managed by ENGSO Youth, ANASTAPS, SPARC and Special Olympics. The COME IN Project supports coaches, educators, volunteers, and leaders to create inclusive sports experiences aimed at increasing the participation of youth with disabilities in sports. It is a 24-month project targeting communities in the UK, France, and Italy. The COME IN Project is focused on providing tailored and inclusive fitness sessions to youth with and without disabilities. One of the main focuses of the COME IN Project is that





it aims to give grassroots people working at the grassroots level of sports and physical activity an overview of the activities they can achieve, the obstacles they face, the political environment and practical advice on the conduct of activities suitable for people with disabilities, varying degrees of autism. It is extremely important to appreciate that people with intellectual disabilities such as cerebral and Down Syndrome mean that daily activities that young people without disabilities take for granted are much more complex for them. In addition, access to leisure activities is often very limited due to the lack of suitable facilities and supplies in the community. With the developed tools, it aims to provide tips and advice on how to make your practices more inclusive and suitable for people with disabilities, while also giving practical examples and case studies of activities.

Germany

Project Title: Non-Competitive Sports Offer (NCSO)

Non-Competitive Sports Offer (NCSO); is an integral part of Special Olympics events. Provides manageable activities for all skill levels. It aims to encourage competitions for people with and without disabilities, and more to create positive experiences that motivate physical activity. The NCSO is open to anyone with or without a disability, including athletes, participating athletes, joint partners, coaches, volunteers and supervisors, family members and friends, kindergartens, spectators, who are not able to participate in official Special Olympics sporting events due to their skills and functional abilities, to participate. NCSO has no element of competition, its focus is for everyone to enjoy their own personal success.

Project Title: Common Courses at Fläming Primary School in Berlin

Common Courses at Fläming Primary School in Berlin; In 1975, Fläming primary school became the first school in the Federal Republic of Germany to start teaching children with and without disabilities together. Fläming school is a four-tier primary school and has about 585 students, about 60 of whom are growing up, some in much more difficult living and learning situations. This makes it one of the largest primary schools in Berlin's Tempelhof / Schoeneberg district, a high-building density inner city district. The school is an all-day school; outside of school hours, children can be cared for at the adjacent after-school care center.





Between 1995 and 1997, the school was expanded to be disabled accessible at significant cost (lack of therapy and construction of classrooms, accessible sanitary facilities, two elevators). The impetus for the opening of the Fläming primary school to include pedagogical integration came from a group of parents from the Friedenau children's hostel. Since 1972, disabled and non-disabled children have been cared for together in this kindergarten. Today, children with different learning needs learn together in all classrooms at Fläming Primary School. Lessons and related special support are provided by primary school teachers, special educators, and education staff. In each of the six classes, 95-100 children are educated and cared for. Among the students, there are children with emotional and social development problems, learning difficulties, physical and sensory disabilities, and children with mental and severe multiple disabilities. Sometimes children become more and more sick, so it is necessary to address the issue of death and consider how dealing with death and bereavement can be incorporated into the educational process of a primary school. How many students are in a classroom and which staff accompany them depends on how many children need special support and how strong that support is in different situations. In some classrooms, in addition to the classroom teacher, there are one or two pedagogical staff (usually educators with additional training in therapeutic education).





NORTHERN EUROPE COUNTRIES

Finland

Project Title: Special Olympics Perheleri

Kuntokuu; is a recreational exercise campaign held in February and September, which focuses on monitoring voluntary movement, that anyone can participate in, regardless of the level of exercise. The goal is to get people moving, that is, to get them exercising. You can participate alone or in a group. The family camp is a way for children with developmental disabilities aged 8-13 to participate in Special Olympics events. At the camp, the whole family moves together, and parents have their own schedules. Experienced Special Olympics Athlete Leader athletes from different sports will come together and apply their own guidance, presentation, and management skills.

Ireland

Project Title: Hockey4All

Hockey4All, Ireland's dormant account Funding- funded Hockey4All program aims to provide young people with disabilities the opportunity to be part of the local hockey community, stay healthy socially, mentally, and physically, and have fun in a team sport. With the project, it is intended to provide coach and referee training, E-learning support, equipment to support program delivery, tasting sessions at local schools/community groups, competitive opportunities, and other support as needed.

Iceland – Norway – Liechtenstein

Project Title: Inclusion through Sports for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Inclusion through sports for children with developmental disabilities; The context of the project is illustrated by the figures of the World Health Organization: 200 million people with intellectual disabilities (ID) in the world face stigma and isolation. According to WHO,





people with ID have worse health status, less access to education, and face barriers in daily life, especially in accessing health services and education. Meanwhile, research shows a strong correlation between participation in organized sports and a range of positive outcomes: individuals with intellectual disabilities have improved social skills, self-confidence, self-determination, and independence (6 J., Diamond, T., Demark, J., & Lovald, B., 2003).

Through the project, it is intended to give children with intellectual disabilities a new opportunity to overcome isolation. To promote social inclusion and help develop the cognitive, social and motor skills of children with intellectual disabilities, with over 5,200 children and young people aged 6 to 12 years old and non-mentally disabled in 55 provinces in Central Europe, Southern Europe and the Balkans to participate in sports competitions.

The project aims to encourage children with and without intellectual disabilities to learn and play together, to help those with intellectual disabilities develop basic skills through activities and team games, to encourage inclusion in society and among young people without intellectual disabilities, and to help families. For three years, from January 2021 to December 2023, the European project "Participation through sport for children with developmental disabilities", coordinated and managed by the Motivation Romania Foundation in partnership with Special Olympics (SO) Romania, SO Iceland, SO Slovakia, SO Bosnia and Herzegovina, SO Montenegro, SO European Eurasia Foundation and Poznan University of Physical Education were thought to facilitate the organization of competitions for team sports such as football and basketball matches. The project "Participation through sports for children with developmental disabilities" is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grant Fund, which represents the contribution of three countries to a green, competitive and inclusive Europe.

Netherlands

Project Title: Cool on Wheels

Cool On Wheels; project is a knowledge project where a teacher shows the class what it is like to be disabled. Thus, students learn in a fun way that "if you have a disability, a lot is possible!" They experience what it's like to be in a wheelchair and are meant to take on the challenge together during a wheelchair basketball game. A (S) Cool on Wheels clinic is designed for children aged 10 to 15 years. Attendance at a clinic is free for primary schools,





provided there is a sponsor. Cool on Wheels is very popular in schools and has been reported to be in high demand every week.

Norway

Project Title: Parasport

Parasport, Parasport is a sport for people with disabilities and in Norway the aim is to ensure that everyone can enjoy sports, regardless of functional ability and level. While 55 national federations offer parasport activities, there are many options, including football, judo, rowing and floorball. Parasport has four target groups: the mobility impaired, the hearing impaired, the visually impaired and the mentally disabled.

Parasport is a general term defined as a sport for people with disabilities. The aim in Norway is to ensure that everyone can enjoy sports, regardless of functional ability and level. In Norway, 55 national federations are under the umbrella of parasport. This includes everything from football, judo, and rowing to climbing, equestrian sports and floorball, so there are plenty of options. Parasport has four target groups: the mobility impaired, the hearing impaired, the visually impaired and the mentally disabled. Many children, teenagers, and adults have limited movement due to uncontrolled movements and dysfunction or dysfunction in their legs, arms, or hands. This may be permanent or temporary in nature, such as a broken leg or a permanent, congenital physical condition or serious injury. Sports clubs in Norway have various provisions for people with mobility impairments, with people with disabilities being included in usual activities or in separate groups with adapted activities. Many assistive devices have been developed for physically disabled individuals to do sports.

There are also many opportunities for the visually impaired to participate in sports in Norway. As with people with physical disabilities, people with visual impairments can either participate in usual activities or participate in separate groups with adapted activities. Visually impaired people often need a companion to attend. People volunteer at sports clubs and as companions during events. During competitions, participants are classified according to the state of their disability to ensure that the competition is as fair as possible.





United Kingdom

Project Title: Get Out Get Active (GOGA)

Get Out Get Active (GOGA); It is a program carried out in the UK, which supports individuals with and without disables to actively spend time together. GOGA aims at making more people active through fun physical activities. There are numerous choices for all age groups and all skill types. The program in particular involves inclusive and accessible activities for disabled individuals or individuals who have long-term health issues. The program aims at making the least active groups active through fun and inclusive methods. Activity Alliance, which leads the activity in 21 different places in the UK, collaborates with various partners to help reach more people through local and national experts. Beyond being active, GOGA strengthens the community spirit, boosts self-confidence, and improves mental health. GOGA's success is based on making use of real-life motivations of individuals to become physically active, which is supported by "Talk to Me On" of Activity Alliance. GOGA continues to strengthen the community spirit, boost self-confidence and improve mental health. Its aims are to reach the least active individuals with or without disables and provide social help and interaction, support individuals with or without disables be active together through inclusive environments, focus on interacting with individuals and developing work force and create life-long active individuals, inclusive local systems and applications and transferable learning process. More than 40.000 individual participants have been reached and at last four out of ten people have remained active. Beyond its instant impact, the program has guaranteed to support participants to remain active for life.

Project Title: Active Beyond Education?

Active Beyond Education?; The project underlines the apparent need for the inclusion of disabled people in sports and physical activities at early ages. "Active Beyond Education?" was created in collaboration with six of UK's National Disabled Sports Organizations: British Blind Sport, Cerebral Palsy Sport, Dwarf Sports Association UK, LimbPower, UK Deaf Sport and WheelPower with support from English Federation of Disability Sport and Sport England Inclusive Sport Fund. The experiences of young disabled individuals in terms of sports and physical activities during their transition from education to adulthood. In the project, it was





analyzed why disabled individuals are not involved in sports and physical activities during this transition and it was seen that numerous internal factors (such as individual physical and psychological skills) and external factors (such as access to opportunities) play a significant role in their participation to sports. It was determined that young disabled individuals have difficulties in participating in sports and physical activities due to deterioration or changes in their physical conditions, that in general they lack "life skills" such as confidence, independence and endurance and this impacts a young, disabled person's opportunities to do sports in the transition period. Access to sports within and outside school, support from family and friends, existence of applicable support, equipment and other resources are some of the factors. In addition, it was observed that the highest decline in the participation of disabled people takes place when their education period ends, between the ages of 16 and 25. Starting with this point of view, besides identifying the reasons for disabled people's participation and nonparticipation in sports, special recommendations were made for educators, health officials and sports providers. Some of the ways that might provide better opportunities for disabled youth to be able to preserve their activity levels after their education period were underlined. Health professionals (such as physiotherapists) were encouraged and guided to suggest suitable sports and extracurricular activities to young disabled individuals. Educators were given training and guidance and recommendations on how they can make young disabled people better participate in their physical education classes. In addition, strategies were developed to improve the "life skills" of young disabled individuals. It was concluded that disabled youth need to be contacted in environments where they feel relaxed, at early ages and should be included in sports and physical activities and implementations were made accordingly.

Project Title: *Inclusion 2024 Inclusive Education Center*

Inclusion 2024 Inclusive Education Center; In the UK, an application titled Inclusion 2024 program was created which aimed at bringing all resources required for inclusive physical education and school sports for education implementers. The aim of this center, which was created with the collaboration of Activity Alliance, Youth Sport Trust, and Department for Education, is to support more teachers who are responsible for Physical Education to have more disabled students participate. In addition, this project aims at increasing the participation and participation opportunities of young people with special education needs and disables in physical education and school sports and to improve these opportunities. The project is





financed by the Ministry of Education and is managed by Youth Sport Thrust on behalf of a consortium of organizations such as Activity Alliance, British Paralympic Association and Swim England. This free online source center is a result of the cooperation between schools, expert implementers, local and national partners. It has been created with the concern that many disabled children miss out on physical education and school sports or continue to have negative experiences. Inclusion 2024 inclusive education center allows teachers and school staff to evaluate disabled students' participation in physical education and school sports in particular. It explores inclusion approaches across self-evaluation questions, school leadership and management, inclusive education and training, student participation and extracurricular activities.

Project Title: Doors to Activity

Doors to Activity; The project was initiated with the "Break Barriers, Open Doors: for an inclusive society and development for all" slogan and aims at promoting the opportunities provided for disabled individuals throughout the country with the British disabled Sports Federation, besides increasing awareness on sports and physical activities for disabled people. Activity Alliance has published a guide to improve the access of disabled people to sports clubs. "Access for Everyone: Opening Doors" aims at destroying accessibility to places which is one of the main barriers for individuals with various disables. Activity Alliance has spent effort to make it possible for more disabled individuals to enjoy being active in more places.





CONCLUSION

The participation of persons with disabilities should be encouraged to the widest possible extent, as stated in the international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. To ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to organize in general sports activities at all levels, to develop special sports and entertainment activities, to participate in such activities, to ensure equal conditions with individuals without special needs, education, training and appropriate resources, access to facilities for persons with disabilities, and to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to physical facilities. It is necessary to provide the opportunity to develop and use their talents under equal conditions. In this regard, DOWN ESPANA has been one of the main driving forces in the development and promotion of entertainment events for the benefit of society, regardless of their own interests.

The new Spanish Sports Law No. 39/2022 of December 30 gives everyone the right to do sports. It takes concrete measures against all kinds of discrimination by directing people to physical activity and sports. It also introduces new, never-before-enacted issues based on gender, sexual orientation, race, and disability. Promoting inclusive sports practiced by people with disabilities, the practice presents an equal opportunity for this group in accessing sports, includes ensuring equality in sports for women and men with disabilities. It was necessary to facilitate the integration of all athletes under the same federation and to separate them according to their own conditions. Although sportive practices are an essential component of quality, unfortunately, the entire population does not have equal access to activities in the life of modern societies. All people without discrimination should have the same opportunities. However, this cannot be achieved due to reasons such as lack of education, economic resources, and low foreign aid.

There are various barriers to activities for the inclusion of people with disabilities in sports. These are qualified technicians, volunteers and their wages, lack of appropriate age groups in the programs, lack of information on where to go and what to do, lack of space on current opportunities and accessibility, lack of social awareness for collectives in sports, difficulties in accompanying transportation vehicles, lack of human and technical support resources. The need for supporting personnel training on the subject arises from difficulties in adapting to the modalities in regulations and practices, ignorance and lack of knowledge, personal factors such





as personality, tastes, interests, preferences, branches of sports, dissemination of visibility experiences, application opportunities for the spread of inclusive sports, advertising and promotion assistance and financial support for all representatives, training of all representatives, basic training from universities or courses in involving managers, technical staff, families and athletes, research and dissemination of inclusive education in schools, supporting human resources with courses and courses, personalized adaptations to create

Considering these barriers and facilitators, the focus should be on the promotion of sports for individuals with Down Syndrome. Individuals with Down Syndrome should be given the opportunity to choose and make decisions. They should be given the opportunity to choose what kind of sport they are interested in. Individuals with special needs want to develop independently of the evolutionary stage they are in in life and adapt it according to their tastes, interests and needs. To be actively and effectively involved in any sport, they need to have the tools that facilitate the process, consider possibilities and recommendations.

Individuals with Down Syndrome believe in the commitment of institutions as well as all representatives to promote inclusive sports, regardless of age, sport branch, gender and geographical region.

As a result, it is highly developed in European countries where information on the social impacts of inclusive sports is available and there is awareness on the importance of sports and physical activity. Particularly in Germany, France, Spain, Italy and England, practices and projects developed for inclusive sports are very good examples of inclusive sports. A holistic approach should be used, based on a network of institutional and community partnerships, which is crucial to the success and maintenance of such projects. Similarly, a European framework aiming to strike the right balance between the desire to integrate individuals with Down Syndrome into society is also very important.





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