

## LIVING CONDITIONS – SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE

As sports and other leisure and cultural facilities and events have become commercialised and, consequently, increasingly exclusive and more expensive, young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods very often cannot afford to join in. However, they should be able to take part in sports, leisure and cultural opportunities that are affordable and youth-friendly. Also, very often, they are not always aware of the range of such opportunities that are available to them. The following Portuguese example from the Enter! project demonstrates how the media can be used to promote and disseminate social rights.



**The appendix to the recommendation suggests the following actions to increase the participation of young people from disadvantaged communities in sports, leisure and cultural activities:**

- ▶ provide fully accessible and affordable sports and leisure facilities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods; improve existing sports and leisure facilities; and involve local communities in making decisions about these facilities;
- ▶ make sure that all relevant public services work together, including youth workers, schools, community services, information and counselling services, and cultural institutions;
- ▶ integrate community development and participation strategies so as to make the best possible use of existing provisions, including youth work, schools, community services, information and counselling services, and cultural institutions;
- ▶ recognise that sport, leisure and culture have many benefits and, consequently, that they can promote youth participation, active citizenship, social cohesion, inclusion and well-being; these agendas should become increasingly important in community development schemes;
- ▶ ensure that sport, youth work and other activities are accessed by young men and young women from different cultural backgrounds; ensure that this provision is gender and culturally sensitive; recognise that many young people face specific challenges in participating in activities, especially young people with disabilities;
- ▶ ensure that cultural events, such as the theatre, concerts or exhibitions, are more accessible and affordable for young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- ▶ provide opportunities, guidance and support to allow young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to use their talents and cultural creativity to improve their communities.



### **Citizens of the World/Bué Fixe, Amadora, Lisbon, Portugal<sup>12</sup>**

— This project promoted access of young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights through the media, in particular through radio, the magazine Bué Fixe, as well as its blog. The project was directed at vulnerable young people aged between 18 and 27, coming from Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and living in disadvantaged communities in Portugal, as well as the second generation of migrants. The main obstacles these groups faced in integrating were social, economic, educational and cultural.

— Various media were used to disseminate key information produced by the young people themselves about their interests and rights, under the supervision of specialists. The social rights covered by the project were:

- ▶ access to education;
- ▶ access to health services;
- ▶ employment opportunities;
- ▶ access to information;
- ▶ non-formal education and youth participation.

— Learning about cultural diversity was another project priority, as these young people, though they speak Portuguese, have different cultures, religious beliefs and values.

12. More information at [www.citizensforeurope.eu/organisation/dynka](http://www.citizensforeurope.eu/organisation/dynka), accessed 11 August 2016.