

7

INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN AND THROUGH SPORT

The number of migrants and refugees worldwide has been increasing drastically in recent years. Sport has been recognised as a powerful tool to promote social inclusion, physical and mental health, and youth development. Therefore, ensuring that migrants and refugees have access to sports activities is crucial for their well-being and inclusion into their new communities. While this is an important objective, they nevertheless often face multiple barriers to accessing sports activities.

THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER AND MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The [European Sports Charter](#) (ESC) calls upon states to design their sports policies according to its guidelines, and stakeholders to take into consideration the principles enshrined therein.

Specifically, Article 6.2(d) of the ESC calls for all stakeholders to “**apply a policy of zero tolerance for violence and all forms of discrimination, paying particular attention to individuals and groups in a situation of vulnerability, such as children, migrants and persons with disabilities.**”

INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES: OUR ACTION

Upon their request, EPAS provides support to its member states in implementing the ESC through ESC Support and Follow-up visits. A [report](#) is prepared following each visit. The ESC is supported by legally binding standards such as the Council of Europe [Sport Conventions](#), among others.



Organises events on how sport can be used as a tool for inclusion such as:

- ▶ The [Diversity Conference](#) on the Inclusion of child migrants and refugees in and through sport (2023)
- ▶ The [Side event](#) to the 17th Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport (2022) on the Inclusion of migrants and refugees in and through sport
- ▶ The [Conference](#) on Newly arrived migrants and their integration via sport (2016)



Collaborates closely with partners to:

- ▶ Showcase **best practices and initiatives** undertaken by policy makers, public authorities, sports organisations, migration and inclusion specialists, NGOs and athletes themselves
- ▶ Outline the various **challenges** in implementing these practices
- ▶ Work towards **key initiatives**

LOOKING AHEAD

Following the Diversity Conference 2023 and its key findings, EPAS will focus on preparing key deliverables. They will be developed in collaboration with members of the Governing Board and the Consultative Committee and partners within the Council of Europe. Among them will be:

- ▶ An update and modification of the [Sport migrant integration platform](#)
- ▶ A handbook and a webinar on the inclusion of child migrants and refugees in and through sport



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THE SPORT MIGRANT INTEGRATION PLATFORM

What is it?

It is an online interactive platform which contains a **directory of actions and projects** (past, current and future) in the field of newly arrived migrants and their inclusion via sport, as well as an **index of project owners**. It gives those interested the opportunity to contact the project owners and stakeholders.

When was it created?

The platform was created following the conference on Newly arrived migrants and their integration via sport (2016). The outcomes of this conference saw calls for sport integration networks to have greater co-ordination, and for more information to be available regarding the promising practices developed in this context.

What are its benefits?

The evidence-based platform and the mapping of projects provided through this tool allow public authorities and other stakeholders, such as researchers and academics, to check which inclusion projects are implemented in which countries. It can be the starting point for important follow-up initiatives, policy, programme and project development.

Can I join and/or contribute to it?

Yes. You can join the network and/or submit your own projects about sport migrant integration by simply completing an [online form](#).



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