

Racism in Football: No thing of the past



Photo: Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation

Last year the Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation in Hungary held an anti-discrimination day at Ferencvaros TC, a club which historically has had a strong far right following.

The European football season of 2007-2008 has barely started, but we have already witnessed a series of serious racist, xenophobic and far right incidences.

In Italy, notorious Lazio fans racially abused and attacked Senegal's international Dame N'Doye during a friendly with Panathinaikos. Newcastle United supporters directed Islamophobic chants at Middlesbrough forward and Egyptian star Mido. In Hungary, former national coach Kalman Meszoly remarked during a TV interview about African players with Hungarian clubs: "They have barely come down from the trees". When Croatia played Bosnia & Herzegovina in Sarajevo, Croatian fans formed a human U symbol representing the fascist Ustase movement responsible for mass killings of Serbs, Jews and the Roma during World War II. Other incidences have been

reported from Austria, France, Germany, Lithuania, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Scotland, Serbia and Slovakia. Above all the exclusion of ethnic minorities and migrants is still a reality in football.

One might wonder whether the frequent reports have increased because of the rising tide of support for the far right or because of the greater understanding of the problem by the media, fans and football governing bodies. The latest disciplinary measures taken by UEFA and FIFA – in particular Article 58 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code – are helping to sanction against racist abuse in the game. But in addition, awareness-raising and educational work at the grassroots is still much in need. The ever-expanding growing FARE Action Week works for this long-term perspective of changing hearts and minds.

Fans at the heart of anti-racism



Photo: Antonio Marcello (http://lausher.frimos.it)

Active fans play a crucial role in the fight against racism and discrimination in football. It was they who stood up first when neo-nazis tried to infiltrate the stands and to spoil the fun for everybody else. It is still them who are often the only ones who fight against narrow-minded people, who think racist abuse is a normal part of the fan culture. There are various nationwide associations of anti-racist fan groups everybody can get involved with, as for example BAFF in Germany or the RSRA for France and the Benelux countries, as well as organisations, like Progetto Ultra in Italy, promoting and supporting fan-involvement. They, as well as other anti-racist fans from various countries, have met on several occasions – like

at the Mondiali Antirazzisti and similar tournaments or meetings all over the continent – to share experiences and develop ideas for a joint strategy against racism.

FARE supports any active fan group that wants to organise actions in their club or in their country against racism. This is especially important for clubs and/or football associations that still don't want to get involved in initiatives against racism or in countries where right-wing fans are trying to take a leading role in fan associations, by (ab)using other relevant fan specific topics like the fight against commercialisation and repression against fans as part of their propaganda. **Divided by the colours of the shirt – united against racism!**

Impressum: echo 06/2007, Herausgeber und Medieninhaber: Wiener Institut für Entwicklungsfragen und Zusammenhalt (VIDCI), Möllwäldplatz 5/3, A-1040 Wien, Tel.: 01713 35 94, Fax: 01713 35 94-73, E-Mail: office@vidc.org • Layout & Grafik: www.hypotheses.at / sanja.jelic • Druck: Resch KEG, A-1150 Wien

8th FARE Action Week

Aktionswoche
Settimana d'azione
Tydzień Akcji
Semaine d'actions

SEASON 2007/08
17 – 30 October 2007

GET INVOLVED!



Photo: CEFA

The FARE Action Week unites supporters, clubs and those targeted by racism across the continent in a concerted effort to make discrimination a thing of the past. The Action Week of the Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network aims to boost public awareness of the problems of racism and exclusion and to create a united front in dealing with this malign influence on Europe's number one sport. The 8th edition of the pan-European Action Week will run from 17 to 30 October 2007 and see action in at least 38 European countries.

What started as a minor campaign in nine countries in 2001 has

now become the largest series of anti-racism activities in sport ever staged. Last season's Action Week saw a record number of more than 700 events in 37 countries in and around football grounds all over Europe. In Germany alone, 750,000 cards with the slogan "Show Racism the Red Card" were distributed to fans.

Europe's top stars are lending support to the campaign. All 32 teams of the UEFA Champions League participated in the "Unite Against Racism" campaign, reaching more than 600,000 fans directly at the matches and millions more via live broadcast on television. The number of par-

ticipating professional leagues has increased to 14. Also the symbolic activities organised by national FAs and individual clubs are reaching out to more people each year. The FARE network offers financial support for a range of grass-roots activities to address local problems in football clubs at the community level. Some 190 groups including fan clubs, ethnic minority organisations, football clubs and a variety of NGOs from all over Europe submitted creative proposals. With the backing of UEFA the FARE network has offered small grants to over 100 grassroots initiatives and provides campaign materials for free. This

year many more fan groups are organising themselves to challenge racism and the far-right this.

FARE's long-term focus on the situation in Eastern and Central Europe has led to an increasing numbers of applications in the Balkans, the former Soviet republics and the new EU members such as Poland, Hungary or Romania.

Join the FARE Action Week and report us your activities to us. For further details on the FARE Action Week and the list of activities please see www.farenet.org. Information is available in English, German, Italian and French.

Contacts | FARE Action Week

- For all other UEFA countries**
FairPlay-vidc
Markus Pinter & Kurt Wachter
Moellwaldplatz 5/3
A-1040 Vienna, Austria
Phone: +43 1 713 35 94-93
Fax: +43 1 7133594-73
fare@vidc.org
www.FAREnet.org
www.FairPlay.or.at
- For United Kingdom**
Kick it Out
Piara Powar
Unit 3, 1-4, Christina Street
EC2A 4PA London
UK
Phone: +44-20-7684-4884
info@kickitout.org
www.kickitout.org
- For Italy**
Progetto Ultra – UISP Emilia Romagna
Carlo Balestri
Via Riva Reno 75/3
I-40121 Bologna, Italy
Phone: +39-051-236634
Fax: +39-051-225203
info@progettoultra.it
www.progettoultra.it
- For Germany**
dem ball is' egal, wer ihn tritt!
Bodo Berg
Dickampstraße 12
D-45879 Gelsenkirchen
Phone: +49 209 2 42 14
Fax: +49 209 3 86 24 41
demballegal@t-online.de
www.demballegal.de
- For Spain**
Unione Italiana Sport Per tutti – UISP
Daniela Conti
Largo Franchellucci 73,
I-00155 Roma, Italy
Phone: +39-06-43984313
Fax: +39-06-43984320
d.conti@uisp.it
www.uisp.it
- For Poland & former Soviet Republics**
Never Again Association – Stowarzyszenie Nigdy Wiecej
Rafal Pankowski
PO Box 6,
PL-03-700 Warszawa 4,
Poland
Phone: +48-603 64 72 28
rafalpan@zigzag.pl
http://free.ngo.pl/nw/
- For France**
LICRA Sport – Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme
Carine Bloch
42, rue de Louvre
F-75001 Paris, France
Phone: +33 1 45 08 08 08
Fax: +33 1 45 08 18 18
sport@licra.org
www.licra.org

FARE Administration Group

FARE is a partner of the UEFA football social responsibility portfolio

Warm-up for EURO 2008



Photo: GEPA pictures

EURO 2008 host Austria show with Trinidad-Tobago Racism the Red Card

Some eight months before the kick-off of the UEFA EURO 2008™ in Austria and Switzerland several EURO qualifying matches on 17 October – the first day of the Action Week – will highlight fight against racism. For instance, at the match Bosnia-Herzegovina against Norway players will present a banner saying "No to Racism, stop Nationalism".

Building on the success in Portugal in 2004, the FARE network is preparing an anti-racism programme at EURO 2008™. The aim is to promote and convey the positive message of fighting discrimination in and outside the stadiums. FARE

intends to engage fans, local populations and ethnic minorities through Streetkick tournaments, supporter gatherings and the distribution of fanzines. Two matchdays will be dedicated to the "Unite Against Racism" theme. In association with the FSI network FARE is also planning an extensive fan-hosting programme. Martin Kallen, EURO 2008 SA chief operating officer, said: "With the Unite Against Racism and Fan Embassies project we want to make sure fans feel welcome, while violence and racism emerge neither inside or outside the stadia."

Gay and Lesbian Fan Clubs



Photo: Heitha Junxx

This season the number of gay and lesbian football supporters joining the FARE Action Week is increasing. For the first time a gay and lesbian fan club from Spain linked to FC Barcelona will mark the Action Week, whilst in several German stadiums we will see a range of anti-homophobic activities.

The UEFA Unite against Racism conference in Barcelona put the issue of homophobia on the agenda of European football for the first time, yet even today there is not a single openly gay player in any of the professional European leagues. In partnership with the European Gay and Lesbian Sport

Federation (EGLSF) FARE continues to raise awareness and be proactive on the issue. At the EuroGames in Antwerp a charter against homophobia in sport was signed by the Belgian FA. Nevertheless, the way forward is still a long road. After UEFA had penalised for the first time an official for making homophobic comments, Albania coach Otto Baric told a Croatian newspaper in September: "I paid a penalty but my opinion is still the same. I wouldn't have such a man in my team. Thousands of my colleagues share my opinion, but it was me to whom it slipped out." Find out more on www.eglsf.info or contact fare@eglsf.info

FARE | Action Week Photo Report 2006

Belarus "Next Stop – New Life" organised a photo exhibition in the Palace of Arts on the subject of "Sports against Racism" and an ethnic minority tournament.

Belgium The "Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition Towards Racism" organised a two weeks campaign to fight racism and 'monkey chanting' in Belgian football. A tv-spot was shown during the football broadcasts and 80,000 posters were printed.

Bulgaria The "Youth Centre Haskovo" organised a seminar, distributed flyers and information materials and organised a youth football tournament for mixed teams.



Greece The "Organisation of Youth & Sports" of the municipality of Athens organised a tournament for schools with a high percentage of minorities and migrants in cooperation with "E-filathlos" (see main photo on the big poster!). They produced t-shirts against violence and red cards with the motto "red card on violence" for the kids.

Rep. of Ireland The newly formed "Football Intercultural Advisory Group" promoted a fortnight of action all over the country.



Italy FARE partners "UISP" and "Progetto Ultra" organised activities with local groups. "Ass. Pol. Assata Shakur – Ancona" presented a DVD from their antiracist tournament. "Ultras Ancona" created a choreography and the "Cinghiali Ultras Casale" produced t-shirts. "Brigate Rossoblù 1984" made an exposition of antiracist banners and distributed materials at the stadium.

Portugal The Players' Union "SJPF" organised a nation-wide campaign. Players, coaches, referees and ball-pickers wore t-shirts and caps, banners "racismo não" were presented, also including a radio contest and a media campaign.



Spain "CEPA" organised a youth event called "Fever discrimination". The highlight was the international conference "Racism in European football". The big final was an anti-racist campaign at the 2nd league match of Cádiz C.F. (see the photo on the back page).

Switzerland The "Sports Organisation Africa Switzerland" played friendly matches against the Geneva police, the Red Cross and UN workers. "Gemeinsam gegen Rassismus", a fan club from Young Boys Bern, produced a 50 meter banner and an anti-racism spot was shown on the video screen of the new 'Stade de Suisse'.



Macedonia The "MCCD" organised a joint press conference with the Macedonian FA and the other FARE groups in Macedonia. The "National Roma Centrum", "YMCA Macedonia", the "Organisation of Women of Sv. Nikole", the "Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency" and "MKD Prokultura" organised football tournament for youths and teams from Roma, Albanian and Macedonian communities. The "Youth Forum Bitola" produce and distribute t-shirts that were worn by the players from FC Pelister and Roma children who accompanied before kick-off.



Croatia "Step Ahead" organised a press conference and presented a series of educational video and information materials. In co-operation with FARE partner Kick it Out they organised a friendly match between Croatia and England supporters before their EURO 2008 qualifier match in Zagreb.

Czech Republic The "Fanproject Liberec" created together with the fans an anti-racist choreography. The "Bohemians Prague Ultras" produced big banners with the slogans "United Colours of Bohemka" and "Bohemka Against Racism" that the team squad presented before kick-off.



France Eight Members of the "Réseau Supporter de Resistance Antiraciste" (RSRA) network including Sochaux, Rennes, Metz, Valence, Clermont, Bordeaux, Cannes, Liège (Bel), Lausanne (Sui) displayed banners "Love Football Hate Racism". The "Ultras Marseille" presented a banner "Fight Fascism – Fight Racism". Additionally, FARE partner "LICRA" coordinated several events in France during the Action Week when departments of the organisation in various cities held tournaments, meetings and conferences.



Romania The "Pedagogic Lyzeum Sabin Dragoi" organised a football tournament for mixed teams of youths, parents, teachers, followed by a literary competition and a drawing exhibition. The anti-discrimination organisation "CNCD" organised anti-racism activities at several first league matches where the players and the referees wore t-shirts and banners saying "Uniti împotriva Discriminării".

Russia The youth group "ETHnICS" organised a friendly football match between the mixed teams of foreign and Russian students under the motto "Football for Tolerance!".



Slovenia "Sportikus" organised anti-racism days at all matches in the first league in cooperation with the Slovenian FA. The football clubs "NK Carda Martjanci" and "KMN Zvezda Krsko" joined and produced posters and t-shirts. "NK Vanca Vas" hosted a tournament for Roma teams from Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary.

Serbia "FARE Serbia" organised a football tournament and anti-racism workshops for youth teams from clubs and schools involving ethnic minorities and anti-racism activities at several first league matches including the UEFA Cup tie Partizan Belgrade – AS Livorno.



Israel For the first time a FARE Action Week event took place in Israel. The "New Israel Fund" organised an anti-racism day at a first league match, children wore t-shirts and a banner saying "Let's Kick Racism Out of Israeli Football".

Netherlands "PSV Eindhoven" held an anti-racism day at the home match against Sparta Rotterdam. The players from both teams and the referees presented a big banner with the text "Unite against racism".



Great Britain FARE partner "Kick It Out" coordinated hundreds of activities, especially all 92 professional clubs stood united, including FARE partner "FURD" at Sheffield United. SRTRC organised a range of events in schools and clubs. SRTRC Scotland involved all 42 professional clubs, every school received a copy of the new video and education pack.

UEFA Champions League All 32 teams kicked-off the 7th Action Week with activities including the captains wearing Unite Against Racism armbands and player-escort children wearing t-shirts.



Germany FARE partner "Dem Ball egal" organised an anti-racist weekend in cooperation with DFB and the German Football League at all 36 matches of the top three leagues. Female fan clubs from Borussia Dortmund and VfL Bochum stood against racism. Activities against sexism were organised from the women teams from Türkiyemspor Berlin and Hannover 96. The "Fanladen St. Pauli" organised an action day in cooperation with the club and the "Ultras Sankt Pauli" where they presented the children project "football of the cultures".



Denmark The fan club "Rude Lions" from FC Copenhagen dropped down two big banners from their tribune. The fan club "Brøndby Fans Mod Racisme" distributed leaflets and anti-racism stickers.

Finland "Liikkukaa.org" organised a "Respect" - game between Brazilian football players and migrants. "Atlantis FC" and the migrant club "Mondial Stars" played friendlies between migrants and Finnish youths and referees. "FIMU", a Finnish multicultural sports organisation, organised a futsal tournament under motto "Football for Tolerance, against Racism and Violence".



Photocredits of Selected Selected Activities 2006 (for full list 2007 see www.farenet.org)
Next Stop, Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition Towards Racism, Youth Center Haskovo, UMKI, Fanproject Liberec, Jacob Bentzen/www.freelanceren.eu, Liikkukaa.org, RSRA, Fanprojekt Dortmund, FAI, NIF, PSV, Cinghiali Casale, SJPF, Youth Forum Bitola, Fundacja MaMa, CNCD, ETHnICS, FARE Serbia, Sportikus/Institute for Fair Play, Gemeinsam gegen Rassismus, UEFA / Empics, Arsenal FC, GEPA pictures



Poland FARE partner "Never Again Association" coordinated the activities. Football tournaments and matches with migrant communities were organised by "Fundacja dla Wolności", "Stow. Aktywności Społecznej Młyn", "Fundacja MaMa", "SC Warta Sieradz", "SC Twierdza" and "Fundacja Kobiet". Seminars were held by "Union of the Unemployed" and "Stow. Lepszy Swiat". "Stow. GTW", "Gimnazjum Zywiec" and "Stow. Inicjatyw Społecznych Kulturalny Poznan" conducted educational activities. The "Campaign Against Homophobia" organised the "Rainbow Cup", a table football tournament.



Austria In co-operation with FARE partner "Fair-Play-vidc" the "Bundesliga" and its 22 clubs showed racism the red card and an anti-racist video spot was screened in the stadiums. In the amateur leagues activities were organised by "FreundInnen der Friedhofstrübe", the women clubs "ASK Erlaa" and "MFFV 23", "BW Fans gegen Rassismus", "NAFA", "FC Sans Papiers", "ASV Roter Stern Innsbruck" and "Prater SV", "Vienna Türkücü", "RS Wolfersberg", "FC Wacker Innsbruck" and the fan club "Verrückte Köpfe '91" organised a closing event for a Burkina Faso CD charity project.