

Promoting Social Integration And Volunteering In Sport Clubs — Lessons From Practice

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Social inclusion and volunteering is a critical area where the future role, function and development of sports clubs are considered in society. These elements may vary based on cultural contexts. The fifth output of the project “Social Inclusion and Volunteering in Sports Clubs in Europe” (SIVSCE) project aimed to collect and analyse good practice cases from ten European countries by providing a qualitative description of sports clubs and their activities in relation to social integration and involvement of volunteers. Using a thematic standardised data collection methodology all together thirty country cases were selected for a comprehensive report in which the criteria for target organisations and their practices were identified, analysis of key elements of good practices were presented and the collection of good practice case studies were included. The analysis aimed to identify and explore which elements are necessary for successful management in sport clubs, leading to promoting social inclusion and engagement in volunteering. Results were presented along three main areas: 1) promoting social integration in sports clubs, 2) engagement in volunteering in sports clubs, and 3) promoting social integration through volunteering in sports clubs. The different elements emphasised in different country cases may serve as a source for sports clubs operating in any European countries; and may also contribute to the understanding of political conditions for, and structural characteristics of, sports clubs that promote social inclusion and volunteering in sport.