



#newsletter
November 2025

Football for Unity 2.0



Football for Unity 2.0 is a Europe-wide initiative led by the **#UEFA Foundation for Children** and **#Common Goal**, co-funded by the European Union (DG HOME) and supported by UEFA. It builds on the success of Football for Unity 1.0 (UEFA EURO 2020), using football as a tool to promote social inclusion, anti-racism and solidarity across Europe.

Running from September 2023 to February 2026, the programme focuses on creating **#safe spaces**, inclusive coaching and community-led integration for young people from refugee, migrant and host communities.

It consists of two key pillars:

- **Switch the Pitch:** An anti-racism and inclusive coaching programme aimed at coaches, youth teams and fan groups across Europe.
- **Team Up for Solidarity:** Local integration and empowerment projects implemented by grassroots organisations and football associations across Europe.

Together, these efforts aim to build stronger, fairer and more inclusive football communities – on and off the pitch.

Switch the Pitch



#Rheinflanke

Switch the Pitch focuses on combating racial inequality and promoting **#inclusivity** within football communities (in Germany, Austria, Latvia, Spain and Italy) across Europe.

Switch the Pitch leverages football as a platform to educate players, coaches and communities on the importance of diversity and social cohesion.

Switch the Pitch has also included targeted **#fan engagement** and educational programs at UEFA EURO 2024, particularly at fan zones and public events.

Switch the Pitch aims to foster a culture of respect, understanding and **#support**, reinforcing football's role as a unifying force and advancing UEFA's commitment to diversity and social justice across Europe.

Switch the Pitch focuses on promoting diversity and fighting racism within football communities across Europe. It uses fan engagement, educational tools and volunteer training to address racial inequality and promote inclusivity at football events, particularly at **#UEFA EURO 2024**.

Fan group and volunteer training

Fan activation video: A video promoting inclusivity and anti-racism was produced and screened in fan zones during UEFA EURO24. 

This video, featuring Fortuna Düsseldorf head coach Daniel Thioune, was a key tool for engaging fans with the core themes of the project and promoting positive social messages. Via a QR code, fans could download the **#Inclusion Card Deck** (Football for Unity manual).

Inclusion Card Deck (Football for Unity manual): A physical and digital card deck designed to engage fans in discussions about **#social inclusion**. These were distributed in digital format at touchpoints in all UEFA EURO 2024 fan zones across Germany.

Volunteer workshop: Held on 22 June 2024 at the Future HUB at Reichtagswiese, this workshop focused on anti-racism and integration in football and on equipping volunteers and fans with knowledge and skills to address and stand against racism at UEFA EURO 2024.

Fan zone activations at UEFA EURO 2024

Fan activation kits: The kits, which promoted social inclusion and engagement, were distributed digitally in both German and English. The use of digital methods was in line with UEFA EURO 2024's commitment to sustainability, reducing the need for printed materials. These kits were available at interactive touchpoints in fan zones, ensuring accessibility for all attending fans.

The activations provided a sustainable, inclusive experience for fans, promoting the key messages of anti-racism, inclusivity, and **#community engagement** through football.

Updates

Since June 2024, the Switch the Pitch partners – Dragones de Laviapés, Balon Mundial, Breaking Ground, Rheinflanke and Latvian FA – have been working diligently within the consortium to ensure the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the project. In late September 2024, we piloted the Switch the Pitch anti-racism curriculum with Fortuna Düsseldorf as an initial test run.

Twenty Fortuna coaches participated and the pilot was a tremendous success, highlighting both the demand for and the necessity of a technical and practical curriculum on anti-racism, diversity management and inclusive coaching within football teams and the broader football community. Feedback from the coaches underscored a strong need for an **#anti-racism toolkit** and plan to help clubs effectively address and manage incidents of racism on and off the pitch.

Following this, Common Goal conducted extensive research and engaged with community organisations and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) experts to provide additional technical input and enhance the curriculum.

Key milestones and progress

Kick-off in Berlin – Summer 2024

The consortium's initial meeting in Berlin set a strong foundation. Partner consultations emphasised the urgent need for additional technical input and practical resources.

Community Consultations & Curriculum Adaptation

Based on feedback from partner communities, we identified the need for a more localised curriculum that is practical, accessible and culturally relevant. This process, which began in late 2024, required a shift towards in-person, community-based training.

Curriculum Finalization & German Launch – December 2024

The final version of the curriculum was completed and translated into German. The first official launch took place in Cologne at Strassenkicker Base, in collaboration with our German partner **#Rheinflanke** and Austrian partner **#Breaking Ground**, with 30 coaches participating.

Virtual training of trainers – February 2025

A virtual training session was conducted for partners from Spain, Latvia and Italy to equip them with knowledge and skills to deliver the curriculum in their local contexts. This training was designed to build local capacity, ensuring that partners could act as subject-matter experts in their communities. Shortly after, we began translating the curriculum into Latvian, Italian and Spanish.

First Localized Training, Latvia – 5 March 2025

The first localised training was delivered in Latvia, led by the **#Latvian Football Federation** (LFF). A total of 20 coaches participated.

Italy – 15 March 2025

The Italian version of the curriculum was delivered in Turin, led by our partner **#Balon Mundial**.

Spain – April 2025

The Spanish version was launched in Madrid, led by **#Dragones de Lavapiés**.

Alpha pilot – April-June 2025

After completing in-country training sessions, all partners launched an alpha pilot phase. During this three-month period, participants primarily tested the anti-racism toolkit and response plan in real-world settings.

Beta testing and data collection

Following the alpha phase, we conducted robust data collection and evaluate feedback from participants. Insights from this process informed a beta version of the toolkit, ensuring its effectiveness and real-time applicability.

Our collective efforts are driving **#meaningful change** in football communities across Europe. We look forward to the next phases of implementation and the impact this initiative will have on fostering inclusive, anti-racist environments within football.

Team Up for Solidarity



#Breaking Grounds

Team Up for Solidarity is a Europe-wide initiative using sport to support young migrants and refugees. By teaming up with **#local organisations**, the project creates safe, inclusive spaces that foster emotional well-being, skill-building and **#community** engagement. Sport becomes a tool for informal learning, trust-building, and social integration – **#empowering** youth to become active, resilient members of society.

Implementation Partners

- [Breaking Grounds](#) (Austria)
- [Fair Play Point](#) (Czechia)
- [Fundación Fútbol Más](#) (Spain)
- [Second Chance Sports Association](#) (Hungary)
- [Organization Earth](#) (Greece)
- [Trenuj Bycie Dobrym](#) (Poland)
- [Romanian Football Federation](#) (Romania)



#Austria

AUSTRIA

Kicken ohne Grenzen – Breaking Barriers on the Pitch

In Austria, Breaking Grounds' Kicken ohne Grenzen is creating safe spaces where young people with refugee backgrounds can thrive. With seven weekly football sessions, this initiative promotes **#social inclusion** and **#youth empowerment**.

Key achievements

- **258** training sessions across eight locations
- **570** young participants, **92%** refugees and migrants, **33%** female
- **91%** of participants report improved self-esteem, with **100%** gaining problem-solving skills
- **13** new youth leaders trained, now part of a 35-strong leadership team
- **7** Girls Cups organised, engaging **325** girls

By using football as a gateway for education and employment, this initiative is helping young people navigate life's challenges while fostering community and **#resilience**.



#Czechia

CZECHIA

Fair Play Point – Uniting Cultures through Sport

In Czechia, Fair Play Point is using football to break cultural barriers, particularly between Ukrainian and Roma children.

Key achievements

- League of Fair-Play Football expanded with 43 encounters, engaging **445** young participants
- **12** new youth leaders trained to mentor and guide younger players
- Major event: 2024 day of sport, fair play and inclusion with **220** participants
- Fair play camp (September 2024) brought together **60** young people from six regions
- A storytelling video featuring participant experiences, set for international release

By integrating **#football3** methodologies with social work, the project is enhancing conflict resolution skills, peer mentoring and inclusivity.



#Spain

SPAIN

Fútbol Más – Creating Safe Spaces and Fighting Racism

In Spain, Fútbol Más has become a beacon of community, respect and inclusion. This initiative fosters a safe and supportive environment where children from diverse backgrounds can build friendships, grow in confidence and develop leadership skills.

Key achievements

- Community-driven football sessions, **#reinforcing** teamwork and mutual respect
- Notable **#transformation** stories, such as Thiago, who went from an isolated troublemaker to a youth mentor

High-profile events included

- 15 June 2024: Match for International Refugee Day with RFEF, UNHCR, Common Goal, and Dragones de Lavapiés
- 4 December 2024: Special event featuring Jenni Hermoso and adidas, enriching the experience of 15 young participants

Looking ahead, Fútbol Más will expand its reach, establish new **#collaborations** and **#strengthen** community bonds through sport.



#Hungary

HUNGARY

Second Chance Sports Association – Football as a Lifeline

Against the backdrop of Hungary's proximity to conflict zones, the Second Chance Sports Association is using football to support **#refugees**, third-country nationals and Hungarian **#young people**.

Key achievements

- **312** inclusive training sessions held in Budapest and rural areas
- **6** fair play football tournaments promoting teamwork and cultural understanding
- **2** summer camps providing safe and structured environments for young refugees
- Football3 methodology integrated, fostering resilience and problem-solving

By offering a safe and structured environment, the initiative is bridging divides and fostering **#long-term integration**.



#Greece

GREECE

Organization Earth – Supporting Refugee Youth through Football

In Athens and refugee camps across Greece, Organization Earth is tackling the **#well-being** and **#social integration** of refugee children and unaccompanied minors through football and life-skills training.

Key achievements

- **94** training sessions (**64** in refugee camps, **30** in Athens)
- Multilingual coaching (Arabic and Farsi-speaking educators) ensuring cultural sensitivity

Special initiatives including:

- Olympiakos FC UEFA Europa Conference League Final participation
- Joint football and environmental education tournament
- Art workshops for unaccompanied girls

The project is making a tangible impact on young refugees' **#confidence**, sense of **#belonging** and overall **#well-being**.



#Poland

POLAND

Trenuj Bycie Dobrym – Football3 for Solidarity

In Poland, Trenuj Bycie Dobrym is **#integrating** refugee children through football3, empowering teachers and students to foster **#solidarity**.

Key achievements

- **160** football3 lessons, engaging **1,000** children aged 7-10
- **380** participants at a football3 tournament on 14 June
- **10** educational conferences training **333** teachers
- Partnerships with schools, NGOs and local authorities

By embedding football3 in schools, the initiative is ensuring **#long-term impact** on youth development and inclusion.



#Romania

ROMANIA

Romanian Football Federation – Giving Refugee Children a Sporting Chance

In Romania, the Romanian Football Federation is providing structured football sessions for Ukrainian refugee children, offering stability and integration.

Key achievements

- Weekly training for **30** children aged 8-14
- Participation in the Diversity Cup, Romania's leading **#anti-discrimination** tournament
- Engagement with institutions like World Vision and the Ministry of Interior
- UEFA Refugee Grant Programme application to secure long-term support

By strengthening community ties and expanding parental involvement, this initiative is laying the foundation for sustainable **#refugee inclusion**.



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