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## **The Result of the project Youth Forum 2008 in the city of Uppsala**

### **Summary of the recommendations from the youths**

- Sports must be more including by reflecting the diversity of society
- Sports must be more including by reducing its direction towards competition and winning.- Those that are not best should be included as well
- Discrimination and racism should be taken as serious in the sports organisations as on the streets
- More education towards the trainers and leaders about racism and discrimination
- Engage famous athletes and famous local personalities in the discussion about racism and discrimination both within society as well as within sports
- Attend racism and discrimination within the sports area
- Introduce harder penalties within the sports concerning racism and discrimination

### **Background**

In Uppsala there are a large number of non-profit associations which are aimed towards youths. 253 of these organisations get yearly support from the city of Uppsala for their activities. 160 of these are sports organisations that together have almost 30 000 members at age 7-20 years old. Percentages of girls and boys are 44 and 56 respectively.

The city of Uppsala has a close cooperation with these sports organisations and Supports them yearly with about 12 million Swedish kronor (almost 1,3 million Euros). Support is given based on the following key concepts:

- Honesty
- Democracy
- Community
- Voluntaryness
- Diversity
- Enjoyment

## **Youth Forum 2008- implementation**

Our part of the youth project: Youth Forum 2008 was implemented by the city of Uppsala in close cooperation with Uppsala council which is an established actor within the non-profit organisations (Swedish: Uppsalas föreningsrad, <http://www.uppsalaforeningsrad.org.se/>).

In total a bit more than 80 youths participated within the project which was carried out at three occasions in two districts within the city, namely Stenhagen and Gottsunda. Both these districts have a high number of youths with foreign background, which is also reflected in the project.

### **Discussions about Racism and Discrimination**

The project in the city district of Stenhagen was carried out at two occasions during July. At each occasion 22 youths were involved in group discussions. The theme of the discussion concerned how large the problem with racism and discrimination is within the Sports and how to handle the problem. The number of girls involved in the discussions was a bit higher than the number of boys.

### **Questionnaire about Racism and discrimination**

A questionnaire was delivered to 40 youths in the city district of Gottsunda. These youths had participated in the celebration of a Culture day in the city district of Gottsunda, which is arranged by local organisations in cooperation with the city of Uppsala in August every year. The questionnaire consisted of five questions concerning the occurrence of racism and discrimination from a local perspective, if one had been exposed to these behaviours and suggestions of how to deal with the problem.

### **Summary of the results**

A large majority of the youths who participated in the project experience that racism and discrimination exist within the Sports organisations. Most of the youths say that they themselves or someone that they know have been exposed to these behaviours as well. However, few cases are reported with purely racist attacks like physical abuse or insult due to ethnical background.

The conclusion of our project is that most problems experienced by youths concern different forms of discrimination, insult or bullying and not necessarily racism. Some persons feel themselves discriminated since they are not taken out in their teams for competitions. Other feel discriminated because of strange expressions by their trainer, i.e "Good work" when they mean the opposite. There are also examples of insults or bullying from their team mates or by spectators, alluded to sex or ethnical background.

### **Summary of the recommendations from the youths**

The youths have a large number of recommendations but can be summarised in a number of suggestions of which most are preventive.

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- Sports must be more including by reducing its direction towards competition and winning.- Those that are not best should be included as well
- Discrimination and racism should be taken as serious in the sports organisations as on the streets.
- More education towards the trainers and leaders about racism and discrimination
- Engage famous athletes and famous local personalities in the discussion about racism and discrimination both within society as well as within sports.
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