

SPORT as part of a sustainable refugee policy – some remarks

Local authorities and municipalities have a very special responsibility facing and managing the challenges of the influx of refugees. First of all it is the communities and local authorities that guarantee the immediate demands, requirements and needs of humanity - by providing accommodation, food and medical care.

The practical aspect of an integration process starts here, in these local governments and local authorities. The success of the integration process depends on the interaction, coordination and cooperation between the compulsory tasks of the local authorities and the commitment of local citizens in helping and ensuring a vibrant, dynamic civil society.

SPORT and sporting activities can support and assist in the integration process. SPORT provides an immediate offer, a direct approach that can reach the refugees in their temporary accommodation or refugee homes. The offer and possibility of being engaged and actively participating in SPORTS provides communication and cross cultural experience and can be used as a first step in the integration process.

Regarding the social and cultural dimension of SPORT – actually utilizing SPORT as an applied method in the integration process – SPORT gets an important role in 'active networks' for a sustainable refugee policy.

The contribution discusses general conditions – a political and/or practical framework – to utilize SPORT as an important 'player' in civil society organizations and networks.