



**Annual Report 2023 -
Spirit of Football e.V.**

Spirit of Football: Our year in 2023!

Annual Report

Spirit of Football offered over 300 workshops and activities in 15 different projects in 2023. The type of activity was as diverse as the target group: from free time activities for children to football and other sports activities for refugees and people with handicaps as well as school workshops at home in Germany and abroad in 15+ countries around the world.

The focus was always on the three pillars of Spirit of Football: respect, diversity and teamwork. In addition, many projects in 2023 revolved around climate protection and climate action, such as The Ball 2023 Journey or sustainability projects in schools and companies.

It is important for us to promote both the better treatment of our environment and fair play with our fellow human beings. We were only able to achieve this through the versatile support of wonderful partner organizations and all the many team members and volunteers who carry out our projects.

A huge thank you to everyone involved! Many thanks especially also to our partner Common Goal, whose unrestricted funding (€ 20,182.50 for 2023) enabled us to co-finance many of our wonderful projects!

We have started this new year as enthusiastically as we ended the last one. We know that this year will bring many challenges for us here in Thuringia and around the world. Many new projects are planned and existing ones will be continued.

Come and join us! Together we can work towards a fair, peaceful and respectful cosmopolitan coexistence. There is only one world and one The Ball, and we have to look after both.

One Ball, One World!

Contents:

1. Sports Unites Neighborhoods (SUN) – Project for children in Southeast Erfurt
2. Sports by Women for Women
3. Integration football (Football for All every Wednesday)
4. Unified Football – with and without Handicaps
5. FairTaste Sustainability Event Series
6. Future Ball – Football and Education for Sustainability
7. KoWo Housing Estate Neighborhood Football – fun and games for children
8. Game On for our Environment!
9. Module development in Cambodia: Football and Sustainability
10. FairPlay Company
11. University of Erfurt Seminar: Spirit of Diversity
12. The Ball 2022/23 Journey: One Ball, One World for Climate Action
13. Antidiscrimination Workshops with Rot-Weiß Erfurt Juniors
14. Laugh and Learn: German for Ukrainian Beginners
15. Senior Sports Day: FairPlay with the Elderly



1. Sports Unites Neighborhoods (S.U.N.) – Projects for children in Southeast Erfurt

Project lead:

Sara Fabbri and Robert Meyer

Donors/Supporters:

- City of Erfurt (Youth Welfare Office): €40,925.71
- Co-financing: €4,547.30

Partners:

- Herrenberg District Centre
- Community School at Grosser Herrenberg
- High School 10
- Cooperative Comprehensive School at Schwemmbach
- Astrid Lindgren Elementary School
- Youth Center at Wiesenhügel
- AWO District Association
- Melchendorf Market

Project description:

In the „Sports Unites Neighborhoods (SUN)“ project, Spirit of Football is active in the Erfurt Southeast district with (school) project days, afternoon activities and holiday camps on the topics of diversity, teamwork and respect. With a focus on fair play and movement as well as dance and creativity, we reach children and youth between the ages of 10 and 18 and convey in a low-threshold manner what it means to live together fairly and positively in a democratic and diverse society and to develop personal skills.

Facts:

- 150 children and young people reached between 8 and 12 years
- 5 holiday camps and 2 school project series at secondary schools in the district

Impact:

Through the project's activities, the participating children were encouraged to work together as a team and to use their individual skills to strengthen the community together. Through the activities, the children and young people were able to increase their self-confidence and further develop their personal skills. This strengthens cohesion in the low socio economic Erfurt Southeast urban district and promotes positive interaction.

Stories:

From Sara Fabbri:

„The best moments in our work are when children and young people recognise you from a distance, or when you suggest an outdoor activity and, thanks to the trust that has been built up, they happily join in. Sometimes it is actually enough to just be there and listen. Many children and young people often feel the need to share their thoughts and feelings and it can be a great support if they have someone who listens to them and is there for them.“



2. Sports by Women for Women

Project lead:

Oksana Rak, with support from Milena Kneip and Victoria Bybyk

Donors/Supporters:

- Thuringian State Sports Association (LSB) through the Integration through Sport (IdS) program: €920.00

Partner:

- Erfurt Sports Authority

Project description:

Once a week we offer a wide range of sports and exercise activities by women for women. The aim of the project is to integrate women (especially refugees and migrants) through sport, to help them adapt to society and to give them the opportunity to dedicate an hour to physical self-development and to try out new sports with new friends. This year's sports for women introduced women to many different sports, such as zumba, yoga, pilates, basketball, volleyball and football. Another special feature of the project was offering childcare, which is very much appreciated by our participants.

Facts:

- Weekly offer
- Our participants are exclusively women and their children (2-50 years old). Since women with a migrant background often attend this course, there is always a certain amount of fluctuation. Usually there are around 15 women per training session.

Impact:

Women with and without a migration background do sports together. Allowing them to do something for their physical and mental health and experience a little distraction from everyday life. The project offers a safe space in which they can try things out and exchange ideas.

Stories :

From Oksana Rak:

„As an experiment, I decided to hold a football training session for my ladies and to my surprise and that of the women themselves, they liked it. They tried to win the ball with such zeal, concentrating on slightly difficult passes, that for a while they forgot how they looked from the outside and that they were playing football, perhaps for the first time. I was surprised by Vlada (mother of two children), who did her best in training and, through playing football, discovered new muscles and realized how this ball game can lift the mood and make you forget the problems of the day. That is why I want this project to continue.“



3. Integration football (Football for All every Wednesday)

Project lead:

Oksana Rak, with support from Mohamed Othman, Milena Kneip, Benjamin Grünewald and Joaquin Nández

Donors/Supporters:

- Thuringian State Sports Association (LSB) through the Integration through Sport (IdS) program: €920.00

Partner:

- Erfurt Sports Authority

Project description:

This project is an open invitation to play football on a high-quality football pitch with friends, new acquaintances and especially for newly arrived people in Erfurt. Mixed teams are randomly formed so that people can enjoy playing football together regardless of nationality, age, gender and talent.

More and more people are finding out about this project and in the last six months alone, new people from more than 5 different countries joined us. The stability of the participant contingent also shows that the offer is very well received and appreciated.

Facts:

- The group consists of 115 people, of which about 30 were new in 2023
- 30-40 people take part in each session
- The project participants include men and women aged 16 to 45

Impact:

The participants can play football and benefit from the physical exercise. They get great pleasure from playing their favorite sport in a fair and fun environment. People who have recently or long ago migrated to Germany have a place where they feel accepted and where nationality is irrelevant. This project offers many people an opportunity to experience integration through sport.

Stories:

From Oksana Rak:

„A lot of stories are to be told here, mostly funny ones, because nobody is playing with winning in mind, but everyone is relaxed and simply having fun. Here even professional footballers laugh at themselves when they fail to hit an empty goal from two meters away or when similar oddities happen.“



4. Unified Football

Project lead:

Mohamed Othman, Annica Duft, David Schnell, Ivan Monteiro, Oksana Rak

Donors/Supporters :

- Aktion Mensch: €80,242.81 for 2023
- Co-financing: €8,915.87 for 2023

Partners:

- City of Erfurt
- Special Olympics Thuringia
- State Sports Association (LSB) Thuringia e.V.
- Thuringian Football Association
- Erfurt Sports Authority
- Apolda Lebenshilfe-Werk Weimar/Apolda e.V.
- Egapark Erfurt
- KV Leipzig
- Erfurt City Sports Association (SSB)
- University of Erfurt

Project description:

The aim of the Unified Football project is to offer football training to people with and without intellectual and multiple handicaps in the State of Thuringia. Participants have the opportunity to take part in weekly training sessions, demonstration games, tournaments and indoor/outdoor events.

There were many highlights in 2023: A Spirit Unified Football Team took

part in the „Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023 Torch Relay“ in Erfurt on June 13th and then played in a demonstration game. SOF Unified teams also took part in the AG Handicap State Championships (May 23rd & 24th, 2023 in Bad Blankenburg) of the Thuringian Football Association, as well as in the indoor state championships (Rudolstadt December 1st, 2023) and a demonstration game as part of the Erfurt Kindergarten Cup in the Rot-Weiß Erfurt Stadium (July 8th, 2023).

In addition, SOF's Unified coaches conducted several workshops and events to raise awareness among the general public about inequality in sport, as well as training of trainers to further improve the skills of inclusion and football for coaches.

University of Erfurt Seminar - Unified Football:

In the winter semester of 2023, in cooperation with the University of Erfurt, work was carried out on the development of the concept, planning and implementation of a pilot research project on the current situation of offers and access to sports opportunities for people with intellectual and multiple disabilities in the state of Thuringia. Another seminar by SOF at the university as part of the Studium Fundamentale (StuFu) in both the summer and winter semesters offered students the opportunity to get to know Unified Football and to get involved through active participation and support in the implementation of training sessions.

4. Unified Football

Facts:

- A total of 75 training sessions at 3 training locations (Erfurt, Weimar and Apolda)
- 2x monthly Unified training sessions in Apolda with adults, 18-50 years
- 2x training sessions per week in Erfurt,
- 1x at the Friedrich-Ebert-Schule and
- 1x at the Förderzentrum Schule am Zoopark
- From 2024 in Weimar
- Participants: 45 people directly, with an average of 15 players at each training location, mostly boys and men aged 8 to 40, 4 female participants
- Through demonstration games, events and workshops, around 350 people were indirectly reached and involved
- A total of 100 additional participants in workshops and training courses

Impact :

This project has not only helped us to positively impact the development of our players on a social and physical level, but also to raise awareness in the communities where training sessions and matches take place. Family members, friends and people connected to our players are also indirectly involved as they also attend our events. Inclusion is a process and clearly happens on a practical level and that is what we offer our community.

The Unified Football project was a winner of the 2023 Thuringian Children's Inclusion Prize.

Stories:

From Ivan Monteiro:

„Even though we didn't have much luck at the competition level at the State Championship in Bad Blankenburg, the incredible teamwork on and off the field and the positive energy were great. Our players understood that the focus of SOF is to give all players the opportunity to play, regardless of the results. In the evening, we gathered to play a few games and Marlene, one of our participants with Down syndrome and multiple disabilities, a very introverted and shy person, volunteered to stand up and present a dance performance - breaking not only the barrier of disabilities but also social challenges, like performing in front of a group. At the indoor national championship in Rudolstadt, we had lost our three previous games and played against a stronger team. Our players expected that the ball would often go into our own goal, and that's what happened, and soon we were down three goals to zero. But in less than three minutes we managed to score three goals and tie the game at the last second, with a great shot from Oscar from midfield that surprised not only the goalkeeper but also the entire hall. The energy in the team was unforgettable and the players heard from the organizers that even though we were in last place, we had played the best game of the tournament. That was the real victory, the way these players believed in themselves.



5. FairTaste Sustainability Event Series

Project lead:

Sebastian Stützer with Susanne Sander and students

Donors/Supporters:

- Cultural Fund of the City of Erfurt: €500
- LAP Erfurt Fund: €500

Partners:

- Slow Budget Productions
- Nature Friends Youth
- DGB Thuringia
- Kalif Storch

Project description:

Last year, three events were organized under the heading FairTaste. The aim was to connect artists from different genres, to discuss sustainable topics and to encourage visitors to undertake sustainable practices themselves.

Specifically, 60 people were reached at the first event (February 10, 2023). The artist María Moctezuma from Mexico was invited, who reached the community with texts about fair pay and protecting the Amazon rainforest. In the clothing exchange corner, people were able to bring along items of clothing and exchange them with those of other visitors.

At the second event (23.6.23), Audry Funk from Guatemala, who lives in New York, was invited, and she was able to inspire around 120 people with texts about equality and feminism. A fundraiser was organized for the Tafel e.V. Finally, Chokolade Remixe from Argentina was given

a platform (6.7.23), to impress around 150 guests with queer feminist reggaeton.

Facts:

- 3 events, each with between 100-150 guests

Impact:

In the run-up to the events, guests were informed about exchanges taking place during the events via social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, but also via Telegram. During the first and last events, goods were collected for the social department store, and at the second event, storable food was donated to the food bank. At the same time, the events offered a wide variety of people from different backgrounds the opportunity to celebrate together, make contacts and enjoy positive and cosmopolitan evenings.

Stories:

From Sebastian Stützer:

„We were able to inaugurate the Simone Berg event venue on Erfurt's Petersberg, which was newly founded in 2023, and have created a permanent event partner for ourselves with very good cooperation and communication.“



6. Future Ball – Football and Education for Sustainability

Project lead:

Benjamin Grünewald and Ulrike Enders

Donors/supporters:

- Football & Culture Foundation: €119,315.00
- RENN.South: €1,950.00
- Berlin 21 e.V.: €220.00
- Co-financing: €16,103.52
- UEFA Foundation for Children for 2024

Partner:

- Lernort Stadion (Learning Centers in Stadiums)
- RENN.mitte
- Schools, football clubs (such as FC Bayern München, Borussia Dortmund and SV Werder Bremen), learning centers and other partners in the respective federal states, see SoF website, Future Ball blog entries

Project description:

Future Ball - football and education for sustainability. The title says it all: it's about raising awareness of the problems and opportunities of sustainability in football in the run-up to the UEFA European Football Championship, which will take place in Germany in summer 2024. We work with the SDGs (17 United Nations sustainability goals) in schools and cooperate well with Lernort Stadion. A total of 4 graffiti on the topics were also created with the Erfurt artist Steve Seeger aka Krusty. Trainings of Trainers with multipliers were offered in which we passed on our low-threshold, interactive methods.

Facts:

- 12 of 24 school workshops and 6 trainings of trainers took place in 2023, one graffiti was sprayed in Dresden and one in Hamburg - these are always real highlights!
- 5 workshops took place in learning centres in Bundesliga Stadiums
- The project had around 350 participants by the end of 2023, ages 13-60, around 55% boys/men, 45% women/girls (there were also vocational school classes)
- The Future Ball has so far travelled through 10 federal states, with 6 still to come in the lead up to UEFA EURO 2024

Impact:

What is special is that Future Ball works with very diverse target groups. The diversity that characterizes SOF is reflected in the workshops, in terms of the age, level of education and origin of the participants, as well as the locations used.

We have always had very good feedback from schools, learning centers and during the training of trainers. Our impact: We are popularizing sustainability in sport and want to score points next year, especially with the Future Ball Tour! You can read about all of our efforts on the Spirit homepage.

6. Future Ball – Football and Education for Sustainability

Story:

From Ulrike Enders:

„A training of trainers took place in Vallendar in a Catholic youth meeting place in an old monastery complex. Despite extensive advertising by the local partner, only 5 participants had registered. Our team leaders Benni and Hanna had mixed feelings: Is it even worth it for so few participants? Can they even do anything with our methods? In the end, the volunteer from the youth meeting place and the speaker from the local partner also took part and it was great overall: Because of the small group, we quickly got into contact with each other, the FairPlay ball game was great fun, the methods could be discussed intensively and adapted directly to the needs of the respective participants. At the SDG Theater, everyone was rolling on the floor laughing. The feedback from one participant when asked what she liked: „The atmosphere, the linking of methods, sustainability goals and exercise/sports activities, the direct implementation.“

One piece of feedback that Future Ball often received from students is that the content is so well received thanks to the personal and authentic nature of the SOF team. This is also one of the core competencies of the project: great teamwork!



7. KoWo Housing Estate Neighborhood Football – fun and games for children

Project lead:

Mohamed Othman, Sulaiman Almahmoud, Sven Söderberg

Donors/Supporters:

- KoWo Municipal Housing Company, Erfurt: €8,260.00

Partners:

- University of Erfurt
- Mitmenschen e.V. (Summer Festival Dortmunder Block)

Project description:

In 2023, Kowo neighborhood football rolled 28 times between April and October in the Juri-Gagarin-Ring and Dortmunder Block neighborhoods. The FairPlay team was also involved in two summer festivals and ensured that the children and their parents had a lot of fun with the two-hour meeting and exercise activities. Every Monday from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., around 15-20 children aged 6 to 14 gathered at each location. The team led by project manager Sulaiman Almahmoud met on Marktstrasse to load toys, balls, goals and the bookbox. A small group then got fruit, biscuits and drinks for the children. The soccer goals were set up and the boombox turned on. Frisbee, drawing with chalk, skipping rope and badminton were also part of the program. The aim of the project is to offer children who live in the surrounding apartment blocks of the two locations games and fun in the fresh air. The focus was on playing together and making contact with others. The children's joy and fun were clearly evident. This was also underlined by the fact that no matter what activity they were doing, the children were highly motivated and were absolutely passionate about it. At the end of each project

afternoon, the disappointment that the time was already up was always evident in the children and most of them immediately asked when we would be back.

Facts:

- 28 sessions of 2 hours each at 2 locations
- 2 summer festivals (4 hours)
- Summer Festival 1 organized by Mitmenschen e.V.
- Summer Festival 2 organized by KOWO
- 15-20 children per location (at the Dortmund block: additional parents of the children)
- Yuri Gagarin Ring: Total 336 (159 boys, 177 girls)
- Dortmund block: total 448 (199 boys, 249 girls)
- Age of children 5-14 years

Impact:

The project simply allows the children to spend an afternoon outdoors and to maintain their social contacts with children from the neighbourhood. It can be said that all the toys were used and tried out with joy. In addition to the toys for physical activity, offering chalk or painting materials helped to engage the children on a creative level. We had the feeling that many of the children already knew each other, but it is clear that new friendships were also formed. The fact that the leisure activities were not compulsory and took place close to where they lived paid off, as some participants spent sunny afternoons outdoors without lacking toys and/or playmates.

7. KoWo Housing Estate Neighborhood Football – fun and games for children

Stories:

From Sven Söderberg:

„This year, the project team paid particular attention to the topic of “garbage”. Before and after the units, the children were told that we do not play on a dirty pitch and that we do not want to leave a dirty pitch behind. The clean-up activities were combined with small playful approaches, clean-up teams played for the garbage bag of the day. Through the experiences of the ball travelers, who were also involved in clean-up activities in various places around the world in 2023, a good connection was made between the global and local perspectives. Nobody enjoys playing on a littered playground, whether in Erfurt or in a city in Cambodia. We want to continue raising awareness of clean play areas with the children next year.”



Was möchtest du in Zukunft alles (nicht) konsumieren?
Wie wirkt sich das auf dein Leben und das Leben anderer aus?



8. *Game On for our Environment!*

Project lead:

Benny Linse, with support from Joaquin Nanez and Francesca Sander

Donors/Supporters:

- North-South Bridge Foundation (WSD programme): €39,000.00 for 2023
- Co-financing: €21,530.50 for 2023

Partner:

- Extracurricular partners: FIFA Foundation, Goals Connect, Sustainability Center Thuringia, University of Erfurt, Future Academy Leipzig, Next Level eV, Peace Foundation, Save Nature eV, X-Topien, Fairtrade Academy, One World Network Thuringia
- Primary schools: Evangelical Primary School Erfurt, Primary School Stadtilm, Ludwig Bechstein School Arnstadt, Primary School Elxleben (Söm), Ziolkowski School Ilmenau
- Secondary schools: Regular school Gräfinau Angstedt, TGS Gräfenroda, TGS Stadtilm, Emil Petri School Arnstadt, Thomas Müntzer School Mühlhausen, European School Gera, Community School Nordschule Steinach, Oskar Gründler Gymnasium, Walter Gropius Vocational School Erfurt, Marie Curie Gymnasium Bad Berka, Gymnasium am Lindenberg Ilmenau

Project description:

„Game On for our Environment“ helps participants to better understand the living realities of people in other parts of the world, as well as one's own, against the background of a multi-perspective treatment of sustainability issues, to critically reflect on one's own attitudes and to derive options for action from them. The school as a learning loca-

tion is suitable for this, both for the content-related development of the key topics relating to sustainability, as well as for a binding and self-responsible discussion of options for action and ultimately concrete sustainability actions that can be implemented in one's own life.

The project has the central goal of ensuring equality, respect, sustainability, peace and cooperation in local (municipalities) and supra-regional (district) locations in rural Thuringia. The focus of the work with students and other community actors is on:

1. Education (through the content-oriented modules on the sustainability goals)
2. Personal development (through established SoF methods)
3. Community (through the networking of school structures with extra-curricular partners)

Facts:

- 17 workshops in 2023:
 - 3 primary schools
 - 10 Secondary Schools
 - 1 University
 - 3 extracurricular events

8. Game On for our Environment!

• **Participants:**

- approx. 370 primary school children (6-10 years old):
50/50 m/f
- approx. 230 senior children (10-17 years old):
50/50 male/female
- 8 BVJ students (18-23 years old): 8 boys
- approx. 40 students (18-26 years old):
approx. 25 girls, approx. 15 boys
- approx. 60 adults (18-70+ years old):
approx. 40 women, approx. 20 men

Impact:

We found a stable and diverse network of school and extracurricular partners who offered us the appropriate conditions and opportunities to carry out successful projects.

Since the majority of the educational institutions we visited rarely or never cover the topic of "sustainability" in connection with the 17 UN sustainability goals (SDGs), one of our main tasks is to educate and raise awareness of the above-mentioned topics. In addition, we aim to strengthen the local community and promote mindful interaction with one another. In our view, this is the basic prerequisite for subsequently being more mindful of ourselves, others and appreciative of one's environment.

Stories:

From Benny Linse:

„Feedback from participants of our project days telling us that they have organized their own sustainability activities after our project at their school or in their community. For example, participants planting their own class herb gardens. An 8th grade class in Gräfenroda has engaged in a weekly healthy breakfast together.“



9. Module development in Cambodia: Football and Sustainability

Project lead:

Sophia Butzke and Joaquin Nández

Donor/Supporter:

ISF Cambodia: €8,977.09

Partners:

- ISF Cambodia (Indochina Starfish Foundation)
- Clothesline Resale Boutique

Project description:

As part of the adidas funded Move for the Planet initiative and the project „Kickstart sustainable futures: Football for sustainability“ we helped ISF Cambodia to develop modules for their „football-for-good curriculum“ with a focus on ecological sustainability and climate protection.

The new modules were adapted to the local needs of ISF coaches and participants and covered the following topics:

- Reuse/Reduction/Recycling
- Plastic reduction
- Waste management
- Water and energy savings

Facts:

- 1 Training of Trainers/1 week/5 days:
 - 5 seminar sessions @ 60 minutes
 - 15 training sessions @ 90 minutes
 - 15 warm-up games @ 15 minutes
 - 4 feedback sessions @ 30 minutes
 - 1 degree @ 120 minutes
- 17 participants (multipliers for 2,000+ children and young people participating in ISF's programs):
 - 2 program managers
 - 1 administrative staff
 - 4 project managers/trainers
 - 6 trainers
 - 4 Youth Leaders/Junior Coaches
- Age:
 - 2 participants between 36-45 years old
 - 5 participants between 31-35 years old
 - 6 participants between 21-30 years old
 - 4 participants between 18-20 years old
- Gender:
 - 4 female participants
 - 13 male participants

9. Module development in Cambodia: Football and Sustainability

Impact:

During the 5-day training of trainers, the ISF coaches' skills were enhanced, not only to implement the methods, but also to develop new modules and concepts independently. After the coaches received this training, they were able to train around 2,000 young players.

Stories:

From Sophia Butzke:

„One participant, a very impressive young woman, whose dream was always to become a football coach, not only took part in our workshop in Cambodia during The Ball's trip in March 2023, but she also met The Ball again months later in Australia. There she was part of an exchange program with other organizations from around the world that promote the involvement of young women in so-called „Football for Good“ organizations. She was very happy to be able to take part in a Training of Trainers with Spirit of Football again and we noticed a huge development in her. Her self-confidence, her demeanor, her eloquence - we hardly recognized her. She always took an active part, motivated the others and got involved in the further development of the ISF projects herself. For us, a successful example of „motivation meets support“ through such projects.“



10. Fair Play Company

Project lead:

Jakob Grünewald

Donor/ Supporter:

RENN.Mitte

Partner:

- RENN.Mitte
- University of Erfurt

Project description:

On June 26 and 27, after months of preparation, the „FairPlay Company“ workshop took place in the beautiful Zinzendorfhaus conference venue in Neudietendorf. Together with Nadja Hagen and Franziska Schulz from the RENN.Mitte network, Jakob Grünewald was able to hold a workshop for Spirit of Football with 9 participants from 5 companies. The workshop was about how sustainability education in apprenticeships can be brought closer to trainees. We received plenty of support from Nadine Baumann (back office), as well as from Jens Reißland and Claudia Müller from the University of Erfurt in terms of conception. All participants are responsible for the training of trainees in their company. People from the Berliner Wasserbetriebe and the cement production at Cemex were there, so there was a colorful variety of professional fields.

During the two days of the workshop, there was an intensive exchange about problems and blind spots in training with regard to sustainability education, especially in so-called standard job profile positions, which require all training occupations to deal with the content of sustainability in training, but which was nevertheless unknown to some trainers.

Facts:

- Two-day workshop with 9 participants from 5 companies
- 6 women 3 men
- Age approx. 28-60 years

Impact:

A positive conclusion can be drawn, as the participants engaged in lively discussions, continued to discuss the topic of standard job profiles and at the same time the whole thing was perfectly complemented by the spirit of football.

After the successful workshop, the idea arose to repeat a workshop in a similar format next year. Here we go again!

Stories:

From Jakob Grünewald:

„There was a very relaxed atmosphere on site, thanks in part to the ambience in Neudietendorf. The participants and us team members were able to get together in the evening and discuss the workshop.“



KARIBUNI WATU

Für ein
Miteinander
ohne Grenzen

Peace Love
Rauberrad

Andersartig

1 KEINE
ARMUT

8

11. University of Erfurt Seminar: Spirit of Diversity

Project lead:

Benny Linse, Francesca Sander

Donor/Supporter:

- University of Erfurt: €1,380.00

Partners/Network:

- Dr. Nancy Quittenbaum (scientific support from the University of Erfurt)
- Karibuni Watu e.V. (Henry Buchberger)
- Team Members of Spirit of Football e.V. (Voluntary Support)
- Sustainability Center Thuringia
- Goals Connect e.V. (Chris Häßner)

Project description:

All students at the University of Erfurt, regardless of their field of study, must achieve 30 credit points in the Studium Fundamentale (StuFu) area in addition to their major and minor degree programs. Since 2006, the SOF seminar has been a permanent StuFu fixture in the seminar catalog. Students from different fields of study are divided into different project groups and support various SOF projects.

The students attend regular seminar sessions at the University of Erfurt and the kick-off event (at SOF). Furthermore, the participants attend the weekly and individually agreed appointments to participate in the projects. They receive 6 credits for successful participation.

Facts:

Seminars:

- Kick-off event (October 20, 2023); 4 seminars (November 8, 2023, November 29, 2023, December 20, 2023, early 2024)

Participants:

- 17 students, 9 female, 8 male
- Age: about 19 to 33 years
- The participants were divided as follows (PV=project managers):
- Unified training (approx. 1h per week), PV: Ivan Monteiro/David Schnell, 5 students
- Football Training (weekly Wed. approx. 2h), PV: Oksana Rak, 3 students
- Women's Sports (weekly Mon. approx. 1h), PV: Oksana Rak, 3 students
- Fairtaste Event Series (individual arrangement), PV: Sebastian Stützer/Susi Sander, 2 students
- SUN Project (individual arrangement), PV: Sara Fabbri, 3 students,
- Social Media (individual agreement), PV: Iris Albulet, 1 student

11. University of Erfurt Seminar: Spirit of Diversity

Impact:

The project enabled students to take an active role in volunteer work. They were given the opportunity to contribute their individual skills and talents and help shape the projects. The extra-curricular experiences that the students gained through their independent participation in the various projects promote skills such as teamwork, conflict management, planning and implementation skills. Furthermore, values such as respect, tolerance and diversity are promoted. The seminar focused on the topic of „diversity“.

Through methods such as the „Privilege Walk“ and „Where do you play?“, the students were made aware of social diversity and the challenges associated with it. These approaches serve to strengthen the perception and understanding of different perspectives.

This also gave the students the opportunity to get to know themselves better and to reflect on themselves, as well as to perceive their role in society and act more consciously in the long term. Overall, the seminar and the projects contributed to the personal and social development of the students and strengthened their commitment to socially relevant issues.

Stories:

Von Francesca Sander und Benny Linse:

„We were particularly impressed by Charlotte Gäbler. She supported Iris Albulet in creating and implementing the social media posts for the association and showed great interest and commitment. She was also very open to the methods implemented in the seminar and made important contributions. It was quickly apparent that she shared our understanding of SoF's values. She continues to be involved at SOF.“

„In a seminar, Karibuni Watu eV (Henry Buchberger) presented its projects in Tanzania. The students were very inspired by the contribution and showed great interest in the work. It was clear that some students had a broader view of the world. They recognized the importance of social projects and saw what influence such initiatives can have worldwide.“

„Furthermore, the students of the Football project (Ricardo König, Robin Vogt and Charlott Gützlaff) showed great initiative in assuming responsibility independently. They took a lot of pressure off the project manager Oksana Rak.“

„Students Marie Horlacher and Aldin Vojvoda were also involved in David Schnell's Unified project and showed great commitment. They took on responsibility for developing exercises/training units and were able to integrate very well into the group.“



12. The Ball 2022/23 Journey: One Ball, One World for Climate Action

Project lead:

Andrew Aris, Iris Albulet, Sophia Butzke and Joaquin Nández

Donors/Supporters:

- Swedish Postcode Foundation: €133,203.63 for 2023
- Co-financing:
 - Vietnam: Friedrich Ebert Foundation: €2,449.50
 - Thailand: Friedrich Ebert Foundation: €10,638.00
 - Cambodia: US Embassy: USD1,280.00
 - Indonesia: German Embassy: €1,500.00
 - Fiji: German Embassy in New Zealand: €5,000.00
 - Kiribati: German Embassy in New Zealand: €5,000.00
 - Australia: US Embassy: €11,856.00

Partners:

- On the ball's journey, we worked with various Football for Good or sustainability organizations as well as social institutions and educational institutions and sports clubs and associations in all countries. See the list of partners here: <https://theball.tv/2022/spirit/partners/>

Project description:

Since 2002, Spirit of Football has travelled from London, the birthplace of football, to the FIFA World Cup every four years. We invite everyone we meet to sign The Ball (Football's Olympic Torch), making The Ball a symbol of togetherness, diversity and the joy of football.

This year, our team traveled to New Zealand and Australia for the first time that we took The Ball to the Women's World Cup, and especially

significant since The Ball 2023 was committed to the two main themes of gender equality and climate action in addition to FairPlay. On the trip, we held workshops on these topics. Another important component of the Ball trip are the „Pledges“, the promises made by those who sign The Ball. The people who sign The Ball make a promise about how they will support their community, what they want to do for gender equality and climate protection. For example, they promised to train girls' soccer teams, carry out „clean ups“ in their region or switch to renewable energies.

Most recently, The Ball was also presented at the Sport Positive Summit in London and at the UN Climate Change Conference COP28, sharing the story of the journey with others and calling for more climate action.

Facts:

- From March to August 2023, we conducted 61 workshops in 12 countries. Workshops were held at schools, universities, football clubs and non-governmental organizations. We also presented and launched The Ball at various events such as school and university festivals or welcoming ceremonies.
- In 12 countries on 4 continents, the workshops reached an average of over 100 people each (approx. 5 workshops per country with 20-30 people each), making a total of over 1200 people. In addition to these direct effects, over 3,600 people were also reached by passing on the content in the respective communities (1200 x3).

12. The Ball 2022/23 Journey: One Ball, One World for Climate Action

- On the ball trip, care was taken to ensure that, if possible, at least 50% or more of the participants were female or perceived as female. There were various workshops with children (at primary schools, secondary schools), young adults (at universities and other institutions and clubs) and also older adults (at non-governmental organizations). The participants were students, athletes or trainers in an organization or club, or employees or volunteers in an organization that works for climate protection.

Impact:

Over 13,000 signatures and thus thousands of promises to support women and girls and to do more climate protection. By visiting and supporting women's and girls' teams, the acceptance and support of women's football was promoted, especially in countries where women's football is not yet a major issue. The workshop content on fair play and gender equality spread the topic further and strengthened women's rights. The workshop content on sustainability and climate protection increased awareness of climate challenges, created motivation for action and developed new approaches to solutions.

Stories:

From Iris Albulet:

„An example from Wellington, New Zealand: Angelina is a student at Wellington Girls College who had already introduced „Worm Farms“ at her school. These involve providing containers where compostable waste is collected, which is then later picked up for composting. Angelina is also involved outside of school in the Wellington Youth Council. It was a big challenge for the student to make a pledge, as she already

does a lot of things. So what else could she do? Finally, she decided to promise to continue to hold politicians and other „leaders“ accountable to make climate-friendly and fair policies.“



13. Antidiscrimination Workshops with Rot-Weiß Erfurt Juniors

Project lead:

Jakob Grünewald, Benjamin Grünewald, Francesca Sander

Donor/Supporter:

- Konrad Adenauer Foundation Thuringian Office: €2,250.00

Partners:

- Rot-Weiß Erfurt, U17 and U19 teams
- Fan Council of Rot-Weiß Erfurt

Project description:

On November 17th and 24th, workshops were held with the men's U17 and U19 teams under the motto „Footballers - the tension between money and attitude“. The workshop was commissioned by and in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Rot-Weiß Erfurt fan council.

With the help of several pedagogical methods, the participants were asked to deal with the question „What makes a role model and what does it mean to be a role model?“ in a low-threshold manner. Francesca Sander's Privilege Walk method can be seen as particularly successful, as it helps the young people develop a sensitivity for the unequal distribution of chances and opportunities for diverse people in society. This led to intensive exchange among the participants, in which they got to know each other and their fellow players from a different perspective and partly shared personal experiences. In addition to well-known SoF team-building games such as „Journey to“ or „Spaghetti Tower“, the specially designed method of „negotiation drama“ played an important

role. The young people developed short plays in which they had to deal with a moral dilemma. This dilemma affected the characters of Jordan Henderson and Jake Daniels (the first outed professional footballer to play for Blackpool U19 since the 90s). Henderson who had previously campaigned for the rights of the queer community in England, controversially moved for big money to the Saudi Arabia pro league.

The development of the piece was supported by information sheets on the topic of homophobia in sport. At the request of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, particular focus was placed on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia. The role plays therefore also addressed the players' contract negotiations in the context of a possible move to Saudi Arabia. Overall, the young people approached the topic from different perspectives and discussed various issues, including within the team. They were faced with their own personal decisions, which cannot always be made immediately but have to be thought through in detail.

We therefore hope that the young people will continue to grapple with the question of what it means to be a role model beyond the workshop. Perhaps even when they are playing professional football in a few years' time!

13. Antidiscrimination Workshops with Rot-Weiß Erfurt Juniors

Facts:

- U19 Workshop: 18 participants
- U17 Workshop: 21 participants

Impact:

The workshop helped to raise awareness among the young people taking part about important social issues such as the rights of the queer community and racism in professional football. The diverse methods encouraged the young people to think about their own views and to critically reflect on their attitudes. This promotes their ability to think independently and form a reflective and informed opinion.

Stories:

From Jakob Grünewald:

„During the workshop, the young people shared their personal experiences that have shaped their lives in different ways with the other participants. Each of these personal stories helped to develop a better understanding of each other and to appreciate the uniqueness of each individual. The open exchange not only promoted the participants' sensitivity to the realities of their fellow human beings, but also strengthened cohesion and trust within the group.“



14. Laugh and Learn: German for Ukrainian Beginners

Project lead:

Sven Söderberg with support from Nicole Dressler and German teacher Renate Neumann

Donors/Supporters:

- Volunteer support from the City of Erfurt: €1,155.00 (for the whole year, only a portion was used for the German course)
- We Aid: 10x HP laptops as donation in kind

Project description:

Laugh and Learn is a low-threshold course for people from Ukraine to speak German in a relaxed atmosphere and to exchange ideas about everyday situations in Germany. The focus is not on reproducing learned language skills, but rather on the intuitive use of the language in everyday situations.

Facts:

- **Activities:**
 - 32 language sessions of 1.5 hours each every Thursday
 - 5 special activities throughout the year:
 - Oksana's Ukrainian Sports Day on the last day of school
 - Painting course for children every Saturday
 - Ukrainian Christmas celebration
 - 2 excursions (Weimar and Eisenach)
 - Summer language academy in Erfurt allotment gardens (June-September)

Participants:

- Between 6-10 people attended each session (some sessions were also held with more than 15 people including children)
- Gender distribution: 8 women, 2 men
- Age: Between 16 (Max) and 60 (Ludmilla)

Impact:

The regular meetings gave the participants the opportunity to speak German outside of regular language lessons. The meetings were also used as an opportunity to exchange ideas and to receive support and information on various issues, such as dealing with authorities. The language level of individual participants improved significantly. Three people from the group were able to become involved in long-term SOF activities and also became members of SOF. One participant with autism was able to overcome his initial isolation through the regular meetings with his fellow countrymen and really opened up during the sessions.

14. Laugh and Learn: German for Ukrainian Beginners

Stories:

From Sven Söderberg (German teacher):

„I was impressed by how each and every person dealt with their own individual situation. From the very beginning, there was an agreement that we would not talk about the war. Quote: “Why should we talk about it? When we think about our homeland, we start to cry – because it is so terrible. So let’s not talk about it, because we can’t change anything about it anyway. We would rather distract ourselves from our traumas with the German language.” The joy of life that came through in the group was more than remarkable. There was a lot of laughter during the sessions, which created a distraction. The group reported back that they particularly liked not having frontal teaching, as they had already had enough of this format in their language courses. Whenever the weather allowed, we went outside - „open air classroom“. In the summer months, we moved the sessions to the allotment garden. This place had a special effect on the group because it reminded them of their home. Quote: „I just sit here and observe the situation. It is so beautiful and peaceful here. It reminds me a lot of home.“ I was particularly impressed by Max, a young Ukrainian with autism. His behavior has changed a lot in one year. He became more and more open and confident in the group, and he was also able to travel to and from the meetings independently over the course of the year. Even the school social worker confirmed this observation. Finally, a message from Oksana: „Thank you for having us all. You are a wonderful teacher because you teach us to enjoy life here and now. I give you a big hug.“



15. Senior Sports Day: FairPlay with the Elderly

Project lead:

Henriette Niesen, Iris Albulet, David Schnell

Donors/Supporters:

- German Olympic Sports Federation (DOSB): €1,000.00

Partner:

- Caritas Elderly Care Center St. Elisabeth

Project description:

On November 17th, a Spirit of Football senior sports day was held for the first time. At the Caritas St. Elisabeth nursing home, the day began with a relaxed atmosphere of coffee and cake. Spirit of Football and The Ball 2023 (see above) were then introduced. The seniors had watched matches of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup together over the summer and were very interested in The Ball journey that took place before and during the tournament. A relaxed round of FairPlay football was then played with a few seniors (some of whom were in wheelchairs) while the others watched and cheered. A small round of „balloon kick“ was then played with pool noodles and a balloon. At the end, everyone was allowed to sign The Ball. The seniors were also very happy that Viktoria and Andrii were there with their eight-year-old daughter Polina, who happily took part in the day of action and interacted a lot with the participants.

Facts:

- 25 participants
- 18 seniors + plus nursing staff and team members

Impact:

The aim was to give the residents of the nursing home a relaxed opportunity for physical exercise and the chance to interact with each other and with people from outside. The inclusion of residents with wheelchairs and walkers in the active program went particularly well. Residents were able to enjoy the benefits of light physical exercise and were reminded of their previous sporting endeavour.

Stories:

From Iris Albulet:

„A resident of the nursing home came directly to the SOF Team and said he was interested in the event because he knew our President Andrew Aris personally. His son and Andrew are good friends. The interaction between residents and Ukrainian refugee SOF team members was also highly emotional. Self made Christmas cards with individual messages from Ukrainian children were distributed to residents a week later, resulting in tears of joy from elderly people who often have been left to feel alone. Overall, it was noticeable how much positivity the action day brought to the nursing home. Everyone is already looking forward to the next senior sports day!“



16. What else has been happening:

Exhibition about our project in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan

- Exhibition opening on November 18, 2023, at Retronom in Erfurt
- The exhibition was open for one month
- Supported by Mitmenschen e.V.
- [*Recap in a reel on Instagram \(November 2023\)*](#)

Spirit of Rhineland Palatinate:

- Teamer cultural exchange trip to Rhineland Palatinate for a friendly football match against FC Ente Bagdad, in May 2023.

More information in the blog post:

[*https://spirit-of-football.de/2023/05/29/spirit-goes-pfalz-thueringer-ueberfallen-den-suedwesten/*](https://spirit-of-football.de/2023/05/29/spirit-goes-pfalz-thueringer-ueberfallen-den-suedwesten/)

Intercultural training (October 6-8, 2023) and intercultural Christmas party (December 3, 2023)

- Supported by Mitmenschen e.V.

We want to thank our supporters!

