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1. GPS - Girls' Power Sustainability

Project Lead

Lara Wohlrabe / Ulrike Enders

Funders / Donors

adidas Foundation

Partners / Supporters

Thüringer Fußballverband (TSV)

Project Description

With the GPS project, we specifically target girls of primary-school age, encouraging them to freely develop their sporting and social skills in the spirit of fair play and teamwork. Even today, traditional gender roles, structural barriers and a lack of role models often make it difficult for girls to find their place in sport and public life. Football in particular is often not even perceived as a possible sport for girls, which means that there are very few spaces available to them. This is where GPS comes in.

GPS provides safe spaces where girls can play football, gain new experiences and discover their own strengths. Through sporting activities, creative input and shared reflection, we strengthen self-confidence, courage and resilience, as well as social skills such as respect, fair play and solidarity. The girls experience their own agency and learn to stand up for themselves and others - an important foundation for participation in society.

Through school workshops, after-school clubs and holiday camps, we reach girls in different settings, allowing them to experience the values of Spirit of Football and learn how to apply them in their own lives.

Facts / Participants / Figures

1,110 girls between 6 and 10 years of age.

Impact

GPS creates a space where girls can try football without being excluded or judged. For many, it is the first time they experience that they are simply allowed to join in: "Finally, we can play football without boys!" It is especially rewarding to see shy girls become more courageous over time, trust themselves more and participate actively in the game. At the same time, participants learn to be considerate of one another and to accept different levels of ability. More experienced girls increasingly take responsibility, motivate others and grow into role-model roles. GPS therefore strengthens not only football skills, but also self-confidence, fairness and team spirit.

Highlight / Story

One girl had already been playing football for a long time and kicked a ball around with her family almost every day. She therefore brought a great deal of experience and was one of the strongest players in the group. At first, she found it difficult to understand why we played Fair Play Football instead of conventional football, where, for example, players cannot simply start dribbling. Many of the other girls, however, had hardly ever played football before. She now understands how important these rules are so that everyone can truly take part. Today she supports the other girls, explains exercises, motivates her team and is visibly happy whenever someone new finds the courage to try something.

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2. Girls Forward!

Project Lead

Lara Wohlrabe / Ulrike Enders

Funders / Donors

Deutsche Fußball Liga (DFL)

Partners / Supporters

Thüringer Fußballverband

Project Description

The "Mädchen Vor!" project is aimed at girls between approximately ten and fifteen years of age. In many regions, they lack sufficient sports opportunities and, above all, safe spaces where they can freely develop their potential and try things out. Traditional gender roles, structural barriers and a lack of role models often prevent girls from finding their place in sport and public life. This is precisely where the project begins.

Football is at the heart of the project as a communal and empowering way to access physical activity, team spirit and self-confidence. At the same time, "Mädchen Vor!" is intended to be much more than a sports programme: it is a safe space that the girls themselves can help shape. Alongside football, there is room for dance, creative activities, or simply time to talk and be together. The aim is to create a protected environment where girls can spend time among themselves, make friends, develop ideas and try things out without pressure. This takes place through regular school clubs as well as individual project days and project weeks.

Facts / Participants / Figures

Approximately 45 girls between 10 and 15 years of age.

Impact

Mädchen Vor! creates a safe space at secondary schools where girls can try football without being excluded or judged. Many experience that they are naturally welcome to participate and can develop freely. Alongside sport, the project offers space for dance, creativity and simply spending time together. Over time, quieter participants become more courageous, gain confidence, share their own experiences and become more actively involved. More dominant girls learn to help others and be there for them. At the same time, the girls grow together as a team. The project therefore strengthens not only sporting skills, but above all self-confidence, team spirit and social skills.

Highlight / Story

During the project week in Gera, one girl initially stood out because of her extreme shyness. She hardly spoke, stayed mostly with her friends and often looked at the floor. It was wonderful to see how she opened up after our workshop on menstruation. In this safe environment, the girls were able to speak openly about their experiences and ask questions. In the small group, she too eventually spoke openly about her fears, visibly gained confidence and greeted us with a smile. She became more active and later surprised us on the football pitch with great courage and energy.

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3. Thuringian Girls Mini European Championship

Project Lead

SoF team effort; contact: Francesca Sander

Funders / Donors

Funke Medien und Thüringer Fußballverband

Partners / Supporters

dm-drogerie markt GmbH & Co. KG; Die Thüringer Handwerkskammern; Möbel Rieger GmbH & Co. KG; CMC Center Management GmbH - Thüringen-Park Erfurt; DB Regio AG

Project Description

The "Thüringer Mini-EM Mädchen" on 22 June 2025 in Erfurt was a real highlight for Spirit of Football e.V. and a project that left a lasting impression on us. Together with FUNKE Mediengruppe Thüringen and the Thüringer Fußball-Verband, we organised a tournament in which 16 girls' teams from across Thuringia competed in a European Championship format, each representing a nation taking part in the UEFA Women's European Championship.

What made the project so special went far beyond sporting competition. From the very beginning it was clear that this was about more than goals and results. It was about community, visibility for girls in football and, above all, values. As Fair Play ambassadors, we were able to work right at the heart of the event, engaging with teams, coaches and families. What we experienced was wonderful: genuine joy in playing, mutual respect and children naturally supporting one another, even across team boundaries. Fair Play was not merely part of the programme; it was lived in practice - through returned balls, comforting words after defeats and celebrating together. A special highlight was the award for the fairest team, which allowed us to make these small but meaningful gestures visible. Above all, the day left us with a sense of energy, genuine encounters and moments that demonstrated the power of togetherness.

Facts / Participants / Figures

16 teams from across Thuringia, each representing a nation from the Women's European Championship. E-junior girls born in 2014/2015 and younger (approx. 9-11 years). Around 6-9 players per team; matches were played 5-a-side including a goalkeeper. Estimated total: around 100-140 participating girls, plus sponsors, coaches, support staff, families and spectators.

Impact

The tournament had a clearly visible impact on three levels. First, it strengthened girls' participation in football by giving them a large and visible tournament format in which they were taken seriously and publicly recognised. Second, there was a direct learning effect around Fair Play: rules, respect and conflict behaviour were not only explained but applied in practice during matches and actively adopted by many teams. Third, the event contributed to the children's social development beyond sport, particularly in teamwork, self-confidence and dealing with victory and defeat.

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Highlight / Story

Examples included a free kick being deliberately returned to the opposing team and coaches looking after children from the opposing side as well. Norway (Grundschule Dr. Louis Mayer Georgenthal) finished first, followed by Wales (Montessorischule Jena) and Spain (SV Fortuna Großschwabhausen). - Thüringer Allgemeine

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4. Unified Football

Project Lead

Project lead: Annica M. Duft; Coaches: David, Aldin, Anni

Funders / Donors

Aktion Mensch

Partners / Supporters

Schule am Zoopark

Project Description

Unified Football gives everyone who enjoys physical activity and football the opportunity to train together with us. It does not matter how old someone is, where they come from, which language they speak, which religion they belong to, whether they are a recreational or professional footballer, or whether they have a disability or not.

We live inclusion, break down barriers and create space for encounters and new ideas. It is a project that is very close to my heart.

Facts / Participants / Figures

Boys, girls, men and women. Age: 10-45 years.

Impact

As described above, we create space for unrestricted togetherness. We raise awareness and, through our project, also try to encourage other clubs to open their sports programmes to people with disabilities.

Highlight / Story

There are so many highlights. One that applies to almost everyone is the consistency of my groups and participants in Weimar and Erfurt, and the gratitude and joy they give me and us every day. Seeing their development - how they become more mature, better team players and better at football; how they have become a team and support, help and motivate one another - is something very special.

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5. Inclusion Disco

Project Lead

Annica Duft

Funders / Donors

Aktion Mensch

Partners / Supporters

Aktion Mensch; Kulturdirektion Erfurt

Project Description

The Inclusion Disco is an event for everyone, regardless of gender, age, origin or religion, and regardless of whether they have an intellectual and/or physical disability. It is an event designed to bring people onto the same dance floor, where everyone can dance together, have fun and enjoy the music. Barriers are broken down and a very special form of togetherness is enabled and encouraged.

Facts / Participants / Figures

Six events have taken place so far, with between 50 and 150 participants. The youngest participant was one year old and the oldest was 65. Men, women and diverse participants all celebrated together.

Impact

We receive wonderful feedback. People with disabilities express great joy and gratitude for this opportunity, and many attend every event. People without disabilities are equally grateful and happy about this form of dancing together.

Highlight / Story

Particularly moving are the gratitude and joy of individual people and the familiar faces that return to every event. Sandro, a wheelchair user, especially loves the event and even left his cousin's birthday early in order to attend.

After the first Inclusion Disco, something wonderful happened. A young man who is a huge football fan spent the event giving everyone high fives. An older man who was also attending gave him a ticket to a football match in Weimar at the end of the evening and even went to the match with him. It was one of the most touching moments for me. Just as special is all the support I receive that makes it possible for this event to continue.

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6. Spirit of School

Project Lead

Benny Linse

Funders / Donors

Fachhochschule Erfurt

Partners / Supporters

Prof. Dr. Heike Schulze

Project Description

Spirit of School (SOS) is a Spirit of Football e.V. project within the interdisciplinary skills programme (2 ECTS), implemented in cooperation with Studium Fundamentale. It is aimed particularly at Social Work students at the University of Applied Sciences, who become actively involved in primary-school projects in Erfurt as part of the Startchancen programme and provide hands-on support to Spirit of Football facilitators.

The aim is to strengthen primary-school pupils' social, personal and democratic skills and to foster a positive classroom climate and respectful interaction through creative, sports-based and playful methods. Spirit of Football's work is based on diversity, respect and teamwork. Using the connecting power of football alongside creative and interactive methods, topics such as Fair Play, sustainability and social responsibility are communicated in an age-appropriate way. Children learn to resolve conflicts constructively, develop empathy and take responsibility within a community.

Through their active involvement, students gain valuable practical experience in educational work with primary-school children. They develop methodological, communication and organisational skills and reflect on their role as multipliers for democratic values, social participation and civic engagement. At the same time, they take responsibility for designing and delivering project activities and actively contribute their own ideas.

The project creates spaces for dialogue, participation and collaborative learning, thereby contributing to democracy education, personal development and sustainable school development.

Facts / Participants / Figures

9 people (9 women), aged 22-29.

Impact

The impact of SOS can be seen among both primary-school pupils and participating students. Children experience a stronger sense of community through creative and sports-education methods, learn respectful interaction and develop important social skills such as empathy, teamwork and responsibility. Democratic values such as participation, fairness and mutual appreciation become tangible in everyday school life.

Students also benefit significantly from their active involvement. Practical work in Erfurt primary schools strengthens their educational, communication and organisational abilities and gives them valuable experience working with heterogeneous groups. They also develop a stronger awareness of social responsibility and experience the importance of personal engagement and active participation for a vibrant and supportive

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community. In the long term, the project helps strengthen schools as places of diversity, participation and respectful coexistence.

Highlight / Story

Silvana impressed during the seminar through her empathetic, calm and highly reliable manner. In her work at primary schools, she showed a keen sense for children's needs and quickly created an atmosphere of trust and appreciation. Her open attitude and strong social skills greatly enriched Spirit of Football's projects.

During the practical placements, Silvana developed a strong interest in educational work in schools and, as a result of her seminar experience, can now well imagine working in school social work in the future. She contributed with commitment, took responsibility and supported the team with patience, attentiveness and empathy. Her reflective approach and positive presence quickly made her an important support within the projects.

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7. Startchancen - One Ball, One World

Project Lead

Andrew Aris, Benny Linse, Team Spirit of Football

Funders / Donors

Startchancen-Programm Freistaat Thüringen

Partners / Supporters

Johannesschule Grundschule Erfurt; Astrid-Lindgren-Grundschule Erfurt; Hugo Mairich Berufsschule Gotha; Bieblacher Schule Gera

Project Description

As part of the Startchancen programme, Spirit of Football implemented extensive measures in 2025 to promote social skills and classroom community at several schools in Thuringia. Alongside team days for staff at Johannesschule and the Startchancen coordination team at Hugo-Mairich-Berufsschule, as well as a workshop on an after-school-care concept, the "One Ball, One World" project days formed the main focus.

A total of 33 project days were delivered: 17 at Astrid-Lindgren-Grundschule, 12 at Johannesschule, three at Bieblacher Schule and one at Hugo-Mairich-Berufsschule. The workshops combined Fair Play Football, theatre-education methods and elements of non-violent communication ("Fair Play with Words"). The aim was to strengthen teamwork, empathy, respect and conflict-resolution skills in a playful and sustainable way.

Through cooperative games, creative reflection methods and shared experiences, pupils learned to take responsibility for one another and participate actively in their community. Integration and inclusion were particular priorities. By combining movement, emotion and reflection, the project offered an accessible way into social issues and created lasting impulses for everyday school life.

Facts / Participants / Figures

33 "One Ball, One World" project days: 17 at Astrid-Lindgren-Grundschule, 12 at Johannesschule, 3 at Bieblacher Schule and 1 at Hugo-Mairich-Berufsschule. Approx. 600 pupils aged 8-18; 35 teachers and 25 educators involved; two team days and one after-school-care concept workshop. Methods included Fair Play Football, theatre, team tasks, reflection and non-violent communication. Overall rating: 4.7/5. Pupils' response: 70% very positive, 30% positive.

Impact

The project had a clearly positive impact on social interaction in everyday school life. Pupils strengthened teamwork, empathy and conflict-resolution skills. Many classes reported better cooperation, greater consideration for others and growing self-confidence. Fair Play rules were increasingly applied in everyday situations. Teachers emphasised that shared positive experiences have a lasting effect and strengthen the classroom climate. The project also served as practical professional development by providing educators with new methods. At Johannesschule, an after-school-care concept was further developed and cooperation between teachers and educators improved noticeably.

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Highlight / Story

At Johannesschule, a fourth-grade pupil initially refused to participate, turned away demonstratively and wanted neither to watch nor join in. During the project day, she gradually opened up, took part in exercises and became actively involved. At the end she said: "That was the best school day I've ever had." A third-grade pupil who often struggles in everyday school life was initially emotionally overwhelmed, withdrew and cried. Later he returned, reflected on his behaviour and recognised the importance of Fair Play and respect for himself.

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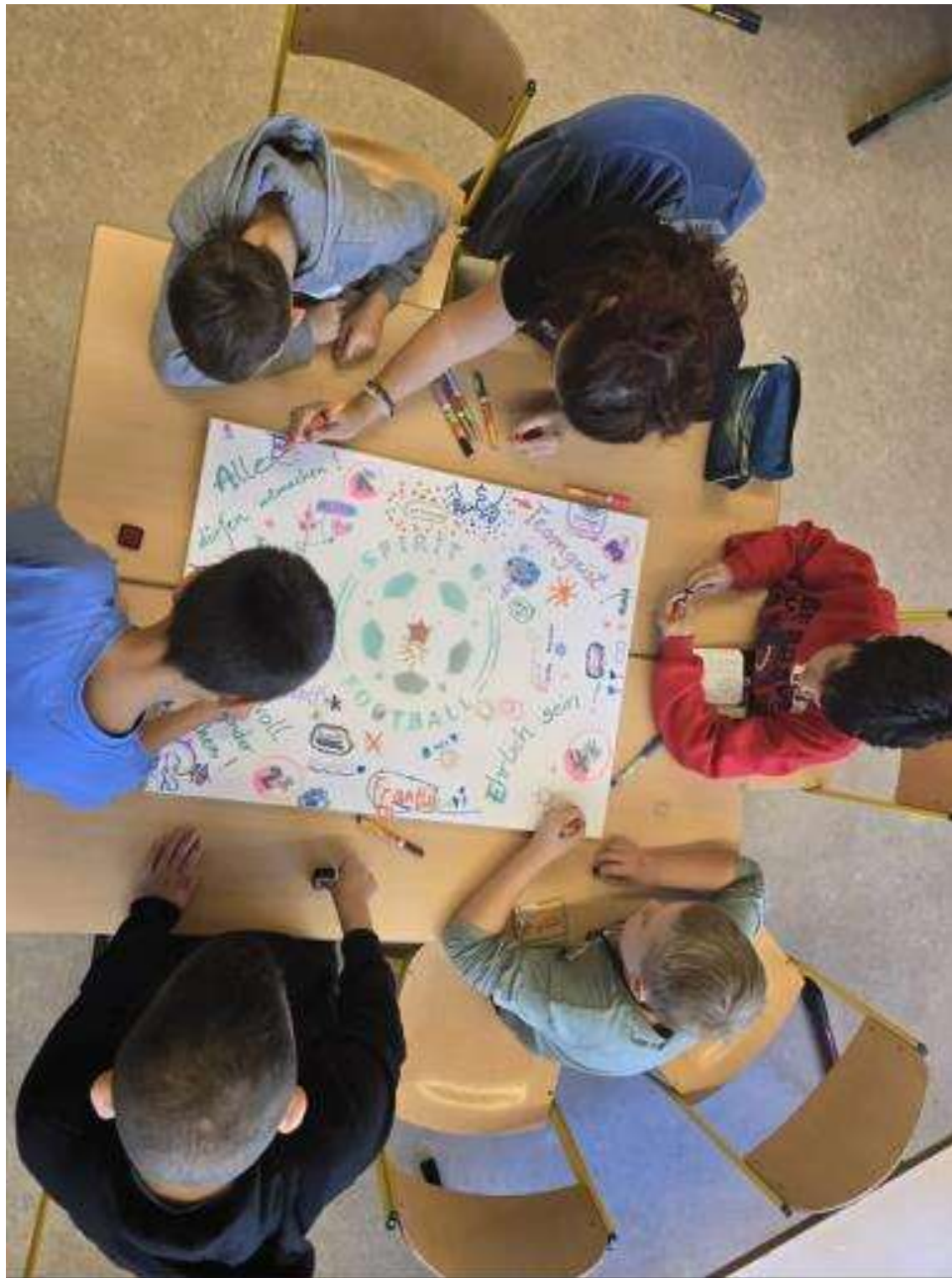


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8. Journey of Cocoa

Project Lead

Andrew Aris, Ulrike Enders, Anni Fischer, Katrin Kupfer

Funders / Donors

Engagement Global

Partners / Supporters

Chocolate Makers; Maya Munay; partner schools: Ludwig-Bechstein-Schule Arnstadt, Puschkinschule Erfurt, GS Stadtilm

Project Description

The educational project "Journey of Cocoa" introduced around 200 primary-school pupils in Thuringia to global connections surrounding cocoa cultivation, supply chains and Fair Trade. In ten workshops at three schools in Arnstadt, Stadtilm and Erfurt, the children embarked on an interactive Fair Trade journey - from the cocoa tree in the Global South to fairly traded chocolate in their classrooms.

A combination of theatre education, music and singing, film, creative methods and mindfulness exercises made knowledge age-appropriate and tangible. Particularly influential were the authentic experiences of the facilitators, who had themselves volunteered on cocoa plantations in Venezuela. Photos, videos and personal stories made the realities of children in cocoa-growing countries tangible and encouraged empathy and changes in perspective.

Chocolate's great popularity offered an accessible entry point into topics such as child labour, global justice, CO2-intensive transport routes and sustainable consumption. An emotional highlight was the cocoa ceremony, combining enjoyment, community and mindfulness. The pupils also created a world map with their personal wishes for a fairer world. The project combined knowledge, emotion and creativity as a holistic Education for Sustainable Development programme.

Facts / Participants / Figures

10 workshops in 10 classes at 3 primary schools in Thuringia (Arnstadt, Stadtilm and Erfurt). Target group: primary-school pupils, approx. 9-10 years old, fourth grade. Around 90% said they loved chocolate. Experienced facilitators with international backgrounds. Methods: theatre, music including handpan, film, creative work and meditation. Sustainable materials included a world map and SDG ball.

Impact

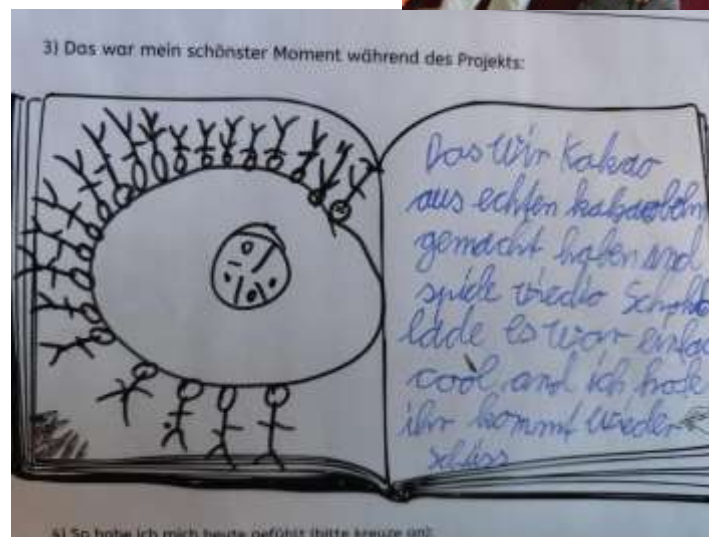
The project achieved an exceptionally deep impact. Children developed a much stronger awareness of global connections, particularly fair working conditions, child labour and sustainable consumption. They were able to identify injustices and formulate concrete intentions for their own behaviour, for example when buying chocolate consciously. Empathy and perspective-taking were strengthened. Mindfulness exercises promoted calm, community and self-awareness. Teachers reported an improved classroom climate and high motivation. The project demonstrated that holistic learning - combining knowledge, emotion and creativity - can initiate lasting changes in young people's thinking and actions.

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Highlight / Story

A central element was the cocoa ceremony, which introduced children to enjoyment, mindfulness and community. The world map with their own wishes for a fairer world gave them an additional creative way to express what they had learned.

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9. Sport Unites Neighborhoods

Project Lead

Sara Fabbri & Robert Meyer

Funders / Donors

Jugendamt Erfurt

Partners / Supporters

STZ Herrenberg; Jugendhaus Musikfabrik; Musik Fabrik; Grundschulen 34, 3, 25; Gemeinschaftsschule 4; Jugendhaus am Wiesenhügel; AWO Kreisverband; TWSD; Kowo

Project Description

In school-based and extracurricular projects in south-east Erfurt, children and young people learn to apply techniques from art, dance and sport in practice. In doing so, they develop personally by setting goals, working together as a team, and giving and receiving valuable feedback. The recurring and established Fair Play activities are educational units that reach into participants' everyday lives and create lasting effects. Fair Play is present for participants both at school and in the afternoon, showing them how to use and stand up for diversity and respect as democratic values.

Facts / Participants / Figures

468 children and young people aged 8-16, plus 143 adults.

Impact

During and after the projects, children and young people showed interest in artistic techniques such as stop-motion film, collage design, audio drama and graffiti, learning both to use these techniques and pass them on to others. They experienced sport and dance positively and gained energy for the challenges of everyday life. They learned to appreciate their own achievements and those of others, experienced themselves as creative and social personalities, recognised their strengths and weaknesses, discovered the advantages of teamwork, set and achieved goals, developed resilience in dealing with challenges and built positive emotional memories.

Highlight / Story

A particularly successful development in 2025 involved a participant who, over a long period and several projects, had largely withdrawn from the team process and its goals and had only been able to make very small steps forward. This year, however, she began to participate very actively, independently support others and even motivate more reserved classmates to join in. A genuine turnaround. This positive change demonstrates the success of our educational work, especially with target groups affected by crises, and underlines how important regular, long-term work and persistence are. It is worth it.

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10. Shadow Magic: Imaginative Stories in Shadow Theatre

Project Lead

Sara Fabbri

Funders / Donors

Wege ins Theater, Kultur macht Stark

Partners / Supporters

Galli Theater

Project Description

In the project, children aged 6 to 10 jointly developed their own shadow-theatre play. They were actively involved in every step, from the first idea through to the final performance. Starting with playful introductions and initial insights into shadow theatre, the children explored light, shadow and figures and jointly decided on a fictional world. They then invented their own stories, collected suitable sounds and implemented them creatively.

Practical creative work was central. The children designed masks and props, experimented with materials and developed their characters. At the same time, they rehearsed scenes, coordinated sequences and repeatedly presented and refined their ideas. Cooperation within the group played an important role: the children made decisions together, supported one another and contributed their individual strengths.

A theatre visit provided further inspiration and stimulated their imagination. The project concluded with a performance for parents in which the children presented the play they had developed themselves. This strengthened not only creative skills but also self-confidence, expression and team spirit.

Facts / Participants / Figures

The holiday programme involved children aged approximately 6-10 from first to fourth grade and from different classes and schools in south-east Erfurt. Around half had a migration background. Many live in a neighbourhood marked by clear socio-economic and cultural differences, and some have limited access to cultural activities outside school. The project was specifically aimed at children in this situation, providing a meaningful and creative holiday activity while creating space for encounters, exchange and new social contacts.

Impact

A key indicator of success was the positive feedback from children, parents and teachers. Many were amazed that a complete theatre production could be created with very young participants in just four days. The week was repeatedly described as enjoyable and valuable, and parents and teachers expressed a wish for similar projects to take place more often. Good teamwork, well-planned periods of focused rehearsal, and early support from parents and the school were particularly important. The final performance motivated everyone and made the success of the project visible.

Highlight / Story

The final performance was the central shared highlight: in only four days, the children had transformed their own ideas, characters, sounds and handmade props into a complete shadow-theatre piece and presented it proudly to their families.

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11. StuFu (Spirit of Courage SoSe 25; Spirit of Change WiSe 25)

Project Lead

Benny Linse

Funders / Donors

Universität Erfurt

Partners / Supporters

Dr. phil. Nancy Quittenbaum; Gedenkstätte Andreasstraße; Distanz e.V.

Project Description

The seminars "Spirit of Courage" and "Spirit of Change", organised in cooperation with the University of Erfurt, gave students the opportunity to become actively and independently involved in a wide range of community-oriented projects organised by Spirit of Football e.V.

Students were integrated into project groups such as Girls Power Sustainability (GPS), Social Media, neighbourhood football with KoWo, Unified Football, Mittwochskick, women's sport, Fair Play Football and the painting course for Ukrainian children, and took part actively on a weekly basis. Reliable participation was expected alongside a high level of initiative, creativity and personal commitment. Students were encouraged to contribute their own ideas, help shape activities and take responsibility within their teams.

The accompanying university seminar served as a platform for exchange, reflection and networking. Students regularly presented updates from their projects, reflected on their experiences and jointly developed solutions to challenges in practical work. They also engaged intensively with the methods and approaches used by SoF in its educational and project work.

Through close cooperation with SoF facilitators, participants expanded their knowledge of social engagement and civic participation while strengthening their ability to help shape projects, take responsibility and contribute sustainably to an inclusive, diverse and democratic community.

Facts / Participants / Figures

37 people (20 women, 17 men), aged 19-37.

Impact

The seminars and projects foster a strong awareness of social responsibility, democratic values and community action. By actively participating in voluntary projects in Erfurt, students directly experience how their own engagement can contribute to social cohesion. They learn to act independently, overcome challenges as a team and participate actively in social processes. Working closely with different target groups strengthens communication, organisation and teamwork skills as well as social and intercultural competence. The projects create spaces in which participation, diversity and solidarity can be experienced in practice, strengthening both personal and professional skills and generating lasting impulses for an inclusive and supportive community in Erfurt.

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Highlight / Story

Tami stood out within the Girls Power Sustainability project group through exceptional commitment, initiative and responsibility. At Puschkinschule Erfurt in particular, she did outstanding work and quickly became an important point of contact for the participating children. With reliability, creativity and empathy, she actively helped design and deliver the projects, contributed her own ideas and created an atmosphere of trust. Her willingness to take responsibility beyond the regular requirements and her continuous commitment made her an indispensable part of the project team.

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12. VAR - Referees Against Discrimination

Project Lead

Jakob Grünewald

Funders / Donors

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Adidas Foundation

Partners / Supporters

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Adidas Foundation / Thüringer Fußballverband

Project Description

The project "Schiris gegen Diskriminierung", also known as VAR, is aimed at amateur referees in Thuringia. Over the past two years, we have visited seven of the nine football districts in Thuringia to discuss how to recognise and deal with discriminatory incidents in amateur football. Thanks to cooperation with the Thüringer Fußballverband (TFV), referees can have the workshop recognised as an official training evening required for them to continue officiating matches.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is also involved in implementing the project. What referees do at weekends is, on a small scale, democracy in practice: they must ensure fair and respectful behaviour by players, coaches, fans and everyone else - not an easy task. That is why our workshops are so important. Referees learn how to deal with difficult situations involving discriminatory behaviour. Daniel Bartnitzki, an Erfurt referee with experience up to Germany's second division, usually explains the practical side and supports our workshops.

Through this teamwork between the Thüringer Fußballverband, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and Spirit of Football, we are doing everything we can to make football more respectful and open to everyone.

Facts / Participants / Figures

2025: approx. 160 participants, around 90% men. Age range: 13-74.

Impact

In 2025, the workshop reached more than 160 referees at grassroots level in Thuringian amateur football. Participants engaged in intensive discussion about discrimination in amateur football, focusing on how discriminatory incidents can be recognised and how referees can respond confidently and in a way that supports those affected. The strong interest among referees shows that this is an issue many encounter regularly on the football pitch.

Highlight / Story

After a workshop, a participant from the South Thuringia football district told us that he regularly encounters discriminatory behaviour on the pitch but had never learned during his refereeing career or training how to deal with it consistently. He was very grateful for the workshop because, for the first time, he had learned concrete ways referees can react. He also said that even referees who had initially been sceptical about the workshop title ended up enjoying the many practical methods - even if some found that hard to admit. He immediately asked about the next workshop date.

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13. Award for the Project "Fair Play - Fair Choice"

Project Lead

Iris Albulet

Funders / Donors

Not known (can be checked)

Partners / Supporters

Thüringer Landtag / all democratic parliamentary groups

Project Description

With the "Fair Play - Faire Wahl" project, we addressed first-time voters in Thuringia during the so-called super-election year of 2024. The project received the "Aktiv für Demokratie und Toleranz" award from the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

In the workshop, school classes consisting largely of first-time voters explored the programmes and positions of the parties standing for election. The highlight was the final day at the Thüringer Landtag, including a guided tour and speed-dating conversations with politicians from the democratic parliamentary groups. After the rapid-fire questions, participants and politicians played a round of Fair Play Football together - because democracy and Fair Play have a great deal in common.

Facts / Participants / Figures

3 vocational-school classes; approx. 65 pupils, mostly aged 18-25.

Impact

The pupils were able not only to engage with political content but also to experience politics as something accessible and personal. This was achieved through playful engagement with political processes, such as recreating a real plenary debate in the Thüringer Landtag and preparing its content in advance. Equally important was the fact that politicians did more than answer questions: they participated in part of the day and genuinely got to know the participants.

Highlight / Story

The final workshop was the crowning conclusion of the series. Our long-standing supporter and then Minister-President of Thuringia, Bodo Ramelow, welcomed participants in the plenary chamber of the Thüringer Landtag. Before the meeting, participants were excited and nervous, but this quickly changed when Bodo Ramelow answered their questions in a circle of chairs in an atmosphere of complete, attentive silence. Afterwards, everyone took the opportunity to take photos with him.

Photos



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14. Women's Sport

Project Lead

Viktoriia Bybyk, Alina Onyshchuk

Funders / Donors

Landessportbund Thüringen (Integration durch Sport)

Partners / Supporters

Erfurter Sportbetrieb; students of the University of Erfurt

Project Description

The "Frauensport" project was created as an open, free programme by women for women and continued with great commitment in 2025. Until August, participants were mainly mothers with their children. While the women had time for exercise and relaxation, the children were cared for in parallel and could play and make contacts. This created a safe space that supported both physical well-being and social interaction.

From August 2025, the programme moved to the evening from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. With this change, childcare was no longer necessary and the atmosphere became calmer and more focused on the women's own needs.

The programme intentionally remains flexible and is based on participants' wishes rather than a fixed curriculum. During the year, activities ranged from yoga and Pilates to stretching, dance and meditation. Alongside physical activity, exchange is central. Many participants experience not only movement but also community, support and small breaks from everyday life. Frauensport is therefore more than a sports programme: it is a place where women can recharge and strengthen one another.

Facts / Participants / Figures

10 women; 5 children; ages 3-45.

Impact

The project creates an important space where women can move freely, relax and connect with one another. For mothers in particular, combining sport with childcare was a major relief. The impact remains noticeable after the move to evening sessions: participants report more energy, a better sense of their bodies and emotional balance. New contacts and a sense of community also develop. The programme therefore strengthens not only physical health but also social well-being and women's self-awareness.

Highlight / Story

A special feature of the project is its flexibility: activities emerge directly from participants' needs, creating a lively communal space for movement, exchange and well-being.

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15. Art Brunch for Ukrainian Women

Project Lead

Viktoriia Bybyk with support from Alina Onyshchuk

Funders / Donors

BürgerStiftung Erfurt Erfurter SpendenParlament

Partners / Supporters

Naturkindergarten am Wasserweg Erfurt

Project Description

The "Art Brunch for Ukrainian Women" was launched in 2025 as a new format offering space for encounters, creativity and personal development. The event took place on 31 August 2025 in Erfurt and was aimed at Ukrainian women living far from their home country and often facing considerable demands in everyday life. The aim was to create a safe and inspiring setting in which they could exchange experiences and reconnect with themselves.

The programme combined several elements. After arriving together and taking part in a photo shoot, the group had a moderated discussion complemented by coaching impulses for reflecting on personal goals and wishes. A guided meditation provided moments of calm and inner balance. In the creative section, participants designed individual rings with symbolic meaning to take home as a reminder. A dance workshop focusing on lightness and joy completed the programme.

The deliberately small group created a particularly trusting atmosphere. The combination of nature, aesthetics and shared experience made the Art Brunch an intensive and lasting experience.

Facts / Participants / Figures

7 women aged 20-40; 4 hours; 20 minutes of meditation.

Impact

The event had a clearly noticeable effect on participants. It provided a rare space in which women could feel seen, valued and strengthened. The focus on mental well-being, self-reflection and creative development helped them regain energy and gain distance from demanding everyday routines. New connections were also formed and participants expressed a desire for further exchange. Some participants met again the very next day, demonstrating the strong need for formats of this kind. The Art Brunch therefore creates not only an immediate experience but lasting connections and impulses.

Highlight / Story

The day after the Art Brunch, several participants spontaneously met for breakfast in central Erfurt. In a relaxed atmosphere, they talked about how special the previous day had been. For many, it was a rare moment in which they were not only mothers, partners or colleagues, but simply themselves - women with their own wishes, thoughts and needs. They discussed questions that often have little room in everyday life: What do I actually want? What is good for me? The morning ended with a shared walk through Erfurt's old town - light, open and connected.

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16. Painting Course for Ukrainian Children

Project Lead

Steve Seeger, Elena Chuchmar with support from Viktoriia Bybyk

Funders / Donors

Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk (DKHW): EUR 5,000.00

Partners / Supporters

Katholisches Pfarramt St. Laurentius Erfurt; Heiko Schröter

Project Description

The "Painting for Ukrainian Children" project continued with great sensitivity and creativity at the beginning of 2025 and ran until the end of April. Creative expression remained central as a way to process experiences and develop new inner strength. The children worked with a wide variety of techniques, from watercolours and finger paints to experimental methods such as printing with leaves and drawing in kawaii style. Craft activities complemented the programme and made the creative process even more tangible.

A special highlight was a workshop series in March in which the children learned how to recycle old paper and make new paper themselves. They then used it to create individual cards - a powerful experience of turning something old into something new and valuable.

At the end, we organised a small exhibition in the church rooms, where the children selected their best works themselves. The presentation was not only a creative highlight but also a moment of pride and visibility.

Facts / Participants / Figures

20 children aged 4-18; core group of approx. 10 regular participants; 2 new participants in 2025 (boys); 16 workshops.

Impact

In 2025, the project again had a noticeable impact on the participating children. Through the creative process, they developed their skills, built self-confidence and gained emotional stability. Particularly remarkable was that progress became visible not only within the project but also at school. Teachers and classmates noticed the positive artistic and social development. For many children, this recognition in a new environment means a great deal. The project therefore strengthens not only creativity but also integration and a sense of belonging.

Highlight / Story

At the end of the project, one participant described how much the group had changed over time. At first, many children were shy and uncertain. With every meeting, however, they became more courageous in expressing themselves and contributing their own ideas. Today they proudly talk about their work, not only in the course but also at school. It is especially moving that their creative development is seen and appreciated there. For children in a new country, this recognition means far more than praise: it gives them the feeling that they have arrived and found a place of their own.

Photos



17. Day Trip to Hohenfelden Climbing Forest

Project Lead
Viktoriia Bybyk

Funders / Donors
Nebenan angekommen

Partners / Supporters
volunteer companions and parents

Project Description

On 27 September 2025, a joint day trip to the Hohenfelden climbing forest was organised. The aim was to bring together children from different cultural backgrounds through physical activity, shared experiences and playful learning, with a focus on team spirit, mutual respect and intercultural understanding.



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The day began with a group meeting in Erfurt and a journey accompanied by introductory games. At the venue, small team and skill games helped break the ice and strengthen cohesion. The children then created friendship bracelets in a creative workshop as a symbol of the new connections being formed.

The central experience was climbing in the park. After an introduction, participants tackled different courses and supported one another through the challenges. The focus was not on performance but on courage, trust and shared experience. A communal lunch and feedback round rounded off the day, and children were able to share impressions and take home photographs as memories. The trip demonstrated how encounters and integration can grow through shared experiences.

Facts / Participants / Figures

14 children (10 from Ukraine and 4 from Germany), aged 9-15; 5 parents.

Impact

The trip had a noticeably positive impact. Shared activities reduced reservations and helped new contacts develop. Overcoming challenges together strengthened self-confidence and team spirit. Children experienced how cooperation and mutual support can work regardless of language or origin. Intercultural openness and a sense of community were strengthened. The project was also a valuable experience for the volunteers, increasing motivation and cohesion.

Highlight / Story

A particularly beautiful moment occurred high among the trees. Initially hesitant, the children began helping one another across obstacles, offering hands, giving tips and cheering each other on. What had started cautiously in the morning gradually developed into genuine trust. By the end of the day, it was clear that individual participants had become a group. Over the shared meal, there was laughter, stories were exchanged and the beginnings of new friendships became visible. These quiet, genuine moments of growing together made the day special.

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18. World Children's Day

Project Lead

Viktoriia Bybyk

Funders / Donors

Partners / Supporters

ISA Kompass

Project Description

In 2025, we once again took part in the Fête du Papillon on World Children's Day in Erfurt - a colourful festival bringing together children, families and different initiatives. Together with our partners, we created an open and lively space centred on play, creativity and encounters.

A special highlight was a large human table-football pitch, where the children themselves became the players. Connected in teams, they moved together across the pitch, laughed, called to one another and experienced teamwork and Fair Play in a playful way.

At the same time, our creative table invited children to paint. They could gain initial experience with watercolours, try different techniques and let their imagination run free. The focus was not on perfection but on the joy of trying and discovering. As in previous years, the atmosphere was characterised by openness, diversity and children's laughter, creating a space where children could meet regardless of origin or background.

Facts / Participants / Figures

Approx. 150 children; more than 70 pictures painted; more than 50 goals scored.

Impact

The festival enabled children to try different activities and connect with one another. Team play strengthened social skills such as communication, consideration and Fair Play. The creative area offered a quieter counterpart where children could express themselves individually. Overall, the event created a balanced mix of movement and creativity, allowed community to be experienced, reduced barriers and created positive shared memories.

Highlight / Story

A particularly lively moment developed around the large human table-football pitch. Initially unsure how the game worked, the children quickly found their rhythm. There was laughter, cheering and shared amusement over small mishaps. What made the experience special was the feeling of being part of a team - connected by bars like in table football, but full of real movement and emotion. By the end, origin and language no longer mattered. Only the shared game and the joy of experiencing something together counted.

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19. KoWo Neighbourhood Sports

Project Lead

Sulaiman Almahmoud, Mohammed Othman, Aldin Vojvoda with support from Viktoriia Bybyk

Funders / Donors

Kommunale Wohnungsgesellschaft mbH Erfurt

Partners / Supporters

SoF Team / students of the University of Erfurt

Project Description

From mid-April to mid-October 2025, our leisure project for children in Erfurt continued with new energy and fresh ideas. Twice a week, familiar places were transformed into lively meeting points where children aged 3 to 15 played, laughed and developed their creativity together. Alongside established activities such as football, pavement chalk and crafts, we introduced new ideas. One important focus was teaching responsibility in a playful way, for example by tidying up together after activities.

A highlight was our creative blanket area, where children could paint, make things and design on large blankets in the middle of everyday neighbourhood life. New physical activities such as frisbee, skipping and hula-hoop were also very popular.

As in the previous year, music accompanied the project as a connecting element. People sang, danced in circles and often simply enjoyed the moment. The meetings became a fixed part of the week that the children visibly looked forward to. The project was not simply an activity programme, but a space for community, lightness and small moments of happiness.

Facts / Participants / Figures

More than 70 children aged 3-15.

Impact

In 2025, the project again proved to be an important social anchor in the neighbourhood. Many children have limited access to varied leisure opportunities; here they find space to try things out and be part of a community. Families also benefit: parents experience their children in new roles, can spend time together and strengthen team spirit. Laughter, movement and creative freedom create positive experiences that continue to have an effect. Regular meetings provide structure, reliability and something to look forward to. The result is not only play, but genuine connection.

Highlight / Story

One afternoon, a social worker who supports a boy with health-related limitations approached us. He stood for a while watching the colourful activity and eventually said how important programmes like this are for the neighbourhood. The boy he supported was right in the middle of it all - laughing, playing and naturally part of the group. The moment stayed with us because it showed that this is not only about games, but about belonging, being seen, and ensuring that every child - regardless of their circumstances - has a place where they can simply be a child.

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Andrew J. Aris, Ulrike Enders,
Viktoria Bybyk, Sven Söderberg

GERICHTSSTAND
Amtsgericht Erfurt
VR-162274



JULIUS HIRSCH
PREIS

EUROPÄISCHER
BÜRGERPREIS
2018



DER PARITÄTISCHE
UNTER SITZENVERBAND



Photos



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LINGER SRTZENVERBAND**



**INTEGRATIONS
PREIS**

20. Spirit of Exchange

Project Lead

Ulrike Enders

Funders / Donors

Deutsche Bahn Stiftung

Partners / Supporters

AWO Erfurt; Deutscher Familienverband

Project Description

In the long-unused municipal building at Tungerstr. 1 in Erfurt-Herrenberg, an intergenerational and multicultural space is being created for residents of south-east Erfurt. People of different nationalities, generations and social backgrounds can meet there for shared activities. Residents of this often marginalised neighbourhood generally do not participate in cultural events elsewhere in the city, so activities need to come to them through accessible programmes and events that create opportunities to interact, discuss, listen and strengthen their sense of agency.

Over 17 months, from August 2025 to December 2026, "Spirit of Austausch" includes 10 cultural evenings and 6 highlight events. Politicians, migrants, social workers, senior citizens, young people and artists are invited to discuss issues affecting local residents: What do they see as their problems? What is the legacy of the GDR? How should radicalised groups be addressed? Guests are given space to speak and enjoy international food together. Some events include musical or film contributions, and a public viewing of the World Cup is planned in the neighbourhood.

Facts / Participants / Figures

Target groups: senior citizens, children, young people and migrants, predominantly from Ukraine.

General activities in 2025 included: 29 August - open-air cinema at Wiesenhügel for residents of south-east Erfurt; 6 September - planned opening party cancelled due to water damage; 22 October - Kammwegfest with a very popular SoF activity stand; 15 November - intercultural cooking event for families; 21 November - Spirit of Generations Bingo for senior citizens; 6 December - intercultural festival for residents of south-east Erfurt.

Highlights included: 12 November - presentation and discussion on inclusion and football using films, aimed at players with intellectual disabilities, their families and the general public; 13 November - jazz concert "Tangos Y Canciones del Sur" with Catalina Sophie & Juan Cruz Penaloza for an intercultural audience and music lovers.

Impact

The activities created accessible opportunities for different generations and communities in south-east Erfurt to meet, participate and build connections despite the delay in opening the new premises. Cooperation with local organisations made it possible to continue cooking activities, movement and recreation for senior citizens, bingo evenings and intercultural celebrations.

Highlight / Story

We had planned to move into Tungerstraße on 1 September, but shortly beforehand water damage was discovered. A long period of uncertainty followed in which no progress towards moving in seemed possible. Our Ukrainian colleagues Viktoria and Alina did not sit back: they networked intensively and, within a very short time, found two organisations willing to cooperate with us - AWO and Deutscher Familienverband at Wiesenhügel. As a result, cooking courses, movement and fun for senior citizens, bingo evenings and intercultural festivals were still able to take place. It was therefore no surprise that the move-in could finally be celebrated in spring 2026.

Photos



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