

# WELCOMING THROUGH SPORT

One Idea, Different Approaches, Many Successes:  
an Overview of Activities







# CONTACT SPORT

The “Welcoming through Sport” project is for all refugees and is a first step toward integration

Since September 2015, the DOSB has implemented the „Welcoming through Sport“ (WiS) project in cooperation with thirteen state sports federations (LSBs). The project, which is financially supported by both the IOC and Aydan Özoguz, the Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration, includes activities of over 200 sports clubs in Germany. These clubs offer a great variety of sports and fitness activities: rugby, cricket, volleyball, basketball, and gymnastics, among many others.

The activities are open to all refugees, regardless of their origin or their prospects of remaining in the country. Some of the activities are organised specifically for vulnerable target groups such as women and girls, youth, and children. Both the DOSB and the state sports federations’ project managers have extensive experience in the field of integration thanks to more than 25 years of work in the federal „Integration through Sport“ (IdS) program reliably promoted by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) as well as the Federal Agency for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). This experience has been a tremendous benefit for the implementation of the WiS project.

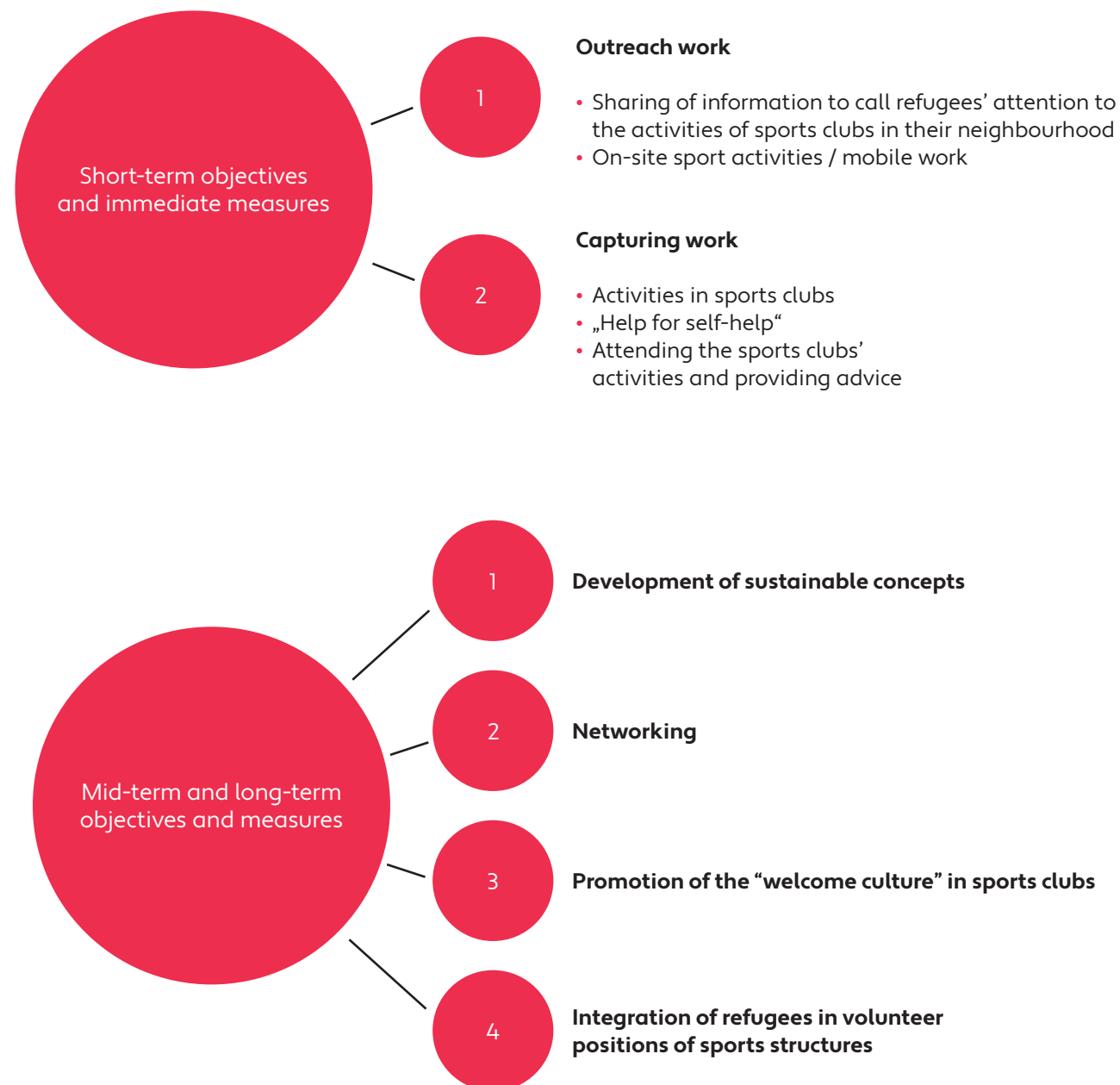
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<sup>1</sup> Overview: [www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-projektsuebersicht](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-projektsuebersicht)



# THE PROJECT AND ITS GOALS

An overview of intentions and approaches



## EVENTS 2016

The start of the project and initial networking

**March 29, 2016:**

the Minister of State Aydan Özoğuz officially opened the projects „Welcoming through Sport“ (WiS) and „Orientation through Sport“ (OdS) of the German Youth Sports (dsj) at the Geutensweg preliminary refugee reception centre in Hamburg, Neugraben-Fischbek.<sup>2</sup>

**June 15, 2016:**

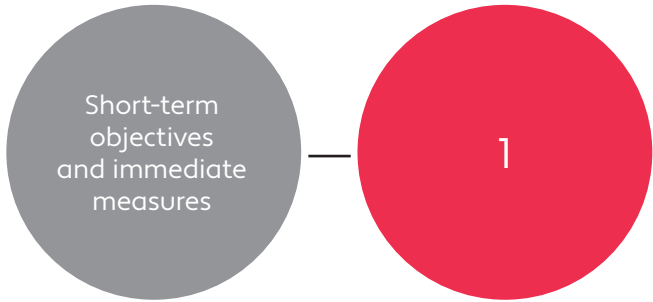
More than 50 project managers of WiS and OdS participated in a networking meeting in Frankfurt <sup>3</sup>. The participants discussed topics such as: „working with traumatised persons,“ „the handling of xenophobic attitudes,“ and the „Fit for Diversity“ qualification tool.

<sup>2</sup> [www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-projektsstartschuss](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-projektsstartschuss)

<sup>3</sup> [www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-vernetzungstreffen](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/wis-vernetzungstreffen)

# TRACES OF SUCCESS

The individual projects of the State Sports Federations reached their goals by following different paths. Here are the most important activities.

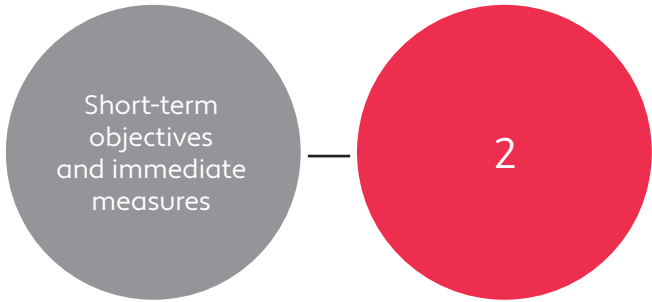


### Outreach work

- Sharing of information to call refugees' attention to the activities of sports clubs in their neighbourhood
- On-site sport activities / mobile work

Many sports clubs offered activities in preliminary refugee reception centres or close to them. For many state sports federations, the location of a club close to one of these reception centres was a decisive criterion for their partnership. Sports clubs have been able to get the attention of refugees in many different ways. Besides flyers or brochures, direct contact and personal motivation were valuable methods to contact refugees and to develop their interest in sports. Low-threshold methods also turned out to be successful. Through handicraft activities and language courses, sports clubs reached individuals with little interest in sports in order to awaken their interest in later activities. In some clubs, individuals with migration backgrounds played the role of mediator and got in contact with refugees with no German language skills or experience in Germany. In addition to the positive experiences named above, additional methods were successful:

- With the aim of explaining the importance and sustainability of sports activities to the preliminary refugee reception centres, the state sports federation of Saxony-Anhalt wrote a common letter with the Ministry. The letter included a polite request to allow the access of sports clubs representatives to the refugee reception centres as well as contact with the refugees themselves.
- In cooperation with preliminary refugee reception centres, queries concerning the previous experience of refugees with sport turned out to be helpful. According to this information, clubs in Saarland could better develop athletic offerings and provide positions to refugees.



### Capturing work

- Activities in sports clubs
- „Help for self-help“
- Attending the sports clubs' activities and providing advice

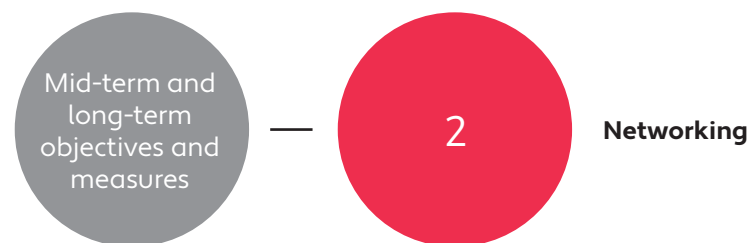
In addition to the athletic offerings in the preliminary refugee reception centres, activities offered at clubs' facilities played a decisive role. Sports clubs opened existent courses for refugees or offered special low-threshold courses for target groups. In regions with insufficient public transportation, sports clubs offered refugees transfer services from reception centres to their facilities. In the spirit of "help for self-help," refugees also got directions for travel by bike, public transport, or by foot to the clubs' facilities for future participation.

One of the most important tasks of the state sports federations was monitoring and advising the clubs. The federations approached this task with information on their websites and with informative events. Representatives from sports federations supported those from sports clubs with advice on the following topics: first contact with the target group, integrating the target group into the structure of the club, and legal and bureaucratic questions. The additional experience developed through the Federal „Integration through Sport“ program was also profitable.





Mid-term and long-term objectives were secondary priorities after the short-term objectives, yet some of these objectives could be reached successfully in the first year of implementation. Brochures and flyers were produced in order to develop sustainable concepts. These were intended to be used as guiding material for sports clubs interested in future cooperation. In addition, some important information could be found on the websites of participating clubs. DOSB uploaded position papers and informative links on its own homepage<sup>4</sup>.



Networks are of great importance for every working level in the sphere of refugee integration. Many sports federations organised meetings not only with sports partners but also with preliminary reception centres and other organisations, including charitable institutions (AWO, Caritas), schools and kindergartens, colleges, municipal organisations, and language schools.

It is important to understand that sports clubs cooperated mostly with municipal organisations and sports federations cooperated mostly with partners at the level of federal states (Bundesland). Like the sports clubs, the partner organisations looked for possibilities to work together within the sphere of athletics. For example, schools supported the work of sports clubs, especially the “Sport+X” offerings for refugees.

The DOSB is a partner of the Alliance for Cosmopolitanism (Allianz für Weltoffenheit<sup>5</sup>) and works together with welfare organisations, churches, and employers’ associations for a more open climate in Germany and for more democracy and peace.

<sup>4</sup> [www.integration-durch-sport.de/nachhaltigkeit](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/nachhaltigkeit)

<sup>5</sup> [www.allianz-fuer-weltoffenheit.de/](http://www.allianz-fuer-weltoffenheit.de/)



The development of the „welcome culture“ is a long-term process. It depends on many factors and will likely never be fully completed. However, numerous activities in the WiS project, aiming to contribute to the development of „welcome culture,“ have been initiated:

- Some sports federations created positions of integration ambassadors. These individuals had important functions. They served as contact person for the federations themselves as well as for the sports clubs and refugees. They also bundled all information and were responsible for qualification measures in the sports clubs.
- Some sports clubs created sponsorships. This financial support covered membership fees for refugees and other small costs.
- Sports federations organised qualification measures for sports clubs in cooperation with political organisations on topics such as overcoming the image of refugees as enemies and dismantling prejudice. A direct contact with refugees was also helpful for the sports clubs’ efforts to reduce xenophobia.



Integrating refugees in the roles of coaches or volunteers in the sports clubs’ structure is a long-term objective. As native speakers, they often can function as mediators and communicators and can motivate other refugees to become members of a sports club. At the same time, their volunteer work is a big step on the way to social integration and contributes to the development of sustainable concepts.

In some cases, employment and educational matriculation were provided to refugees as a result of their sports activities.



# HOW DO WE INTRO- DUCE SWIMMING TO THOSE WHO FLED BY BOAT?







# THE OFFERS

“Welcoming through Sport” reached diverse target groups with different offers.

## Projects for female refugees

Female refugees are more difficult to reach through sports activities than men. Moreover, they are a vulnerable target group and it is an important objective to keep them in focus.

It is thus a decisive task of the WiS project to support sports clubs in the planning and implementation of special sports measures for girls and women.

While many popular types of sports for female refugees could be named, such as dance (e.g. Zumba in Saxony) and gymnastics, sports clubs which offered creative courses, such as handicrafts, were also quite good at reaching the target group and involving girls and women in sports activities.

TuS Rondorf, a sports club located close to three refugee reception centres, successfully offered gymnastics to Muslim women. VfK Berlin reached out to female refugees and organized private transportation to volleyball sessions. These women are now eager to come and play—and they are responsible for their own transportation. It was often important to involve female interpreters and women with migrant backgrounds to ease the first contact between the refugees and the club.

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**More information under:** [www.integration-durch-sport.de/maedchen-und-frauenfoerderung](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/maedchen-und-frauenfoerderung)

## Projects Sports+Language

“Sport speaks all languages” is a widely known phrase. Indeed, someone’s place of origin and mother tongue don’t play any significant role in common physical activities. Sports can do even more, including facilitating the efforts to learn foreign languages. While it happens naturally when people play sports, it should be initiated in a special way. WiS sports clubs support refugees who are learning German with special offers that take place parallel to the athletic activities. Refugees can learn German in a playful and productive way while maintaining contact with the sports club at the same time. This concept is called “Sport+X.” There are many ways to organise “Sport+X” projects. In Hamburg, for example, sports clubs offer movie nights as well as lessons that combine language and chess, language and boxing, and language and bike tours.

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**More information under:** [www.integration-durch-sport.de/sprachfoerderung](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/sprachfoerderung)

## Projects with certain types of sports

### Swimming:

According to information of the German Rescue Society (DLRG), 27 young male refugees drowned in 2015 in Germany because they lacked sufficient swimming skills. Many of the WiS-activities were conceptualized with regard to this problem. The WiS sports clubs worked in cooperation with the DLRG aiming to motivate refugees to participate in swimming classes. In many cases it was not an easy task because of the difficult memories of the people who fled from their home countries by boat. Many refugees did not have any swimming lessons at home.

The demand in Germany is quite big: sports clubs like Bremer SC or Alstersport in Hamburg report that they use waiting lists for swimming classes. Swimming classes in Alstersport are inclusive, with physically disabled children from Germany, Afghanistan and Syria swimming together. A project in Würzburg was offered specifically to girls and women. Especially with regard to the relatively high price for swimming classes, WiS-support is a very important milestone in the sphere of integration of refugees.

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**More information under:** [www.integration-durch-sport.de/sportart-spezifisch](http://www.integration-durch-sport.de/sportart-spezifisch)

### Martial arts:

this type of sport is very popular in the countries of origin of refugees. Not surprisingly, it is well received by the participants of the WiS-project. Boxing, taekwondo, judo, and karate are especially popular with young men.

### Introducing unfamiliar sports:

some of the sports clubs experimented with relatively unknown types of sports, such as cricket, to arouse the interest of young refugees.





EVERYONE IS EQUAL  
ON THE PITCH

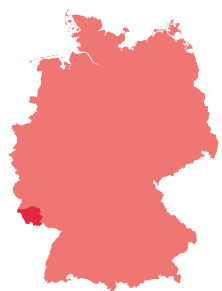


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- A map of Saarland, Germany, with a dark red background. The map shows the state's outline and internal district boundaries. Four location pins are placed on the map, each with a label and a list of participating sports clubs. The pins are located in the western part of the state, near the borders with France and Luxembourg.
- Gonnesweiler/Bosen**  
FV Gonnesweiler  
SC Bosen
  - St. Wendel**  
TV St. Wendel
  - Völklingen**  
FFC Völklingen
  - Homburg**  
Skate Network Saar

# SAARLAND'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

5 participating sports clubs





## STRONG DEMAND

Three projects – Skate Network Saar, Bostalsee, and Völklingen – show how to deliver. An overview.

### Skate Network Saar:

- The project could be implemented in many different locations in Saarland because of the mobile nature of the program. In this way the preliminary refugee reception centres were easily reached.
- The project had a large number of cooperating partners, many of which were schools and other educational institutions.
- The qualification of two refugees as skating instructors should be mentioned as a special achievement of this project.

### Völklingen:

- The original number of members in this sports club grew immensely during a short period of time with the addition of 80 new members with a refugee background. Although the number of these new members fluctuated significantly, there was nonetheless significant participation.
- The club created a both a fitness group and a handi-craft course and was able to attract women and girls to their activities and to involve them into club life.
- The sports club cooperated with many schools, cultural organisations, and the municipal government, allowing for some financial benefits with regard to membership fees

### Gonnesweiler:

- As in Völklingen, the Gonnesweiler project also dealt with fluctuation challenges, but there are now many young refugee families living in the area.
- Thanks to mother and child measures and Nordic-walking courses, the sports club was able to attract young people (especially women and young children) as members.
- One refugee from Syria organised a first-aid course and helped new refugees with Red-Crescent Movement experience to start work in this area again.
- Moreover, the club offers qualifications courses in the sphere of multicultural sensitivity. A translator and a mediator assist them, which makes contacting the target group much easier.

### St. Wendel:

While the St. Wendeler project experienced initial successes, it went on to face numerous challenges: The sports club initially cooperated with charity organisations that organised transfer services for refugees from reception centres to the sport facilities. However, low engagement of sports club members in the project made exchange between the native population and refugees, as well as integration in the life of the sports club, insufficient.

In Saarland there was a questionnaire that helped identify the previous athletic experiences of refugees and their interest to sports activities. From the 500 participants, more than 300 were connected to some sports clubs thanks to this questionnaire.

It is important to note that communication with refugees remains one of the biggest problems for the WiS project in general. The situation is different in the case of migrants who have been in the country for a longer period of time and have gathered some language knowledge. In this regard, cooperation with cultural organisations is a big support to the project.

Even though the WiS project brought many positive developments and results, the limited period of time hindered the sustainable integration of refugees. It is thus of great importance to cooperate with the federal “Integration through Sport” program. Moreover, qualification and consulting with sports clubs on topics such as cultural openness and sensitivity remain essential elements of the project.



**Podelwitz**  
SG Podelwitz

**Leipzig**  
Internationaler Tanzsportverein  
urban souls

**Großenhain**  
Großenhainer Fitneßclub

**Meißen**  
FC Meißen

**Borna**  
Bouleclub Leipziger Land

**Döbeln**  
Döbelner SV „Vorwärts“

**Plauen**  
Z.U.M.B.A. Plauen

# SAXONY'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

7 participating sports clubs



## THE VIGOROUS MIDDLE

Saxony's State Sports Federation reached a broad target group with countless types of sports.

The sports clubs were highly active and could involve many refugees in their activities:

- The Boule-Club Leipziger Land organised a Boule-Café with the goal of initiating first contacts between the local population and refugees.
- The project Urban Souls in Leipzig offered dance and skateboard classes, which were of great interest, especially for younger refugees. In order to attract women and girls, a Zumba project was very successful.

Since Saxony is a state with a relatively low number of refugees, it was important to integrate them into society and to prevent xenophobic tendencies that result from separate spheres. An example for this work is the "Day of Sport."

Many sports clubs offer long-term memberships free of charge, which is helpful to refugees before they start to work.

The choice of cooperation partners is also decisive for success. The partnership with an automobile producer in Pödelwitz secured several training positions for refugees. A sports club in Großenhain offered fitness courses. Because of the high demand, the club had to organise additional hours for refugees, so that the local population still could use the fitness studio. As in other states, the fluctuation of refugees proved to be a challenge.





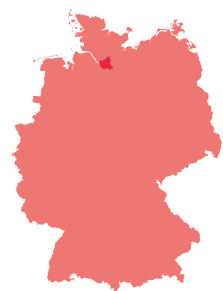
### **Hamburg**

Alstersport e. V.  
Athletik Team Hamburg e. V.  
Bahrenfelder Turnverein von 1898  
BC Hanseat  
BFSV Atlantik 97  
CabrioSport  
Eimsbüttler Turnverband e. V.  
FC Hamburger Berg e. V.  
FC St. Pauli  
FC Süderelbe  
FSV Harburg-Rönneburg von 1893 e. V.  
Goldbekhaus  
Hamburger Ballschule  
Hamburger SV  
Harburger SC  
Harburger Türk-Sport  
Harburger Turnerbund  
Harvestehuder Tennis- und Hockey-Club e. V.  
Hausbruch-Neugrabener Turnerschaft von 1911 e. V.  
Kilimanschanzo e. V.  
Lemsahler Sportverein von 1967 e. V.  
movimantal BewegungsSpielRäume  
Ring der Einzelpaddler  
SC Condor von 1956 e. V.  
SV Sternschanze  
SC Victoria e. V.

# THE HAMBURG SPORTS FEDERATION

26 participating sports clubs





# THE NORTH THAWS

The emphasis of Hamburg's "Welcoming through Sport" projects lay in the quick integration of refugees, particularly those in the preliminary reception centres.

Because of that, many clubs offered sports activities explicitly for refugees in addition to the normal activities of the sports clubs. The following measures in Hamburg were of special interest:

- Twelve ambassadors with migration backgrounds worked as mediators between refugees and sports clubs. This played an important role, especially for the involvement and motivation of female refugees.
- The contact between the sports clubs, preliminary reception centres, local partners, and volunteers was also strongly supported by dialogue forums.
- Sports clubs that offer additional sports activities for refugees can upload the information at: [www.willkommen-im-sport.de](http://www.willkommen-im-sport.de). This makes the search for the suitable offers easier.
- Sports clubs in Hamburg offered a wide range of activities: football, martial arts, fitness classes, etc. Swimming classes were especially attractive for refugees. However, because of pool and instructor shortages, this large demand could not be accommodated.

- Jogging was also a popular activity and helped involve many refugees because of the sport's low-threshold character. The sports club in Eilbeck organised these jogging sessions and assisted the refugees during their visits to authorities. Gymnastics and swimming were very popular among female refugees (e.g. in TSV Wandsetal).
- Refugee fluctuation in Hamburg was also a quite serious obstacle for the implementation of projects. An insufficient participation in sports activities was in many cases due to the insufficient direct contact with refugees. Information through flyers and brochures could not always reach the target group, so that individual motivational dialogue was necessary.





# SAXONY-ANHALT'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

11 participating sports clubs

**Stendal**  
ASV Weiß-Blau Stendal

**Oranienbaum**  
Oranienbaumer SV „Hellas 09“

**Beyernaumburg**  
KSG Holdenstedt/Beyernaumburg

**Sangerhausen**  
SK United e. V.

**Eisleben**  
KAV Mansfelder Land

**Braunsbedra**  
KSV Lützenkendorf 1948

**Halle**  
SKC TABEA Halle  
DLRG Halle  
ISK Halle  
SV Wostok

**Weißenfels**  
Allsports Weißenfels  
Blau-Weiß Bora





## SHORT PATHS

Saxony-Anhalt's state sports federation focused their "Welcoming through Sport" projects on clubs close to the preliminary reception centres.

Popular sports such as football, volleyball, and fitness for women were offered. For the needs of women, one women's centre offered facilities and the sports clubs offered transportation from the reception centres to the courses and back again. The involvement of integration commissioners in the clubs was also a successful measure. The Saxony-Anhalt sports federation cooperated with educational institutions and offered coaching qualification that was part of the federal "Integration through Sport" program.

However, there were also problems during the implementation of the project: not every preliminary refugee reception centre was allowed to organise activities in its own rooms. As mentioned above, a common letter written with the ministry of Saxony-Anhalt solved this problem. Also the fluctuation problem was pressing in Saxony-Anhalt. This also provoked some frustration among coaches.

In accordance to the project managers from Saxony-Anhalt, there are many clubs in the state that opened themselves to new cultures and would like to continue their integration work. However, in order to sustain the project, a longer period of time for its implementation is desirable.





#### Bremen

Verein Turn- und Tanz Farge Rekum von 2014 e.V.  
Sportgemeinschaft Aumund-Vegesack v. 1892  
Casa Cultural Bremen e.V.  
Turnverein Walle 1875 e.V.  
Rad Sport Club Rot-Gold Bremen e.V.  
Allgemeiner Turn- und Sportverein Buntentor  
Turn- und Sportverein Huchting e.V.  
Turn- und Rasensportverein Bremen e.V.  
Bremer Sportclub e.V.  
Deutsche Lebensrettungsgesellschaft Bremen Stadt e.V.  
TS Woltmershausen  
Bremen 1860 e.V.

# BREMEN'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

12 participating sports clubs





# ENCOUNTERS COUNT

Bremen's state sports federation cooperated with interculturally open clubs.

The swimming classes for young refugees, organised by Bremer SC and Bremen's DLRG chapter were quite successful. Regardless of some language barriers, instructors could explain swimming rules to the participants of the courses.

However, the situation with swimming pools and free-swimming trainers was problematic. 3-5 refugees from Eritrea participated in activities of the Radsportclub Bremen, a cycling club. Club members and refugees repaired used bicycles. This was supported by a small bicycle shop nearby. Also with regard to "Sport+X" activities, the club was quite active. One of the participating refugees received an internship as a cook and another started to work as a bicycle mechanic. Football remained one of the most popular sports. Many refugees could be integrated into existent teams on a long-term basis.

The offerings for women included a mixed swimming course as well as fitness courses. FTT Farge Rekum reached out to girls and women with dance, gymnastics, trampoline, and hip-hop courses.

It is important to note that in many cases the personal contact between the locals and the refugees was the most crucial factor for a well-grounded integration. What type of sport they played was subordinated.





**Steinfurt**  
Breitensport Burgsteinfurt e. V.

**Sendenhorst**  
SG Sendenhorst 1910 e. V.

**Paderborn**  
SC Aleviten Paderborn e. V.

**Oberhausen**  
DJK Arminia Lirich 1920 e. V.

**Duisburg**  
SV Rhenania Hamborn e. V.

**Düsseldorf**  
Boxsport Athletic e. V.

**Essen**  
FC Stoppenberg e. V.  
SC Frintrop 05/21 e. V.

**Wuppertal**  
Kult-Sport-Wuppertal e. V.

**Dortmund/Witten**  
Taekwondo Team Kocer e. V.  
BV Westfalia Wickede 1910

**Olpe**  
SpVg Olpe e. V. 1919

**Köln**  
TuS Rondorf e. V. 1975

**Erfstadt**  
Health Place e. V.

**Zülpich**  
TuS Chlodwig Zülpich e. V.

**Bonn**  
Post-Sportverein Bonn 1926 e. V.

# NORTH-RHINE- WESTFALIA'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

15 participating sports clubs





# MANAGING DIVERSITY

Whether through networking or individual efforts, the clubs in NRW were engaged.

They were assisted by coaches with and without migrant backgrounds. Training sessions were organised on a daily basis. The training results in different types of sports varied. Success depended on time and patience.

The sports federation worked in close cooperation with many clubs. Some of them had good networks, while others needed comprehensive consulting from the federation.

The sports federation produced a brochure titled „Refugees in sports clubs.“ A guideline for sports clubs.“ The brochure included both experience-based examples as well as recommendations for action.

The project managers from North Rhine-Westphalia had to solve the following problems: the occupancy of sport halls by refugees and the resulting delay in the implementation of the project, insufficient transfer possibilities, and heterogeneity in sports courses.

It is recommended to offer more education possibilities to refugees, which would mean showing more respect for their expertise and allowing them to be more actively involved in the life of the clubs. The results from the WiS project must be transferred into the Federal Program “Integration through Sport.” In the sense of sustainable development, it is important to integrate refugees into the life of a sports club on a long-term basis.



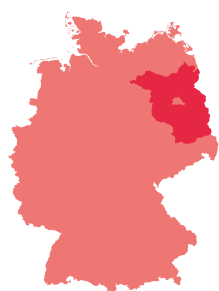




# BRANDENBURG'S SPORTS YOUTH

31 participating sports clubs





## IN THE TRIAD

Many youth clubs in Brandenburg already had experience with the “Integration through Sport” program. The only new aspect was working with refugees.

Three pillars of the WiS project in Brandenburg should be named:

- Volunteer services with participation of refugees: 16 refugees were volunteers at the sports clubs. They fulfilled various tasks both inside and outside athletic areas. Their most important function, however, was to mediate between the clubs and new refugees. For more efficient work, these volunteers worked together with local volunteers and exchanged different topics.
- The organisation of big events was a second pillar of the WiS project in Brandenburg. Some examples are the fair play-football tour, the sports festival, and the football tournament on Tropical Islands with 200 refugees participating. These events contributed to a better social acceptance of refugee integration. At the same time, the events motivated refugees to join sports clubs.
- The third pillar was the organisation of workshops for refugees. In the framework of these workshops, refugees could attend language courses as well as cultural classes such as dancing, music, or arts. The contact with refugees was organised through the cooperation of residence halls. These spread the invitations to sports activities to a wide range of potential participants. In the spirit of sustainability, the participating clubs should participate in the federal “Integration through Sport” program and support the program with the experiences they gain from this project. Brandenburg Youth Sports emphasized that neither the close cooperation with sports clubs nor the development of sustainability concepts would be possible without the financial support gained in the framework of the WiS project.





**Leinefelde-Worbis**  
Breitensport International e. V.

**Mühlhausen**  
BC Mühlhausen  
Union Mühlhausen

**Erfurt**  
Spirit of Football e. V.

**Weimar**  
Boxverein Weimar e. V.

**Schmölln**  
SV Schmölln 1913 e. V.

**Weida**  
Migration- und Integration Gemeinschaft e. V.  
MIG e. V.

**Rudolstadt**  
SV 1883 Schwarz a e. V.

**Schöndorf**  
Schöndorfer SV

**Greiz**  
RSV Rotation Greiz e. V.

**Suhl**  
Suhler Sportbund

**Saalfeld**  
SSV Saalfeld

**Meiningen**  
Kampfsportzentrum  
Universum  
Meiningen e. V.

# THURINGIA'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

13 participating sports clubs





## VERY ACTIVE

Thuringia's 13 participating clubs offered an immense programme.

They offered various athletic activities for refugees. Besides the expected popularity of football, martial arts were also well received by the refugees. The sports club Migration- und Integration-Gemeinschaft offered gymnastics and dance classes explicitly for women. Later, it organised a football team for girls and women. A Zumba course, which was offered in Meiningen, was also a great success. These courses helped to reach the vulnerable target group quite well. Creative courses, such as handicrafts and cooking, were also successful. As in many other cases, the involvement of refugees as mediators helped make contact with other refugees. In the beginning phase, Thuringia's sports federation supported the integration work of clubs with mobile athletic offerings. The idea was to cooperate with the preliminary reception centres and to promote the project on-site. This mobile work was reduced during the second stage of the project.

Sports clubs and the sports federation of Thuringia developed a common flyer to promote their activities. As the implementer of the activities, the sports clubs delivered the information they deemed important and the sports federation was responsible for the layout and printing.



Networking was also an important part of the clubs' work. The main goal was to reach the target group and to develop sustainable concepts, even in the case of a high fluctuation.

Because of the significant interest of refugees for athletic offerings, there were not enough coaches to cover the demand.

There was an integration representative in every participating sports club. His/her role was to coordinate the cooperation between the club and the sports federation.

In the beginning phase, the sports federation organised an opening ceremony for all participating clubs. This provided a good exchange platform for the clubs. Moreover, many on-site visits were organised. These aimed to reinforce the exchange between the WiS clubs and the clubs participating in the federal "Integration through Sport" program.



IT'S IMPORTANT THAT  
IMMIGRANTS FIND A  
PLACE IN THE MIDDLE  
OF SOCIETY, EVEN IN A  
STATE WITH RELATIVELY  
FEW REFUGEES







**Stralsund**  
Feuerwehrsportverein Stralsund e.V.

**Ribnitz-Damgarten**  
Polizeisportverein Ribnitz-Damgarten e.V.

**Rostock**  
Boxverband M-V e.V.  
FSV NordOst Rostock e.V.  
Landesfußballverband M-V e.V.

**Greifswald**  
Schützenverein 1990 „Greif“ Greifswald e.V.  
Fechtclub Greifswald e.V.  
Box- und Freizeitclub Greifswald e.V.

**Wismar**  
Polizeisportverein Wismar e.V.

**Strameuß**  
Reit- und Fahrverein Strameuß e.V.

**Schwerin**  
MAKKABI Schwerin e.V.

**Hagenow**  
Hagenower SV e.V.  
Gasthaus Semmerin/Verein für Begegnung u. Bewegung e.V.

# MECKLENBURG- WESTERN POMERANIA'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

13 participating sports clubs





## PARENTS WELCOME

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania focused on sports festivals, tournaments, and free-time.

For this reason, the clubs contacted refugees directly in the preliminary reception centres. The activities were mostly meant for young people and children, but parents could accompany them and participate in the activities. Through introduction courses, refugees could get their first insight into the life of a sports clubs. In order to provide that insight, clubs collaborated with schools and kindergartens. In addition to the most popular sport of football, clubs offered table tennis, archery, and wrestling. The participation rate of clubs was quite good. However, for sustainability purposes, the future support of these clubs would be desirable.

For the most part, clubs contacted refugees directly. The involvement of coaches and volunteers with migration backgrounds were also very helpful for the initial contact and motivational talks. Makkabi and Dynamo Schwerin provide good examples of this.

The Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania sports federation focused its work on the fight against discrimination and right-wing extremism. Those problems were quite present in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. In cooperation with AWO and Ökohaus, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania's sports federation implemented a week's worth of activities to combat right-wing extremism. During this week, a dragon-boat festival was organised. Moreover, professional forums were offered to representatives of sports clubs who worked with refugees and had faced discrimination during their work.





#### **Berlin**

FC Internationale 1980 Berlin e. V.  
FSV Hansa 07 e. V.  
Jugendfußballclub Berlin e. V.  
ISS Berlin e. V.  
Kiai e. V.  
SC Berliner Amateure 1920 e. V.  
SC Bomani Berlin e. V.  
SC Borsigwalde 1910 e. V.  
SV Rot-Weiß Viktoria Mitte 08 e. V.  
Fit und Fun Marzahn e. V.  
BTTC Grün-Weiß e. V.  
Steglitzer Tischtennis Klub e. V.  
Füchse Berlin Reinickendorf  
American Football Club Berlin Adler  
Naturfreunde Berlin e. V.  
FC Nordost Berlin  
Berliner Sport-Club

# BERLIN'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

17 participating sports clubs





# INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE

Berlin's state sports federation worked primarily with clubs that already had experience with integration initiatives and wanted to engage with refugee work

About half of the clubs first established a contact with preliminary reception centres at the beginning of the project, while the other half had already established contacts.

The clubs offered sports opportunities at their facilities so that transportation services could often be established to guarantee accessibility. Cooperation with schools was also established in order to connect with kids and teenagers. Besides football, the clubs also offered table tennis, basketball, and dancing, as well as 'ball schools' for the youngest refugees.

A part-time worker supported the federation in its cooperation with the clubs, which proved to be a valuable asset for the program's implementation. Participating clubs were pleased with the financial support and guidance offered by the federation.





 **Heilbronn**  
DJK Sportbund Heilbronn

**Schwäbisch Gmünd**   
Schwimmverein Schwäbisch Gmünd

 **Stuttgart**  
PSV Stuttgart

 **Gammertingen**  
TSV Gammertingen

 **Villingen-Schwenningen**  
Boxverband Baden-Württemberg

# BADEN- WUERTTEMBERG'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

5 participating sports clubs





## OPENING DOORS

Baden-Wuerttemberg's state sports federation worked with two associations: the Wuerttemberg Swimming Association (SVW) and the Baden-Wuerttemberg Boxing Association (BVBW).

- The association first approached its members via its network to determine interested clubs. Of twelve proposed projects, four were realised. The first project started with 10 refugees participating in swimming lessons. Thereafter, the participation numbers varied considerably. The three trainers stated that the project wasn't always easy due to the high fluctuation numbers but that they had very valuable and positive experiences. The second club offered weekly training for beginners and intermediate-level swimmers. Because the preliminary reception centre was located in another village, a transportation service was implemented. Refugees, especially boys and girls, were directly integrated into the club's training sessions. As it appeared that some young refugees were traumatized (most likely during their escape), they were individually supported by coaches for their contact with water. The third club cooperated with the Lebenshaus Schwäbische Alb to offer free memberships. Furthermore, the club reached kids and teenagers via cooperation with a school. The fourth club noticed that it was not new materials that were required, but rather subsidies for the cost of rent.
- The Baden-Wuerttemberg Boxing Association (BVBW) cooperated with a club in Villingen-Schwenningen, which owned a gym opposite to the preliminary reception centre. This helped the BVBW attract high participation numbers. The first refugees are already competing for the club in competitions. The migration backgrounds of many of the club members proved to be an advantage for creating fast collaborations.

The cooperation with the two trade associations allowed the LSV access to new clubs, for which the associations functioned as a door opener.

With regards to the participation of the refugees, it was noted that participation depends a lot on establishing the first contact and transportation to and from the first session.

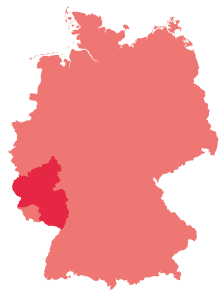


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- A map of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany, with 11 locations marked by pins. Each pin is accompanied by a club name and its full name. The locations are: Neitersen (Box-Ring Westerwald), Merkelbach (FSV Merkelbach), Ransbach-Baumbach (TV Ransbach-Baumbach), Koblenz (Coblenzer Turngesellschaft 1880 e. V.), Andernach (CSV Andernach TV), Mayen (FC Mayen), Mainz (SVW Mainz), Reichenbach (VFB Reichenbach), Frankenthal (DJK Eppstein-Floresheim), Zweibrücken (VB Zweibrücken), and Speyer (JSV Speyer).
- Neitersen**  
Box-Ring Westerwald
  - Merkelbach**  
FSV Merkelbach
  - Ransbach-Baumbach**  
TV Ransbach-Baumbach
  - Koblenz**  
Coblenzer Turngesellschaft 1880 e. V.
  - Andernach**  
CSV Andernach TV
  - Mayen**  
FC Mayen
  - Mainz**  
SVW Mainz
  - Reichenbach**  
VFB Reichenbach
  - Frankenthal**  
DJK Eppstein-Floresheim
  - Zweibrücken**  
VB Zweibrücken
  - Speyer**  
JSV Speyer

# RHINELAND- PALATINATE'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

11 participating sports clubs





## MORE OF IT

Clubs in Rhineland-Palatinate had fantastic participation. Eleven clubs were eventually promoted.

Most clubs offered migrants a free membership and transportation from their accommodations to the clubs' facilities. Clubs like the CSV Andernach first held projects close to preliminary reception centres before the refugees were integrated into the club trainings. Besides athletic projects, some projects offered language lessons. Refugees with previous experience in a given sport functioned as coaches. Interested club members were offered to participate in the 'Fit for Diversity' training. Clubs often cooperated with schools in order to reach out to young refugees. Because cricket is especially popular, the clubs and the federation have decided to create more opportunities for that sport. Other than cricket, dancing and soccer are popular sports.

Rhineland-Palatinate's sports federation held a networking meeting in which 35 clubs were able to exchange ideas and experiences. Charitable organisations also attended the meeting in order to help kick start cooperation with the clubs.

The fluctuation of refugees should not be seen as a problem. Due to early notification regarding the mobility of individuals, suitable offerings can be designed. Some disappointments are nonetheless unavoidable. Clubs offering refugees activities via the WiS project would like to continue their integration work and will also need support in the future.



**Würzburg**  
SV Heuchelhof Würzburg e.V.  
Freie Turner Würzburg e.V.  
Annettes Kinderturnen e.V.

**Erlangen**  
ATSV 1898 Erlangen e.V.  
TV 1848 Erlangen e.V.

**Nürnberg**  
Sports United e.V.

**Roth**  
SpVgg Roth e.V.

**Regensburg**  
SG Post/Süd Regensburg e.V.  
Parcour Regensburg e.V.  
VfB Regensburg e.V.

**Göggingen**  
DJK Göggingen e.V.

**München**  
ESV Neuaußing e.V.  
TSV Trudering München e.V.

**Miesbach**  
TV Miesbach 1863 e.V.

**Straubingen**  
FSV Straubing e.V.  
FTSV Straubing 1922 e.V.

# BAVARIA'S STATE SPORTS FEDERATION

17 participating sports clubs

**Kirchanschörling**  
SV Kirchanschörling e.V.



A red-tinted photograph of a soccer goal on a field. The goal is in the foreground, and a person is visible in the background on the right side. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

MANY SPORTS  
FIELDS WOULD  
HAVE REMAINED  
EMPTY WITHOUT  
THE FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT OF THE  
INTEGRATION  
COMMISSIONERS  
AND THE IOC





# CONCLUSION

The promotion of the “Welcoming through Sport” project by the IOC and the Commissioner for Migration, Refugees, and Integration were decisive in implementing countless integration activities. Many clubs reported that their engagement would not have been possible without this financial support.

200 sports clubs across Germany requested support. This led to the realization of a big variety of projects, which reached countless refugees. The clubs helped immigrants with their initial integration—first in athletic activities and then beyond into society. An additional positive effect is the intercultural opening of the sports

clubs and their deeper engagement. The “Welcoming through Sport” project contributes to the recognition that organised sports and sports clubs are relevant actors in local integration efforts. The DOSB is incorporating the experiences learned here in its integration work and can further develop its federal “Integration through Sport” program.

The DOSB is grateful for the cooperation of the Deputy Director of IOC Olympic Solidarity Pamela Vipond and the Minister of State Aydan Özoğuz, and appreciates their support of the “Welcoming through Sport” project a lot.





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