

Sport for life S4L
Social interaction and empowerment through sports

Background

The Sports Authority, Ministry of Culture and Sports in cooperation with the Municipality of Cologne, Germany, joined together to develop and implement the "Sports for Life S4L" project, sports as a tool for multicultural educational social empowerment which will assist local authorities mainly in the periphery in expanding educational sports activities for social empowerment.

Objective:

Using sports as a tool for social empowerment and creating multicultural bridges that will enable a shared life with an emphasis on assimilating educational values in children from different communities and especially a special emphasis on female empowerment, in addition to those with special needs.

To increase trust and understanding between the Jewish and Arab communities in Israel, and between Israel and Jordan through sports and education interactions. Developing group cohesion through challenging social activities of sports for life.

specific:

- A. Deepening the cooperation between the communities that are partners in the project with an emphasis on increasing the base of those involved in the project, coaches, children, parents.
- B. Cultivate appreciation and awareness of the role of sports for positive and peaceful encounters between divided communities and social empowerment.
- C. To develop practical tools and knowledge of values in sports based on cross-community sports activities, supported by lessons learned from local experience.

The basic philosophy emphasized in the project plan is the centrality of **the child**.

As coaches, we are entrusted not only with teaching the children sports, but mainly with life skills, good citizenship, to develop mutual respect and understanding for each other and to educate them to be responsible citizens through joint work among the children.

The coach's first emphasis is not on developing technical ability but on promoting cooperation; leadership; liability for acts; respect for each other; communication; How to win, how to lose.

help children foster awareness and understanding of a variety of values in human society; help children develop an appreciation of right and wrong, fairness and justice; acquire necessary skills to be responsible

citizens and effective members of society; and help children appreciate different groups and promote respect for diversity and multiculturalism.

Why a social and challenging sports activity?

- Personal and social development
- Developing the ability to deal with problems, physical challenges, and sports activities in nature
- Teamwork

The values of sports for life through social and challenging sports activities:

Respect, trust, neutrality, social cohesion, responsibility, equality

The Sport for Life project is a development of the Football for Peace F4P project, a project in which sport is a tool of social empowerment and the assimilation of educational values in participants from the whole of Israeli society. The project began in 2001 in the north of the Galilee and expanded to other parts until it reached the Negev. The project is the result of cooperation between the Ministry of Sports and the British Cultural Council. Cologne, Germany, Brighton, England, the project was presented at the Sports Authority Council, a decision was made to budget the project, the project was supported with NIS 300,000 as part of the sport's financial basket.

The Sport for Life 2023 project was launched in the preparatory meetings held with the authorities during the month of September.

Connections between Jewish communities and Arab, Circassian and Druze communities, the communities that were integrated into the project were already required to start the inter-community meetings in November, when they hold a meeting once a month with sporting, social, cultural and challenging content.

Training workshop for coaches in Cologne, Germany:

The following is a summary of the "Sports for Life S4L Project" delegation to Cologne, Germany, March 9 to 14, 2023.

The delegation consisted of 39 coaches, representatives of 30 localities, again this year, in addition to the northern localities, representatives from Abu Gush, Beit Shemesh, Ofakim, Rahat, Hora, Alksum joined.

The camp is being held thanks to the support of the Ministry of Culture and Sports with help to the local authorities, the camp was held at the Hockey Judo Center Sports University Cologne, Germany, as a continuation of the long-standing cooperation with the city of Cologne and the Sports University Cologne Germany which provided the facilities for the benefit of the camp.

The program was structured in a professional manner and delivered by the German team and also a team from Brighton England in addition to delivering management workshops and dealing with building connection processes or group meetings workshops which were delivered by Ms. Asma Taha.

The representatives of Israel were joined by 9 German teachers who were divided between the projects and arrived on May 27 to take part in the project with the authorities, this year's program was intensive and focused, it was divided into 4 groups that worked throughout the camp, which made it easier to transfer the content, the members of the delegation integrated well, positive interaction was created among the members of the delegation, this was expressed

during the activity throughout the day the members of the delegation participated and were active, and likewise in the leisure activity in the evening, the commitment expressed in active participation in all stages of the activity both practical and theoretical.

A highlighted week of sports for life 2023:

A sports activity for life in the concentrated week took place from Sunday May 28 to Thursday June 1, 2023.

The activity took place alternately both in the Jewish settlements and in the Arab and Circassian settlements, two days in each settlement, the trainees were guided by trainers with a social educational program that uses sports as a tool and means for assimilating educational values.

Sports for life project data and numbers:

30 settlements participated in this year's project, 18 Arab communities, 10 Jewish communities, 1 Circassian Kfar Kama, 1 Druze from Migdal Shams.

The number of projects this year was 14 projects, 11 projects for boys, 11 projects for girls, a project for autistic children.

Sport for Life 2023 was attended by 810 participants, 420 boys, 390 girls.

96 Israeli trainers, 9 trainers from Cologne, Germany, 2 trainers from Italy took part in the project. The German trainers were hosted by the local trainers who hosted them and exposed them to Israeli culture.

Sports for Life Final Festival 2023:

Despite the development of the project and the increase in the number of participants as well as the need for facilities, it was important to have one final festival for all the participants in the project.

A final festival of the boys and girls together was held on Thursday June 1st in Kfar Manda, the girls competed in both basketball and social challenge activities, and the boys competed in soccer, the teams that competed were mixed from the communities that worked together during this week, of course at the festival everyone wins, there is no ranking of places, awards are given for fairness and values, there are no referees.

The festival ended with spectacular fireworks show, the children returned home safely with a smile.

Best regards

Nujeidat Ghazi

Supervisor and coordinator of international relations