**RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE - Israel**

***Sport for development and peace***

***Task:*** The Sports Authority, Ministry of Culture and Sports of Israel 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.

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 women and girls’ 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.

***Timeframe:*** *2023*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** | | |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* | |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport) | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity |
| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development | * Conflict prevention/peace building |
| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace | * Social inclusion |
| **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. | |
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| **Situation** | The project aims to address issues of social and cultural differences while supporting local authorities, mainly in the periphery, with developing sport activities. It aims to promote Respect, trust, neutrality, social cohesion, responsibility and equality and to increase trust, understanding and respect between Arab and Jewish population in Israel, and between Israel and Jordan through interactions in sport and education. | |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | **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 longstanding  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 towns and communities 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, one project for children with disabilities. 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. | |
| **Target Audience(s):** | Jewish, Arab, Circassian and Druze communities in Israel | |
| **Partners/Funding:** | 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. | |
| **SDG Alignment:** | SDG 3 – Good health and well-being  SDG 5 – Gender equality 9targets 5.1, 5.5)  SDG10 – Reduce Inequality (target 10.2)  SDG16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels | |
| **Review machanisms** | Inter-community meetings held once a month to review progress and exchange ideas on sporting, social, cultural and challenging content. | |
| **Outcomes:** | Various shared sports activities and joint Jewish-Arab training program, development of team cohesion through Sport 4 Life challenge activities | |