start2coach

EMPOWERING REFUGEES AS SPORTS LEADERS: A CHANCE FOR SPORT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CHAMPIONS ohne GRENZEN

Gefördert durch die
AKTION MENSCH

DFL STIFTUNG

Starting Point

REFUGEES

- **Barriers to access community services including sports**

- **Social and geographical isolation**

- **Lack of new perspectives**

- **Activities and qualifications are often not suited for their needs**

SPORTS CLUBS

- **Decreasing number of volunteers in sports clubs**

- **Diversity in players ≠ diversity in leaders**

- **Lack of intercultural awareness and understanding of refugee issues**

- **Prejudice (open or unknowing)**

- **Lack of guidelines and training for clubs**

Institutional Setting

- Bureaucratic challenges to football participation
- Refugees stating need for adapted qualification courses
- Clubs lack knowledge on inclusive practices and support
- Collaboration with multiple stakeholders
- CHoG open training groups since 2012
- Start2coach pilot project in 2017
- Multiple stakeholders

Approach

Qualification

- Courses
  - Basic Training Methods
  - First Aid Course
- Workshops
  - Conflict Management etc.

Matching

- Coach Tandems
  - Build Network
- Community
  - Club Activities
  - Coaching License

Supervision

- Support
  - Regular Exchange
- Resources
  - Training Material
  - Volunteer Expenses

Outputs

90 refugees to be trained as coaches, paired up with 90 local club coaches and work with 1800 young people on a weekly basis

Participants:
- **temporarly forget daily worries**
- **develop self-esteem & self-worth**
- **build a network**
- **opportunity to develop transferable skills and practice their German**

Clubs:
- **More diverse role models & ability to carry out activities**
- **Learn to create inclusive practices**

Lessons Learned

- „Neutral" position enables better club collaborations & geographical distribution
- Multiple tandems per club increase peer-support and club-identification with project
- Social media and cooperations key to communication
- Different approach needed to include female refugees
- Challenges: changing personal circumstances and needs over time, managing expectations

Transfer

- „Pool" of potential participants
- Adequate resources and skills for support
- Concept transferable to other team sports

Über den Fußball hinaus