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The UEFA Concept of Fighting Against Racism Results of Training Activities and A Comparison to Turkey

(UEFA Irkçılıkla Mücadele Konseptinde Eğitim Sonuçları ve
Türkiye Karşılaştırması)

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Abstract

Football is meaningful with the contribution of fans and their enthusiasm. The enthusiasm of fans has got relative definitions. Some delirious acts of fans who are indispensable part of football, take precedence over football and these acts has reached a dimension threatening local government and public authorities. After 1990 Hate Crimes are added to Hooliganism, Violence and Vandalism which are defined as delirious act in sports. Due to the increasing racism threat, UEFA has decided to implement an efficient act plan in 2002. The developed Ten Point Plan has included advices and examples of application to Sport Clubs and Fan Groups. Although the Ten Point Plan is too detailed, in this research only programs which were practiced on fan groups, kids and youngsters at school age and the results of these programs are included. As the proposed programs which were offered to fans and NGOs, has become successful, it is seen that the greater success has been achieved in the programs and campaigns targeted kids and youngsters at school age. It is found out that there is a great difficulty to reach data to compare the research results in Turkey. In the level of Sport clubs no information could be collected on the other hand some limited information about limited activities of Fans and NGOs.

Keywords: Education, Football, 10-Point Plan of Action, Children and Youth, NGO's

Özet

Futbol taraftarların katılımı ve coşkusu ile anlamlıdır. Taraftarın coşkusu ise göreceli bir kavramdır. Futbolun olmaz ise olmaz boyutu taraftarların bazı taşkın davranışları futbolun önüne geçmekte ve kamu yönetimini ve kamu otoritesini tehdit eden boyutlara ulaşmıştır. Holiganizm, Şiddet ve Vandalizm olarak isimlendirilen aşırılıklara 1990 sonrasında sporda nefret suçları da eklenmiştir. UEFA artan ırkçılık tehditlerinden dolayı 2002 yılında etkin mücadele kararı aldı. Geliştirilen On Nokta Planı, Spor Kulüplerine ve Taraftar Guruplarına yönelik tavsiyeler ve uygulama örnekleri içermekte idi. On nokta Planı çok kapsamlı olup, bu araştırmada sadece Taraftar gurupları ve Okul çağındaki çocuk ve gençlere uygulanan programlar ve bu programların sonuçları kapsam içerisine alınmıştır. Taraftarlara ve STK'lara önerilen programlar başarılı olurken özellikle okul çağındaki çocuk ve gençlere yönelik kampanya ve programlarda yüksek başarıya ulaşıldığı görülmüştür. Araştırma sonuçlarının Türkiye ile kıyaslanması boyutunda ciddi veri sıkıntısı söz konusu olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır. Kulüpler düzeyinde verilere ulaşılamaz iken Taraftar ve STK'lar düzeyinde sınırlı da olsa bazı aktivitelere ulaşıldı.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Eğitim, Futbol, 10 Nokta Etkinlik Planı, Çocuk ve Genç, STK'lar

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Introduction

Fans are in the center of the show so called Football. Without Fans, Football has no value. In the last quarter century, some negative changes has been observed in the social structure Europe-wide, and the solid effect of these changes have been observed in football. In high statue leagues racist hostilities as reflection of racist and similar acts Europe-wide are worrisome. In stadiums of some countries increasing ultra-right and Neo-Nazi activities, racist statements of some popular names has found places in newspapers headlines. As a result of these incidents, politicians were alerted, governments have decided to act against racism and discrimination and started joint action initiatives.

Bayern Munich is an example of a big club that has worked patiently at local level to solve the problem it once had with a minority of xenophobic, right-wing fans. The club not only adopted explicit anti-racist policies, but it also found inspiration in its proud history as a bastion of tolerance before Nazi rule. Bayern fans now wave giant banners to join former stars like Karl-Heinz Rummenigge in honouring the memory of Kurt Landauer – the club’s visionary Jewish president who survived the Holocaust, returning in 1945 to set Bayern on its post-war trajectory. Even more impressive is the case of Union Berlin, a club from former East Germany that turned professional in 1989. Once notorious for its right-wing fans, it has become a textbook example of how to tackle anti-racism. “It’s very important for a club to make very clear statements. Often, clubs just want a quiet life, staying on good terms with their local politicians and police, not challenging their own fans. But if there is a racism problem, and a club is not willing to confront it and discuss the real issues, then it will fail. All clubs – and everyone in the club – have to take responsibility, speak out in the media and to their fan base and say: ‘Yes, it’s an issue for us’.”

A key figure at Union Berlin is the club’s president, Dirk Zingler. He galvanised everyone connected with the club to kick out racism. He got fans intimately involved – to such an extent that they even helped to build the new stadium with their own hands. Some big clubs, says Spahn, are less impressive in this area. “Confronted with a racism problem, a big club tends to throw money at the problem, very often commissioning a showy advertising campaign, for example. But they don’t often bother to really get energetic and serious about this. Smaller clubs, however, often work on a daily basis with their fans, so that makes the situation much easier.” On paper, there already exists a plethora of stringent rules and regulations that are against racism. Under UEFA’s Respect strategy, for example, three racist incidents during a match can lead to the referee stopping the game. “When racism occurs there has to be an immediate and strong reaction from all the stakeholders, especially players. That’s why the Milan players walking off when Boateng was abused was so powerful. But it would have been even better if the home team, the Pro Patria players, had actually walked off. Fans regard their players as heroes, so that would have had a much more powerful impact,” comments Spahn. Then again, Pro Patria-Milan was just a friendly match. Few people want to see league, European or international matches abandoned in this manner. In any case, giving tiny groups of racist fans the power to get matches cancelled is certainly not the way to go. For Spahn, the fundamental first step is getting all stakeholders to acknowledge the problem. “If nobody reacts, then nobody changes their behaviour. I’ve been in eastern Europe several times for international matches and I’ve seen many serious incidents – and no one was taking

them seriously. I saw similar things in Italy years ago, and often no one wanted to talk about them. Until that situation changes, we will continue to have the problem,” Spahn concludes (Winner 2013).

The Importance of the Research and the Method

Since 2003 UEFA has decided to take prevention against hate crimes in football and presented an action plan called Ten Point Plan. Moreover EU has published the report, called White Book in Sports, presenting advices to Public Authorities and NGOs to be applied in problematic areas. In this study, it is aimed to present the reactions of fans and schools to recommendations, and application results which were determined by literature research and observations. Comparisons of Europe-wide field researches and the same subject in Turkey is another target of the study.

Joint Training Activities of UEFA and FARE:

Union of European Football Associations- UEFA and Football Against Racism in Europe – FARE decided to organize training activities like conferences with theme positive behaviors related to struggle against racism in European Football. They achieved good success by organizing these activities with the participation of famous football players with the support of media and lobbies. Additionally inviting NGOs and supporting independent initiatives working in the same topic, they have expanded cooperation and coordination. The most important ones of these activities are:

- The first conference titled "United Against Racism" in FC Chelsea Club, London, UK in 2003,
- The second conference titled "United Against Racism" in Barcelona Camp Nou Stadium, Spain in 2006,
- The seminar program for Europe-wide NGOs which are organizing activities against racism in football, organized by FARE in the Millennium suit of FC Chelsea Club, London, UK in 2011,
- Meeting related to the topic in EU Parliament with the participation of Baroso, head of the EU Commission in Brussels in 2011.

So that efficient training activities and campaigns are organized to take attention of the European decision-making mechanisms about racism and discrimination.

The Types of Football Fans

In the researches about the football fans, fans are classified according to their commitments to their teams. Steward and Smith (2000) described fans as;

1. The Aficionado,
2. The Theatregoer,
3. The Passionate Partisan,
4. A Champ Follower,
5. The Reclusive Partisan.

There are more researches on football supporters. Hunt, Bristol and others (1999) presented another point of view by classifying fans in five main categories;

1. The Temporary Fan,
2. The Local Fan,
3. The Devoted Fan,
4. The Fanatical Fan,
5. The Dysfunctional Fan.

Addition to the fan types, the presence of fans who are trying to hide the hate crimes by putting their political views front, is clear. The popularity of the most famous European football matches and the income from these activities have been used for this aim while struggling racism and discrimination in all fields and forwarding the message to the public opinion. In 2002 UEFA published a plan called Ten Points Plan to declare the way of efficient struggle.

UEFA'S TEN POINT PLAN

The plan sets out a number of measures that clubs can take to combat the problem of racism:

1. Issue a statement saying the club will not tolerate racism, spelling out the action it will take against those engaged in racist chanting. The statement should be printed in all match programs and displayed permanently and prominently around the ground.
2. Make public address announcements condemning racist chanting at matches.
3. Make it a condition for season-ticket holders that they do not take part in racist abuse.
4. Take action to prevent the sale of racist literature inside and around the ground.
5. Take disciplinary action against players who engage in racial abuse.
6. Contact other clubs to make sure they understand the club's policy on racism.
7. Encourage a common strategy between stewards and police for dealing with racist abuse.
8. Remove all racist graffiti from the ground as a matter of urgency.
9. Adopt an equal opportunities' policy in relation to employment and service provision.
10. Work with all other groups and agencies, such as the players union, supporters, schools, voluntary organizations, youth clubs, sponsors, local authorities, local businesses and police, to develop pro-active programs and make progress to raise awareness of campaigning to eliminate racial abuse and discrimination.

(http://www.uefa.com/multimediafiles/download/uefa/keytopics/448328_download.pdf)



Primary Strategies for Struggling Against Racism

The strategy to provide the Ten Points Plan which was prepared by UEFA and its partners, to create a permanent and more efficient plan for a longer period, is examined

1. Running a club-specific campaign - Ground rules for action

- a) Setting up working groups
- b) Education through symbolic activities
- c) Anti-racism days
- d) Using players and managers/coaches
- e) Activities in school

2. FARE action weeks

- a) Keeping the flag flying

3. Working with fans

- a) Dealing with far-right fans

4. Stewarding and policing

5. Working with ethnic minority communities

- a) Ethnic minorities as fans
- b) Increasing opportunities for ethnic minorities

6- Using the media

(http://ru.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/uefa/UEFAMedia/258797_DOWNLOAD.pdf)

Recommendations to European Football Clubs for the Campaign

Every Football club has got its genuine history, tradition and special social group. The most efficient strategy for struggling against racism is organizing campaigns in the regions where this problem occurs by using the concepts developed by clubs' with their own experience. Every club has got special problems. That is why remedies should be designed according to the needs. Below some basic principles and guidelines which might be effective in struggle against racism are listed:

- a) UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM
- b) BE CLEAR ABOUT YOUR OBJECTIVES
- c) WRITE A PLAN OF ACTION
- d) DEVELOP A CLEAR IDENTITY
- e) MONITOR AND REPORT PROBLEMS
- f) PARTNERSHIPS
- g) FAN CULTURE
- h) USE YOUR ICONS
- i) MEDIA ACTIVITIES
- j) ENCOURAGE NEW AUDIENCES

(<http://www.uefa.org/social-responsibility/news/newsid=39661.html#kicking+racism+football>)

Activities in European Schools

To provide the Ten Points Plan which was prepared by UEFA and its partners, to create a permanent and more efficient plan for a longer period, some activities have been organized in schools and high success has been achieved.

- FIFPro, the international federation of player unions, has become active in the fight against racism and is supporting anti-racism projects worldwide.
- In the Hungarian football leagues, the Ethical Committee has advised clubs to invite a person of high reputation and popularity (e.g. a former top player of the club) to address the crowd by loudspeaker should racist incidents occur.
- The player unions in Portugal (SJPF), England (the PFA) and Scotland (SPFA) have long understood the impact racism has in the game and have been instrumental in initiating and supporting campaigns that have been taken up by their members.
- Most NGOs active in the area of race and football produce resource materials for local schools. Clubs can either support these resources or work with education authorities to produce their own materials. They all draw on the appeal of the game through videos, DVDs or CD-ROMs to get a message across to young people in an accessible way.
- Many also run school competitions that are enormously popular. Competitions are a regular feature in England, Germany, Norway and Scotland.
- As part of the “dem ball is’ egal” project, the Schalke Fan Initiative has produced an innovative CD-ROM which has been extensively used by schools in the North Rhine-Westphalia region of Germany.
- The “Show Racism the Red Card” campaigns in England, Norway and Scotland have used school competitions and resources such as videos to develop educational programs in classrooms.



Asamoah (front, l.) and FC Schalke 04 made a stand by helping refugees during the crisis that has engulfed Europe.

FARE has held six Europe-wide weeks of action against racism and discrimination during which the football family worked with local partners, NGOs, fan groups and national associations to organize activities in professional and community football. The 2006 week of action took place from 17 to 30 October.

In 2005, for example, FARE worked with representatives from 35 different countries. The activities increased, with new groups from Eastern and Central Europe, including those from the former Soviet Union and the Balkans. Greater involvement with groups such as the Roma minority in Eastern Europe was an encouraging feature of the activities. One of the many successful stories that year was the partnership between the Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization and clubs in Hungary with a historical far-right following.



More fan groups are now organizing themselves to challenge racism. In Spain, following a season in which racism in football hit the headlines, ultra groups have come together for the first time to plan joint activities. In France, the “Réseau Supporter de Résistance Antiraciste” organised highly visible activities. In Germany, groups from Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen, Hannover 96, Schalke 04, 1860 Munich and Fortuna Düsseldorf were active during home matches. In Italy, ultra groups across the country organized anti-racist choreographic displays. Since 2003, FARE has worked with clubs and supporter groups in Serbia and Montenegro to organize regular anti-racism match days. In addition, thousands of leaflets are handed out by supporters of the clubs. In 2005, the highlight was the Red Star v Partizan Belgrade derby (Cerrahoğlu 2006).

Working with fans

Clubs should be proud of their stance against racism and maintain a high visual presence throughout the season. This can be done through banners and pitch-side boards, as recommended within the UEFA ten-point plan, or through messages in programs, public announcements or on official stationery.

It is often said that supporters are the lifeblood of football, that the game would lose its appeal without them. In the area of antidiscrimination, fans are important for understanding racism in football stadiums. The patterns of fan support differ across the continent – in some countries fan groups are the means through which individual supporters relate to their club,

they have a major say in how fans respond to issues. In other countries fans consume the game on a more individual level. As the perpetrators of overt racial abuse, fans are the cause of the problem, but they are also at the center of a culture that offers solutions. For this reason alone, their involvement in your work is critical. In countries such as England and Germany, many of the challenges to racist behavior have been initiated by fans who wanted to stop the abuse they were hearing around them. They did so by running their own campaigns or urging their clubs to take action. The best anti-racist campaigns will work with supporters to spread ownership, help deliver the message and encourage self-policing. Fans should believe that the message has both relevance and importance for them. Fans' knowledge of their own culture, the approach to be taken, the words to use, and the actions you are planning, are all important ingredients for success. The stands are seen as the spaces inhabited by and belonging to fans. Peer pressure, whether it is led by organized terrace groups or simply through the shared bond of supporting the same team, runs through football. The values and norms championed by the group identity is the most effective way of dealing with racist fans. Initiate a culture in which fans understand why racism needs to be challenged and are active in doing so through peer pressure and self-policing takes over as the most effective way of doing so. If you are setting up a working group, ensure that fans are involved. This can be done through individuals or through talking to group representatives. There may be resistance at first but if your message is clear and inclusive others will understand and begin to support your work. The fanzines and websites of fan groups provide a useful barometer of the current debates taking place. Forward-thinking fans will often be involved in debating issues and ensuring they are doing all they can to make sure the message is being heard.

Dealing with far-right fans

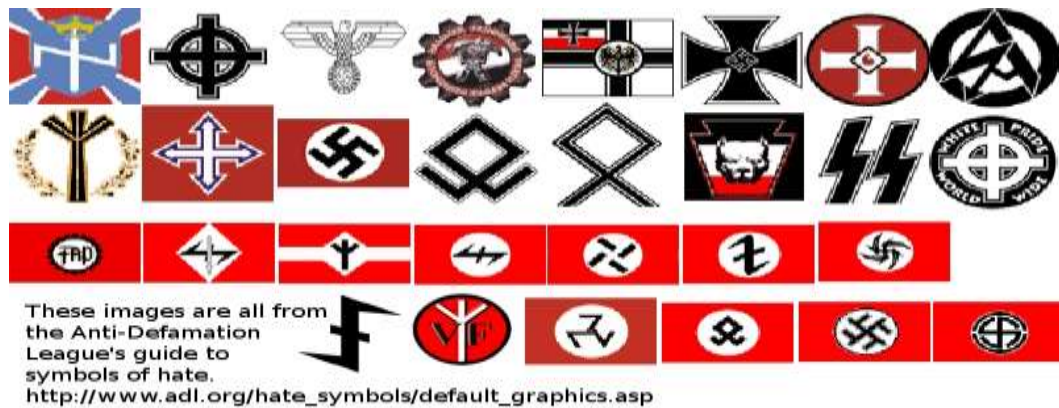
In a number of countries, the politics of the far right are being played out regularly inside football stadiums. This may take the form of fan groups affiliating themselves with far-right views or through individual fans who may be members of such groups attending matches. Paolo di Canio recently justified a right-hand salute given with a straight arm, known in Italy as the Roman salute, by saying that he was "a fascist but not a racist". If they are within the scope of the law, all individuals are entitled to their private political views. But we should recognize that some political views will encourage prejudice and discrimination against minority groups. And some right-wing groups will also place the paraphernalia of neo-Nazism on a pedestal. Far-right groups can often be identified through the symbols used on banners, T-shirts and badges. Some symbols may be well known – such as the Celtic cross or perversions of the swastika – but others can be esoteric and difficult to identify.

Neo-Nazi and Racist Symbols:



The Swastika was the official emblem of the National Socialist Party of Germany, NSDAP. Used in numerous variations.

The most obvious symbols, such as the swastika, will be illegal in some countries, but regardless of legality, the UEFA ten-point plan asks clubs to be alert to these types of symbols and to erase them where they appear in graffiti. Clubs have the right to confiscate materials with neo-Nazi symbolism, though some may wish to do so as much through dialogue and persuasion as through stewarding checks.



In England during the 1980s, fans challenged the presence of neo-Nazi groups by distributing their own anti-racism leaflets and simply physically occupied the spots normally frequented by the right-wing groups. English clubs have a firm policy of refusing far-right groups permission to congregate.

In 2005, Polish first division club Korona Kielce held meetings with fan groups before signing a Brazilian black player – Hernani. The groups consulted were opposed to the move on the basis of his race. The player was signed and during the first game of the season Hernani was subjected to monkey chants from supporters, including the club’s own. The club took advice from a Polish NGO, the Never Again Association, and officials reacted immediately by criticizing the incident, providing the police with pictures of neo-Nazi fans taken during the game and announcing that these fans would be banned from visiting Korona’s stadium. The majority of Korona’s supporters agreed with the decision and supported the signing of the Brazilian player. A month later, before the Korona Kielce v Odra Wodzislaw Slaski game, pictures of six recognized neo-Nazi fans were displayed at the ticket Office and they were banned from the stadium when security officials stopped them at the gates. Korona’s players appeared on the pitch in T-shirts with the “Never Again” campaign logo, “Let’s kick racism out of the stadiums”. Hernani was loudly applauded by the crowd whenever he touched the ball.



Turkish Supporter Groups and Racism Activities in Turkish Schools

In Turkey It is not easy to see training programs and campaigns aiming struggling against racism like the ones developed and applied by UEFA, Football Clubs, Supporter Groups and NGOs in Europe. There are no active NGOs except the CARSİ fan group of Besiktas FC, The Federation of All Football Fans (TFTF), Union of Active Fans in Football (FATAB), Tarafder and Society of Fan Rights which have been founded after 2012. The mentioned NGOs have been organizing modest activities according to their concepts and giving their messages against racism. FATAB realized in 2010 an EU project aiming to increase the awareness about racism Cerrahoğlu 2013).

FATAB and TFTF realized some joint activities together with FSE- Football Supporters Europe (Istanbul Congress of Supporters, 2012). THD is planning a workshop with FSE in İzmir during the summer of 2016. FSE'S reputation for its members in 2016 İzmir: As members of Football Supporters Europe (FSE), we're very happy to inform you that finally the dates and hosts for the 1st ever FSE SUMMER NETWORK MEETING are set!

(<http://www.fanseurope.org/en/news/news-3/1260-save-the-date-fse-summer-network-meeting-in-izmir-en.html>)



Activities similar to the ones completed and ongoing in European schools, has not be organized in Turkey. Actually a developed NGO culture of football supporters is unsayable. In Turkey the supporter mentality is just focused on the victory of their own teams and no awareness among them is developed to focus on social events.



Coordinating independent projects and working with NGOs in secondary education institutions have not gained wide currency. Ministry of National Education, on which schools are dependent, has got a central position and applying strict rules in the permissions for activities.

Results and Recommendations:

When the recommendations of UEFA are examined, a strategy "reaching to solution from problematic area" is projected. Sport clubs, Supporter Groups and Societies are stated as partners, various training activities are suggested. Successful campaigns and projects have been realized.

In Turkey it is not possible to mention about efficient campaigns or projects which were suggested to be worked on by UEFA and EU. The small scale of activities by limited numbers of NGOs are not supported by public authorities. The activities in sport-as the European examples- which could be organized by NGOs, should be moved in schools as well. In this context there is still time to expand the works in public coordination with Ministry of National Education.

Although the biggest football clubs of Turkey, like Fenerbahce, Galatasaray, Besiktas and Trabzonspor have got commercial activities in primary schools, no mediatic activities against racism, discrimination or humiliation are organized by them.



UEFA Respect Fair Play Final Rankings 2014/15

includes matches from : 01/05/2014			to : 30/04/2015	
Position	Association	Country Code	Total Points	Matches played
1	NED		8,151	110
2	ENG		8,146	160
3	IRL		8,144	66
4	FIN		8,141	68
5	DEN		8,128	88
6	GER		8,123	146
7	NOR		8,113	71
8	ISL		8,089	53
9	SWE		8,087	110
10	SCO		8,083	95
11	ESP		8,039	159
12	AUT		8,015	71
13	NIR		8,003	47
14	SUI		8,001	96
15	BEL		7,967	107
16	FRA		7,96	115
17	ITA		7,953	147
18	CZE		7,928	75
19	WAL		7,924	52
20	POL		7,911	72
21	KAZ		7,879	59
22	RUS		7,872	126
23	FRO		7,868	43
24	BUL		7,864	72
25	SVN		7,848	71
26	ISR		7,843	55
27	LTU		7,824	55
28	ROU		7,811	80
29	CYP		7,79	69
30	POR		7,768	128
31	SVK		7,765	76
32	CRO		7,76	86
33	EST		7,753	52
34	SRB		7,749	76
35	BIH		7,742	55
36	HUN		7,738	68
37	UKR		7,7	122
38	GRE		7,694	84
39	GEO		7,684	45
40	BLR		7,678	83
41	MDA		7,642	53
42	TUR		7,615	90
43	MLT		7,6	45
44	MNE		7,592	44
45	LVA		7,565	49
46	MKD		7,5	51
47	AZE		7,441	59
48	ALB		7,348	38
49	ARM		7,822	29
50	GIB		7,809	21
51	LIE		7,767	18
52	LUX		7,72	24
53	SMR		7,485	24
54	AND		6,922	32

Total Matches: 1995

Cut-off: 37 matches played

Group 1: 37 or more matches played, Group 2: less than 37 matches played

(http://www.uefa.org/MultimediaFiles/Download/uefaorg/Respect/02/24/41/72/2244172_DOWNLOAD.pdf)

These four big sport clubs which are efficient in the management of Turkish Football Federation, have got no program to configure the Ten Points Plan of UEFA neither in their sport schools nor in their supporter groups. The importance and value of the topic have not been not understood yet. But many negative issues related with violence are in question. Turkey has got 42nd place in UEFA's Fair Play List of 2014. This place shows that the training programs in primary and secondary schools are needed.

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