



NEWSLETTER #1

JUNE 2026



**About the
Project**



**Why Football
Matters**



**What we have
done so far**



**What
comes next**



**TOGETHER, WE ARE USING THE
POWER OF FOOTBALL TO BUILD
MORE INCLUSIVE, STRONGER,
AND CONNECTED
COMMUNITIES ACROSS EUROPE.**



1. About the Project

Football for a Chance (F4aC) is a 24-month Erasmus+ Sport project that aims to use the transformative power of football to promote social inclusion, equality, and empowerment of marginalized communities, including migrants, women, and individuals facing socio-economic barriers.

The project brings together a diverse consortium of organisations from across Europe:

- **C.I.P. Citizens in Power (Cyprus – Coordinator)**
- **Panionios G.S.S. (Greece)**
- **SISH – Social Innovation Sportshub Associação (Portugal)**
- **Girl Power Organization (Denmark)**
- **International Centre for Sport Security Europe (ICSS) (Portugal)**
- **Omonoia 29M (Cyprus)**
- **Deutsche Sporthochschule Köln (Germany)**



Together, partners work collaboratively to strengthen inclusive practices in football ecosystems by:



Enhancing access to football for underrepresented groups



Building the capacities of coaches, managers, and stakeholders



Developing educational modules and digital tools to support inclusive practices



Creating sustainable networks between sport organisations, municipalities, and communities



By combining research, practice, and innovation, F4aC aims to position football as a catalyst for social inclusion, community cohesion, and equal opportunities.

2. Why Football Matters

Football is often described as a universal language, capable of bringing together people regardless of cultural, social, or economic background. However, research conducted within the F4aC project highlights that its role inclusion is both powerful and complex.

The literature review conducted by the consortium (over 100 references) shows that participation in football and sport-based programmes can:



Improve psychosocial well-being, confidence, and resilience



Strengthen social connections and trust between communities



Support integration pathways into education, employment, and civic life



Reduce stereotypes and promote mutual understanding

At the same time, football is not automatically inclusive. Structural and systemic barriers continue to limit access and participation, particularly for women, migrants, and disadvantaged groups. These include:



Limited access to facilities and resources



Cultural and gender stereotypes

Lack of information and entry pathways

Institutional and regulatory barriers

As highlighted in the literature, grassroots football clubs can act as important community hubs, but inclusive outcomes depend on deliberate strategies, inclusive governance, and targeted support mechanisms.

[Download the F4aC Literature Review \(100+ references\).](#)

3. What we have done so far



PROJECT START

The project officially started in **January 2026**, with the first Transnational Partner Meeting (TPM) held in **Cologne** on **3–4 February 2026**, hosted by the **German Sport University**.

The meeting enabled partners to align on objectives, timelines, deliverables, and methodologies, while also initiating the project's dissemination planning.



PROJECT COMPONENTS

During the TPM, partners worked together across all project components, including:



WP1 – Project Management and Coordination



WP2 – Knowledge and Educational Resources for Exclusive Football



WP3 – Mapping and Optimisation of Facilities and Resources



WP4 – Digital Application



WP5 – Dissemination, Legacy and Long-term Impact



PROGRESS TO DATE

Significant progress has been made under Work Package 2 (WP2):



Completion of the literature review on inclusivity in football



Ongoing semi-structured interviews and focus groups across partner countries



Initial stakeholder engagement and recruitment processes



KEY FINDINGS

Early findings from interviews and focus groups indicate that barriers to participation in football are multidimensional:

Structural barriers: limited infrastructure, lack of access to facilities, financial constraints

Cultural barriers: gender stereotypes, social stigma, and exclusive norms

Institutional barriers: complex registration systems, limited pathways for migrants

Information gaps: lack of awareness about opportunities and entry points

WP3 AND PARTNERSHIPS

In parallel, work has started under **Work Package 3 (WP3)**:

- Mapping of football facilities and resources
- Initial consultations with stakeholders on accessibility and inclusion

The project is also advancing in establishing collaborative partnerships through Letters of Intent (Loi) and Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), aiming to formalise cooperation with organisations across community, institutional, and football ecosystem levels.

These findings highlight that inclusion in football requires more than access- it requires systemic change, targeted support, and inclusive environments.



WORK PACKAGE 3 (WP3) AND PARTNERSHIPS

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4.

WHAT COMES NEXT

In the coming months, the F4aC project will continue to build on these initial results and move towards implementation and impact:



TOGETHER FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL FUTURE



Football for a Chance (F4aC) is a European Erasmus+ Sport project promoting social inclusion, equality and well-being through football.



The project develops an **innovative digital platform** that combines educational resources, an interactive map of accessible football facilities and personalised user profiles, creating pathways for participation, learning and career development within the football ecosystem.



By working closely with football clubs, municipalities, organisations and local communities across Europe, F4AC supports the development of a **more inclusive, fair and accessible football environment for everyone.**



Stay tuned!

Follow our journey as we work together to break down barriers and create equal opportunities through football.



More updates coming soon!



Stay connected with us!

Visit our website for the latest news and updates.



www.f4ac.eu