

Integration of Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) Networking Platform

The world is experiencing the highest levels of forced displacement on record with more than 70 million today having had to flee their home. Large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers face exclusion, lack of livelihood opportunities, and grave risks to their mental and physical health.

Globally, 3 out of 4 refugees have lived in exile for more than 5 years, many for more than 20 years. This situation calls for human and innovative ways to enhance the inclusion and integration of refugees. Civil society has an important role to play in addressing this. Sport and physical activity can be a powerful tool for inclusion, relief, health promotion, and human connection. It is the time to take the next steps to scale tested solutions from the sport and physical activity sector to the benefit of refugees and society!

Thousands of stakeholders and partners located across Europe have been dedicated to creating and delivering solutions to an international challenge. They have tested and innovated the facilitation of the integration of refugees through grassroots sport. With so many organisations working, pulling and advocating in the same direction, surely we have the strength in numbers to make a difference – don't we?

Thanks to support from the European Union, the International Sport and Culture Association is uniting solutions in the field of IRTS through a new network. The IRTS Networking Platform (irts.isca.org) aims to realise our strength in numbers by offering in-person and online opportunities to meet, learn, gain recognition for our initiatives, and connect with high profile humanitarian organisations.

IRTS Networking Platform brings together four elements that will take efforts towards the integration of refugees through sport to the next level:

- **Mentoring programme:** Connecting people who have experience in running IRTS initiatives with those who are just starting out, or are looking for some advice to make a bigger impact.
- **Award scheme:** Recognising initiatives and partnerships that have made an impact in their communities.
- **Online courses:** 3 new online courses will equip solution-providers with tested approaches, expert and peer-to-peer tips from the field, and avenues to support and funding.
- **Events:** In October 2021, we want to deliver the biggest stakeholder congress so far for Integration of Refugees Through Sport in the context of the MOVE Congress: www.movecongress.com. This will be preceded by a pre-event in 2020 and followed by a promotional event in 2022.





MENTORING PROGRAMME

The **IRTS Mentoring programme** will connect people who have specific skills and knowledge (mentors) with individuals (mentees) who need/want the same skills to increase their capacity working in the field of integration of refugees through sport.

During the 12-month mentoring programme (total duration September 2020–November 2021), the mentorship pairs will be engaged through an online platform throughout the period and two offline events to meet face-to-face (travel and accommodation costs covered). The mentoring pairs will have access to IRTS Online Courses, online focus groups and helpful resources throughout the programme – both relating to the IRTS field and tips/advice related to mentoring.

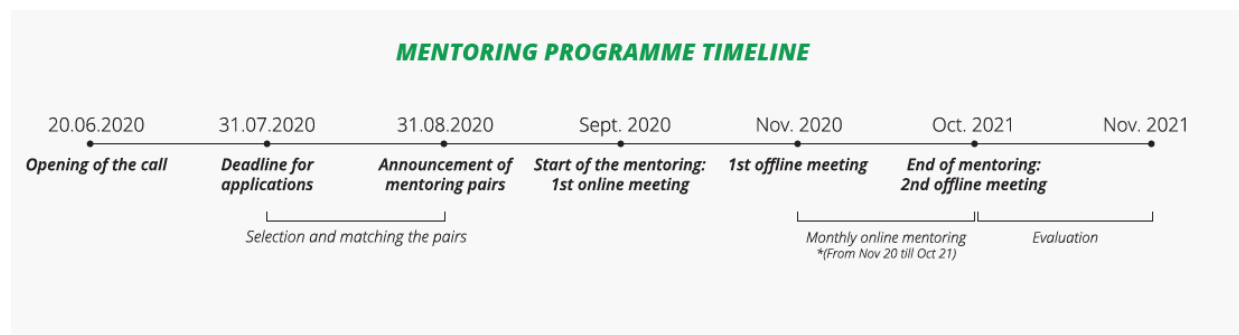
We aim to bring less and more experienced organisations and leaders working in the IRTS field together in mentoring relationships to build the capacity of the organisations and individuals involved through an accelerated transfer of knowledge.

Objectives

- To build the capacity for the organisations and individuals involved through accelerated exchange of knowledge.
- To allow direct collaboration between various integration of refugees through sport related projects and initiatives.
- To grow the international network and community.

Timeline

For the first round of the Mentoring (September 2020 – November 2021) 12 mentees will be matched with pre-selected mentors of experts in the IRTS field. **The applications for the first round will be opened on 20 June 2020 when we publish the call (deadline for applications on 31 July 2020).**



The second round of the mentoring programme will be launched in the summer of 2021 when we will launch an open call for 12 mentors and 12 mentees. A dedicated section for mentoring will be available on the [IRTS Networking Platform](#) website, so you can keep yourself informed of the updates.

Why become a mentee?

The experience will provide you:

- A unique opportunity to expand your international network while working together with other mentors and mentees;
- An opportunity to engage in mutual learning journey to develop your skills and grow as a professional;
- A chance to be inspired and motivated and guidance on carrying out personal and professional actions plans;
- Access to two international conferences related to the IRTS topic and dedicated mentoring meetings prior to the events;
- Visibility on the project website and media exposure through our communication channels throughout the project;
- Access to IRTS Online Learning courses;
- To gain experience from recognised mentors to further benefit your personal and professional development in the IRTS field.

Who is eligible to become a mentee?

We are searching for motivated and dedicated individuals who have some experience in the IRTS topic, either as staff or volunteers, and would like to learn and further build their capacity through online and offline opportunities. Please note that to be eligible for the programme, mentees must be residing in one of the Erasmus+ Programme or partner countries¹. Participants must have access to a computer and internet.

The mentees must be able to travel internationally² and have sufficient language levels to work in English. Travel and accommodation costs to attend the two offline events will be covered from the project and there are no other fees to take part in the Programme.

For the application, candidates must provide a CV and a support letter from an organisation that is active in the IRTS field describing why the candidate should be selected.

What to expect and commit to?

As part of the Mentoring Programme, we expect the mentees to commit 5-10 hours each month to the project (September 2020 – November 2021).

This commitment to the Programme encompasses the following:

- Monthly individual meetings with their mentor (including preparation) and occasional online focus groups meetings on specific topics;
- Developing their personal and professional action plans for the duration of the Programme;

¹ For the list of eligible countries (Erasmus+ Programme Countries and Regions 1-4 and 14) , please visit: https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/programme-guide/part-a/who-can-participate/eligible-countries_en

² The current safety and health situation will be taken into account and for 2020 online engagement opportunities will be provided for all physical events under the Programme.

- Completion of the IRTS Online Learning courses;
- Online kick-off in September 2020;
- Two offline events (November 2020 and October 2021);
- Filling in the monitoring and evaluation surveys.

How to apply?

Make sure you are eligible to apply, fulfil the conditions and can commit to this Programme (in case of being selected, we will sign a commitment agreement). The application will be open from 20 June to 31 July through the [project website](#). We do require you to fill in the online application form and make sure that you prepare your CV and letter of recommendation.

Please note that the application form must be completed in one setting, so we advise you to check it beforehand, first scroll through the entire form and finalise the longer answers in a separate document before submitting it online.

Selection process

Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted by ISCA staff, final selection will be made by a dedicated selection committee that will consist of ISCA representatives, IRTS project stakeholders and mentors.

We will notify all the applicants via email of the results by the end of August (we might contact you for further information or interviews if necessary).

Contact

For more information about the IRTS Networking Platform Mentoring Programme, please contact:

Laura-Maria Tiidla
ISCA Project Coordinator
+4521588463
lmt@isca-web.org

More information on Integration of Refugees Through Sport:

Since 2016, ISCA, with funding from the Nordplus and Erasmus+ programmes, has led three projects exploring the integration of refugees through sport from the perspectives of sport and non-sport partners across Europe. In the period 2020-2022, ISCA is continuing to receive support from the European Union for its initiatives in integration of refugees through sport.

For more information about the IRTS Networking Platform, please contact:

SASKA BENEDICIC TOMAT

ISCA Head of Projects
Integration of Refugees Through Sport Project Manager
E: sbt@isca-web.org
M: +386 41 620 447

About the International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA):

International Sport and Culture Association (ISCA) is a global platform open to organisations working within the field of sport for all, recreational sport and physical activity. Created in 1995, ISCA cooperates with its 260 member organisations from 89 countries, international NGOs, and public and private sector stakeholders. Collectively, its members have up to 40 million individual members representing a diverse group of people active in grassroots sport and physical activity promotion. As well as running international projects and expanding the NowWeMOVE campaign worldwide, ISCA takes a full role in the public debate on healthy lifestyle promotion and strives to influence policy in this area. Find out more at www.isca-web.org