



# FIRE project, 3<sup>rd</sup> conference

The role of Football Associations,  
Leagues, grassroots clubs and civil  
society stakeholders in the inclusion of  
refugees through football

# More than a Game- Football Including REfugees Conference

Thursday 10 December 2020  
*co-organised with the Royal Belgian Football Association*

## Venue:

**Zoom webinar.** Please note the event is carried out in English. During the workshops, questions may be asked in English, French or Flemish.

## Context

Thursday 10 December 2020 (13.30-16.45), the **RBFA & Sport and Citizenship** will together host hosting the third transnational conference of the FIRE project. The conference will discuss the role of Football Associations, Leagues, grassroots clubs, and civil society stakeholders in the inclusion of refugees through football.

## Football Including REfugees Project (FIRE)

The FIRE project strives to promote football as a medium of social inclusion, participation, socialisation and access to sport for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants. Financed by the *Erasmus + programme*, FIRE's main objective is to support grassroots football organisations and foster cross-sector partnerships between all involved sectors by creating a network for mutually enriching participants. We believe in fostering intercultural openness across European local football clubs and bodies, and further seek to empower, enable and support local football organisations to work with refugees and asylum-seekers through sport, and football.

By organising this event, the **RBFA, FIRE, and Sport and Citizenship** seek to gather a variety of stakeholders to share best practices and testimonials on the topic of local social inclusion. The webinar will provide general information on the topic and two topical workshops. The first workshop will focus on inclusion as a player from the perspective of clubs, while the second workshop will focus on inclusion of refugees as a volunteer or other function within the club.

## Programme

### **13.30 Welcome**

**Manu LEROY** Director Marketing & Communication, RBFA

**Sammy MAHDI** State Secretary for Asylum and Migration, Federal Government for Belgium

### **13.45 Introduction to the FIRE project**

**Kiera WASON-MILNE** FIRE Project Manager, Sport and Citizenship Think Tank

### **13.55 Football with Refugees a grassroots approach**

**Niels VAN MUIJDEN** Head of Programs, Fare Network

**14.15 'Everyone on the Pitch' – the RBFA's refugee project**  
**Hedeli SASSI** Football & Social Responsibility Coordinator, RBFA

**14.30 Stretch the legs / #homebreak**

**14.45 Workshop round 1**

**Workshop theme 1: *Inclusion projects of refugees as players***

*Description: This workshop will showcase 2 good practices by Belgian clubs, from both the professional and amateur football club perspectives. Football is a sport for all, but how can clubs - as major stakeholders; facilitate refugee inclusion by becoming a club player? A Q&A will be available for participants after the presentations.*

**Arne KNAEPEN** Oud Heverlee Leuven, professional club (BE)

**Yusuf FARAH** OCMW, social services Leuven (BE)

**Julien MORE** Football club Royal Anhée & social worker at Red Cross Yvoir (BE)

Moderator: **Chaimae EL MASSAOUL** RBFA Youth Council member

**Workshop theme 2: *Inclusion projects of refugees as volunteers***

*Description: This workshop will showcase 2 good practices by Belgian clubs. The first present a project that includes refugees into a professional club as a volunteer and the second into a grassroots club. Social inclusion is an important 'health factor'. Without inclusion, people are more likely to experience poor health (including poor mental health), loneliness, isolation, and poor self-esteem. Football is a great platform to enforce social inclusion.*

**Jeremy LUBERT** Security Officer RBFA (BE)

**Xavier ALI** Social worker at Fedasil (BE) Federal reception agency for asylum seekers

**Carlo CERVILLIERI** Event Coordinator Football club RAAL La Louvière (BE)

**Amandine WARLOP** Social worker at Fedasil (BE)

Moderator: **Lamine DOUMBOUYA** RBFA Youth Council member

**15.30 Stretch the legs / #homebreak**

**15.40 Workshop round 2**

*Participants will attend the second themed workshop, which they did not attend*

**16.25 Stretch the legs / #homebreak**

**16.30 Wrap up with lessons of the day**

**Pr. Albrecht SONNTAG** ESSCA School of Management



# FIRE

FOOTBALL INCLUDING  
REFUGEES IN EUROPE

[www.FootballWithRefugees.eu](http://www.FootballWithRefugees.eu)  
#Foot4All



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union