



**FIFPro**  
World Players' Union

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2018/2019 #5

### SPORT INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

As part of the **SPIN - Sport Inclusion Network project**, Portuguese **Players' Union** promoted an European conference about "**Sport Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees in a Transforming Europe**", on 23 and 24 November, in the City of Football.

The event brought together relevant personalities from national and European sports, in roundtables and workshops, that shared experiences and good practices. Participants discussed innovative strategies on the social inclusion of migrants and refugees and the European strategy to combat the phenomenon of marginalization.

The conference was addressed, in particular, to footballers and athletes from other modalities, sports and social sector organizations, migrants and refugees who work or are involved in social inclusion projects.

Among the speakers present at the various roundtables, highlight to Pedro Calado, the **High Commissioner for Migration**, Jonathan Fadugba from the **FARE – Football Against Racism in Europe network**, Aisha Albella from the **FC Barcelona Foundation**, and **Cynthia Uwak**, a former Nigerian international player and winner of the Best African Female Player of the year award, twice.

The first day of the European SPIN project conference was marked by two panel discussions and four workshops, which discussed how can sport to contribute for the construction of a diversified and inclusive Europe and



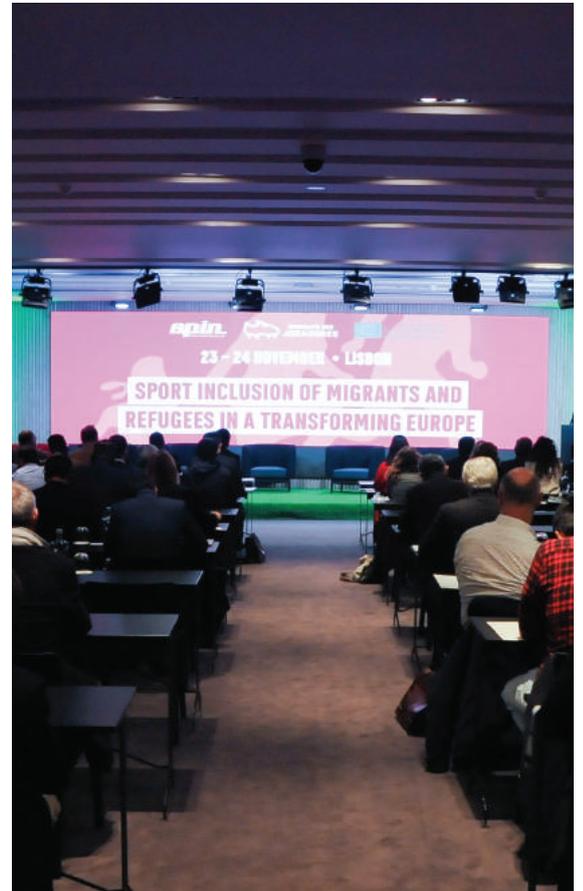
addressed the challenges and needs of sports organizations, migrants and refugees for social inclusion through sport.

On the second day, speakers discussed the involvement of women in sport and how to promote their leadership skills. With regard to this topic, it should be mentioned that in the next two years, the SPIN Women project will be developed. "In the course of the SPIN project [which began in 2011], we realize that one of the most important challenges is the involvement of migrants and refugees women in sports activities. There are many barriers to women have to overcome", said Layla Mousa, a

representative of UISP, one of SPIN's partners.

Former Nigerian player Cynthia Uwak, former Portuguese footballer Rebelo and University of Ghana sports director Bella Bello Bitugu discussed if athletes are really engaged with social inclusion.

The international conference ended with a debate between Layla Mousa, Des Tomlinson (representing Football Association of Ireland) and Kurt Wachter (SPIN project coordinator). The three speakers looked at the way forward with regard to sustainable sport inclusion across Europe in the coming years.



## What is the SPIN Project?

SPIN project is an initiative funded by the European Commission's Erasmus + program, which aims to promote the inclusion and participation of migrants, newcomers to Europe, at different levels of sport (formal and informal) through training, awareness-raising and capacity-building by the various sports agents.

Besides Portuguese Players' Union, these are the partnerships of SPIN Project:

- VIDC-Fairplay (Austria) – coordinator of the project
- Camino (Germany)
- UISP (Italy)
- Football Association of Ireland (Ireland)
- Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization (Hungary)
- Liikkukaa (Finland)
- FAROS (Greece)

## Statements:

“In Portugal, football has a greater responsibility, proportional to its social and economic impact. Persecutions, conflicts and violations of human rights concern us because of the fragility of the situation in which these people are. We can not ignore this context. The refugee crisis is a problem that requires courage, active citizenship, cooperation and commitment.”

**Joaquim Evangelista, Portuguese Players' Union President**

“When we see refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq arriving in our countries with hungry, sport plays a key role in their integration.”

**Kurt Wachter, coordinator do SPIN Project**

“Some of Portugal's best players - from Eusébio to Nani, from Coluna to Bruma, among so many examples of excellence - would not be able to achieve success without responsible sports inclusion policies and practices.”

**Fernando Gomes, Portuguese Football Association President**

“There is currently no better vehicle for jointly promoting the values of social inclusion, of collective thought of unity, of friendship, of solidarity, among many other values of an ethical nature, and not only, essential for a civilized and healthy life in society.”

**João Paulo Rebelo, State Secretary for Youth and Sport**

## Links to the articles:

**Day 1** - [http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=news&op=OP\\_SHOW\\_DETAIL&id=9890](http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=news&op=OP_SHOW_DETAIL&id=9890)

**Day 2** - [http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=news&op=OP\\_SHOW\\_DETAIL&id=9891](http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=news&op=OP_SHOW_DETAIL&id=9891)

## Links to the pictures:

**Day 1** - [http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=imagens&op=OP\\_SHOW\\_DETAIL&id=9906&ty=a](http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=imagens&op=OP_SHOW_DETAIL&id=9906&ty=a)

**Day 2** - [http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=imagens&op=OP\\_SHOW\\_DETAIL&id=9940&ty=a](http://sjogadores.pt/?pt=imagens&op=OP_SHOW_DETAIL&id=9940&ty=a)

## Links to the videos:

**Cynthia Uwak** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJdeDGn4U6w>

**Jonathan Fadugba** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEoc2DvhNC0>

**Aisha Albella** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIA3l4AcuB8>

**Osama Rashid** - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwLim6\\_8uul](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwLim6_8uul)

