10 YEARS FARE NETWORK
PLATINI, THURAM, SENNA AND CO
SPEAK OUT AGAINST RACISM
FARE AT THE UEFA EURO 2008™
FIGHTING HOMOPHOBIA AND SEXISM
OUTLOOK ON WORLD CUP 2010 AND EURO 2012
Introduction

The Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) network is a decade in the making. Formed in 1999 from a small collective in Vienna, the group now has a presence in over 40 countries across the continent. However, problems still exist and racial abuse and discrimination continue both on and off the pitch.

This brochure gives an overview on the FARE activities and the goals achieved in the past ten years and an outlook on future challenges and new working fields. Our interest is directed towards the first World Cup 2010 on African soil and to the UEFA EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, which opens the opportunity to develop new partnerships and capacity build grass-root initiatives in Eastern and Central Europe.

On a daily work basis FARE will continue to respond to ongoing incidents with proactive action. We focus on the stronger involvement of ethnic minority and migrant communities at all levels of football and to tackle discrimination on an institutional level. FARE will continue to support active fans in their fight for a discrimination free stadium. This remains important for clubs and associations that still hesitate to become active and in countries where far-right fans try to take a leading role. FARE will intensify efforts to strengthen women’s football and fighting homophobia and sexism. We also focus on education and youth programmes and point out the power of sports for development.

Last but not least it is our aim to tighten our partnerships with the European and international governing bodies, within football but also on a governmental level.

The upcoming years will be crucial to push forward an equality and anti-discrimination agenda within European football. With common efforts we can and make this beautiful game called football a game for everybody.

“I am proud to say that UEFA is determined to play a leading role in the fight against racism. It is one of our most important social goals. It is important to recognise and understand diversity as well as to respect it. I have always been proud of the wonderful diversity within the European football family. This means that the battle against xenophobia, homophobia and any other forms of discrimination and racist attitudes may require different tactics in different cultures. But, even if strategies may vary, the goals are the same: a respectful and racism-free society.”

Michel Platini
“Racism is a crucial struggle. We tend to paint racists as monsters, especially when you see what goes on in stadiums. True, we need to denounce, criticize and penalize racists, but above all we have to explain the phenomenon and educate people. I’m convinced that, in a long term, education will pay off. We can’t simply limit ourselves to saying “being a racist is bad” – we have to go further. Racism is not an innate condition: we created it by distinguishing between races even though there’s only one human race. The job education can do is fundamental.”

Lilian Thuram

“Racism in sport, and especially in football, is a long existing problem. However football is a wonderful instrument for integration. Football brings together people with different nationalities all with a common goal, from the pitch to the stands. It is because of football that I was integrated to Spanish society and the game helped my family back in Brazil. Football made me become European Champion with the Spanish national team. Education is the way to free football from racism, starting with the youngest amongst us.”

Marcos Senna

“For me there are no racial differences whatsoever. As a player on the pitch I see only professionals, irrespective of the colour of their skin and regardless of their religion. I reject racism and say no to displays of discrimination and violence.”

Andrei Shevchenko

“As someone who for almost all his career played outside his country I am fully aware that success in football is independent from your nationality, colour of the skin or religion. Racism kills our sport and we should kick it out of the stadiums.”

Jacek Bak

“Racism is one of the most stupid prejudices, as persons are judged by the color of their skin and not by their character. It is our duty to fight against racism and to understand that everybody has his or her own strengths and the right to be treated in a respectful way.”

Rosana
Building on the success in Portugal in 2004, the FARE network as a Social Responsibility partner of UEFA, launched the anti-racism programme Unite Against Racism and the fan hosting programme Fans’ Embassy at the UEFA EURO 2008™ in Austria and Switzerland.

Anti-Racism Programme
On the opening day of the UEFA EURO 2008™ Unite Against Racism, the joint campaign of FARE and UEFA was launched with a reception event in Basel. Senes Erzik, UEFA 1st Vice President, gave an introductory speech to the massed European media alongside esteemed players, NGOs and representatives of the Austrian and Swiss government.

The Unite Against Racism activities featured pitch-side advertising boards with the No to Racism message at every game as well as branded captain’s arm-bands. A specially commissioned TV spot Different Languages, One Goal: No To Racism was shown at all matches.

Every ticket, like the steward’s and substitute’s bibs featured the Unite Against Racism slogan.

The campaign reached its climax at the semi-finals when the four team captains delivered an anti-racist message direct from the pitch.

To support preventive work FARE used its expertise with monitors at each game. Accredited observers reported from inside the stadia on racism and discrimination as well as on positive and anti-racist episodes. In addition, FARE produced and distributed a Training Guide on Racist and Far Right Symbols to be used by monitors and security staff.
FARE Streetkick Tour

The FARE Streetkick toured major venues in both host countries. It is a tool connecting fans, giving them the opportunity to play football in a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere. The Streetkick Tour worked closely with the Fans’ Embassies to organise fan friendlies and tournaments with local migrant communities. In Vienna, Klagenfurt and Genève the Streetkick was situated directly beside the Stationary Fans’ Embassy.

Fans’ Embassies

The essence of the Fans’ Embassy concept, promoted by FARE and FSI, is to provide fan-specific information and services to visitors themed “by fans, for fans”. The programme was centered around the eight Stationary Fans’ Embassies which were located in key areas of each host city and staffed with local football fans. Apart from providing general information on the host cities, the embassies had been the “go-to” location with regard to tournament and fan-specific matters like ticket availability, public viewing facilities or local legislation.

The Fans’ Embassy staff also offered their services during the matches within the stadia. The special produced pocket-sized Fanguides for each host city in the required language became a “must have” for all fans eager to find out crucial tournament information.

Aside from the Stationary Fans’ Embassy, an essential and highly successful feature was the work of the 10 International Mobile Fans’ Embassy teams who delivered street-work aimed at their own national supporters.

The website www.fanguide2008.net acted as a multilingual platform for fans from across the continent. In June 2008, during the tournament, the website had nearly 3,000,000 hits.
Recent racist and homophobic incidents at the top level of domestic European football demonstrate at least two objectives of the Vienna Plan of Action, released in 1999 at the inception of the FARE network, have been reached. Football governing bodies, clubs, fans and media have recognised that racism and other forms of discrimination are a problem in football and that they have taken responsibility of and action against the problem.

Ten years ago, when supporter groups, anti-racist NGOs and ethnic minority organisations from 14 European countries established the FARE network, the widespread neglect of the problem from football and public institutions was evident.

FARE was established to act as a decentralised, grass-roots network to facilitate anti-racism action on various levels, ranging from the transnational, European dimension to the local football club. Thanks to the initial funding from the European Commission and then later on through the support of UEFA, FARE has been able to keep its aims and objectives on track. A key strength of FARE is the ability to bring together fan groups, anti-racism initiatives, ethnic minority groups, clubs, associations and player unions in 40 European countries. Their continued efforts and actions will make the difference in the long run.

One further important step for the development of the FARE network was the involvement of the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation (EGLSF) in 2003 that resulted in stronger efforts to fight homophobia in football, like the staging of the Building Bridges conferences, the rising number of activities against homophobia as part of the FARE Action Weeks or the recent Queer Football Fan meeting at FC Barcelona.
1996

1997
As part of the European Year against Racism various football projects are sponsored by the European Commission (EC).

1999
February: The FARE network is established, with drafting of a FARE Plan of Action in Vienna.

2000

2001
April: First FARE Action Week against Racism and Discrimination in European Football with 50 events in nine countries.
July: FARE representatives speak at the FIFA Conference against Racism in Buenos Aires.
August: UEFA award a charity cheque of 1 Million Swiss Franc to FARE. FARE becomes a member of the UEFA charity portfolio.

2002
April: Second FARE Action Week takes place with 100 events in 17 countries.
September: Start of a two-year anti-discrimination project co-funded by the EC.
October: Third FARE Action Week takes place with over 300 events in 18 countries.

2003
March: The conference Unite Against Racism hosted by Chelsea FC is organised by UEFA, FARE and the English FA.
October: 400 initiatives in 24 countries join the fourth FARE Action Week. FARE receives Jean Kahn Award from the EUMC.

2004
February: FARE conference in Gelsenkirchen hosted by the Schalker Fan-Initiative together with FC Schalke 04.
June: FARE launches a Football Unites programme at UEFA EURO 2004™ in Portugal.
October: The fifth FARE Action Week takes place with hundreds of initiatives in 33 European countries, including all 32 Champion League teams.

2005
February: FARE conference takes place in Bratislava.
October: Sixth FARE Action Week with over 700 initiatives in 35 countries.

2006
January: FARE programme in Eastern Europe funded by the Stand Up, Speak Up campaign.
January: FIFA and FARE establish a strategic alliance in the field of anti-discrimination.
February: The second Unite Against Racism conference is jointly organised by UEFA, FARE and the Spanish FA and hosted by FC Barcelona.
March: The European declaration on tackling racism in football becomes a formal resolution at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
June: FARE Programme at FIFA World Cup 2006.
October: The seventh FARE Action Week takes place in 37 European countries with over 700 initiatives, and the involvement of all 32 Champions League teams.

2007
May: The FARE networking conference on ethnic minorities and equality, hosted by the French FA, LICRA and PSG takes place in Paris.
October: More than 700 initiatives in 37 countries participate during the eighth FARE Action Week.

2008
June: FARE and UEFA launch the anti-racism programme Unite Against Racism and the Fan hosting programme Fans’ Embassies at the UEFA EURO 2008™.
October: With more than 700 initiatives in 40 European countries – including the involvement of all 32 Champions League teams, the ninth FARE Action Week takes place and becomes Europe’s biggest anti-racism campaign in football.

2009
March: The third Unite Against Racism conference in Warsaw is jointly organised by UEFA, FIFPro, FARE and the Polish FA.

Every year FARE partner Progetto Ultrà organizes the Mondiali Antirazzisti together with UISP E. R. and Istoreco.
FARE Action Week

The FARE Action Week is one of Europe’s largest sporting initiatives, where thousands of events, initiatives and activities take place across the continent in a unified stand against racism and discrimination.

It’s a period where Europe’s footballing “family”, from professional clubs, national associations, leagues and players’ unions, to fans, minority groups, schools and local football teams come together to celebrate the power of the game.

The week aims to heighten public awareness of issues around racism, discrimination and exclusion and forge a united front in dealing with this malign influence on the world’s number one sport.

From modest beginnings spanning nine countries in 2001, the FARE week of action now boasts activity in over 40 nations. The 2008 week of action saw a record of 700 events take place. In addition, 14 top national leagues across Europe, from the German Bundesliga and the English Premier League, to the Super League in Greece and Ukraine, pledged their support, channeling the power of football to communicate a message to the millions of people touched by the game.

Undoubtedly, one series of initiatives once a year is not enough as many challenges remain. We continue to collectively strive for equality, inclusion and diversity with the ultimate goal of human unity on the horizon.

Ignoring racism is accepting racism – take your stand and join the 10th FARE Action Week from 15–27 Oktober 2009!
The Mondiali Antirazzisti started 12 years ago and has grown into one of the world’s largest football festivals attracting more than 4,000 people every year. It’s current home is Casalecchio in northern Italy. The teams, male, female and mixed, are composed of fans and supporter groups from all over Europe, migrant and ethnic community organisations, and many others who simply love football.

The diversity of the event has grown each year, including migrant teams from Ghana, Morocco, Turkey, Nigeria, as well as Roma teams from Slovakia, and mixed Palestinian and Jewish teams from Tel Aviv.

Alongside the football tournament, which is non-competitive, other sports like basketball, volleyball and cricket are played, as well as concerts, debates and exhibitions.

Those participating at the Mondiali Antirazzisti – the Anti-Racist World Cup experience much more than simply playing a game: Meeting people is the cornerstone of the Anti-Racist World Cup. It is a coming together of all types of diversity: culture, colour, religion, social groups, sexual orientation, gender, age, etc.

The Mondiali offer important moments for debate on various topics, broadcasting of videos and documentaries and gives a chance to all groups to bring in their self-produced material on anti-racism in the Piazza Antirazzisti (Anti-racist Square).

The aim is to highlight the campaigning being done across Europe, illustrating the situations of ethnic minorities and migrant communities, and to celebrate the diversity of Europe through socialising together.

www.mondialiantirazzisti.org
Stand Up, Speak Up, the 2005 Europe-wide initiative, brought together some of Europe’s finest footballers in a united stand against discrimination. The income generated from the campaign’s iconic wristbands was awarded in part to FARE to run a series of highly successful activities in Central and Eastern Europe.

Its aims were: To establish a campaign against right wing extremism and to promote anti-racist and intercultural dialogue in Polish football. This included the monitoring of far-right campaigning, the publication of leaflets and posters with anti-racist messages for fan groups, young people and civil society organisations, support of grassroots football amongst ethnic minority and migrant groups and educational activities.

To fight nationalism and develop youth exchanges in the Balkans and to use football as a medium to help overcome nationalism. This was the central message at the heart of the Youth Camp event with teams from Serbia, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Montenegro, all of whom took part in a festival against racism and intolerance in the Balkans.

To address right wing extremism and Roma discrimination in Slovakia. The main objectives were to use football as an instrument of intercultural dialogue and understanding, integrating more Roma footballers into Slovak football and enhancing the anti-racist fan culture in Slovakia. Football tournaments, sports days, fan work and the participation at international tournaments like the Mondiali Antirazzisti all were undertaken to achieve this.

To fund small scale activities across the region and develop contacts with small groups and capacity build them to make interventions relevant to their situation.

FARE continues its engagement in these areas and in these activities and projects.
Homophobia and Sexism

In football, racism is frequently on the agenda. However, other recurring problems such as homophobia, and sexism are often neglected.

The world of football continues to be male dominated. Football is the last place where “true masculinity” exists and it is expressed both on and off the field. Female players, fans, board members, and journalists, in contrast, are rare exceptions to the rule.

Sadly, misogyny, sexism, and homophobia remain ingredients of the “beautiful game”. They can be heard in fan chants, in calls to female players to undress and by calling opponents fags or labelling the referee as gay. It can also be seen in photos and posters. When an opposing team or referee is called “gay”, many do not even notice any abuse. Homophobia and sexism are often seen simply as part of the fabric of football.

But homosexuals do exist in sport. The European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF) is testament to this with over 10,000 members across Europe.

With the help of the FARE network, the EGLSF linked up with professional clubs with a series of events to discuss the issue, with many subsequently signing a declaration against discrimination. The president of the German FA was present at one, expressing his stand on fighting all forms of discrimination. In addition UEFA put homophobia on its agenda and activities against homophobia and sexism took place at the FARE Action Week 2008.

The power and influence of football needs to be mobilised to a wider awareness of homosexuality, gender, homophobia, and sexism. Fighting discrimination means offering specific help or working actively with youngsters, fans, players, coaches, etc, by setting a positive course. Together, we can make this happen.

www.eglsf.info
The network has also co-organized major UEFA Unite Against Racism conferences at Chelsea (2003), Barcelona (2006) and Warsaw (2009).

In addition, the network uses high profile football events such as the European Championship and the World Cup to communicate its aims and objectives, coordinating tournament long anti-racist initiatives. Since the 2004 European Championships in Portugal, FARE has been heavily involved in both the World Cup in Germany in 2006 and the recent 2008 EURO in Austria and Switzerland. FARE’s EURO 2008 reception event in Basel was heavily attended by media from across Europe, giving the organisation the opportunity to showcase details of its Unite Against Racism campaign, which included a specially commissioned TV spot shown at all matches, and pitch side advertising boards with the slogan No to Racism message at every game. Team captains and stewards wore branded material throughout the competition and over one million match tickets featured the Unite Against Racism logo.

Planning has now begun in earnest for the next major tournament on the footballing calendar, the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. FARE will again play a major role in helping the world’s governing bodies highlight and address issues around racism and discrimination, and sending a message of inclusion and diversity to football supporters across the world.

Media and Communication Work

A crucial part of FARE’s role is to bring the issue of racism to a wider audience via its media and communications channels. Each domestic league in Europe encounters its own unique set of issues surrounding the discrimination of fans and players, not to mention any issues involving the national team. Members in each country monitor such activity, reporting it on Farenet.org, the group’s central online hub and then to relevant media in each territory.

The network has also co-organized major UEFA Unite Against Racism conferences at Chelsea (2003), Barcelona (2006) and Warsaw (2009).

In addition, the network uses high profile football events such as the European Championship and the World Cup to communicate its aims and objectives, coordinating tournament long anti-racist initiatives. Since the 2004 European Championships in Portugal, FARE has been heavily involved in both the World Cup in Germany in 2006 and the recent 2008 EURO in Austria and Switzerland. FARE’s EURO 2008 reception event in Basel was heavily attended by media from across Europe, giving the organisation the opportunity to showcase details of its Unite Against Racism campaign, which included a specially commissioned TV spot shown at all matches, and pitch side advertising boards with the slogan No to Racism message at every game. Team captains and stewards wore branded material throughout the competition and over one million match tickets featured the Unite Against Racism logo.

Planning has now begun in earnest for the next major tournament on the footballing calendar, the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. FARE will again play a major role in helping the world’s governing bodies highlight and address issues around racism and discrimination, and sending a message of inclusion and diversity to football supporters across the world.
www.FAREnet.org

Information available in English, French, German and Italian.
FARE believes the World Cup in South Africa is an important opportunity to underline the diversity of the game, setting a vision for a sport which could be free of discrimination and prejudice. FARE is keen to play its part in Africa’s first World Cup making the tournament a memorable and uplifting experience for both travelling fans and communities, not just for the month, but before and after the teams and supporters have left. The Football Unites initiative for South Africa 2010 is a collaboration between FARE, Kick It Out and FURD (Football Unites, Racism Divides). Partnerships have been developed with a range of key organisations and individuals in South Africa.

Plans include a Football Against Xenophobia campaign with partners like the players’ union SAPFU, a “History of South African Footballers in Europe” exhibition at the District Six museum in Cape Town, together with a programme of seminars, films, youth exchanges and township events. FARE will work with FIFA and the local organising committee to discuss support for the coordinated anti-racist and anti-xenophobic activities before and during the World Cup implementing using the successful template delivered at the 2006 World Cup in Germany. This would include collaborative work with both host and travelling fan embassies, which were well received at EURO 2008 in Austria and Switzerland.

EURO 2012 Poland/Ukraine

Monitoring and education about racism in Polish and East European football will be coordinated by FARE and the NEVER AGAIN Association in 2009 to 2012. The programme will build on successful aspects of past activities, using them as a model for other countries in Eastern Europe where the problem of football racism remains inadequately addressed. This is particularly significant in the run-up to EURO 2012. Practical working tools will be created and used by clubs, community groups and NGOs across the region ensuring the experience accumulated by NEVER AGAIN will be shared with others in a sustainable fashion. Incidents will be documented through media monitoring, fan websites, fanzines and first-hand accounts. NEVER AGAIN will run a media service, feeding information to journalists whilst developing a tool-kit, providing clubs with educational DVDs, posters and specially-tailored guidelines on actions they can take against racist incidents. NEVER AGAIN will use its experience as a model for NGOs and other organisations in Ukraine and across the wider region to identify new FARE partners and provide information and materials to be adapted for local use.