



**Monitoring and Evaluation Study
of the project entitled “Welcome to the pitch!”
implemented by Oltalom Sport Association**



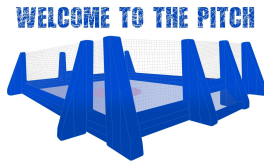
**Study conducted by
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June 2017



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Introduction

*'I must play. I love football, football means everything.'*¹

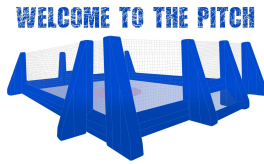
The aim of the monitoring and evaluation study was to measure the impacts of the 12-month-long “Welcome to the pitch!” project implemented by Oltalom Sport Association, supported by the UEFA Foundation’s Refugee Support Programme. In the original project proposal five main, various objectives were stated - all aiming to enhance the social inclusion of refugees and migrants in Hungary. Some of the objectives directly focus on the target group itself, while others aim at sensitizing the host society. Different objectives were studied with different methods: both quantitative and qualitative data collection tools were used in order to gain in-depth understanding of the impacts of the project. Findings are described in detail in the main section of the report, conclusions and recommendations can be found in the end of present report. We hope that results of the study will be of use of any organization implementing “social inclusion through sports” type of projects in the future.

Objectives of the project

Five main goals and objectives were established in the submitted proposal Oltalom Sport Association planned to reach throughout the duration of the project. These five aims are the following:

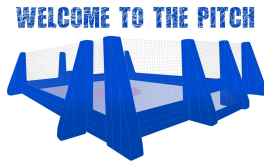
- (1) Improve health and wellbeing of participants.*
- (2) Strengthen self-confidence of participants.*
- (3) Promote building new social contacts of participants with members of host society*
- (4) Improve language knowledge of participants through common activities*
- (5) Sensitize members of host society through direct personal experience with refugees and migrants.*

¹ Quote from a participant interview.



Logic model of the project

Logic Model of <i>Welcome to the Pitch!</i>			
Target Population	Needs	Inputs	Activities
Migrants and refugees residing in Hungary; Hungarian host society;	Integration/assimilation of the migrants; Sensitization of host society;	Manpower: - Coaches - Mediators - Social workers; Experience with migrant and refugee players; Food/beverages; Equipment;	Football training sessions; Football tournaments; Summer Football Camp;
Outputs	Short Term Outcomes	Medium Term Outcomes	Long Term Outcomes
Weekly training sessions in 2 locations with 40 participants ; 6 Tournament in 6 cities with 480 participants (min. 60 migrants or refugees); 1 Summer Football Camp with the participation of 40 children (with at least 20 migrants or refugee children)	Refugees become acquainted with new people from the host society; Improved physical and mental health, wellbeing and self-confidence of the participants;	New contacts fostered by sport; Reduce stereotypes against migrants and refugees in the host society; Improved language knowledge of the participants;	Social integration of refugees and migrants; Sensitization of host society; Break down stereotypes; Improved language knowledges of the participants; Successful completion of

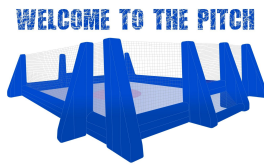


			secondary education; Entering higher education
Theoretical Assumptions about the Problem	Theoretical Assumptions about the Intervention	External Factors	
In order to bring people closer, it is essential to promote common passions and features.	Sports and more specifically football serve as a field where stereotypes and barriers between groups with different social background break down	The prevailing social climate. Changing refugee policies in Hungary. The prevailing morale of the society.	

Methodology

As previously mentioned, we used various data collection tools to measure the impact of the project on different target groups.

Firstly, in order to measure the impact of the activities, Oltalom Sport Association records data on every single participant and activity in an **online database called Oltalom Social Network**. Upon first contact, basic data of every participant is recorded. Later every activity (let it be a football training session or tournament, physical performance, 1-on-1 session with a social worker or job coach and type of support received, language class or even a single telephone call or contact on social media with Oltalom staff members) that the participant attended is also recorded by social workers. Therefore the process of each individual can be followed. Group activities are also listed in the database - date, time and venue, attending participants of each training session, activities used, atmosphere, any additional comments, etc.



In order to measure impact of Fair Play Football Roadshow tournaments on invited teams, a **questionnaire** was designed in two languages (English and Hungarian) to gain information from tournament participants on their attitude towards fair play rules and different social groups. Respondents were also asked to evaluate the organization of the tournaments that provided useful feedback for Oltalom Sport Association. The sample consisted of 100 tournament participants who were randomly selected during the events. The questionnaire consisted of twenty-three items and there were no questions that remained unanswered by respondents.

In June 2017, 10 semi-structured, anonymous **interviews** were conducted in Budapest and Fót city where most of the project participants with a refugee background stay. Interviews are a good way of gaining in-depth, qualitative information and deeper understanding of the changes the activities of project might have had on lives and social inclusion of participants. We were especially curious to get information on the background of the interviewee, their contact with Oltalom Sport Association (football and other activities, social and employability support), their integration in the following fields: language, education, labour market, social connections, physical and mental health care, future plans.

Results of the study

Data on football activities and social support

Regular football training sessions

Between 15 June 2016 and 14 June 2017 altogether 355 participants attended over 150 regular football trainings organized within the framework of the Welcome to the pitch! project. 259 of the total number of participants were minors. From this, 85 are female and 174 are male meaning that about one-third of the minor participants are female. From the total number of project participants 68 people (19%) have a refugee or migrant background. The following chart shows the age distribution of participants:

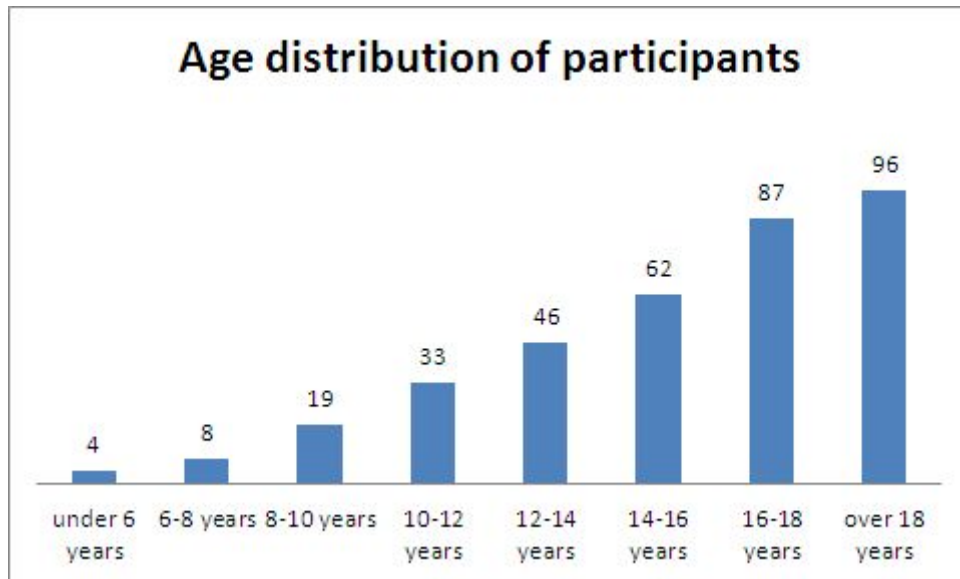
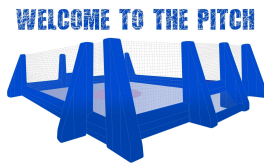
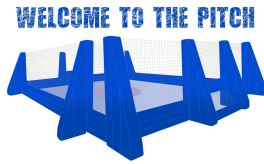


Chart 1 Age distribution of participants

It is rather visible that the age groups above 14 years are overrepresented in the project which is most probably a result of choosing training venues: residents of the Home for Unaccompanied Minors in Fót city are mainly teenage boys who arrived to Hungary without their family members. Many of the participants who are adults (over 18 years old) are residents in a so-called after-care home also situated in the same child care complex in Fót. This is a transitional home for those who are between 18 and 24 years old, leave state care but has no other place to go. The other two weekly training sessions were so-called open trainings meaning that anyone can join in, not only residents of a certain home or institution. Location of these trainings was in downtown Budapest easily accessible for those who stay, study or work in the capital. Open trainings provided a great opportunity for refugee and non-refugee players to meet, mix and play together in a team. **Every single training session was attended by a professional football coach and a social worker.**



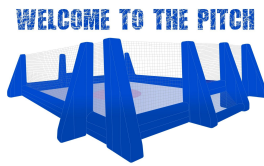
Fair Play Football Roadshows

Besides holding regular football training sessions and providing complex social and employability services for disadvantaged participants, Oltalom Sport Association's other main area of focus is the organization of the Fair Play Football Roadshow series. The series of tournaments has been taking place since 2011 in Hungary and with additional locations in neighboring countries. Originally, in the first five years tournaments took place in 8 locations and were closed by a gala event in December. In the season of 2017, thanks to additional supporters besides UEFA Foundation for Children (such as Erasmus+, FIFA Football for Hope and the European Commission), Oltalom Sport Association was in the position to organize even more, 14 Fair Play Football Roadshow events.

Participating teams are local grassroots team - team whose members may be from different, sometimes opposing social groups who in everyday life only meet in situation burdened by power issues (e.g. those receiving and those deciding on social benefits, policemen and Roma or refugee youth, etc.). These Roadshow events have a strong emphasis on **peace-building on the local level**.

During the Welcome to the pitch! project's period, tournaments took place in the following places:

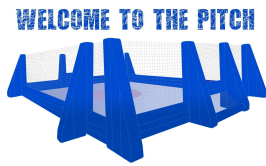
- 20.06.2016. World Refugee Day 2016, Fót, Hungary
- 02.07.2016. Fair Play Football Roadshow , Vienna, Austria
- 13.08.2016. Fair Play Football Roadshow , Balatonkenese, Hungary
- 24.09.2016. Fair Play Football Roadshow, Palic, Serbia
- 15.10.2016. Fair Play football Roadshow, Miskolc, Hungary
- 19.11.2016. Fair Play Football Roadshow , Budapest, Hungary
- 03.12.2016. 5th Fair Play Football Gala, Budaörs, Hungary
- 11.03.2017. Fair Play Football Roadshow, Kiskunfélegyháza, Hungary
- 01.04.2017. Fair Play Football Roadshow Football3 for Respect, Gödöllő, Hungary
- 15.04.2017. Fair Play Roadshow Gádoros, Hungary
- 06.05.2017. Fair Play Football Roadshow, Komarno, Slovakia
- 20.05.2017. Fair Play Football Roadshow, Palic, Serbia



In the matches of the Fair Play Football Roadshow contest a special set of rules, the so-called “football3” rules are used - developed by streetfootballworld. The values that are fundamental to football3 such as **fair play, equality, teamwork and respect** are as important in the game as the knowledge of football. Football3 was named after the 3 halves of the match: in the first half the two teams agree on the rules, the match takes place in the second half and in the third “half” the two teams analyse the game together and agree on the number of fair play points for each team.

One of the most important elements of real fair play contests is that, just like in street soccer, there are **no referees** on the pitch. They are replaced by mediators who are dedicated to Fair Play football and know football3 rules very well. If everything goes well, they do not interfere in the course of the game. Occurring fouls are indicated by a raised hand, they are settled among players themselves who also agree on the possible sanctions together.

Before a contest commences, **fair play mediators** hold a training for 2 members delegated from each team. In this training, rules and the course of the contest are clarified. The team members participating in this training must convey the spirit and attitude of fair play to their mates. Just before the match starts, the mediators have a discussion with all the players of the teams in which they repeatedly confirm fixed rules and commonly agree on the optional rules. (The scope of fixed and optional rules can both extend or narrow according to the demands and phantasy of participants and organisers.) After the matches, a short evaluative discussion follows: the fair-play mediators ask the players about their experiences and they also examine whether rules were observed and kept. It is always important to mention fouls lest the impression be created in the participants that in spite of fair play the commonly agreed rules can freely be violated. When possible video-based analysis is used: events taking place on the pitch are recorded by using professional technology and after the matches, during the discussions, teams watch the fair play movements, saves, goals and attacks of the match together with the players. Besides helping to raise awareness of fair play moments, video analysis helps us to analyse and look back on controversial situations, which also facilitates the formation of good relations between the given groups.



Oltalom staff believes that the tournaments are **unique opportunities for participants** to experience new things in the following fields and support personal development:

- discovering the countryside of Hungary and cities abroad;
- an opportunity to meet and play with local grassroots teams, often with officials (staff of police, firemen, local government and authorities, ngos and minorities);
- an opportunity for team members and Oltalom staff to spend time together outside the daily routine and get to know each-other better;
- an opportunity for young leaders to take new tasks and challenges;
- a place of teamwork - especially when the team has to set up and pack the portable pitch;
- an opportunity to represent fair play and what has been learnt during regular trainings;
- an opportunity to develop self-presentation and communication skills through football3 discussions with opposing team;
- an opportunity to show the world the power of diversity.

Supporting services

Oltalom Sport Association provides **complex social and employability services** for its participants and their family members. The starting point of the method is that social workers are present at every single football training, tournament or other activity. These provide an informal environment where participants and social workers can start casual conversations and build trust - instead of a very formal and official situation. Social workers ask everyone how they are, how things are going at home or in the school. For longer discussions or issues to solve social workers propose one-on-one sessions. If any of the participants need support in education or finding a job, they refer him or her to the job coach. Every week there are two English classes on a beginner and intermediate level.

Type of issues social workers and the job coach supported project participants in:

- housing, finding an apartment for the family, keeping in touch with home educators



- education: finding and enrolling to secondary, vocational school and higher education courses, obtaining scholarships, keeping in touch with teachers and headmasters;
- employability: writing a CV and cover letter, practicing interview techniques, gaining awareness on the desired job, formal and informal job search techniques and channels;
- developing languages skills at English clubs;
- health and mental care: referring participants to specialist if necessary;
- mobility: obtaining travel documents;
- citizenship: providing supporting letter for the citizenship application;
- providing information on social benefits, support in obtaining benefits, providing donations;
- meals: referral to partner organization Oltalom Charity for free daily meals.

Findings of the survey

The sample of the survey made up of the randomly chosen participants of the Fair Play Roadshow Tournament. 92,5% of the respondents were male, and 7,5 % were female. Age range varied from 12 as the youngest to 53 as the oldest respondent.

Regarding education, it can be stated, that all the respondents entered the education system. 37,5% of the participants completed primary school, 37,5 % completed some kind of secondary education (high-school or secondary vocational school) and 17,5% received college or university degree.

In terms of settlement form, 70% of the respondents stated that they reside in a village, while 30% live in a city.

As Chart 2 and Chart 3 show, 90 % of the respondents found the use of fair play rules effective and 92,5% stated that the application of the specific rules didn't worsen the experience of the game.

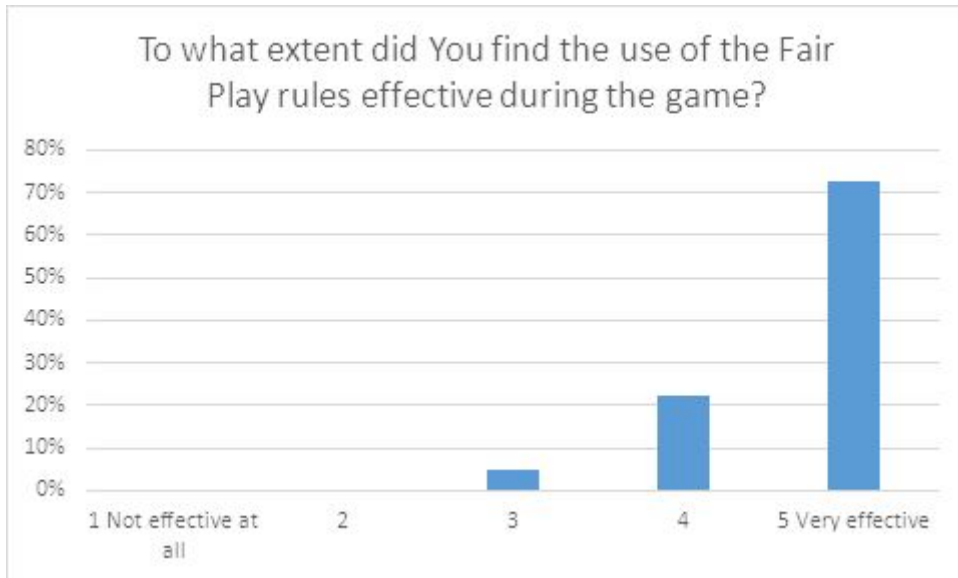
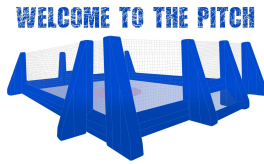
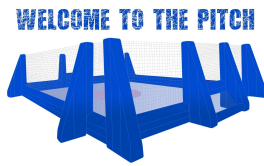


Chart 2 To what extent did You find the use of the Fair Play rules effective during the game?



Chart 3 Has the use of Fair Play rules worsened the experience of the game?

When asked to describe their experience playing with fair play rules, respondents claimed that by playing with the specific guidelines was a **positive experience** because '(...) it was new for me'; '(...) it is more enjoyable, less violent. It gives a chance to play "clever" football';



'everyone observed the rules' and '(...) everyone was correct'. 'Since football is about the clear game, it did not worsen. Football isn't about kicking each-other.'

The given answers suggested, that **common passion and the love of the game what matters** and not the country of origin, cultural background or the spoken language (*'The point is the experience and the love of sport.'*). In general it can be stated that playing with the fair play rules (which included playing without a referee) turned out to be an special experience for many of the participants, even though some of them claimed that *'This game was the same as normal football. Everyone tried to play the fair game all the time.'* and *'We always play this way.'* and *'These rules are not really differ from the original ones'*. Thus the experience wasn't brand new one for everyone.

The results derived from the survey suggested that all the **participants followed the jointly agreed rules and paid attention to their team mates** (*'Because everyone followed the rules and enjoyed him/herself.'; 'It did not worsen, on the contrary. We were able to pay attention to the game and also to each-other.'*). In addition, respondents also claimed that playing according to the fair play rules had an effect on the atmosphere of the game (*'because applying these rules, there were less arguments and rage'*).

Even though the given answers showed that Fair Play Football was a good experience for the respondents, it also has to be mentioned that for some of the participants, it wasn't unequivocally positive. As it was mentioned, for some, occasionally the lack of the referee worsened the quality of the game.

In accordance with the above-mentioned outcomes, 100 % of the asked participants claimed that they are **open to participate in further fair play games in the future**. Besides, the respondents agreed that the lack of the referee does not deteriorate the quality of the game, 92,3% of the participants stated that they didn't miss the referee at all, and only 2,6% preferred to play in the presence of one. Chart 4 shows the distribution of the answers given to the question whether participants missed the presence of the referee or not.

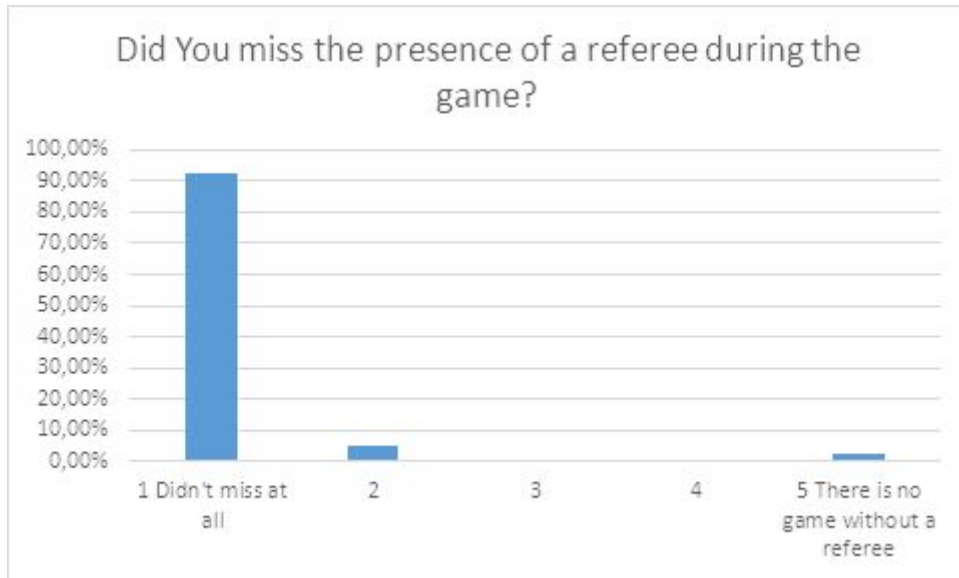
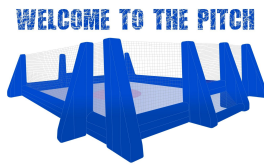


Chart 4 Did You miss the presence of a referee during the game?

Often times the football pitch 'gives space' for racism and intolerance. Since football is still one of the most popular games in Hungary, what happens on the field (be it a professional or an amateur game), it reaches a great number of people. However, the power of the football pitch can be put into the service of fostering tolerance and fair play on and off the field. When asked about the importance of awareness raising towards fair play in the Hungarian football life, 97,4% of the respondents stated that it is essential, and 95 % thought that the earlier the age when awareness raising starts, the better.

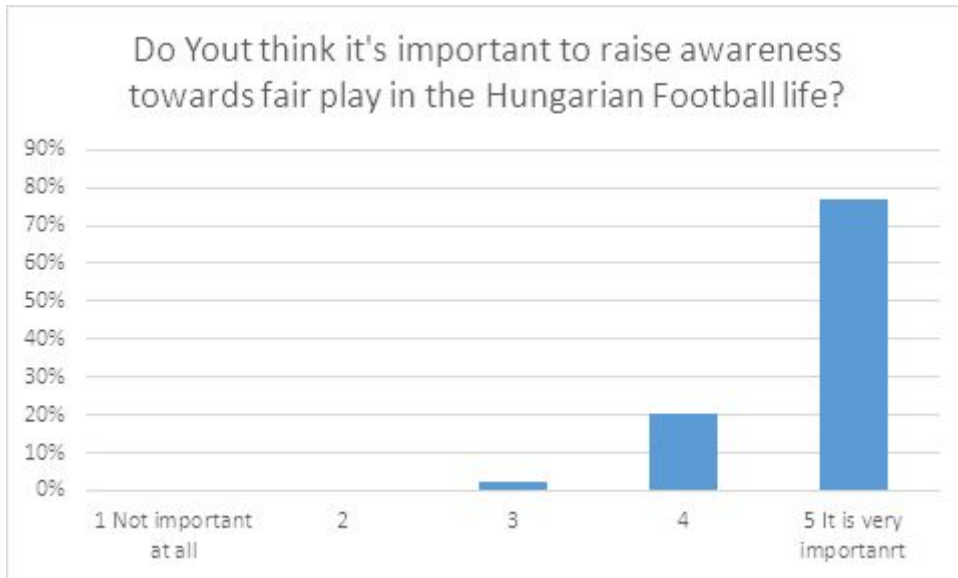
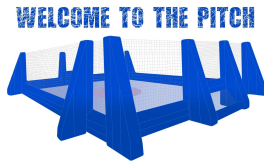
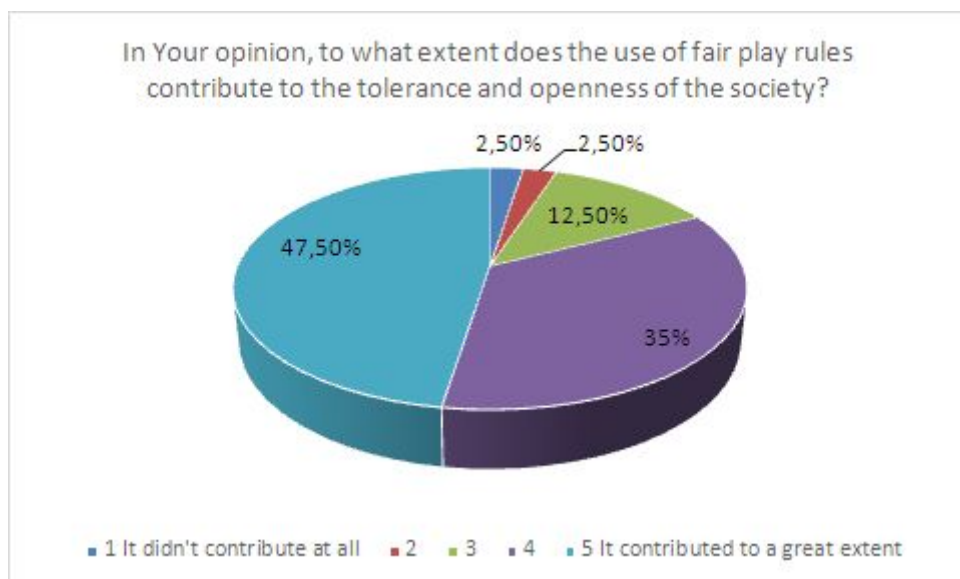


Chart 5 Do You think it's important to raise awareness towards fair play in the Hungarian football life?

82,5% of the respondents stated that the utilization of **fair play rules foster tolerance and openness in the society** and only 2,5 % thought that the specific method doesn't have any particular role in the sensitizing process.



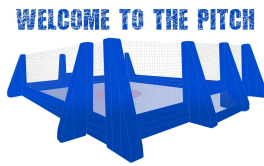


Chart 6 In Your opinion, using the rules of Fair Play Football contributes to the tolerance and openness of the society?

Participants were asked about the degree of their respective and team member's openness and tolerance as a result of taking part of the Fair Play Tournament. The outcomes suggested that responders perceived their own and their respective team mates' openness on the same level. Chart 7 and Chart 8 present that 79% of the participants declared that their perspective have been changed and 72,5 % thought that their mates' attitude have been changed due to their participation in the Fair Play Roadshow.

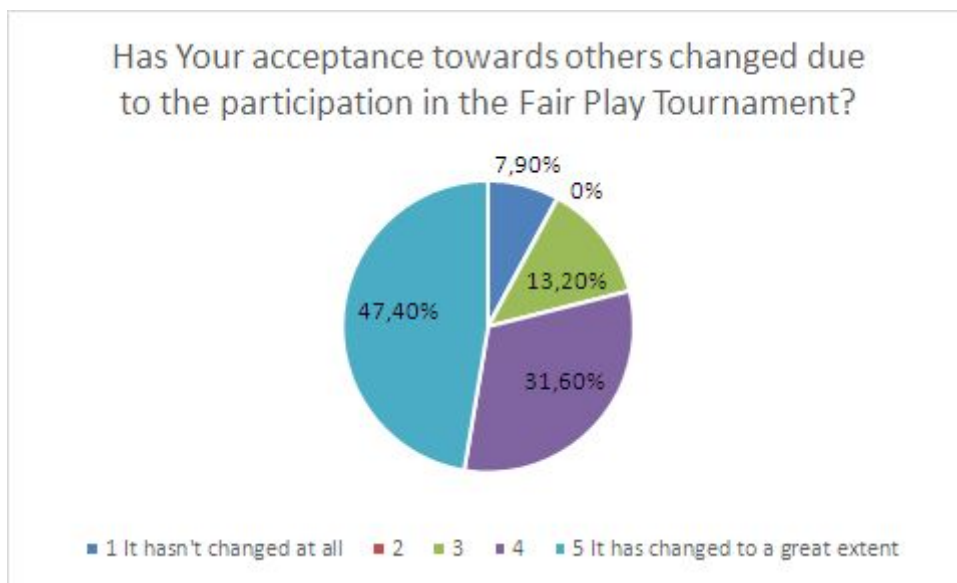


Chart 7 Has Your acceptance towards others changed due to the participant in the Fair Play Tournament?

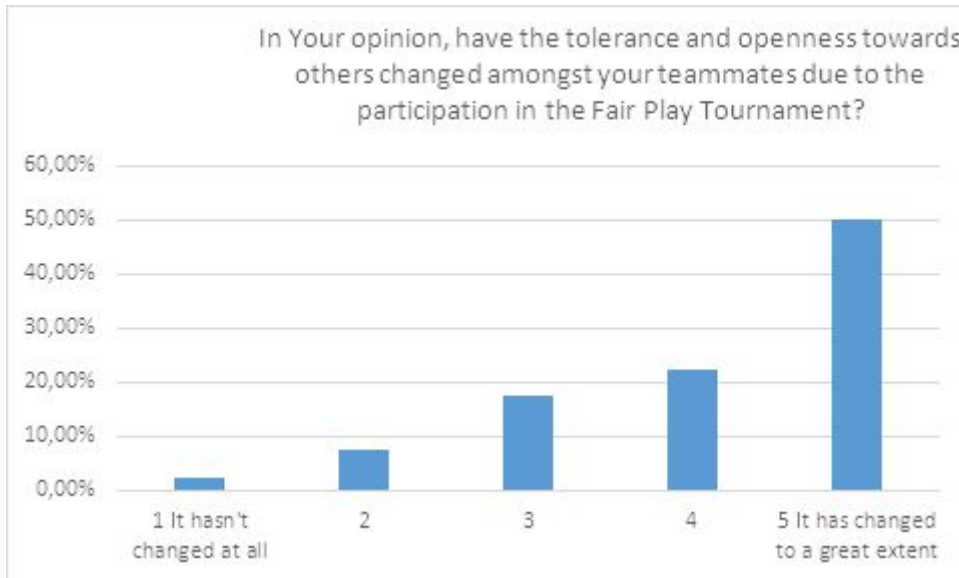
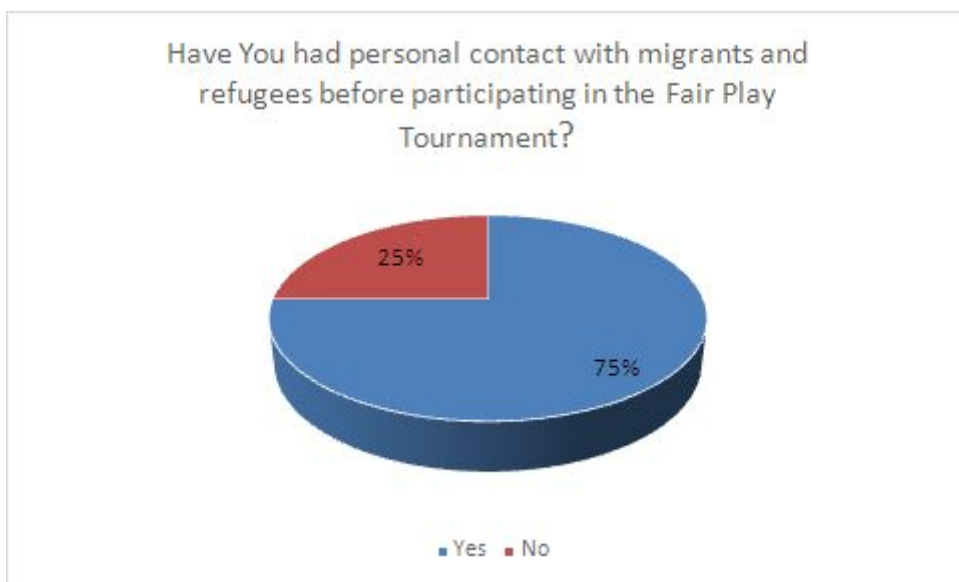


Chart 8 In Your opinion, have the tolerance and openness towards others changed amongst your teammates due to the participation in the Fair Play Tournament?

According to the answers, 75% of the respondents had personal contact with migrants and refugees prior to participating in the fair play game, and 25% stated that they have not had have any previous experience related to them.



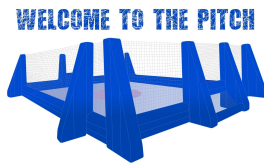


Chart 9 Have You had personal contact with migrants and refugees before participating in the Fair Play Tournament?

As Chart 10 reveals, in terms of mixed teams, the results suggested that participants did not find objectionable the participation of both gender mixed and migrant and non-migrant mixed teams. 92,5 % thought that playing in the same team alongside female players is acceptable and only 5 % stated that they found it rather not adoptable (2,5 % were neutral toward this specific topic). The numbers in the case of mixed teams with migrants and refugees are the following: 80,6 % accepts it, 8,3% entirely refuses and 5,6 % rather refuses than accepts the idea of of blended teams.

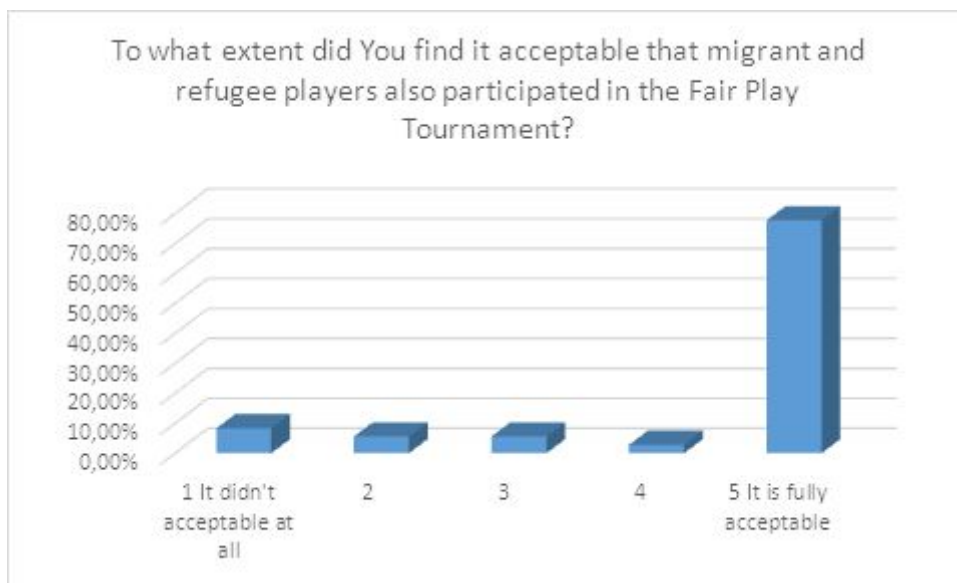
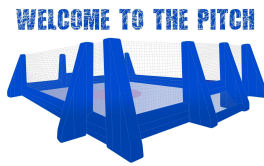


Chart 10 To what extent did You find it acceptable that migrant and refugee players also participated in the Fair Play Tournament?

When respondents were asked about their experience playing in the same tournament with migrants and refugees, the given answers showed a great variety. Whereas for some people (3%) the game was a bad experience, answers like *'In my opinion it was really cool. They were really skilled.'*; *'Totally good.'*; *'It was a really good, fair game.'* showed that more than half (54,1%) of the respondents described it as a positive experience. Answers such as ***'It was the same like playing with others. Sport is sport, regardless skin colour and***



affiliation’; **‘Football is the common language between us.’**; underpinned the findings revealed from the answers given to question Nr. 4 (*How did they experience the game playing with the fair play rules*).

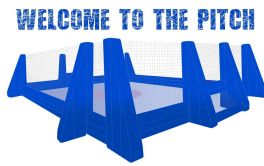
Players also stated that there is no difference between people, and that migrants and refugees are *‘(...)also humans. It does not matter if they are Muslim or Arabic. Humans are humans.’* and *‘they are the same people’*.

For many participants playing alongside migrants and refugees by using the fair play rules did not mean any difference from playing with other teams with the original rules. Players claimed that the special line up *‘ (...) didn’t change anything’* and that they *‘(...) don’t make any distinctions.’*; *‘I didn’t even notice the difference.’*; *‘It was the same as playing with people who are not migrants or refugees.’* and *‘This game did not differ at all from other games’*. It also has to be mentioned that for 6,1 % of the participants this game was nothing special and 3 % of the respondents didn’t understand the question.

The survey assessed whether the attitudes of the players towards migrants and refugees had changed due to the participation in the fair play game. 51,63 % of the respondents claimed that there has been no change in their attitudes. As they stated *‘No, it hasn’t changed. I haven’t got any problems with migrants and refugees so far.’* and *‘It hasn’t changed. I treat all people equally.’*

Further results regarding the attitudes were the following: 8,73 % of the respondents stated that they are *‘impartial’* towards migrants and refugees, 2,91 % assessed themselves as *‘really tolerant’*. 2,91 % of the participants said that *‘Partly yes, it has changed since I got to know them better.’* Besides, for almost 3 % of the players the experience was a *‘pleasant disappointment’* and again nearly 3% stated that they *‘(...) haven’t got any problems with them so far, and it will remain like this in the future.’*

The results obtained from the survey picture an open Hungarian society where everyday racism and intolerance do not exist. However, research on a bigger scale and sample might give us a different facet of the society. The specific questionnaire contains several restrictions, which will be discussed in the next, ‘Limitations of the research’ section.



Limitations of the survey

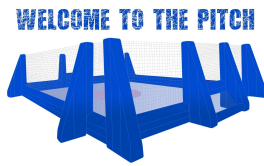
The current study examined the host society's attitudes and openness toward migrants and refugees residing in Hungary. As it was mentioned during the presentation of the findings, the survey itself faces various limitations. It has to be emphasized that the results cannot be considered representative. The relatively **small sample size** affected the ability of the research to draw conclusions regarding the wider Hungarian society.

In the framework of the survey, we did not evaluate the participants' attitudes towards migrants and refugees prior to the game. The use of better established measures (e.g. open ended questions; Bogardus-scale on social distance ; etc.) may have strengthened or at least clarified the findings regarding the relationship between the self-assessed change or lack of change and the tournament and to the proximity to migrants and refugees.

The discoveries of the questionnaire are impaired by the fact that people still tend to give **socially desired answers** for touchy and sensitive questions, even when the response is anonymous. Racism, intolerance, migrants and refugees, due to the heated events of the past 2-3 years in Hungary, can still be considered sensible topics, thus people might answer what they think researchers want to hear from them.

Another limitation of the study was the time itself. Considering the **circumstances** in which the survey was conducted (after a football match, possible lack of space where respondents can answer the questions comfortably; etc.) and the time frame people usually dedicate to fill in a questionnaire, we were obliged to compose questions which can be easily understood and quickly answered.

By taking into account the above-mentioned restrictions and rectify the occurrent hiatus, the questionnaire can be amended and used for a larger scale research to assess more accurately the perspective of the host society.



Results of the interviews

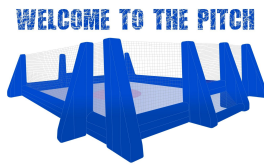
Our hypothesis was that football trainings and games together with members of the host society will have a positive impact on the integration of migrants and refugees residing in Hungary. Goals and objectives of the initiative targeting migrants and refugees were the following: (1) Improve health and wellbeing of participants; (2) strengthen self-confidence of participants; (3) promote building new social contacts of participants with members of host society; (4) improve language knowledge of participants through common activities.

In order to assess whether the above-mentioned aims reached the desired effects, we conducted interviews with randomly chosen migrant and refugee participants who currently play in the team of Oltalom Sports Association. The interview guide was bilingual, it was available in English and in Hungarian as well. (For the Interview Guide in English see Appendix 3) In some cases, when the interviewee could not speak neither English nor Hungarian in a level that she/he would undertake the interview comfortably, we appealed for help from an interpreter. Our interviewees were unaccompanied minors currently living in Róbert Károly Residential Care, in the city of Fót. The interpreters were also unaccompanied minors living in the same institution.

Age of the interviewees varied from 13 to 17. Their country of origin showed a great deal of variety, for instance from Afghanistan to Ethiopia. Depending on the language knowledge and the current state of the respondents, the duration of the interviews differed from 15 to 30 minutes. The discussions occurred in a place familiar the children, in their unit in the residential care in Fót, before their regular training. All the interviews were anonymous.

The interview questions were focusing on three different themes: **the respondents' background, their experiences at participating in the OSA's trainings and their social integration**. Two interviewees did not need translator for answering the questions and with one of them we conducted the interview simultaneously both in English and Hungarian.

Period of residence of the interviewees in Hungary differed from three months to two and a half years. Those, who have been staying in Hungary for a longer period of time, attend Than Károly secondary school, in the 3rd district of Budapest, where they receive Hungarian language education together with other migrant and refugee children. Previous to join the



class suitable for their respective age, (or rather to the grade where they left school in their country of origin) they spent a whole year focusing only learning the language. As they stated: *'In the school I learn Hungarian. Before I didn't speak' and 'I learn the language at the school, first the alphabet, then step by step, the next level.'* ;*'I studied Hungarian and next fall I think go to eighth grade'.*

The children, who do not have their documents from earlier education, thus are not able to attend any educational institute in the country yet, receive language tuition in the residential care. Furthermore, interpreters (volunteers from various NGOs, e.g. Menedék Association for Migrants or their inmates in the residential care) give them help to manage in everyday life until they acquire the necessary language knowledge.

All the interviewees agreed on that the understanding of the language give them aid in succeeding in Hungary. Speaking in Hungarian was important particularly for those, who neither spoke English : *' It was hard, when I arrived since I didn't speak English. If someone speaks English, it is easier. For me it was hard. English maybe next year. I thought first Hungarian, I need to know, then English. The headmaster told the same, that it is easier, in this order. Right now I only learn Hungarian in the school.'*

The fact, for some of them in the class all students are from different countries, gives them the 'opportunity' to use Hungarian more, ,since even though on different levels, that is the common language they all speak (*'Everybody is from different countries. We learn Hungarian. There are no Hungarian kids in the class. We speak in Hungarian to each other.'*).

Respondents suggested that not only the school, but also at places of their work they receive 'informal' language education from fellow colleagues, that contributes to their knowledge expanded. As one of the boys claimed: *' (...) I was working in a factory (...) Billerbeck. I spoke a lot Hungarian there. I was asking the others..what does this mean?...what does that mean?...they helped me a lot. That was good. You have to speak a lot.'*



Respondents agreed that acquiring the language is a big step towards their integration and to their well-being in Hungary. *'(...)without the language, it would be harder. Sometimes I have difficulties, but next year I will learn more. Now it is enough. When I go to shopping, meet my friends, meeting the people, my guardian, my social, I can speak. They say you speak very-very good. In the work they tell me you speak very good. People are patient. They wait for me if I don't find the word. One time. Two times.'* Furthermore, **speaking Hungarian contributes to their social integration.** It helps in the process of *'making new friends'*. The participants stated that upon arrival, when they could not speak the language, had less friends and buddies. *'I am from abroad and a refugee. Now it is a little bit hard.(...) first I couldn't speak the language. That was a problem. First you need to talk in the language than you can make friends, too.'*

Even though they started to talk more and more in Hungarian, some of the children stated that they still have more contacts with people from abroad or from their country of origin than Hungarians. The reason behind it that even though they learn, speaking in Hungarian is very hard for them (*'I learned Hungarian a lot. It is very hard.'*) and don't feel secure enough in terms of language knowledge to approach Hungarian kids. *'I know Hungarian boys and girls. From the school. But we don't do things together.'* From time to time they have programs together with the other residents of the residential care and also children living in Fót, for instance one of the interviewees said: *' (...)they came and play with us, 6-7 children, very kind persons. Tell me in Facebook message. We are friends on Facebook. They tell me they are coming. We speak Hungarian. Not meet just when play football.'* *I know 1-2 girls, just friends. We meet, not too much. Go to the village. Go to party a little.'*

Respondents have been playing in the OSA's team from some months up to a year. As they stated, in the beginning, besides the trainings at Fót, they also attended the ones that take place in Budapest. However, after starting the school, the language education and/or find a job, they began to come less and less to the exercises. Yet, they still try to manage the trainings in Fót. *'I came to trainings at Fót, Budapest. Because of work, less training. But at*



Fót, more or less always. Work is a must, one year before I had no work, I came more to play. “Every week. Sometimes on Saturday I did not go (...) for three weeks, I had Ramadan. I was fasting and had medical issues. I had examination, but other time I am really here.”

With one exception, they all played football in their country of origin. Some of them in official, others in street soccer teams. *‘Home I also played, in a team. Only girls and sometimes some boys also. I really like football, but I need more training.’* Girls coming from Afghanistan, where there is a gender based prohibition, and historically and culturally girls and women are not allowed to play sports, did not have any experience regarding participating in football trainings.

All respondents participated in the Fair Play Football Roadshow at least two times, both in Budapest and in the countryside. Even though none of the respondent children attended games that took place over the borders of Hungary, in the future, they have the chance to join games in abroad, for instance in Austria or Germany as Oltalom supports them in obtaining a travel document. Participating the **Fair Play Football Roadshow events turned out to be a positive experience for all of them.** *‘It was great. I really liked the atmosphere.’ ‘It was very interesting. The pitch is funny.’ ‘I got to know other parts of Hungary.’* As they stated in their interviews, participation in the Roadshow events did not assist them finding new friends outside from their close circle. *‘The team does not help to find friends, maybe later. Because I am quite new. And I am shy.’*, however, did give them an opportunity to see more from the country and meet new people.

However, as several participants said, **throughout the games and travelling, they got to know better their teammates and started to be first buddies, then, in some cases even friends.** *‘In the team, no friends. Just buddies. Maybe later friends.’* They all emphasized the fact, that even though they use the term friend, so far they cannot describe the mentioned contacts as friendships, rather they saw it as cliquism. *‘I have friends from the team. There are two girls. We are friends.. Not really friends yet. Just close to each other’.* However, call it a pal or a friend, **they all agreed on that most of their acquaintances are from the football trainings, either from Fót or from the other trainings in Budapest.** Though there is an overlap between kids in the residential care and in the class at the public school they attend. *‘I have female friends, speak English and Hungarian; most of my friends*



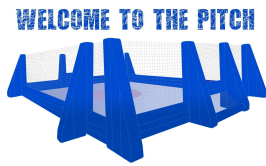
from school training and from Fót. Some boys also from Fót in Than Károly; 'I have 'friends from school, we are going on programs together like going to Balaton, another place'.

The respondents stated that besides the trainings and tournaments organized by OSA, from time to time they play in other trainings, for instance arranged by their school, or by other kids living in the residential care o in Fót etc. Especially during the weekends, when OSA does not hold trainings in Fót.

When minors were asked about what football means to them, from the answers it turned out that soccer occupies a noble position in their agenda and several times, amidst the adversities they experienced, football meant a safe haven they could use. *'I always think nicely about football. I really really like to play. I only like playing. And learning. School and football.'* ***'I must play. I love football, football means everything.'*** *I like football. I like studying also, but more football.'*

Not only from the coaches, but also from social workers employed at the NGO gave a helping hand to the players. As interviewees stated, after a period of time, **they developed a good and confident relation with social workers**. Red tape related issues, for instance social security, healthcare, education and employability were amongst the cases social workers assisted the participants. *'Socials are very nice. I really like them. They are good.'* *'They can help us'.*

Even though the interviewees were relatively young, they all had a clear vision regarding their future. Education, football and work occurred on almost everyone's short and long term plan. *'I want to learn more. But I am not thinking about it right now.'* *'I wanna go to school. I am waiting to go to the school where others go. It is boring to stay home all the time.'* *In the future I want to help people, doctor, maybe a nurse, maybe a midwife. I wanna go to health care school. Here. In Hungary.'*



Conclusions

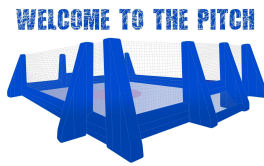
As it turned out from the results of the survey and interviews as well as from the gathered data from different databases, **the implementation of the program was successful and reached its aims.**

In terms of the planned numbers it can be stated, that **the project not only achieved its planned goals but in cases even over-fulfilled them.** In the proposal we intended to reach 40 migrant and refugees for the weekly training session, however, in reality 68 migrant and refugee players participated in the exercises. Regarding the Fair Play Football Roadshow tournament, we planned 6 of them, yet altogether in different location 12 Roadshows were held. The fact, that OSA received additional funding from external supporters, helped the organization of more matches, thus reached more people throughout the country. Involving more people helped the initiative to spread its desired impact on a wider public.

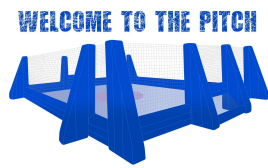
In the framework of the evaluation of the program's impact, we conducted a survey with 100 respondents from the Hungarian society and 10 interviews with unaccompanied minors currently residing in Károly Róbert Residential Care in Fót. As it was mentioned throughout the interpretation of the results, neither the survey nor the interviews can be considered representative. However, the findings gave us a picture of the mood and opinion present in the country and also we were able to have a glimpse of the present state of our interviewees.

We believed that **proximity to migrants and refugees in informal situations (such as football trainings, matches and tournaments) foster openness, acceptance and tolerance in tournament participants.** Even though the results of the survey gave us an image of an open and receptive society, these findings are somewhat contradictory to what can be experienced on a national level, especially since the summer of 2015, when great waves of migrants and refugees entered Hungary. In order to dissolve the contradiction and have a deeper insight of the phenomenon, a further and more detailed survey is needed.

Fitting in a new place might be a path beset with several difficulties. However, trying to fit in with a package of the past, with possible physical and mental impairments, that many times



unaccompanied minors bear, could be even more stressful. We assumed that **through sport activities, the integration process could be lightened for participants.** Doing sports supports the physical and mental well-being and strengthens self-confidence of the children. Furthermore, **playing with Hungarian team mates, coaches, social workers and mediators contribute to the language knowledge of the players, which is a great factor in the successful integration into a society.** The interviews showed us that speaking the language helps participants in several domain in their everyday life, however, they also suggested that language education in the attended school is what aids them more. Nevertheless **football proved to be a great contributor to their general well-being and thus also to their self-assurance.** Most importantly all interviewees agreed on that **most of their acquaintances are from the football trainings thus widening their social network in Hungary which is essential for integration.**



Appendix

Questionnaire

Interview guide