

Migrants in Sport

2010

Given that the major funding received from the National Action Plan Against Racism 2008 has been expended, there were limited opportunities for migrants in sport programmes to be delivered in 2010.

The Partnership did however deliver an *athletics integration programme* in two primary schools with the highest population of immigrant and Traveller children in attendance.

Following the Partnership's 2010 grant submission to the ISC in which we requested that we be permitted to use carryover funds from programmes which were funded but not completed in previous years (e.g. Travellers in sport), and the ISC's permission to do so, a new integration programme was developed and delivered in 2010 to cover increase the participation of Migrants and Travellers in sport and physical activity.

Approximately 180 children in each of the two schools attended by immigrants in Tullamore (and who also have high Travellers populations) participated. The trained immigrant and Traveller tutors also provided support in helping children in other communities.

In total, 360 immigrant and Traveller children were supported to participate to their optimum in sporting disciplines.

Scoil Bhride, Tullamore (for example) which has the highest population of immigrants and Travellers in the county, participated in and won the Offaly inter schools athletics championships following a programme intervention. A number of the participants have now joined the local athletic club as a result.

While there has been some transfer of children into mainstream clubs, this generally remains a problem and the number of immigrants for example participating in the mainstream is not proportional to the overall size of the community. The Sports Partnership made a strong case to the office of the Minister for Integration in this regard and is to receive support for 2011 to start to address this issue.

2009

It is intended to continue to run one integration activity from 2009 onwards; however the major funding received from the National Action Plan Against Racism has been expended.

2008

As a result of the funding secured under the National Action Plan Against Racism, the Partnership has continued to roll out a number of programmes to support migrant participation in sport in 2008.

Activities in 2008 included: -

1. A *Midlands Volleyball Tournament* in conjunction with the Volleyball Association of Ireland in which twelve teams participated
2. *SPORTSHALL Athletics* in Tullamore and Edenderry with over two hundred children participating
3. The participation of migrants as guests in the County Track and Field Championships
4. The hosting of our annual *International Games Festival* in the sports of basketball, soccer and volleyball in July in which fifteen teams participated with Lithuania winning the basketball, Poland winning the volleyball, the Westend Warriors beating TNT A for the football trophy, while Banagher Concrete beat TNT B on penalties for the soccer plate
5. The hosting of the first targeted tournament encouraging integration held in Ireland in conjunction with the County Board of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association.

Well done to all participants.