

‘Preventing racism, xenophobia and related
intolerance in sport across the European
Union: The Case of Sweden’

Center Against Racism

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1. Executive summary

The authors of the report are Victoria Kawesa, MA, PhD student in Gender Studies and Viktorija Kalonaityte, PhD, Associate Professor in Business Administration.

The social context and the ethnic minority participation in sports:

- **No national statistics, concerning ethnic minority participation in sports are available. The data, collected and presented in the report suggests that men with ethnic minority background are very frequent in football, yet are not well represented in other focus sports. Women with immigrant background are poorly represented in all sports.**
- **Statistics, presented by the National Sports Association, suggests that young boys with ethnic minority background are overrepresented in football, yet immigrant girls in particular are otherwise not very active in any sport.**
- **The participation of the Roma in sports in Sweden is very low and a structural problem.**
- **Ethnic minorities are generally underrepresented as board members in sports. Only 6% of all board members of the Swedish National Sports Association have immigrant background.¹ In the local sports clubs only 0,5% of board members have an ethnic minority background.**

The record of racist incidents within all sports and the focus sports in Sweden is uneven. The vast majority of the recorded incidents are within men's professional football.

- **The major focus in Sweden is currently on supporter racism, mainly in football. This concerns the use of racist language by supporters, and sometimes by the referees and players.**
- **In men's professional sports, football players with African descent are overrepresented among those subjected to racist incidents.**
- **The sanctions against racist incidents occur in some of the cases.**
- **No data is available for women's and youth sports and racist incidents within them.**

The current knowledge of structural discrimination in sports in Sweden is limited. The main focus is the absence of women players with ethnic minority background in many sports.

¹ Focus 2008-08-22b

- **Football has a high representation of young boys and men with immigrant background.**
- **Hockey has very few men players with immigrant background. Explanations provided suggest that this is caused by lack of tradition of ice hockey and lack of access and economic resources among the immigrant population.**
- **There is the issue of foreign players versus immigrant players, born or residing in Sweden, as it many sports many players are recruited abroad and they also leave the team and Sweden several years later.**

The prevention of racism by law, court decisions and various sports associations are of varied extent.

- **Discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race or religion is prohibited in Sweden by law.**
- **Few cases, concerning sports, have been tried by court.**
- **Many sports associations have statutes, which prohibit racism and advocate sanctions in case of racist incidents.**

Positive initiatives in regard to prevention of racism in sports are as follows.

- **Immigrant integration into sports projects, particularly focused on youth.**
- **Activism on the behalf of individual trainers with immigrant background**
- **Awareness-raising activities, particularly within football, such as “give racism a red card” projects**
- **Minority recruitment into sports as a part of creating role-models for youth with immigrant background.**

2. Political and social context

- [1]. Almost half of Sweden’s 9 million inhabitants between the ages of 7 and 70 are members of a sports club- as active competitors, keep-fitters, leaders, trainers or supporters. Some two million of these are active sportsmen and women. Less than one percent of this figure can be said to belong to the élite; that is, they compete at national championship level.²
- [2]. Every eighth Swede is either an immigrant or the child of an immigrant. Since 1981 there has been special programmers’ pertaining to sports for immigrants in Sweden.³
- [3]. Nearly 44 per cent of the sports pursuers in Sweden are women but there are large differences between sports. In sports such as ice-hockey, wrestling, weight-lifting and motorcycling male dominance is almost total, while women dominate such sports as gymnastics, riding and figure skating. Women

² Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 4

³ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 9

constitute 26 per cent of the executives of specialized sports federations. Women are better represented in the district federations in which 43 per cent of members of executives are women.⁴ The participation of foreign-born players in sports is undocumented, with the exception of foreign born football players, as can be seen in table 6, appendix 2.

- [4]. More than two out of every three boys and every other girl between the ages of 7 and 15 belong to a sports club. The profile of Swedish sports is youth sports and sport for all.⁵
- [5]. The Swedish National Sports Confederation (Riksidrottsförbundet) is an umbrella organization with the task of supporting its member federations and, in an official capacity, representing the whole Swedish sports movement.⁶
- [6]. The specialized sports federations are represented by 185 delegates and the district sports federations by 21 delegates at the General Assembly which is the sports movement's supreme decision-making body.
- [7]. The Executive Committee of the Swedish Sports Confederation, which governs operations between general assemblies, consists of eleven members including the President.⁷
- [8]. The specialized sports federations are independent organizations, each with responsibility for its own sport within the framework of rules promulgated by the international federation. There are currently 67 specialized sports federations that are members of the Swedish Sports Confederation. The Largest by far of the federations is the Swedish Football Association with more than 3 400 associated clubs. The Swedish Hockey Association has 23 registered clubs.⁸
- [9]. Clubs are organized according to two principles: one geographical and one linked to the sport. The geographical organization takes the form of district sports federations while particular sports are organized in specialized sports district federations and specialized sport federations.⁹
- [10]. Swedish sport is divided into 21 district sports federations. Within their respective areas these federations work with much the same matters as the Swedish Sports Confederation.
- [11]. Within their districts the specialized sports district federations coordinate all the activities of a particular sport, especially competitions and training for youth sports and lower divisions.
- [12]. The sports movement has its own "supreme court" called the Swedish Supreme Sports Tribunal. The tribunal deals with appeals against legal decisions handed down by the specialized sports federations.

⁴ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 18

⁵ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 4

⁶ www.rf.se

⁷ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 14

⁸ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 9

⁹ Sports in Sweden: http://www.rf.se/ImageVault/Images/id_166/scope_128/ImageVaultHandler.aspx p. 14

3. Racist incidents (15.000 chars)

3.1. Racist incidents in organised men's amateur adult sport

- [13]. One reported racist incident in the men's reserve team football game concerns a racist attack of a black (originally from Sierra Leone) player Kamara. The media reports that the referee, while discussing with Kamara during the game, used racist remarks and asked him to shut up, and before he could react, hit him with the flagpole. Further, during the break, the referees entered the locker room called him a 'damn animal' and 'nigger'.¹⁰ The incident was investigated, yet the investigation came to a halt when two different versions of the incident were presented by Kamara and the referee respectively.¹¹

3.2. Racist incidents in men's professional adult sport

- [14]. One reported racist incident in 2008 within football concerns a professional football player with ethnic minority background (of African phenotype), playing for Tibro AIK, who was dismissed from the game after kicking a player from the opposing team. The reason for the kick is a racist verbal attack by the opposing team's player, something that the ethnic minority player claims the entire opponent team were saying throughout the entire match. Several other players from the Tibro AIK team heard the racist remark as well, and claim that the referee heard it too, but chose to ignore it both when it happened but also in making the decision to dismiss the player from the field.¹²
- [15]. Another similar racist incident is reported by Aftonbladet 2008, concerning a football player of African descent. The player, Kevin Amuneke, left team, Landskrona BoIS, to play abroad, because he claims that he was subjected to racist attacks by his team members and the club director. Amuneke tells that some of the team members could spit in his face and call him an ape and that no one wanted to deal with these racist attacks in the team.¹³
- [16]. The use of racist words during the games keeps happening in football. A very recent example is when a football player Rikard Bojang was subjected to racist attack by opposing team's players during a match¹⁴.

¹⁰ Folket, Kamara anklagar domare för rasism 2007-08-17
http://www.folket.se/folket/07_archive.php?id=99626&freetext=kamara

¹¹ Folket, Kamara frias – ingen mer påföljd, 2007-09-02
http://www.folket.se/folket/07_archive.php?id=99979&freetext=kamara

¹² Skaraborgs Allehanda 2008-09-08

¹³ Larsson, P. De kallade mig apa, *Aftonbladet*, 2008-01-11
<http://www.aftonbladet.se/sportbladet/fotboll/allsvenskan/article1610529.ab>

¹⁴ Fotboll Sverige, 2008-05-28
http://www.fotboll sverige.se/news_show_rasismskandalen_i_anundsjo.html?id=570421

- [17]. In 2006, Chief Editor for the anti-racist magazine *Expo*, Richard Slätt, wrote in an article in *Expressen* that it wasn't racism when football fans threw bananas from the stands at Djurgårdens black goalkeeper Pa Dembo Tourray. Slätt's argument was that when Hammarby supporters threw bananas at the Djurgården goalkeeper, that it doesn't have anything to do with his skin color. He argued that it was a misunderstanding which risked eroding the concept of racism and took away the focus from real discrimination.¹⁵
- [18]. The anti-racist organization Centrum against racism criticized Richard Slätt in an article in *Expressen* April 2006, arguing that: racism works in such a way that it can't be isolated to specific places and contexts. On the contrary, it permeates all of society's aspects, including sports. The numerous violations black sportsmen have had to endure through the years, and oftentimes still endure, make Slätt's description of sports as an arena free from racist thought structures, which is both naïve and frightening. It becomes even more problematic when Slätt, through his article, rejects such an obvious example like the throwing of bananas. Equally naïve is the idea that just because "we have always done it" it must be neutral and innocent. If bananas have been thrown before black goalkeepers were part of the team, then obviously it can't be that serious.¹⁶
- [19]. Djurgårdens black goalkeeper Pa Dembo Tourray, responded by saying that he was tired of the banana throwing that usually precedes the derbies. He explained that: *People have told me that it's Hammarby's tradition to throw bananas in the match against Djurgården, but it has gone too far.*¹⁷
- [20]. When interviewed in March 2009, and asked about racist and xenophobic incidents within football, a representative for the Players Football Association in Sweden explained that:

In Sweden, football contexts haven't paid specific attention to this problem, but there are some incidents, which perhaps were mistakenly identified as racism. In Örebro, a dark player heard something being shouted from the supporters. The second case would be the Djurgårdens matches in Stockholm derby, there the tradition is to throw bananas at the goalkeeper. Goalkeeper reacted, despite knowing about this tradition. The association knew about the tradition and didn't see it as something out of the ordinary, although they did reconsider and prohibited the throwing of bananas later on. This has been happening for over 10 years, but since we now have foreign players in the team, they understand that it is better not to provoke them with racist words. There is a player, called Pascal Simpson, who played for AIK, who was harassed. Edvin Phirri¹⁸, and his teammates, argue that they heard harassment from the supporters, but the judge argued that he hadn't seen anything.¹⁹

- [21]. During an interview in March 2009, with a representative for the Swedish Football Association, he confirmed that problems with racism and xenophobia were more frequent 15 years ago, and that since all teams at the elite level have players who are from ethnic minority groups, the tolerance has increased

¹⁵ Slätt, Richard. "Kasta bananer är inte rasism". *Expressen*, (2006-04-08); <http://www.expressen.se/1.339313>

¹⁶ Kawesa, Victoria & Boldt, Jolin. "Kasta bananer är alltid galet" *Expressen*, (2006-04-24) <http://www.expressen.se/1.346241>

¹⁷ <http://www.aftonbladet.se/sportbladet/fotboll/allsvenskan/hammarby/article571799.ab> (2007-08-13)

¹⁸ Originally from Zambia

¹⁹ Telephone Interview 2009-03-02

and racism is therefore not a problem today within football.²⁰ However, the media reports that a recent football match created headlines because supporters were shouting money noises at a black player in the opposing team.²¹

[22]. In ice hockey, racist incidents were reported in 2004 concerning the supporters of the ice hockey club of Linköping. The supporters have, over the past years behaved in a racist fashion when their team was playing with other teams that include ethnic minority players. The incidents were those of throwing bananas and making monkey noises at players of African descent during several different occasions. At a different occasion one supporter was tried at court for making Hail Hitler greeting at a match.²² Two years later in 2006 the same problem was reported to persist by the same supporter group. This time, Johnny Oduya, who has a Kenyan background²³, playing for Frölunda was subjected to racist remarks during the match against Linköping. The director of the Swedish Ice Hockey Association, Michael Englund condoned the racist attacks and told the press that sanctions would be reinforced.²⁴

[23]. A similar incident was reported in 2007 to have taken place when Södertälje ice hockey club was playing against Huddinge ice hockey club, where an ethnic minority player, Greg Mauldin (American background) was present. Södertälje-fans were screaming racist remarks at the ethnic minority player during the game, something that the director for National competition in hockey, Stefan Bengtsson promised to deal with by making sure that such supporters did not access the game.²⁵

[24]. When interviewed in February 2009 about the occurrence of racist and xenophobic incidents within ice hockey, a representative from the Ice hockey association explained that there are no initiatives combating racism and xenophobia within ice hockey, because as he believed: "*we see no problems with racism at present within ice hockey in Sweden.*"²⁶

[25]. This statement was confirmed through an interview in March 2009 by a representative for the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club who argued that:

It happens that the players spit out abusive words and phrases at the opposing teams, and I believe it has happened a couple of times that the opponents say words against the players who might have an immigrant background. Damn" blatte"²⁷ or something similar. That's about all I can say, because we in hockey don't have such a big problem when it comes to racism and xenophobia.²⁸

[26]. In athletics, a representative for the Stockholm athletics club explained that he had worked in the athletics for the past 35 years, and he can only remember one incident of racism:

²⁰ Interview 2009-03-10

²¹ Fotboll Sverige, 2008-09-24
http://www.fotboll sverige.se/news_show_elfsborgssupportrar_anklagas_for_rasism.html?id=1479603

²² Aftonbladet 2004-03-07

²³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_black_ice_hockey_players

²⁴ Ros, T. Hånades – av rasister, *Aftonbladet*, 2006-03-28

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/sportbladet/hockeybladet/sverige/elitserien/article364840.ab>

²⁵ Källström, J. Huddinge kräver krafttag efter rasistattack, *Aftonbladet* 2007-02-20

<http://www.aftonbladet.se/sportbladet/hockeybladet/sverige/allsvenskan/article404579.ab>

²⁶ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

²⁷ "Blatte" is a disparaging term used against ethnic minorities in Sweden

²⁸ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

*He trained for Malmö then and is black, when in some situation in some national game, he heard some racist remarks towards him. That's the only time I've heard something about that sort of thing.*²⁹

- [27]. This statement is confirmed by a representative for the athletes association who says that :

*We haven't had any confrontations in any context. It may have happen in a club without reaching our attention.*³⁰

- [28]. In Tennis, during the Davis Cup 2009, the media reported that Sweden was accused of Anti-Semitism. Israel is critical against the decision by Swedish officials to play the disputed Davis Cup tennis match behind closed doors. In an article in the Jerusalem Post Sweden is accused of apartheid and prejudice against the Jewish people, according to Swedish Radio News. The authors of the article Abraham Cooper and Harold Brackman, both connected to the Jewish human rights organization the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, say that the decision “echoes of Nazi anti-semitism” and claim that officials in Malmö, in the south of Sweden, have let themselves be influenced by the city's anti-Israeli Muslim minority. Local officials in here [Sweden] reject the accusation and say that it was a question of security and not of ethnicity.³¹

3.3. Racist incidents in organised women's amateur adult sport

- [29]. There is no available information on racist incidents in the women's amateur sports. Considering that women's amateur sports in general receive little or no attention in the media, it is perhaps not surprising that racist incidents within this area are not discussed or observed by the media. It appears that this area within sports is not prioritized.

3.4. Racist incidents in women's professional adult sport

- [30]. Women's professional sports receive relatively little attention, compared to the men's professional sports in the media. Due to this general difference in media coverage, there is little information about the frequency of racist incidents within women's professional sports. As the section below on structural discrimination within women's professional sports indicates, the participation of ethnic minority women in professional sports in Sweden is relatively low. It is therefore quite likely that a part of the limited reporting of racist incidents within women's sports can be explained by low representation of ethnic minority women in sports.

²⁹ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

³⁰ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

³¹ <http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/nyhetssidor/artikel.asp?nyheter=1&programid=2054&Artikel=2686606>

3.5. Racist incidents in organised children's and youth sport

- [31]. The participation of ethnic minority youth in sports in a prioritized area in the Swedish sports associations. However, no record of racist incidents within youth sports is available. One possible explanation for this lack of general awareness of racist incidents could be the fact that ethnic minority parents, who would be the ones, reporting the racist incidents, are in a disadvantaged position and have difficulties making their voice heard in the media.

4. Indirect (structural) racial/ethnic discrimination

4.1. Structural discrimination in all sports

- [32]. There is a lack of official statistics, concerning ethnic minority and immigrant participation in all sports on the overall level. The available information is relatively limited and the existing statistics focus on youth participation in sports and immigrant background. Data on youth participation in sports suggest that ethnic minority girls constitute the group, which has the lowest participation in youth sports. On the other hand, within athletics, the trend is that ethnic minority girls participate equal extent as the boys.³²
- [33]. The boys of immigrant background, on the other hand, tend to be overrepresented in youth sports, compared to the boys with Swedish background (see Appendix 2, table 1-5, for statistics). The immigrant boys' participation in various sports is however unevenly distributed and indicates that immigrant boys are overrepresented in football, while they tend to be less active in other types of sports. The presence of structural discrimination is indicated by the lower frequency in which immigrant youth is asked to take leadership courses in order to intake a trainer/leader position in their teams³³.
- [34]. The Office for the Ombudsman against discrimination (DO) works with Roma rights. When asked about the situation for Roma in sports, the Roma expert explained that the question of the Roma people's participation in different sporting events should be viewed with their disadvantaged position in the Swedish society. It is obviously a result of the long lasting and pervasive discrimination that the Roma have lived with and the difficulty to break out of these long established structures and mindsets that the Roma people come in

³² Telephone interview-2009-03-06

³³ National Sports Association, *Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning*, 2002

contact with in majority societies, which also exists in the context of participation in different sporting activities.³⁴

[35]. The representative from DO further explained that the Roma people are generally not included in different Swedish associations, where many of the sports activities take place. As a result of that, very few Roma participate in the sport activities that the majority society has to offer. The question of Roma participation in the sports world is still an everlasting challenge for the Swedish associations.³⁵

[36]. The presence of structural discrimination in sports is indicated in the media reporting on the subject. An interview with the first Swedish-African boxer to compete on the national level, Shadrach Odhiambo, includes his reflections on the subject of racism and discrimination.³⁶ Odhiambo suggests that immigrant men are often well-represented with a number of sports, yet it is very rarely that they reach positions of influence and leadership. He himself believes that he was disqualified from being a member of the Board of Swedish National Boxing Association because of his skin colour.

[37]. This observation is supported by research and the interviews done within the three focus sports. According to the newspaper article in Focus, only 6% of all board members of the Swedish National Sports Association have immigrant background.³⁷ According to the same article, the local sports clubs are even worse, and only 0, 5% of board members have immigrant background.

[38]. A representative for the Swedish Sports Confederation explained that:

*As for example, and I don't know if it depends on racism, xenophobia or poor immigrant integration, but there aren't that many with ethnic minority background in the boards or higher management positions.*³⁸

[39]. A representative for the Swedish National Athletes Association explained during an interview why few trainers in athletics are from ethnic minority groups:

*"But this has to do with culture, our way of building up associations in Sweden is quite unique, and we have noticed that trainers from eastern countries like, Ukraine, Poland, Belarus or Czech republic, they do not have the same view about how an association is governed, what influence one has and which restrictions and obligations one has."*³⁹

[40]. In football, a representative for the Swedish Football Association also argues that it is difficult to recruit ethnic minorities to take leadership roles especially as representatives on boards. He explains that:

³⁴ Email correspondence with Heidi Pikkarainen, Roma expert at the Office of Ombudsman against discrimination (2009-03-10).

³⁵ Email correspondence with Heidi Pikkarainen, Roma expert at the Office of Ombudsman against discrimination (2009-03-10).

³⁶ Focus 2008-08-22a

³⁷ Bergling, A. & Nejman, F. Den vita sportens fall, Focus 2008-08-22b <http://www.fokus.se/2008/08/den-vita-sportens-fall/>

³⁸ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

³⁹ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

There have been instances of successful efforts in Tensta and Rinkeby [ethnic minority areas] to get them into the leadership, but that didn't produce any good effects. It could be the language or that they convince themselves that this is something they can't manage.⁴⁰

4.2. Structural discrimination in the three focus sports

i. Organised men's amateur sport

- [41]. In football, the representative for the Players Football Association in Sweden told us that when it comes to coaches, there are Finnish, Norwegian, Danish and English coaches, but not as many as the players. Within management, there are very few people with a foreign background. When it comes to supporters, more people with different ethnic backgrounds joined in, as more players get up into professional levels, which leads to more fans.⁴¹
- [42]. A representative for the Swedish Sports Confederation explains that those sports that are more global, have a bigger share of players with foreign backgrounds, while winter sports don't attract people with foreign backgrounds as much.⁴²
- [43]. In athletics, the representative for the Swedish National Athletes Association explains that there isn't a division between amateur sport and professional. These concepts are erased since some years back in athletics. Irrespective of if one makes a living on athletics or not, you are still an athlete. There are no amateur rules or professional rules.⁴³

i. Men's professional sport

- [44]. The representation of ethnic minorities in the focus sports is highly varied. Football is a very popular sport among men with ethnic minority background. The diversity is increased by the presence of football players that are hired from abroad to play in Swedish teams. Ice hockey and athletics are far more problematic from the ethnic diversity point of view. Very few players in these sports have ethnic minority background.
- [45]. Ice hockey player, Umicevic, one of the few ethnic minority players in Swedish ice hockey, wonders if there is a lack of tradition of playing ice hockey among the ethnic minority groups which is not addressed in Sweden.⁴⁴
- [46]. In the interview with a representative for the Swedish Ice hockey Association, he explains why he thinks there is a lack of players in ice hockey with an ethnic minority background:

⁴⁰ Interview 2009-03-10

⁴¹ Telephone interview 2009-03-02

⁴² Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁴³ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

⁴⁴ Aftonbladet 2006-04-22

*Take for example Iraq or Iranians that live in Sweden and if you are from Eritrea or something like that, ice hockey is of course not there. They don't have a tradition with ice or ice hockey. We believe that this is the main explanation why so few from these countries living in Sweden play ice hockey. And they don't watch ice hockey games because they don't know what it is. On the other hand a Finnish that lives in Sweden knows a lot about ice hockey.*⁴⁵

- [47]. Both the representatives for the Ice Hockey Association⁴⁶ and the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club⁴⁷ agree that there is need of increasing participation from ethnic minorities in ice hockey. The representative for the Ice Hockey Association suggested that the European Union should ensure funds for building ice hockey halls in areas where there are many immigrants. This would be interesting from a European perspective, if EU-funds were available for application from sports associations and municipalities.⁴⁸
- [48]. One issue that is brought to surface by the columnist writing for the Swedish Football Association is that Swedish football teams are more interested in hiring foreign players, established abroad, instead of putting their resources and time into local players with immigrant background.⁴⁹
- [49]. In ice hockey, on the elite level, players bought from abroad are very common. The representative for the Ice Hockey Association explains that there are 12 teams on the elite level and 8-9 players of possible 25 are recruited from abroad, mainly from Finland, Czech Republic or Russia. The trainers normally search for players in Sweden, and if they can't find a certain player, then they buy them from abroad.⁵⁰
- [50]. Another problem related to structural discrimination is the availability of sport facilities. The representative for Stockholm Ice Hockey club explains that:

*There is an ice hockey rink in Botkyrka [an ethnic minority area] that's to be closed down. And that's not good, partially it isn't good for hockey, also it's not good for the people living in the area, if they close down the rink, they won't even be able to go ice-skating during school. Talk about discrimination.*⁵¹

i.Organised women's amateur sport

- [51]. In athletics, the representative for the Swedish Athletes Association informed us about some of the obstacles in recruiting women from ethnic minority groups to participate in athletics:

We have some difficulties that are seen in the country, it can be requirements that they should wear clothes that cover the whole body, or that they wear a veil. These

⁴⁵ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁴⁶ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁴⁷ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

⁴⁸ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁴⁹ Thylin, S. Utvecklingen är allarmrande. Krönika, Svensk Fotboll, 2007-09-19

<http://www.svenskfotboll.se/t2all.aspx?p=341617&x=1&a=1104688>

⁵⁰ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁵¹ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

*might be obstacles that we do not notice or an obstacle that one does not articulate in order to participate.*⁵²

- [52]. The representative from Swedish Sports Confederation informed us about his thoughts on the situation for women and girls with an ethnic minority background within athletics:

*The area which we might need to focus more on is on girls that come from outside of Europe or that have parents that are born outside of Europe. That's the group that we can point to as the most underrepresented within sport. But the thing is that it's not always about racism, it also has to do with what kind of culture you bring to Sweden when you come here, of course if you come from a culture where it's not as common for women to do sports as for men, then it takes some time until you start participating in sporting activities in Sweden.*⁵³

i. Women's professional sport

- [53]. One incident of structural racism within women's professional sports is mentioned in the media, in an interview with a professional female football player who has migrated to the US from Sweden. Yolanda Odenyo, the football player, argues that structural and indirect racism exists within Swedish football, based on skin colour and the foreign-sounding names. Yolanda argues that her prizes from the US are disregarded in the Swedish context Yolanda also makes a note that very few ethnic minority girls participate in football in Sweden and that measures are required to increase their participation.⁵⁴
- [54]. One media article also suggests that no women with immigrant background are a part of the Swedish national women's football team.⁵⁵

i. Organised children's and youth sport

- [55]. From the interviews with the representatives from the Swedish Football Association and the Players Football Association in Sweden informed us that young boys between the ages 15-17 years from ethnic minority groups are overrepresented in football. This is supported by the statistics, provided by the Swedish Football Association⁵⁶. According to the representative for the Swedish Football Association, the problem is girls with an ethnic minority background. According to him, they have had signs that parents don't like girls playing football. It is hard to recruit girls because of religious reasons.⁵⁷
- [56]. A researcher, Jesper Fundberg, who has researched immigrant youth's views on their own participation in sports, suggests that immigrant boys are overrepresented in basketball and football, while girls tend to be interested in playing basketball.⁵⁸ Immigrant youth, according to Fundberg, are driven by hopes to have a career in sports and, in cases of exclusion, experience that

⁵² Telephone interview 2009- 03-06

⁵³ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁵⁴ Aftonbladet 2007-06-18

⁵⁵ Focus 2008-08-22b

⁵⁶ Appendix 2, table 1-5.

⁵⁷ Interview 2009-03-10

⁵⁸ Fundberg, 2003

exclusion is based on economic class-related issues. Furthermore, in some cases, the immigrant youth argues that they have to be double as good as youth with Swedish background in order to succeed.⁵⁹

[57]. On the international level, the representative for the Swedish Athletics Association explains that one has to be a Swedish citizen to represent Sweden on the international level. Above all younger athletes who come to Sweden can face problem because the Swedish migration board is hard in their judgments and demand that one has to live in Sweden for 4 years before applying for citizenship. This can be a problem if you are young and active in the ages 19-20 years, and cannot participate.⁶⁰

[58]. In ice hockey, the representative for the Stockholm's Ice Hockey Club thought that Swedish girls play ice hockey, but not foreign girls and that it's equally few as on the boys' side.⁶¹ He told us that the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club has been working to recruit children and youth from ethnic minority groups:

The children themselves want to, but the parents don't become engaged in it. Ice hockey is a sport that demands some sort of parental commitment. There's a lot of equipment, they have to come along and do things, often sit in the cafeteria by the ice hall, and participate in different activities. It costs a bit of money to participate in hockey and that's mostly the equipment if you're going to play hockey. And if you're under 10 years of age, it can be strainious to carry all the equipment by yourself, then you need help from the parents, either by getting a ride or by getting som help from a parent to carry the equipment a bit of the way.⁶²

i. Media (representation of ethnic minorities among sport journalists)

[59]. One study of the media representation of ethnic minorities in sports is a master's thesis by Furuvi⁶³, in which she analyzes the sports journalist representations of the Swedish football player Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The analysis is based on 60 articles on the subject and suggests that sports journalism draws on a nationalist discourse with a derogatory view of players with immigrant background. Zlatan is therefore described through nationalist and racist stereotypes, embedded in that discourse. These findings are confirmed by media reporting on how Zlatan Ibrahimovis has been depicted in the media.⁶⁴

[60]. Rickard Olsson, anchor for the Swedish Television in the program Olssons Studio told a Nazi joke. The German national women's football team lost with 1-4 in the semifinals against Brazil. When it was going badly for the Germans, Richard Olsson exclaimed: - There's something about Hitler and Germany that still makes it hard to feel sorry for them when they get badly beaten in football.

⁵⁹ Fundberg, Jesper. 1996. Möten med föreningar. En studie av invandrades föreningsliv i Botkyrka kommun. Tumba: Mångkulturellt centrum. <http://www.regeringen.se/content/1/c6/03/35/35/9f45f968.pdf> s.

⁶⁰ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

⁶¹ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

⁶² Telephone interview 2009-03-10

⁶³ Furuvi, A. (2004). Om fotboll och dess föreställda gemenskaper - en kritisk diskursanalys av tidningstexter om fotbollsspelaren Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Malmö: Malmö Högskola, IMER

⁶⁴ Aarflot, E. Zlatans mål skymms av ursprung, *Quick Response* 2003-11-20 <http://www.quickresponse.nu/artiklar/2003/november/zlatans-mal-skymms-av-ursprung/>

One thinks only “Hitler, Hitler, Hitler, Hitler, Hitler.” Personally, Richard Olsson thinks making jokes about Nazis and Germany is nothing strange. –I can joke about Swedes as well. There’s always something one can joke about. There’s also always someone who gets offended and says that you’re a racist or God knows what.⁶⁵

5. Regulations and good practice

5.1. Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport

i. Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in all sports

[61]. On 4 June 2008 the Swedish Parliament adopted a new comprehensive law against discrimination. This law covers working life as well as essentially all other aspects of society. The grounds covered are gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, transgender discrimination and age. The ban on discrimination concerning age is limited in the new law to working life and some aspects of education. It can basically be said that the current seven civil laws against discrimination have been merged and various gaps were closed. However, more significantly, the gaps concerning active measures related to the various grounds, as well as inaccessibility outside of working life, were retained in the new law. Two new grounds have been added – age and transgender. The requirement concerning the production of annual gender equality plans by employers with 10 or more employees was changed to once every three years by employers with 25 or more employees. The law went into effect on 1 January 2009. The law also established a new supervisory body entitled the Discrimination Ombudsman.⁶⁶

[62]. The Swedish National Sports Confederation (RF) has in its statutes chapter 1, principles on how sports should be conducted. It says there, among other things, that everyone who wants to, regardless of nationality, ethnic background, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or psychological condition, can participate in club-driven sports.⁶⁷

⁶⁵ <http://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/article3130192.ab> (2008-08-19)

⁶⁶ <http://www.riksdagen.se/Webbnav/index.aspx?nid=7160&datum=6/4/2008>

⁶⁷ RF:s stadgar i lydelse efter RF-stämman 2007, uppdaterad maj 2007.

i.Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the three focus sports

- [63]. The Swedish Football Association has in its statutes chapter 1:1§stated that the association distances itself from racism and all forms of discrimination. In the Swedish Football Association event rules for 2008, it is stated in chapter 1:15§ to punish all racist incidents during a football match, both the incidents, taking place among the players, as racist remarks, made by supporters. The type of sanction is decided in each case, but they range between paying penal fees to extreme cases of withdrawal of points for the team.⁶⁸
- [64]. The Swedish Football Association's decision is to prohibit all forms of discrimination, based on ethnicity, religion, race or nationality, and all discrimination is to be penalized and reported. The decision includes confidence-damaging remarks made by the captains and leaders within football.⁶⁹
- [65]. In the strategy for 2008-2010 developed by the Swedish Football Association, it states that the values governing football are among others to combat racism and all types of discrimination.⁷⁰
- [66]. Some of the local football clubs have developed value statements, stating that the club is working against racism. One such club would be DFK Värmbol, a professional women's football club, which has upgraded its value statement to include work against racism in it⁷¹. Similarly, football club GIF Sundsvall has in its agreements with its sponsors agreed to no tolerance policy concerning racism and has an obligation to pursue sanctions in case of supporter racism.⁷²

i.Decisions by national courts, specialised bodies or tribunals regarding all sports

- [67]. The 10th of April 2006 a Muslim woman visited a sports facility in Malmö. She was denied from training aerobics and spinning because she was wearing a headscarf. Discrimination Ombudsman (DO) sued the association that runs the sports facility and demanded 50 000 kronor in damages.⁷³
- [68]. Two Muslim women were employed at Friskis & Svettis in Malmö (a sports facility) and were subjected to religious discrimination. The Office of the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination demanded 100.000 SEK in damage levels to both women. The events occurred around the turn of the year 2007-2008. Employers are obliged to both counteract and to prevent discrimination of employee. In this case the local manager had participated in the harassments of both

⁶⁸ <http://www.svenskfotboll.se/files/%7B179F1752-6C9C-4446-9356-E43CD79E954A%7D.pdf>

⁶⁹ Svensk Fotboll 2006-12-11

⁷⁰ Fotbollens strategier, Svensk fotbolls mål 2008-2010; <http://www.svenskfotboll.se/files/%7BA20C35EE-3E3B-4A11-8C09-0AFBEC7F3AAA%7D.pdf>

⁷¹ Borglund, H. DFK Värmbol lade värdefull grund, *Katrineholms-Kuriren* 2009-02-18

⁷² Nordström, M. Giffarna riskerar böter i rasistskandal, *Sundsvalls Tidning* 2009-02-21

⁷³ 2008-04-09, Dnr 519-2006

women and the highest manager had not acted when he was aware about what had occurred.⁷⁴

- [69]. In February 2009, the court of appeals for lower Norrland made a ruling about a man who called another man “nigger” during a football match and was sentenced to a fine for the insult. The court of appeals made another assessment than the district court, which cleared the man of all charges. Both men had a bout on the field, which led to one of them being knocked to the ground. While the knocked down man got up, he supposedly said the offensive word. The court of appeals writes in their judgment, that there was no provocation of any kind from the affected man during the incident and that this person, by voluntarily agreeing to participate in the match, couldn’t have agreed to be subjected to this offense. The court of appeals also writes that the offense can’t be without a charge because it was done during a sports event, which the district court had already made a ruling about.⁷⁵

5.2. Good practice

i. Overview of positive initiatives combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in all sports

- [70]. The national initiatives to combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sports often focus on youth sports and the attempts to integrate immigrant and ethnic minority youth into various sports. Also, activities include campaigns to increase awareness about racism in sports. Good examples are:
- [71]. **Ethnic minority integration into sports.** Malmö municipality and Skåneidrotten (Southern Sweden Sports Association) arrange sports activities for girls with immigrant background with the social and ethnically segregated city are Rosengård. The girls are offered to try various sports, ranging from ice hockey and handball to physical exercise such as aerobics. The most popular sport among the involved girls is basketball. The long-term plan is to create a basketball team out of the involved girls. The aim of the project is also to combat structural racism, concerning the lack of physical location for girl sports. Another example is an event with the aim to engage young people in sports, organized by Swedish National Athletics Association together with Swedish Olympics Committee, Swedish McDonalds and local athletics club in Botkyrka, a suburb in Stockholm with a large number of ethnic minority population.⁷⁶
- [72]. 08 Stockholm Human Rights is a collaboration between Alvik BK and KFUM Söder Basket. The organization is Sweden’s largest basketball organization with over 2500 players, 250 coaches and 20 administrative staff. The reason why 08 Stockholm is called ”Human Rights” is because the club is socially actively engaged to make basketball a tool to fight against racism, for social

⁷⁴ http://do.episerverhotell.net/t/Page___3093.aspx

⁷⁵ Hovrätten för nedre Norrland, Målnr:B 1131-08, dom 2009-02-25

⁷⁶ Press Release, McDonalds Sweden, 2009,

<http://195.7.64.166/Sweden/SiteDocuments.nsf/pages/92EF3A35F9A43185C1257170003A8858?openDocument>

integration among youth and to educate it's players and leaders in the club about values: respect, engagement, quality, coherence and responsibility.⁷⁷

- [73]. **Individual sports starts and trainers activism.** In the Stockholm region, a former basketball player Jonas Morin, has been awarded two separate prizes (Stocholm Landsting 2008 and Huddinge kommun 2007) for his volunteer work with basketball playing youth as a means to increase social integration of ethnic minority youth into basketball.
- [74]. **Awareness-raising activities.** One example is cooperation between Värmlands sports association, thinktank Sensus and local Antidiscrimination agency in order to organize a number of lectures for various sports stakeholders on the topics of racism and other types (e.g. gender) of discrimination within sports.⁷⁸

i. National initiatives and projects combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the focus sports

- [75]. The activities, combating racism, xenophobia and related intolerance within areas of football, ice hockey and athletics could be identified as follows:
- [76]. **Youth against Racism** have together with Players association Fotboll in Sweden (Spelarförbundet Fotboll i Sverige) participated in a project **“Give Racism a Red Card”** (Ge Rasismen Rött Kort) during the Gothia Cup. An invitation went out to participate in activities and discussions in Kviberg, 14-17 July 2008.⁷⁹ Through the project called **“Give Racism a Red Card” Youth against Racism** together with Players association Football in Sweden (Spelarförbundet Fotboll i Sverige) have taken an active stand in the issue of profiling zero tolerance against racism within football arenas' walls.
- [77]. **The representative from the Players Football Association in Sweden (Spelarförbundet Fotboll i Sverige)** talks about the campaign: It was a campaign in connection to the matches in the highest league, so that every team played a home game, players had a A4 paper to give racism a red card. Team captain read the text. We played a DVD on the big screen, 40 second DVD during the lineup, gave out flyers to everyone in the arena. You could even win tickets to an international game. This is something we plan to do once a year together with Youths against Racism (Ungdom mot rasism). About 150 000 spectators visit the matches.⁸⁰
- [78]. A similar initiative was organized by foundation **“Love Football”** (Stiftelsen älska fotboll), where before a match the players, captains and the audience were encourage to hold red cards, saying **“we give racism red card”** to take symbolic action against racism.⁸¹
- [79]. **Integration of ethnic minorities into sports.** One example is youth football activities, which include cooperation between various local football

⁷⁷ http://basketsverige.se/news_show_stadium_tecknar_sponsoravtal_med_08.html?id=8134

⁷⁸ Sonesson, R. Kampanj mot diskriminering inom idrotten NWT.se 2007-10-05
<http://www.nwt.se/sport/article29791.ece>

⁷⁹ <http://www.umr.nu/Nyheter.aspx#89>

⁸⁰ Telephone interview, 2009-03-02

⁸¹ Jansson, A. Krafttag mot rasism, *Afronbladet* 2006-08-28
<http://www.aftonbladet.se/sportbladet/alskafotboll/article432472.ab?service=print>

associations and youth football trainers and entail football training for the youth as well as an ongoing education in the prevention of racism. For example , GAIS, Göteborgs Atlet- och Idrottssällskap, Gothenburg Athletics & Sports Association.⁸² Another example is Somali Summer Games, a football tournament, organized by Somali football club in Rinkeby where various Swedish and international teams and players are also invited to participate. A part of the activity is to increase interest for the sport among the Somali youth.⁸³

- [80]. **Awareness-raising activities on the issues of racism and sports.** For example, a football game, organized by football club Bunkeflo IF between football teams between Bunkeflo and Ängelholm, called “a match against racism, violence and drugs”.⁸⁴ Allsvenskan football players are engaged in a campaign to give red card to all forms of racism during the game.⁸⁵
- [81]. There is also an NGO called allfair (www.allfair.se), interested in advancing ethics in sports. This NGO also has an annual prize, given to a team or a club that has excelled in ethical sport practice. The ethical values of Allfair include antiracism.
- [82]. **Recruitment of players with ethnic minority background**, who can act as activists for further inclusion of ethnic minorities. One example is the recruitment of two women football players to the national team, both of whom suggest that their presence and their activism can help engage girls with immigrant background in football.⁸⁶

i.A list of all good practices can be found in Annex 5

6. Conclusions

- [83]. There are two types of major problems in relation to racism in sports in Sweden. On the one hand, there is a lack of knowledge about racism within youth and women’s sports, and there are reasons to suspect that women and girls with ethnic minority background are very poorly represented within sports in Sweden. There is, in other words, a structural problem of women and girls’ participation in sports, a problem which is likely to persist if immigrant girls continue not to participate in sports.
- [84]. On the other hand, we have the uneven men participation in professional sports contexts. Men with ethnic minority background are very well represented in football, yet very poorly represented in ice hockey but a lot better in athletics. The same development can be seen in immigrant boys’ participation in sports.

⁸² Björklund, T. Gais odlar egna talanger, *Göteborgs-Posten* 2008-08-31

⁸³ Delaryd, C. Kultur och integration på fotbollsfest i Rinkeby DN 2008-07-23 <http://dn.se/nyheter/sverige/kultur-och-integration-pa-fotbollsfest-i-rinkeby-1.689723>

⁸⁴ Pedersen, H. Fest och diplomati ska hjälpa till ny arena, *Sydsvenskan* 2008-08-15

⁸⁵ Niklasson, U. IFK i kampen mot mobbning, *Göteborgs-Posten* 2008-10-31

⁸⁶ Edwinsson, L. nya förebilder I damlaget, DN 2008-09-26 <http://www.dn.se/sport/nya-forebilder-i-damlandslaget-1.659999>

However, on the structural level, immigrant men seldom access the positions of authority and influence within football or other sports where they are well-represented.

- [85]. Furthermore, the frequency of racist incidents is depicted differently, depending on the source of information. The interviewed representatives from sports associations argue that racist incidents are few and rare. However, the media presents a more problematic picture, where football players of African descent are often subjected to racist verbal attacks during the games, often from the supporters of the opposite team, but not seldom from the players of the opposite team or the referees.
- [86]. The high number of foreign-born and ethnic minority players within football, and the racist incidents that have followed their presence have led to various measures, taken by the clubs and football associations. The statutes of the National Football Association includes statutes, prohibiting racism and racist language, as well as sanctions for the teams which have racist supporters.
- [87]. On the overall level, one could argue that racist incidents are only visible to the extent that ethnic minority players are represented in the sport. Therefore, while few racist incidents are reported in regard to ice hockey and athletics, that can be explained by the absence of ethnic minority players.
- [88]. There is a considerable gap in the data available on the ethnic minorities in sports, and the gap is particularly significant in regard to amateur sports and women sports. There is a need of statistical analysis in these two areas.
- [89]. When it comes to the role sports play in the general awareness-raising and positive initiatives in relation to racism prevention, one sport that has come relatively far is football. The role model position that football players with an ethnic minority background have for youth with immigrant background cannot be underestimated. However, there are no recorded attempts to practice systematic diversity management or initiate anti-racism training within various sports associations. It appears that the general development of racism prevention within sports is characterized by active attempts to involve immigrant youth in sports, something that will affect the future of sports. However, these attempts seem to be relatively unsuccessful and perhaps not sufficient in regard to girls and sports, characterized by a low amount of role models with immigrant background. Also, no active attempts to deal with structural racism within all sports and the advancement of immigrant players to leadership positions exist.

Annex 1: Contact list of national sports federations

Official FRA Partner, Spelarforeningen Sweden, Swedish Players Union
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434 24 Kungsbacka, Sweden
Tel.: 0046 30061226
Fax: 0046 30063965
E-Mail: magnus@spelarforeningen.com
Web: www.spelarforeningen.com/

Swedish National Sports Confederation, Riksidrottsförbundet
Idrottens hus
11473 Stockholm
Tel.: 08-699 60 00
Fax: 08-699 62 00
www.rf.se

Swedish Athletic Association, Svenska Friidrottsförbundet
Smidesvägen 8
Box 11
17118 Solna, Sweden
Tel.: 08-58772100
Fax. 08-58772188
www.friidrott.se

The Swedish Football Association, Svenska Fotbollförbundet
Solnavägen 51
Box 1216
17123 Solna, Sweden
Tel.: 08-735 0900
Fax. 08-735 0901
www.svenskfotboll.se

The Swedish Ice Hockey Association, Svenska Ishockeyförbundet
Box 5204
Bolidenvägen 22
12116 Johaneeshov, Sweden
Tfn. 08-449 04 00
Fax. 08-91 00 35
<http://www.swehockey.se>

Annex 2: Statistical data

Table 1. Youth players with immigrant background in different stages* in sports education system. Source: “Idrott and integration: a knowledge review” by The Swedish National Sports Confederation.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

* The different stages in the sports training were left untranslated. The final stage in the education, “Landskamp”, stands for the national level of competition.

Statistics below are from “Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning 2002” by Swedish National Sports Confederation.

Table 2. Source: “Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning 2002” by Swedish National Sports Confederation.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Table 3. Source: “Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning 2002” by Swedish National Sports Association.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Table 4. Source: “Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning 2002” by Swedish National Sports Confederation.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Table 5. Source: “Idrott och integration: en statistisk undersökning 2002” by Swedish National Sports Confederation.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Table 6. Distribution of foreign football players in national Swedish teams.

Team	Country of origin of foreign-born players
AIK	Finland Serbia Holland Argentina Argentina England Slovenia
Bromma-pojkarna	Syria
Djurgården	Gambia Finland 3 players Tyskland Nigeria Slovenia Croatia
Elfsborg	Island Finland England
GAIS	Congo Brazil 2 players Ghana Island 4 players
Gefle	USA Congo Ghana
IFK Göteborg	Denmark Island 2 players
Halmstad BK	Finland Lithuania Germany Brazil Holland
Hammarby	Moldavia Denmark 2 players Nigeria USA South Africa

Helsingborg	Finland 2 players Mali Zambia Congo Island Nigeria
BK Häcken	Finland 2 players Brazil 2 players Nigeria
Kalmar FF	Brazil 3 players North Ireland Nigeria
Malmö FF	Check republic Liberia Brazil 2 players Finland Denmark Holland Serbia

Source: Svensk football, www.svenskfotboll.se

Annex 3: Interviews

1. *What are the main problems and issues of racism and xenophobia affecting the particular sport in your country?*

[90]. All the respondents answered that they didn't see any particular problems with racism and xenophobia affecting their particular sport or sport in general.

2. *Could you provide some examples of cases of racism and xenophobia within your sport?*

[91]. When interviewed in March 2009, and asked about racist and xenophobic incidents within football, a representative for the Players Football Association in Sweden explained that:

In Sweden, football contexts haven't paid specific attention to this problem, but there are some incidents, which perhaps were mistakenly identified as racism. In Örebro, a dark player heard something being shouted from the supporters. The second case would be the Djurgårdens matches in Stockholm Derby, there the tradition is to throw bananas at the goalkeeper. Goalkeeper reacted, despite knowing about this tradition. The association knew about the tradition and didn't see it as something out of the ordinary, although they did reconsider and prohibited the throwing of bananas later on. This has been happening for over 10 years, but since we now have foreign players in the team, they understand that it is better not to provoke them with racist words. There is a player, called Pascal Simpson⁸⁷, who played for AIK, who was harassed. Edvin Phirri⁸⁸, and his teammates, argue that they heard harassment from the supporters, but the judge argued that he hadn't seen anything.⁸⁹

[92]. When interviewed about the occurrence of racist and xenophobic incidents within ice hockey, a representative from the Ice hockey association explained that there are no initiatives combating racism and xenophobia within ice hockey, because as he believed: "we see no problems with racism at present within ice hockey in Sweden."⁹⁰

[93]. This statement was confirmed through an interview in by a representative for the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club who argued that:

It happens that the players spit out abusive words and phrases at the opposing teams, and I believe it has happened a couple of times that the opponents say words against the players who might have an immigrant background. Damn" blatte"⁹¹ or

⁸⁸ Originally from Zambia

⁸⁹ Telephone Interview 2009-03-02

⁹⁰ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁹¹ "Blatte" is a disparaging term used against ethnic minorities in Sweden

*something similar. That's about all I can say, because we in hockey don't have such a big problem when it comes to racism and xenophobia.*⁹²

- [94]. In athletics, a representative for the Stockholm athletics club explained that he had worked in the athletics for the past 35 years, and he can only remember one incident of racism:

*He trained for Malmö then and is black, when in some situation in some national game, he heard some racist remarks towards him. That's the only time I've heard something about that sort of thing.*⁹³

- [95]. This statement is confirmed by a representative for the Swedish Athletics Association who said that: :

*We haven't had any confrontations in any context. It may have happen in a club without reaching our attention.*⁹⁴

3. Are there any statistics on the representation of migrants and ethnic minorities in the particular sport?

- [96]. A representative for the Swedish Sports Confederation explained that:

*As for example, and I don't know if it depends on racism, xenophobia or poor immigrant integration, but there aren't that many with ethnic minority background in the boards or higher management positions.*⁹⁵

- [97]. A representative for the Swedish National Athletes Association explained why few trainers in athletics are from ethnic minority groups:

*"But this has to do with culture, our way of building up associations in Sweden is quite unique, and we have noticed that trainers from eastern countries like, Ukraine, Poland, Belarus or Czech republic, they do not have the same view about how an association is governed, what influence one has and which restrictions and obligations one has."*⁹⁶

- [98]. In football, a representative for the Swedish Football Association also argues that it is difficult to recruit ethnic minorities to take leadership roles especially as representatives on boards. He explains that:

*There have been instances of successful efforts in Tensta and Rinkeby [ethnic minority areas] to get them into the leadership, but that didn't produce any good effects. It could be the language or that they convince themselves that this is something they can't manage.*⁹⁷

- [99]. In football, the representative for the Players Football Association in Sweden told us that when it comes to coaches, there are Finnish, Norwegian, Danish and English coaches, but not as many as the players. Within management, there

⁹² Telephone interview 2009-03-10

⁹³ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

⁹⁴ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

⁹⁵ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

⁹⁶ Telephone interview 2009-03-06

⁹⁷ Interview 2009-03-10

are very few people with a foreign background. When it comes to supporters, more people with different ethnic backgrounds joined in, as more players get up into professional levels, which leads to more fans.⁹⁸

[100]. A representative for the Swedish Sports Confederation explains that those sports that are more global, have a bigger share of players with foreign backgrounds, while winter sports don't attract people with foreign backgrounds as much.⁹⁹

[101]. In the interview with a representative for the Swedish Ice hockey Association, he explains why he thinks there is a lack of players in ice hockey with an ethnic minority background:

“Take for example Iraq or Iranians that live in Sweden and if you are from Eritrea or something like that, ice hockey is of course not there. They don't have a tradition with ice or ice hockey. We believe that this is the main explanation why so few from these countries living in Sweden play ice hockey. And they don't watch ice hockey games because they don't know what it is. On the other hand a Finnish that lives in Sweden knows a lot about ice hockey.”¹⁰⁰

4. Are there any regulations on federation level affecting the participation of EU- and third-country-national athletes / players in amateur sport and professional sport?

[102]. The representative for the Athletics Association explained that if one is not a Swedish citizen, you have to be in the country for at least two months. After that an agreement can be signed between the athletics sports club in the native country and the Swedish club.

[103]. The representative from the Players Football Association in Sweden explained that within EU:

Sweden is one of the few countries that has taken away the rule, and now it is free forward irrespective of which country one comes from in the world, but there are requirements on associations, that they must have a certain number players that they train. They are called, “home grown players”, and they must have played in three years between 16-21 years.

5. Are there any regulations by the sports federation on anti-discrimination issues and/or equality measures?

[104]. Within athletics there were not any regulations concerning anti-discrimination. In ice hockey, they have a project about fair play and respect, but there was a lack of anti-discrimination regulations. In football there are many regulations concerning antidiscrimination.

6. Are there any initiatives against racism and xenophobia in the particular sport?

⁹⁸ Telephone interview 2009-03-02

⁹⁹ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

¹⁰⁰ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

[105]. The representative from the Players Football Association in Sweden (Spelarförbundet Fotboll i Sverige) talks about the campaign: It was a campaign in connection to the matches in the highest league, so that every team played a home game, players had a A4 paper to give racism a red card. Team captain read the text. We played a DVD on the big screen, 40 second DVD during the lineup, gave out flyers to everyone in the arena. You could even win tickets to an international game. This is something we plan to do once a year together with Youths against Racism (Ungdom mot rasism). About 150 000 spectators visit the matches.¹⁰¹

[106]. In ice hockey and athletics the respondents didn't believe that initiatives against racism and xenophobia are necessarily since they argued that there was not a problem with racism within these sports.

7. Are there any good practice models for promoting integration and diversity in the particular sport?

[107]. All respondents answered that sports was the best arena for integration and for ethnic minorities to network. They didn't believe that there was such a model but that the best way to work against racism is to teach children and youth good values early on.

8. In your opinion, is there a rather positive or a negative trend regarding racism and discrimination in sport in general and in your particular sport?

[108]. All the respondents answered that they thought the trend regarding racism and discrimination to be positive. They believed that people were more tolerant and that racism and discrimination are not big problems in sports in Sweden. While at the same time we have shown in the report that there are several incidents of racist attacks on especially black football players and within ice hockey. These incidents were rarely addressed by the respondents.

9. What are the main obstacles for the implementation of positive measures and good practice models regarding equality and non-discrimination?

[109]. The problems related to structural discrimination and the availability of sport facilities. The representative for Stockholm Ice Hockey club explains that: *there is an ice hockey rink in Botkyrka [an ethnic minority area] that's to be closed down. And that's not good, partially it isn't good for hockey, also it's not good for the people living in the area, if they close down the rink, they won't even be able to go ice-skating during school. Talk about discrimination.*¹⁰²

[110]. In athletics, the representative for the Swedish Athletes Association informed us about some of the obstacles in recruiting women from ethnic minority groups to participate in athletics:

“We have same difficulties that are seen in the country, it can be requirements that they should wear clothes that cover the whole body, or that they wear a veil. These

¹⁰¹ Telephone interview, 2009-03-02

¹⁰² Telephone interview 2009-03-10

*might be obstacles that we do not notice or an obstacle that one does not articulate in order to participate.*¹⁰³

- [111]. The representative from Swedish Sports Confederation informed us about his thoughts on the situation for women and girls with an ethnic minority background within athletics:

*The area which we might need to focus more on is on girls that come from outside of Europe or that have parents that are born outside of Europe. That's the group that we can point to as the most underrepresented within sport. But the thing is that it's not always about racism, it also has to do with what kind of culture you bring to Sweden when you come here, of course if you come from a culture where it's not as common for women to do sports as for men, then it takes some time until you start participating in sporting activities in Sweden.*¹⁰⁴

- [112]. In ice hockey, the representative for the Stockholm's Ice Hockey Club thought that Swedish girls play ice hockey, but not foreign girls and that it's equally few as on the boys' side.¹⁰⁵ He told us that the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club has been working to recruit children and youth from ethnic minority groups:

*The children themselves want to, but the parents don't become engaged in it. Ice hockey is a sport that demands some sort of parental commitment. There's a lot of equipment, they have to come along and do things, often sit in the cafeteria by the ice hall, and participate in different activities. It costs a bit of money to participate in hockey and that's mostly the equipment if you're going to play hockey. And if you're under 10 years of age, it can be strenuous to carry all the equipment by yourself, then you need help from the parents, either by getting a ride or by getting some help from a parent to carry the equipment a bit of the way.*¹⁰⁶

10. What would you propose that addresses the problems you describe and helps to improve the situation?

- [113]. Both the representatives for the Ice Hockey Association¹⁰⁷ and the Stockholm Ice Hockey Club¹⁰⁸ agreed that there is need of increasing participation from ethnic minorities in ice hockey. The representative for the Ice Hockey Association suggested that the European Union should ensure funds for building ice hockey halls in areas where there are many immigrants. This would be interesting from a European perspective, if EU-funds were available for application from sports associations and municipalities.¹⁰⁹
- [114]. The representative for the Players Football Association in Sweden demands that the Swedish national Sports Confederation and I found a place within me, just to see the stress.
- [115]. In athletics the respondent explained that:

¹⁰³ Telephone interview 2009- 03-06

¹⁰⁴ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

¹⁰⁵ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

¹⁰⁶ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

¹⁰⁷ Telephone interview 2009- 02-27

¹⁰⁸ Telephone interview 2009-03-10

¹⁰⁹ Telephone interview 2009-02-27

through our extend education programme, parents with children and another ethnic background need resources or possibilities so that they can campaign about the sport in their neighbourhoods with many immigrants.

Annex 4: Court, specialised body or tribunal decisions

[116]. Please fill for each case the respective template - see Annex 4 of the Thematic Study Guidelines.

Case title	
Decision date	
Reference details (type and title of court/body; in original language and English [official translation, if available])	
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	

Annex 5: Positive initiatives

Title (original language)	-
Title (EN)	-
Organisation (original language)	Malmö kommun, Skåneidrotten
Organisation (EN)	Malmö municipality, (Southern Sweden Sports Association
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Government/sports organization
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Under-representaiton of minorities
Type of initiative	Training, education
Area of project	Youth sport
Main target group	youth
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Immigrant girls' participation in sports by letting girls try out different sports within the municipality

Title (original language)	-
Title (EN)	-
Organisation (original language)	Svensk idrottsförbund, Svenska olympiska kommité, svensk McDonalds, Botkyras friidrottsförening
Organisation (EN)	Swedish National Athletics Association, Swedish Olympics Committee, Swedish McDonalds, Botkyrka athletics club
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Government/sports organization
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Under-representation of minorities
Type of initiative	Awareness raising
Area of project	Youth sport

Main target group	Youth, general public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Organizing an awareness-raising competition

Title (original language)	-
Title (EN)	-
Organisation (original language)	
Organisation (EN)	
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Civil society
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Under-representation of minorities, racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Training, education
Area of project	Youth sports
Main target group	youth
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Volunteer training work of basketball player Jonas Morin among youth with immigrant background

Title (original language)	-
Title (EN)	-
Organisation (original language)	Värmslands idrottsförbund, Sensus, Antidiskrimineringsbyrå
Organisation (EN)	Värmlands sports association, Sensus, Antidiscrimination agency
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Sports organization/civil society
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Training, education
Area of project	All sports
Main target group	General public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	A series of lectures on the topics of discrimination and racism in all sports

Title (original language)	Ge rasism ett rött kort
Title (EN)	Give racism a red card
Organisation (original language)	Spelarförbundet Fotboll I Sverige, Ungdom mot rasism
Organisation (EN)	Players association Football in Sweden, Youth against racism
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Sports organization, civil society
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Awareness raising
Area of project	Professional sport, youth sport
Main target group	Fans, players, referees, general public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Giving out of information and opening each game by players, showing red card with anti-racist slogan, 40 second DVD on screen. Is done once a year.

Title (original language)	Ge rasism ett rött kort
Title (EN)	Give racism a red card
Organisation (original language)	Stiftelsen älska fotboll
Organisation (EN)	Foundation Love football
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Sports organization
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Awareness raising
Area of project	Professional sport
Main target group	Players, referees, fans
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Opening of the game by players showing a red card with antiracist slogan, which is also read by the captain of the team

Title (original language)	Somali sommarspel
Title (EN)	Somali summer games
Organisation (original language)	Somaliska fotbollsförening Rinkeby
Organisation (EN)	Somali football club Rinkeby
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Civil society
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Under-representation of minorities
Type of initiative	Cultural activity
Area of project	Organized amateur sport
Main target group	General public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Somali football club has summer games and invites various players for friendly matches in order to have a community activity which will motivate other Somalis and general public to meet. Also, the aim is to motivate youth to play football

Title (original language)	08 Stockholm Human Rights
Title (EN)	08 Stockholm Human Rights
Organisation (original language)	Alvik BK, KFUM Söder Basket
Organisation (EN)	Alvik basketball club, KFUM Söder Basketball
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Sports organization
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia, under-representation of minorities
Type of initiative	Awareness-raising, training, education, community cohesion – social integration
Area of project	Professional sport, youth sport
Main target group	General public, youth, ethnic minorities

Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	Various activities which make it easier for immigrant youth and immigrant population to become involved in basketball
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Title (original language)	Match mot rasism, våld och droger
Title (EN)	Match against racism, violence and drugs
Organisation (original language)	Bunkeflo IF
Organisation (EN)	Bunkeflo football club
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Sports organization
Internet link	-
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Awareness-raising
Area of project	Professional sport
Main target group	General public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	A friendly match between two football teams with the slogan of preventing racism

Title (original language)	Allfair pris
Title (EN)	Allfair prize
Organisation (original language)	Allfair
Organisation (EN)	Allfair
Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society	Civil society
Internet link	www.allfair.se
Addressed problem	Racism and xenophobia
Type of initiative	Awards, grants
Area of project	All sports
Main target group	Administrative staff sports club, coaches, players, general public
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	An annual prize for the most ethic sports club, including anti-racist practice

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