



Report Coach Survey

COACH IN THE MIRROR

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The idea of conducting a web survey on coaches who work daily to defeat migrants' marginalization in disadvantaged areas arose by the end of research activities (tasks 2.1-2.3), just before the beginning of the implementation phase, whose purpose is to develop and test an innovative methodological approach (task 3.1 and 3.2). At that point, the project committee has become aware of two fundamental issues for the continuation of the Simcas initiative: on the one hand, the need to deepen the understanding on coaches' experience (instructors, educators and other sports operators) in field activities addressed to athletes with a migratory background; on the other hand, the opportunity to comprehend if (and to what extent) these trainers need to be involved in reskilling or an upskill courses to cope with their demanding work within critical areas.

Both of these questions have been amplified by the extreme conditions that sport for all movement has had to face as a result of the pandemic. It is not easy to conduct inclusive activities in a period in which it is urged to respect social distancing rules and health prevention protocols, since contact is a basic component in all sports, particularly in team disciplines, even more so when the intent is to overcome social and cultural barriers in places where segregation of minority groups and ethnic cleavages are a persistent features.

For this reason it was implemented a new project output: an exploratory survey to capture the mood of people who work on the frontline to make our societies more welcoming and inclusive towards migrants and refugees. A web survey on the experience and training needs of coaches who work in critical areas with refugees and migrants for to draw a map of the skills that coaches involved in inclusive practices in local communities should develop in order to foster migrants' integration.

The coach is a key figure in any sports program, especially when the aim is to include underprivileged groups such as refugees and migrants in critical areas (camps, prisons, disadvantaged neighborhoods). This evidence emerged clearly in previous research activities carried out within the Simcas project.

The scope of the survey was not to carry out a wide range study in order to make inferences and in-depth statistical analysis; the approach was rather more pragmatic, in order to acquire relevant information through a consistent number of interviews among coaches and other sports instructors/educators who are part of the environment in which Simcas partner organizations operate. This choice has also been motivated by the practical nature of the investigation, which aims to collect, as far as possible, useful data for the subsequent experimentation phase. For this reason, a list of potential interviewees was drawn from the databases of the organizations involved in the project. While leaving the latter free to contact people with whom they collaborate closely, three eligibility criteria have been adopted in order to select interviewees:

- coaches (educators, instructors, operators, etc.) must be involved for at least six months in an inclusion sports project/program targeting migrants or refugees within critical areas (disadvantaged neighborhoods, refugee camps and prisons);
- they also must come from both grassroots sport (no more than two thirds) and professional sport (at least on third);

- finally, among coaches interviewed in each country at least one third should be women and the same share should have a migratory background.

These stratification criteria have been substantially fulfilled at the end of the interview campaign, which was opened in the last decade of March and concluded by the end of July 2021 .

The report is therefore not a study with strictly academic purposes, but rather a focused analysis having Simcas' very pragmatic goals in mind. It was very useful to make partner organization aware of their role in field activities that were about to be undertaken under their close surveillance, committing them in sensitization and networking tasks to make European Cities (in which they are active) more open to diversity. In our opinion, there is no better way to do action-research, standing on the shoulders of a giant such as the great social psychologist Kurt Lewin.



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