

#17. HOW CRICKET IS HELPING REFUGEES INTEGRATE IN SWEDEN?

SVENSKA CRICKETFÖRBUNDET

Since 2016, Sweden

www.thelocal.se/20160822/how-cricket-is-helping-refugees-integrate-in-sweden

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Topic relevance

PLAYING TOGETHER / INCLUSION / NETWORK / CRICKET

Factor of success CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Type **INITIATIVE/PROJECT**

Language English, Swedish

Target population

Refugees in Sweden. Local inhabitants interested to join a cricket club.

Further information / Contact

www.swedishcricket.org

www.facebook.com/SvenskCricket

Twitter@Swedish_Cricket

Contact, info@cricket.rf.se

Synthesis of the good example

The article refers to the development of cricket as a sport in Sweden and how this sport has been used to include refugees arriving to the country. By participating in this sport is also a way to increase popularity of cricket in the country.

Highlights and outcomes

This good example shows how the integration of refugees in cricket teams in Sweden is meeting the expectations of both participants. With the new status of cricket in Sweden, the national federation has now access to greater levels of funding, can participate in a lot of conferences, gets to introduce the sport to Swedish people by members of club whose players are coming from cricket playing nations. Even if some challenges can arise during international tournament, as for example immigration statuses for young refugees playing in young divisions teams, the efforts and skills dropped by refugees into cricket and Swedish society alike this practise make considerate the captain of the national team "they are the future, the real future of Swedish cricket". Even though the final aim of the team is into elite and competitive discipline, the first steps of training are useful for refugees.

Context and approach

Cricket was not considered as a sport in Sweden before being recognized in 2015, with a national team managed by Azam Khalil. Native from Afghanistan, where cricket is considered as the national sport, has fled from war to Sweden. The European refugee crisis has brought to Sweden record number of refugees and a lot of them has contacted local clubs to know if it was possible to play cricket. The Stockholm club has decided together with local organisation Project Playground, to help them with providing facilities, trainings to play cricket and integrate them into national divisions. The refugees are integrated in the team and considering towards equal status as locals as they have good expertise with the sport.

Information about project/organisation's holder

The Swedish Cricket Federation (Swedish: Svenska Cricketförbundet) was established in 1990, and is the administrative organisation for all cricket in Sweden. The Swedish Cricket Federation is an Affiliate member of the International Cricket Council.