

QUEERING FOOTBALL:
Addressing Homophobia
at Mega-Sport Events

EUROPEAN
NETWORKING
CONFERENCE

17–18 November 2017
University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Sport
Slovenia

Provisional Programme

In anticipation of the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia, SPOLINT in association with VIDC will host a 2-day conference in Ljubljana to discuss homophobia in football. The conference will bring together officials from international and national sporting organisations, including FIFA, UEFA, as well as representatives from grassroots organisations, NGOs, clubs, professional athletes, activists in LGBT rights, academics and sports professionals.

The programme and the list of speakers will be continuously up-dated, please check www.queeringfootball.org

Venue:

University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Sport
Gortanova ulica 22
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

*** Registration is asked until 30. October - please return the registration form to info@spolint.at ***

Friday, 17 November 2017, 14:00-19:00

Moderation: **Igor E. Bergant**, Slovenian sport commentator & TV journalist

13:00 **Arrival & Registration**

14:00 **Welcome & Opening**

- N.N. Representative City of Ljubljana, Rainbow City
- Milan Hosta, Spolint Institute, host organisation
- Boro Štrumbelj, Director of Sport at the Slovenian Ministry
- Kurt Wachter, Queering Football, fairplay Initiative

14:30 **Panel Discussion:**

Tackling Homophobia in European Football: Progress made and Challenges ahead

- **N.N.**, representative of UEFA
- **Tibor Navracsics**, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, European Commission (tbc)
- **Sofia B. Karlsson**, Officer of education in gender equality and inclusive Sports, Swedish Sports Confederation; expert on homophobia
- **Nikola Staritz**, Queering Football Coordinator, fairplay initiative

Chair: **Lou Englefield**, Director, UK #LGBT Sports Development & Equity Organisation and PrideSportsUK

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16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:30 **Panel Discussion:**
FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia: A Chance to combat Homophobia and ensure Human Rights?

- **Elvina Yukavaeva**, Co-President, Russian LGBT Sport Federation
- **Ronan Evain**, Director, Football Supporters Europe
- **Brendan Schwab**, Executive Director, World Players Association
- **N.N.**, Representative FIFA (tbc)

Chair: **Andrej Pisl**, project manager, European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, Out in Slovenia – Slovenian LGBT & sport organisation

18:00-19:00 Networking Session, presentation of initiatives in sport & LGBT organisations

20:00 *Dinner, reception in the City Center*

Saturday, 18 November 2017, 9:00-16:00

Moderation: **Igor E. Bergant**, Slovenian sport commentator & TV journalist

9-12:30 **Workshop Sessions**

9:00 Presentation of the Workshops

9:15 Workshop 1,2 or 3 – slot 1

10:45 *Coffee Break*

11:00 Workshop 1,2 or 3 – slot 2

Workshop 1: **Grassroots activism: Good practices, Initiatives, and Lessons to be Learned.**

Facilitators: **John Ryan**, **Lou Englefield** (European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation)

Workshop description: A workshop that highlights strategies, initiatives, and lessons to be learned from a grassroots campaign to make football more inclusive, targeted at the UEFA European Football Championships in 2016 & 2017.

Workshop 2: **Agency**

Facilitators: N.N. (Football Supporters Europe)

Workshop description: How can civil society actors gain influence? What is the agency of fans, NGOs, players to effect change on a policy level? What is important and which alliances and lobbying strategies do we need? The workshop will also highlight examples of bad and good practice.

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Workshop 3: **Intersectionality**

Facilitator: **Aaron Hermann** (SPOLINT Institute)

Workshop description: Is homophobia still a discrimination of “second class”? How are different forms of discrimination, e.g. racism, sexism and homophobia interconnected and why does it seem to be “easier” to tackle racism than gender inequality in sports? How can these forms of discrimination be tackled together – or do we need separate strategies?

12:30 Lunch

14:00 **Panel Discussion:**

Future Perspectives: A sport culture without homophobia?

- **Tinja Riika Korpela**, goal keeper, Finland and FC Bayern Munich, part of the exhibition „Against the Rules – Lesbians and Gays in Sport“ (tbc)
- **Thomas Hitzlsperger**, journalist and former player of Germany, VfB Stuttgart and Aston Villa (tbi)
- **Marko Levovnik**, Slovenian sports syndicate

Chair: **Nikola Staritz**, Queering Football Coordinator, fairplay initiative

15:30 **Wrap Up and Closing**

16:00 **End of Convergence**

Contact:

Local host: Milan Hosta, SPOLINT institute, info@spolint.org

Project coordination: Nikola Staritz, fairplay initiative, staritz@vidc.org