

LET'S PLAY TOGETHER

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Summary

By going to schools, sport clubs and urban meeting places, we want to discover how cohesion can be built between people who have nothing in common like culture, language or background but having as common denominator the passion for sport. We are going to interview several teenagers from different countries, workers, and people from different walks of life.

Article

Mohamed decides to take a walk on the Garonne sidewalk close to quai St. Michel. He's a young French man of Moroccan origin, he studies at the Building faculty in the University of Bordeaux. He finds a basketball court where other people are playing. He doesn't have a ball or a uniform but he stops by and asks Yu Lin if he can participate in the game and he agrees.

Yu Lin is a Chinese guy, he's in Bordeaux to work. He doesn't have much time, he's always busy but when he wants to make sports he comes to the quai St. Michel to the basketball court with a ball. After just a few minutes people start coming over, it seems they don't know each other and they are from different walks of life.

Meanwhile just close to the basketball court there is a football match going on; the players speak four different languages except for French: Turkish, Italian, Bulgarian, Arabic.



A little bit further Francois is playing the Basque pelota. His opinion about sport and social cohesion is that –“for sure sport can be an instrument for exchange, for example this game is of Basque origin but it's played all around the world, from Latin American, to the USA and Europe. So it's a means of sharing among people that come from different countries of the world, but they all share a same passion.”

Sport is a phenomenon and it's an easy way to find friends without any limit. All those people are an example of how cohesion can be reached through sport practice. They probably wouldn't have had any occasion of knowing each other but through a common interest in sport they are now enjoying an exchange.

Going through the market square we meet Dah, an Ivorian jembè player who's been living in Bordeaux for the past three years trying hard to make a living. He plays on weekend with a mixed local football team of the lateral gauche and he enjoys the time passed together.

The city seems to offer many opportunities for sport practice both amateur and through associations. The oldest soccer sports club is the Bordeaux Athletic Club created about 200 years ago by rich English wine and liquor sellers, now directed by Mr. Hamache Lysis, who is French of North African origin.

The club counts 150 members: 60 children, 20 teenagers, 70 adults. Each member pays a fee of 50 Euro per year and this gives access to the facilities and training.

"I firmly believe on inclusion of different cultures through a common passion for sports. I'm about to publish a book which wants to go deep into the roots of the phenomena of migration in France, by taking into consideration all the several aspects and on the role of sport in enhancing dialogue", said Mr. Hamache on the issue of inclusion of migrants through sports.

Another important project dear to Mr. Hamache was to open the soccer courses to women but there wasn't any interest. And then he decided to open up the facilities to a Zumba course free of charge.

After the training all those guys go the pub, those who lose the match offer a drink to the winners, and no one is going to ask who are you, where are you from, what did you do, as long they are playing together.

TARANDOVA Eleonora has been working for Forbes Magazine - Bulgaria for nearly 1 year write about famous



Bulgarian athletes and sports agents and their relationship with sport values. I often write about other Bulgarian and celebrities. I have 14 years experience as an editor in the "Sports" section of the most prestigious Bulgarian business weekly Capital. I was also editor in the newspaper and website Dnevnik. They are both own by the largest business media group Economedia. I am mainly specialized in "Sport and Business." I started my career as a

reporter in Standard newspaper and then was promoted to editor in Sports department in sports daily - 7 Days Sport. Two years ago I took part of an International project called EU-SPORT-FUTURE, with working group meetings in Vienna and Lisbon.

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