CALL FOR PARTNERS

**Erasmus+ Sports: Small Collaborative Partnership**

Football for All!

United Societies of Balkans is looking for partners for a project proposal for a **Small Collaborative Partnership** that is planning to submit to the Erasmus+ Sport deadline of 2nd of April. The deadline to answer to this call is **21/03/2020**.

We are looking for partner organization (NGOs, sport clubs, public bodies) who are working closely in the fields inclusion, inclusion through sports, promotion of healthy lifestyle, integration of refugees/migrants and/or intercultural dialogue. This organisations will have to be working with people in danger of marginalization (refugees, immigrants, roma, NEETs, etc) and people with fewer opportunities already in grassroots level and to be open to realize activities in their local communities.

**PROPOSAL SUMMARY**

**Project description**

Football for all is a community event taking place each month in the city of Thessaloniki with the aim to encourage integration between young people coming from different cultures and backgrounds through the ancient sport of football. The initiative was created in November 2017 by We are Aniko to promote football as a mean for social inclusion and psychosocial support. Since 2019, the activity is carried on by the local organization Refugee Trauma Initiative and Terre des Hommes Hellas with the support of United Societies of Balkans and their volunteering team of Balkan Hotspot, which organise football match every first weekend of the month.

Through this project, USB aims to elevate and promote this good practise between expert partner organizations with have experience working with youngsters in vulnerable conditions and who are operating in the Mediterranean countries which are the first arrival spot for many young refugees and migrants.

**Activities**

Partners organization will aim to multiply the activity in their local community with the goal of facilitating integration between locals, migrants and refugees, especially those who spend less than one year in the hosted country.

The project will last 24 months and will include:

- one football match every month including rental cost, water and pocket lunch provided;

- three international meetings.

To encourage social inclusion and equal opportunities in sport through the football, as a sport that can reinforce the participation of young people from different multicultural backgrounds in Mediterranean countries.

**AIMS**

To reinforce the participation in sports by supporting the physical activity, as a way to promote a healthy lifestyle according to the EU Physical Activities.

To build a network of young people, youth organization and volunteers willing to connect locals, refugees and migrants together by engaging them in team-sport activity;

**Objectives**

• To fight racism, discrimination and hate by promoting a social sport activity open to everybody;

• To facilitate the integration of first-arrival migrants and refugees in Mediterranean countries;

• To provide an open and safe space where everyone can freely participate and develop their social, civic, soft skills in the field of sport, by supporting the education in and through sport, including also young refugees and migrants.

• To combat every kind of discrimination, violence and intolerance existing in everyday life, by supporting sport activity and equality in access.

• To foster synergy with, and between, local, regional, national and international policies to address sport-related challenges, arising from the sport activities.

• To create a strong network among the partners and the relevant stakeholders that are going to join the project, by implementing local activities related to football.

• Promote and include voluntary activities in and through sport, with the motivation of the young people to participate in football activities, including also participants with fewer opportunities.

• Promotion and empowerment of the spirit of cooperation between the members in teams, as well as the feeling of respect to each other, by addressing challenges into the teams.

• To propose suggestions and recommendations useful for conflicts in teams, by giving real examples coming from the challenges from the participants of the football events.

If you want to take part in the project and agree with your role and responsibilities as partner organisation, then please send us fully filled **Partner Identification Form** (including the PIC) that is attached to this call to  partnerships.usb@gmail.com with subject line “Football for All\_E+ Sport”.

**WANT TO BE OUR PARTNER?**

**Deadline for answering the call:** 21/03/2019

28 EU member states

EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

Candidate countries (North Macedonia, Turkey and Serbia) and partners countries

**WHO WE ARE?**

United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B.) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Thessaloniki, Greece working in the field of youth mobility, participation and facilitating society’s awareness about social issues, inclusion and understanding. The vision and aim of the organisation is the promotion of youth empowerment, participation in the economic and political life, youth mobility, voluntarism and human rights.

Key areas of the organisation’s activities concern the defence of human rights and the intercultural dialogue, the organisation of youth related projects such as youth exchanges and training courses, which can bring young people from Balkans and Europe together, and the organisation of local interventions, campaigns, researches, seminars and multimedia productions. It envisions a global and inclusive society, where citizens are equally empowered to contribute in the shaping of a world with less prejudice, discrimination and other forms of injustice.

The organization has a very rich experience in organizing international activities and gives the opportunity to local youngsters and people to meet and interact with other people from Europe. It has implemented successfully more than 60 youth and other projects about many different subjects, having hosted more than 3,000 people in Greece. Moreover it has been involved in more than 1000 youth projects and has prepared and sent around 2,500 youngsters abroad to youth mobility projects. USB is also a very active organisation in the field of voluntarism and especially in European Voluntary Service (EVS) and now European Solidarity Corps. Since 2009 it has hosted 200 volunteers in projects of 10 months or short term and has sent 100 volunteers abroad. Since 2016 it has created a network of 10 different NGOs in the city of Thessaloniki where it coordinates volunteer projects.

United Societies of Balkans believes in networking and the creation of long lasting synergies and has been a member organisation of UNITED for Intercultural Action, Salto- Youth, Thess Network-regional NGO network, FERYP (Forum of European Roma Young People), Anna-Lindh Foundation (co-head of the Greek National Network), Youth for Exchange and Understanding (YEU International), Youth Express Network (YEN), Butterfly Dreamer and DYPALL (Developing Youth Participation at Local Level), Great Silk Way International Youth Union, ENTER network, Youth Networks.