

# QUEERING FOOTBALL: Addressing Homophobia at Mega-Sport Events

EUROPEAN  
NETWORKING  
CONFERENCE

17–18 November 2017

University of Ljubljana  
Faculty of Sport  
Slovenia

## Programme

In anticipation of the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2018 in Russia, SPOLINT in association with VIDC-fairplay hosts a two-day conference in Ljubljana to discuss homophobia in football. The conference will bring together administrators from international and national sport organisations as well as representatives from grassroots organisations, NGOs, clubs, athletes, LGBT activists, and academics.

### Venue:

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

## 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**

**Milan Hosta**, Spolint Institute, host organisation

**Tilka Klančar**, City of Ljubljana, Rainbow City

**Boro Štrumbelj**, Director General for Sport, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

**Miha Lobnik**, Advocate of the Principle of Equality, Republic Slovenia

14:30            **Panel Discussion:**  
**Tackling Homophobia in European Football: Progress made and Challenges ahead**

**Sofia B. Karlsson**, Officer of education in gender equality & inclusive Sports, Swedish Sports Confederation

**Nikola Staritz**, Queering Football Coordinator, VIDC-fairplay initiative

**Rožle Prezelj**, Chairman of the IAAF Athlete's Commission, former Slovenian high jumper

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

16:00            *Coffee Break*

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16:30 **Panel Discussion:**

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

**Elvina Yukavaeva**, Board Member, Russian LGBT Sport Federation

**Ronan Evain**, Director, Football Supporters Europe

**Brendan Schwab**, Executive Director, World Players Association

**Pavel Klymenko**, FARE network

Chair: **Andrej Pisl**, project manager, EUSA, Out in Slovenia – Slovenian LGBT & sport organisation

18:00 **NGO fair** - presentation of initiatives in sport & LGBT organisations

19:00 **End of Day 1**

19:00 *Dinner Gallery Grad (near Faculty)*

23:00 *Drink at **Klub Tiffany at Metelkova**, Autonomous Culture Center  
Masarykova cesta 24, 1000 Ljubljana  
[www.kulturnicenterq.org](http://www.kulturnicenterq.org)*

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

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

9:00 - 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, Sarah Townsend**, European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation

Rapporteur: **Aleksander Gorgiev**, queerplay and queer connexion, Vienna

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 – Alliances to enhance Human Rights around Mega-Sport Events**

Facilitators: **Martin Endemann**, Football Supporters Europe

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Rapporteur: **Antonio Saccone**, Radio Capodistria

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.

**Workshop 3: Intersectionality – Racism, sexism, transphobia, exclusion – joint struggles?**

Facilitators: **Aaron Hermann**, SPOLINT Institute, **Layla Mousa**, UISP

Rapporteur: **Darryl Telles**, Queer Football Fanclubs, Football Supporters Europe

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? What about transgenders and transphobia in sport – what measures can be done?

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Reports from the Workshops

14:15 Panel Discussion:

**Future Perspectives: Towards a sport culture without homophobia? Sport against discrimination**

**Sara Holmgren**, Education, diversity and inclusion officer, UEFA

**Di Cunningham**, Proud Canaries - Norwich City FC's LGBT Fan Club, Pride in Football UK

**Marko Levovnik**, Slovenian sports syndicate

**Alexandr Agapov**, President, Russian LGBT Sport Federation

**Kurt Wachter**, Head of Department, VIDC-fairplay initiative

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

15:30 Wrap Up and Closing

16:00 End of Conference

**Contact**

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