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Preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport across the European Union - RAXEN Thematic Study on Cyprus

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Preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport across the European Union

RAXEN Thematic Study on Cyprus

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1. Executive summary

[1]. The political and social backdrop of Cyprus at the turn of the last century was crucial in the development of trends and tendencies in sports in general but mostly in football; these trends survive today albeit in more subtle forms than 100 years ago. The contestations between left – right and between Greek Cypriots – Turkish Cypriots have left their mark on football which was the primary expression of elitist politics at both urban as well as rural level in the anti-colonial and post-colonial context. In the post independence era, the developments at the political arena in the 1960s and 1970s with the de facto division of the country between Greeks and Turks, the efforts of the Greek Cypriots to unite with Greece and marginalise the Turkish Cypriots, all found their expression in sports. The practice of Greek Cypriots to compete in the games of Greece came under fire with the growth of the ‘Cypriotist’ movement in Cyprus. The Turkish Cypriots who had been isolated from international games for decades owing to the non-recognition of their break-away state by the international community, entered into negotiations in 2007 with the Greek Cypriots in a joint effort to reach a formula that will not offend Greek Cypriot sensitivities on the issue of recognition. The matter continues to be pending, mirroring the negotiations for the resolution of the Cyprus problem at the political level.

[2]. The migration flows in Cyprus in the early 1990s signified the beginning of the participation of migrants into sports albeit in very small numbers, given the fact that permits are as a matter of policy granted primarily for low skilled and low paid jobs. Despite the lack of documented evidence, one may safely deduce that the problem of exploitation on the employment arena is also happening in sports, as many foreign professional footballers are registered as “amateurs” in order to avoid the rights arising under the contract for professional footballers.

[3]. There is no comprehensive study, nor is there any systematic system of recording racist incidents and discriminatory practices in sport in Cyprus. To collect the necessary evidence for the purposes of this report the NFP relied on various secondary sources (books, media reports). Additionally, the report draws on interviews as well as extensive information gathering from the persons interviewed (see interview list). There is however some ‘concrete’ evidence in the form of specialised body reports and sanctions against particular clubs imposed by the tribunal of the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) and the Cyprus Basketball Association (CBA).

[4]. The main conclusion drawn is that racism in sport is primarily located in professional football, manifested mostly in the racist behaviour of a small group of hard core fans against black footballers and against Turkish Cypriot fans. The same applies to a lesser extent in basketball. No serious problem was located in athletics. Additionally, one may also locate systemic and structural racism in the participation of migrants and Turkish Cypriots in various echelons of the sports structure, which operates as barriers in access. In general, sport authorities and institutions deny the existence of racism or discrimination or attempt to underplay the problem. The specialised body, however, disputes the allegation that racial incidents are

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1 In the interest of data protection, the anonymity of the informers interviewed has been preserved. The only exceptions are the interviews with the two black players who willingly went on record in order to have their allegations investigated by the authorities.
“sporadic”\textsuperscript{2} and cites numerous occasions of racist chanting and slogans in football matches. Also, black footballers interviewed for the purpose of this study point out that racist abuse shouted against them by fans still goes on. The number of fines imposed by CFA Tribunal for shouting racist abuse is indicative of the continuation of the problem. In fact evidence suggest that since 2003 there has been a rise in the reported racist incidents; however one cannot be certain that this necessarily reflects actual rise in racial incidents as the system of recording is problematic and inadequate.

[5]. New repressive measures adopted following the enactment of a new law prohibiting racist slogans have certainly had some effect in repressing the racist banners from the football pitches. However, the measures do not seem to have eradicated the problem but may have merely shifted or transferred the problem outside the sporting pitches, in much the way in which, according to experts, it happened with repressive measures on hooliganism.\textsuperscript{3} For instance fans often shout racist chants and slogans in neighbouring areas of the sporting grounds prior to or after the ‘big’ matches. Racist slogans are often used in “hubs” where fans regularly hang out and in places where the various organised fans meet, the so called ‘Gates’ or ‘Thyres’ as they are known in Greek,\textsuperscript{4} thus making racist ideology and discourses more accessible and dispersed to lower ages and in other spheres of life, which are less regulated, monitored and policed. There has been an upsurge of football-related electronic racist hate speech and other publications, which go undetected and unaddressed, despite the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of Racist or Xenophobic Nature committed through Computer Systems.\textsuperscript{5}

[6]. Regarding structural discrimination, there is very little relevant data or statistics on amateur football, basketball and athletics to draw any meaningful conclusions. No statistical data exists on the participation of migrants, minorities or other vulnerable groups, save for professional football and basketball, which employ non-nationals. It is therefore not possible to quantify the extent of the involvement of migrants and ethnic minorities either as athletes, or as coaches, officials or fans in the sports under examination (football, basketball and athletics). In general, the only visible non-natives are the professional athletes and coaches of the top leagues in football and basketball. There is minimum involvement of migrants, who have only arrived en mass after 1990; as for the Turkish-Cypriot community, the problem of the de facto partition and ethnic conflict meant that there is minimum participation of Turkish-Cyriots in sports.

[7]. A small number of specialised body reports address the issue of racism in sports, highlighting the problematic stand taken by the police and other competent authorities, who stubbornly refuse to identify the problem as one of racism and consequently fail to take measures against it. However, the reports themselves also fall short of imposing sanctions and limit themselves to criticism.

[8]. Some positive initiatives were taken by a few clubs to curb the influence of neo-Nazi groups, who have infiltrated fan clubs and networks, and to prevent further fining of

\textsuperscript{4} «Θύρες», which literally translates as ‘Gates’ and has been ‘imported’ from Greek fans who organize along the ‘gates’ they enter and sit nearby in the home ground of their football club (see Peristianis 2002: 5).
the clubs, but there is no sustainable or long-term strategy or campaign to combat racism in football.

2. Political and social context

[9]. The modern sport system in Cyprus can be traced back to the British colonial times (1878-1960). By far the most popular sport has been football; other less popular sports are basketball, volleyball, handball, martial arts and athletics. Most are being taught at school. The origins of modern Cypriot football are presumed to date back to November 1900, when the first reported football match took place between a British team and the Hellenic Athletic club of Nicosia. Local football clubs began to develop in the mid-twenties, although a few schools, notably the English School, had been playing football since 1902. The first Turkish Cypriot Football Club was formed in 1907. 6 The first major Greek-Cypriot football club Anorthosis was established in 1911 and the Turkish-Cypriot Çetinkaya in 1943. 7 Football had started as an elite sport; for instance one of the eight clubs forming the Cyprus Football Federation (CFA) in 1934, the Nicosia Turkish Sports Club was “founded by the well-to-do members of the community”. Çetinkaya Turkish Sports Union 8 won the Cypriot League Championship in 1950 and it was the cup winner in 1951 and 1952. Some successful Turkish Cypriot and Armenian Cypriot footballers also played in the Cypriot National Football Team.

[10]. At least since the 1940s, sport in Cyprus has been part of the wider social and political contestations, including the historical ethnic conflict. Moreover, party politics had used football for their own political means and many clubs became, by and large extensions or at least vehicles for political uses, even to this day. Studies illustrate that socio-political and ethnic politics, including ‘ethnicised’, even ‘racialised’, dimensions have been part of the historic context of the conflicts that were shaped during colonial times. Historically, mass sports and football in particular reflected the social, political, economic, cultural and ideological life, including its ethnic dimensions. It is documented for instance that the Larnaca football team ‘Alki’, a popular club of the town’s lower classes, was the team of the Mantides, the Greek-speaking Cypriot Roma; even to this day their opponents will call the club and its supporters ‘Mantides’ as a term of abuse. Despite the ethnic division of the country for the last years, even to this day the ‘left-wing’ teams (Omonia, AEL, Alki and Nea Salamina) retain supporters amongst Turkish-Cypriots, whilst the ‘right-wing’ teams (APOEL, Anorthosis, Olympiakos, Apollon) are generally seen as nationalistic and some their supporters carry the Greek Flags to the matches, whilst in their banners one may often see far right wing symbols.

[11]. The anti-colonial struggle, the contestation between the Greek-Cypriot Left and Right for hegemony of the struggles and its goals, in turn created the conditions for

8 The Çetinkaya Turkish Guilds Sports Hearth was established in 1943 and in 1949 it amalgamated with the Nicosia Turkish Sports Club.
the inter-ethnic rivalries between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot nationalistic forces pre as well as post-independence. Sporting activities were heavily implicated in these contestations. A scholar points out that “in 1948 the Left found itself under attack as the Right and the colonial authorities were trying to marginalize the communist people’s movement”, which “led to the development of a leftist subculture”. All sports (such as athletics), but football in particular was a key vehicle of expression of the subaltern classes in this context. As one scholar points out, “football is probably the most obvious example of that separation which endures till today – like the coffeshops/silloyi which dot most central squares in villages and urban ‘neighbourhoods’”. Another scholar refers to a kind of ‘McCarthyism’ being practiced, where leftist were forced to renounce their ideology to compete in athletics and football activities: “Some refused to subject to the fascist conduct of the governing bodies and were expelled from football clubs and prohibited from training”. Leftist teams (Alki from Larnaca, Nea Salamina from Famagusta, Omonia and Orpheas from Nicosia) together with AMOL (from Limassol) and Asteras Morphou formed a new football league in 1948. By 1953 the two leagues, the right-wing controlled one and the leftist one, were united. Oddly enough, during the period when there was a vicious campaign to oust Greek-Cypriot Leftists from the football pitches of rightwing-controlled leagues for not being worthy as they did not possess a “Greek soul”, the Turkish-Cypriot teams continued their participation in it. To this day these contestations are said to survive, albeit in more subtle manner.

[12]. The de facto division of the country also divided sports. The anti-colonial mobilisations begun from the 1920s and 1930s; however it was the beginning of the anti-colonial mobilizations of the right in 1955, spearheaded by the armed group EOKA, which led to increased ethnic tension. It was at that time that the Turkish Cypriot clubs formed their own league. The first ethnic conflict in 1957-1958 begun to shake the foundations of the existing common sporting activities. The inter-communal strife (1963-1967) with the Turkish-Cypriots leadership ousting/withdrawal from the consociational government in 1964 and the confinement of one third of the Turkish-Cypriot population into the enclaves made inter-communal sports very difficult. In any case the Greek-Cypriot controlled Republic of

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13 The football club APOEL sent an anti-communist telegram to the Athens-based Greek Sports Authority SEGAS and instructed its footballers to sign it but five footballers refused to sign it. The daily newspaper published an article with the title “Throw Communists off our pitches”, commending on the teams policy to oust communists from its ranks (see Νέος Κυπριακός Φύλαξ. «ΟΣΩ οι κομμουνιστες απο τα γήπεδα μας!», 26.5.1948, reprinted in Τ.11, Περιπέτειες Ιδεών, Πολίτης, 26.4.2007).
16 There are different versions as to how and why the Turkish-Cypriots were excluded: Djavit (2008) suggests that Çetinkaya was excluded from the CFA. Moreover the Turkish-Cypriot Left was excluded from the Turkish-Cypriot Right (A. Djavit An (2008) The first Turkish-Cypriot football clubs, intercommunal football matches , multi-ethnic football teams and Çetinkaya (1902-1955), paper presented at the 4th International Cyprological Congress, held in Nicosia, 29 April-3 May 2008). To this day the Greek-Cypriot left-wing teams maintain good relations with the Turkish-Cypriot community – for instance the first division club Nea Salamina has had some Turkish-Cypriot footballers in its squad. Also there is an ongoing debate on the reunification of football as a possible precursor of the reunification of the country.
Cyprus pursued a policy of pursuing integration with Greece when it came to sports. Despite independence in 1960, in athletics Greek-Cypriot athletes would up until late 1970s compete in the games of Greece. Between 1967-1974, Greek Cypriot football teams that ‘qualified’, would play in the Hellenic national league of the Greek championships. The results were embarrassingly bad for the Greek Cypriots and they also created tension given the political undertones of a rising feeling for independence among Greek-Cypriots at the time. The coup by the Greek junta and EOKA B and the invasions and occupation of the northern part of the country in 1974 has de facto divided sports along ethnic lines. The Turkish-Cypriots have been isolated from international games ever since. The two sides started talks in 2007 on a deal to end Turkish Cypriot isolation from international football. The talks culminated in a preliminary agreement that would have put the break-away Turkish-Cypriot Football Association under the CFA's direction, but would allow the Turkish Cypriots to hold international friendly matches and run their own championship. However, the deal is for the moment off after the Cyprus Turkish Football Association rejected a FIFA and UEFA-brokered deal on ending its decades-old exclusion from the international game.

Overall, with regard to migration policies relevant in order to understand the situation of migrants in sport, the historical and structural factors regarding their stay, employment and living conditions have to be borne in mind. The change in policy which allowed migrants to come and work in Cyprus occurred in 1990; up until then the migration policy was very restrictive. Since the early 1990s the migrant labour population has steadily grown: the latest figure of all the legally residing non-Cypriots in the areas under the control of the Republic of Cyprus is 138,221 persons, which includes migrant labour from third countries as well as EU citizens. This is a significant population given that the total population of Cyprus is a mere 789,300. However, migration is a very recent phenomenon and the vast majority of migrants tend to occupy the lowest economic strata performing by and large unskilled labouring jobs. This means that their access to sport and leisure activities is significantly less than the local population. Even though no statistical data is available, few people drawn from these migrant labouring populations are known to be involved in professional sports and we have little evidence of their participation in amateur sports. Sports authority officers and other informants claim that there is a large number of migrant participation in certain types of sports that carry traditions from their countries of origin, such as martial arts. Also we are told that that there

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17 Actually Omonia, the most popular Leftwing club, did well in the Greek championship but was dealt with negatively as it was a leftist team.
19 The Turkish-Cypriot CFTA president Omer Adal said he could not sign the deal because it ceded too much authority to the CFA. He said a provision granting the Greek Cypriot association final say on international friendlies was the main stumbling block to an agreement. (See Herald Tribune, accessed 5.3.2009, http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2009/01/30/sports/SOC-Cyprus-Turkish-Cypriot-Football.php).
20 Persons who were resident up to the 03.03.2009 (information provided by the Population Archive of the Ministry of Interior, 05.03.2009).
21 According to the Cyprus Statistical Service the population of Cyprus in the Government controlled area was estimated at 789,300 at the end of 2007, recording an increase of 1,4 per cent from the previous year: http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/cystat/statistics.nsf/All/FC5F3AB325D6EEAC22574D7002DB767?OpenDocument&sub=1&e= (05.03.2009)
23 Interview with director of Cyprus Sports Association (KOA), Nicosia 19.2.2009.
is migrant participation as athletes in sports such as football,\textsuperscript{24} basketball\textsuperscript{25} and athletic\textsuperscript{26} from the second generation of the more settled migrant communities emerging now.\textsuperscript{27} There is some participation of fans, particularly in football\textsuperscript{28} but minimum to negligible participation in mainstream clubs and in the sports authorities.\textsuperscript{29} However, there are sports clubs run by migrants in areas which are predominantly resided by migrants such as the Pontians in certain areas of Paphos. A state fund has been set up as part of a program for the economic regeneration of neighbourhoods, intended and used to develop more sporting grounds for economically deprived areas, which are heavily populated by migrants.\textsuperscript{30} Most foreign nationals involved in sports are athletes who come to Cyprus in their professional capacity, mostly footballers and basketball players for the top division clubs. An officer from the Pancyprian Footballers Association has informed the NFP that there was a problem of exploitation and abuse of foreign footballers who were registered merely as ‘amateurs’ and thus not given a footballer’s contract. The practice detected was that, instead of properly registering them as professionals, some clubs used to register them as migrant workers in one of the other occupations that allow for third country migrant workers: the result was that they were often exploited, left unpaid and expelled from the country. According to one interviewee, new regulations are currently under way, which will prohibit foreign amateur footballers from playing in the lower divisions, so that these positions are filled by professionals.\textsuperscript{31} The authors were not supplied with a draft of the new regulations so as to be able to comment safely: there is a possibility that this may be discriminatory, unless it is a measure to protect the rights of foreign footballers from possible abuse and/or it is purely an immigration and work-related issue. It must in any way result in discrimination when compared to EU nationals.

\[14\]. Today the top Cypriot sport has been professionalised for the higher divisions of football, basketball and for some of the other sports are dominated by foreign professionals who compete in the championship levels. There is also an amateur sport scene and a large state-funded program to develop sport activities for all from very young ages.\textsuperscript{32}

\[15\]. Public debates in Cyprus on discrimination in sports rarely take the form of alleging exclusion of non-Cypriots. Instead, the usual concerns expressed are with the displacement of Cypriot professional sportspersons by foreign professionals.

\textsuperscript{24} Interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association) 10.03.2009; interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009.
\textsuperscript{25} Interview with General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009; interview with press officer of basketball team of AEL, Limassol, 24.2.2009.
\textsuperscript{26} Interview with director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009.
\textsuperscript{27} Interview with director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009; interview with primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 27.2.2009; interview with primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 9.3.2009; interview with deputy head teacher in secondary school, 11.3.09; interview with coach of women’s football team (Nea Salamina), 10.3.2009; interview with sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 10.3.09.
\textsuperscript{28} Interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009.
\textsuperscript{29} Interview with director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009; interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009; Interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009; interview with coach of women’s football team (Nea Salamina), 10.3.2009; interview with sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 10.3.2009; interview with athletics trainer, Nicosia, 27.2.2009.
\textsuperscript{30} Interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009
\textsuperscript{31} Interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009.
\textsuperscript{32} Interview with Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009 and interview with officer of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009.
Exceptions to this have been various controversies relating to the failure by the Cypriot Football Association to comply with FIFA and UEFA policy directives to effectively tackle racism in football. Racism against black footballers takes the form of racial verbal abuse and harassment by fans of the opposite team during matches. These have widely been reported by the national and European media. Three top football clubs belonging to the traditional right seem to be particularly prone to such problems. The same clubs face problems in their basketball and volleyball teams, particularly but not exclusively their male teams, albeit to a lesser extent than in football. This is attributed to the fact that football draws much larger crowds of fans sitting in large and open spaces at the football pitch rather than the closed and smaller arrangements in volleyball and basketball which are easier to monitor.

33 Such overt forms of racism are not generally encountered in football clubs in the lower divisions and in the other team sports, such as volleyball and basketball; nor are there reports of such trends in athletics. There is no public debate on structural discrimination, apart from lobbying by ethnic minority groups who claim additional facilitation, mostly in the form of funding, in order to promote their participation in sports; however these claims do not articulate themselves in allegations of racism. In practice, there is minimum involvement of ethnic communities in sports; this also affects Turkish Cypriots whose participation is hindered by the complications posed by the political problem of Cyprus.

3. Racist incidents

34 There is no comprehensive academic or research study, nor is there any systematic system of recording racist incidents and discriminatory practices in sport in Cyprus. However, we have some relevant reports by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, which investigated specific allegations of racism, some are sports related and others deal with youth-related racism and the failure of the school authorities and the police to properly investigate and combat racism. Currently, the Anti-discrimination Authority is investigating the overall situations about racism in football following a complaint after the recent racist attacks against Turkish-Cypriots by fans of APOEL. For the purposes of this study the NFP relied on a number of secondary sources (books, media reports) and drew significantly on the interviews conducted, from which there emerges important concrete evidence on the subject to contextualise the recorded racist incidents during the actual matches (primarily in first club division football). The cases investigated by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, one of the two bodies forming the national specialised body, provide the basis for conclusion as to the general treatment of racism in sport and properly interpret the data regarding incidents and sanctions, primarily in the form of fines, by

34 The case AKP 4/2004 dealt with racist behaviour during football matches. The other two are the following: (a) Report ref. ΑΚ 241/2008 dated 10.03.2008 entitled 'Έκθεση της Αρχής κατά του Ρατσισμού και των Διακρίσεων αναφορικά με τον ξυλοδαρµό μαθήτριας αφρικανικής καταγωγής και το χειρισµό του περιστατικού από το Υπουργείο Παιδείας και Πολιτισµού και την Αστυνοµία' [Report of the Anti-discrimination Authority regarding the assault against a student of African origin and the handling of the incident by the Ministry of Education and Culture and by the Police], which dealt with the racist attacks on a African origin female pupil after a school volleyball match and how it was dealt with by the Ministry of Education and the Police. (b). Report Ref. ΑΚΡ/ΑΥΤ 2/2008, dated 26.01.2009, a case involving attacks on migrants in the Limassol village of Ypsonas by village youths frequenting local club (σύλλογος), which is a well-known ‘bastion’ of Apollon supporters. Another relevant report, not related to sports, involved the bullying of a migrant pupil by her classmates and the subsequent failure of the school to properly investigate and address the problem. 35 Interview with officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 05.03.2009.
the tribunal of Cyprus Football Association (CFA) and the Cyprus Basketball Association (CBA) in the case of the AEL player R. Randle, who was racially abused by APOEL supporters.\[36]\n
[18]. The main problem with racism in sport is primarily located in male professional football (and mostly in the higher leagues) and to a lesser extent in basketball; no problem in athletics was located. This study has identified a number of racial discriminatory acts and some racial incidents that warrant action by the authorities. However the line taken by the sports authorities and the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) is the denial of the existence of any real problem, claiming that it is unnecessary and indeed inappropriate for the ruling body to take action to combat racial incidents and discrimination. The main problem is located in three popular teams, which are historically connected with the ideological / nationalistic right of the political divide: primarily APOEL from Nicosia, Apollon from Limassol and to a lesser extent, Anorthosis from Famagusta.

[19]. The leading authority is the 2004 report of the Anti-discrimination Authority, one of the two bodies comprising Cyprus’ specialised body, following an investigation into racist behaviour during football matches.\[37]\n
\[36\] Interview with General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009; the decision by the tribunal of CBA was taken on 17.2.2009.

AEL, Seyni Endiage, the Cyprus Football Association admitted that the player was indeed the victim of such behaviour, but the fact that he did not react to the abuse has made him a positive example of fair play, so much that he was honoured in the presence of the President of the Republic of Cyprus and was commended by the media and the sports world. The Cyprus Football Association claimed that it takes the problem of racism very seriously and referred to the prohibition of racist behaviour contained in its binding statement issued upon the launch of the championship season every year.\textsuperscript{38} The relevant section reads: “it is explicitly forbidden to put up [banners], show or chant racist, political or advertising messages and generally messages that insult the dignity of the person in stadiums [...] The club whose fans, employees or members of management put up or show such messages before and/or during and/or after the end of the match will be reported to the tribunal/disciplinary committee of the Cyprus Football Association with sanctions including a ban from home ground match of the club”. The Anti-discrimination Authority referred to the Ten Point Action Plan developed by UEFA in collaboration with FARE, which suggests ways for clubs to combat racism. It also referred to UEFA making available 50,000 Swiss Francs for each national federation which develops a specific action plan to combat racism in football and noted that the Cyprus Football Association failed to develop such plan and was therefore not eligible for the grant. The report welcomes the initiative of the club APOEL to issue leaflets against racism and some initiatives by the management of the club Apollon. The report concludes that the frequency of racist behaviour in the football field and the shouting of racist slogans are not isolated incidents; instead, the behaviour complained of is indeed regularly manifested. A number of observations are mentioned in the report that racist behaviour is not confined or unique to Cypriot sport but is widespread in society and inseparable from the broader social processes and developments and as such it must be understood within this wider context, rather than in isolation. Yet, it observes that there is “a new type of racism” which manifests itself in athletic grounds finding opportunities for expression within the anonymity of the crowd and is disguised in a manner that makes the individual racist actors difficult to detect. Whether widely spread and routinely manifested, as the complainant alleged, or sporadically practiced as the Cyprus Football Association alleges, the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority notes that it is an abominable illegal act which violates fundamental rights and civilization; moreover, it offends human and professional dignity and any notion of fair play, which is an essential element of the game. The report contains the following recommendations:

- There is a crucial role for the Ministry of Education, the Cyprus Sports Authority (KOA) as well as the Cyprus Football Association, the football clubs and the police regarding the education of the young and the public at large.

- The Cyprus Football Association must immediately proceed to the development of a “Ten Point Action Plan” along the lines recommended by UEFA which includes (a) decisive action in issuing condemning statements to the media; (b) decisive action by the clubs themselves in combating racism amongst their own fans, along the lines that the Scottish club Dundee United did by reporting two of its own fans to the police, which banned them for life from football matches; (c) close cooperation between clubs and all interested parties such as club fans and others to develop common initiatives.

- The setting up of a common coordinating body for combating racism and xenophobia: for instance the mandate of the National Committee Against

\textsuperscript{38} Paragraph 63 of the launching statement (προκήρυξη) 2003-2004. The same paragraph is reproduced every year in the launching statement. For 2008-2009, the same paragraph appears as paragraph 71.1.
Football Violence, which was set up in 1995 can be expanded to cover also racism.

- Recommendation Rec. (2001) 6 of the Council of Europe, which provides for the establishment of a special and separate legislative framework to combat racism in sport, must be adopted.

- The Cyprus Football Association must monitor the situation closely and impose a progressively tougher regime of sanctions for reoffending clubs, whose fans have been accused of racist behaviour.

Another decision of the Anti-discrimination Authority on the racial attacks by youths against migrants in the village of Ypsonas is also relevant. This was a self-initiated investigation into the handling by the police of a group attack against migrants which was reported in the press and which was manifestly racist.39 The attack took place in June 2008 in a rural area and most of the perpetrators were aged between 14-18. According to the attackers’ own statement to the police, the attack came as a revenge for an alleged attack the previous night against a Greek Cypriot by two Polish men, which led the attackers to hit any person of migrant origin they found in the street who fled without reporting the incident to the police. The incident was reported to the police by a number of British persons who rushed to the rescue of the migrants and who were attacked themselves by the youth, whose number had meanwhile grown and who equipped themselves with stones and iron bars, causing considerable damage to homes of migrants and to the property of the British people who run to their rescue, shouting racist remarks and injuring several of them. The perpetrators were charged with offences related to common assault, malicious damage to property and riot, which do not involve racial motive. The decision of the Anti-discrimination Authority illustrated that the Police Department for the Combating of Discrimination (PDCD) whose mandate was extended on 11.02.2008 following the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority’s recommendation, to cover and record not only racial offences but also racial incidents (as defined inter alia by the victim), does not have any mechanism in place to record racial incidents; only a small number of racial offences were recorded40 none of which led to any conviction. This is, according to the Anti-discrimination Authority, evident of the role of the police in handing the investigation and the criminal procedure. It also emerged from the investigation that the system of recording racial offences is such that, unless the investigating officer chooses to classify an offence as racial, the PDCD is not informed of the incident at all. The head of the PDCD admitted that no special training is offered to police officers on the identification and recording of racial motive and expressed the view that the change of mentality within the police body will come gradually through experience. The limited activity of the PDCD was attributed to its serious understaffing and its wide mandate which covers at the same time two more departments (violence in the family and youth delinquency). The Head of the PDCD informed the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority that in the particular case under investigation there did not seem to be a prima facie case of offences in violation of the anti-discrimination legislation, a view which was criticised in the report. The Anti-discrimination Authority referred to the Second and Third ECRI reports on Cyprus of 03.07.2001 and 16.05.2006 respectively which noted that the legislative provisions relating to racism are not adequately implemented, that awareness of

39 The Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority relied on the following laws: Cyprus/ The Combating of Racial and Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law 2004 N.42(I)/2004, article 6; Cyprus/ Law ratifying the UN Convention for the Elimination of all kinds of Racial Discrimination (amendment) N.11(III)/1992, article A(3); Criminal Code articles 51A and 47(1).

40 Two incidents were recorded in 2005, 18 in 2006 and three in 2007.
these laws is low amongst legal circles and the public at large, that the police is not adequately trained to identify and address racial motive, that racial crime is not adequately recorded and that the bodies involved in the criminal justice process are not sufficiently aware of the need to address racism. Reference was also made to the ECtHR decision of Bekou & Koutropoulou v. Greece where Greece was found guilty of not adequately addressing the racial motive involved in an attack against a group of Roma, as well as to the reports of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights where the data collection carried out by Cyprus appears to be inadequate. The Anti-discrimination Authority concludes that the incident under investigation is not an isolated one and that there is an increase in the number and intensity of racial incidents. It notes that previous investigations have also shown the failure of the police to prosecute racial incidents, adding that although the legislative framework appears to be adequate, the authorities stubbornly refuse to prosecute racial incidents reported by victims or by NGOs or appearing in the media. The report notes with concern the fact that in the incident under investigation the migrants attacked did not file a complaint with the police, which indicates that vulnerable groups feel discouraged from reporting racial incidents for fear of deportation or for lack of trust in the police. At the same time, the underreporting phenomenon shows a general failure of the existing system to record the real picture of racism in Cyprus. The Anti-discrimination Authority recommended the following measures: the precise and credible recording of racial incidents; the provision of assistance and protection to victims and their encouragement to report incidents; the upgrading of the PDCD and its adequate staffing; the training of police officers on the identification and handling of racial incidents.

[21]. Although the above case is not the first instance in which the Anti-discrimination Authority finds that the police has failed to address and prosecute racist crime. However the report does not identify this practice as discriminatory in itself and restricts its criticism in the area of lack of efficiency. Also, the failure of the Attorney General and the Legal Service to take a more active role in the prosecution of racial incidents is not addressed by the Anti-discrimination Authority. Moreover, the fact that the attackers were youths who organised their attacks from the local club, which is a ‘bastion’ of supporters of the football club Apollon, illustrates that the problem of racism within the two popular clubs who have right-wing supporters such as Apollon has not been resolved, as claimed by football officials. The fact that there has been another recent racist abuse by Apollon fans in women’s football match, which was not reported to the Cyprus Football Association but is currently under investigation by the Anti-discrimination Authority, illustrates that the problem of racism has not been resolved at least for the two clubs who have the main problem. It may well be the case that we are dealing with an organised racist group within Apollon, given that some Apollon fans websites contain neo-Nazi symbols, racist and extreme nationalist language that is offensive and abusive, contrary to the Additional Protocol to the Convention against Cybercrime, which was ratified by Cyprus in 2004. No legal measures have ever been taken by the authorities in respect of these websites.

41 Interview with officer the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 6.3.2009.
42 Interview with officer of the Cyprus Football Association (CFA- KOP), 10.03.2009.
43 A complaint was lodged with the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority.
44 The officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority who investigated the case commented that there may well be a minority of organised racists in football teams with problems of racism; however this needs to be properly investigated by the authority to be established, 6.3.2009. This was repeated by a number of informers (interview with author, cultural commentator and sport journalist, Nicosia 19.2.2009; sociologist and media analyst, Limassol, 7.3.2009; sociologist and researcher, Nicosia, 8.3.2009).
From the information derived from the interviews with sports officials and officers of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, it emerges that apart from the last recommendation, which is in the hands of the disciplinary committee/tribunal of the Cyprus Football Association and not the executive of the said Association, the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority recommendations of 2004, were not implemented. The attitude of all sports officials interviewed is that there is no serious problem or racism, and even if there was a problem in the past this was eradicated through the more repressive-type of measures and the sanction system. It was argued by sports officials that it would be counter-productive to take any further actions. This is contrary to the view expressed by a number of club coaches and sports teachers interviewed, who state the problem of racist prejudice, stereotypes and abusive behaviour in schools and everyday training is persistent and serious.

The violent racial incidents recorded over the past five years, as reported in the media and the complaints receive by the Anti-discrimination Authority have seen an important rise. In fact over the last year we have seen three cases that were investigated by the Anti-discrimination Authority and have a connection to sports. Firstly, the violent attack on Turkish-Cypriots fans on 15.1.2009. Turkish-Cypriot informers allege that the attacks on that day were not confined to Turkish-Cypriot fans of OMONIA, as alleged by sports officials, who appear to depict the attacks as part of a generalised endemic of “football hooliganism” (i.e. the fans of APOEL attack any fans of OMONIA, some of whom just happened to be Turkish-Cypriots). The second case is the racial attack against a fifteen-year-old black pupil who was playing volleyball for her school team. And thirdly, the racial attack against migrants in the village of Ypsonas. Moreover, from investigation into the racial attacks on Turkish-Cypriot students at the English School in Nicosia in 22.11.2006, it emerged that the organisers used APOEL as the recruitment ground to organise the attacks. APOEL has also used intimidation and pressure on the chair of the Cyprus Football Association tribunal, when he insisted that the club be punished with a one-match exclusion from its home ground for the chanting of racist slogans by its fans.

The recent racist incidents indicate that vulnerable groups are more likely than other groups to suffer from acts of violence connected to sports, mostly football. Turkish-Cypriots and migrants for instance seem to be targeted. Moreover, a research

47 Interview with one of the coach of Nea Salamina, 10.3.2009; interviews primary school athletics teacher, 27.2.2009 and 9.3.3009; interview with teacher and intercultural officer in secondary school, 11.3.09.
48 The issue is currently under investigation by the Anti-discrimination Authority.
49 Interview with Turkish-Cypriot committee member of Yeni Cami and political scientist, Nicosia, 7.3.2009; interview with Turkish-Cypriot researcher, Nicosia, 8.3.2009.
50 The issue is currently under investigation by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority. The case was considered so serious that there was an extraordinary convened session of the educational subcommittee of the House of Parliament on 23.12.2008.
51 AKP/AYT 2/2008, 26.1.2009. The incident was not mainly about football-related racism or football violence, but was a youth violence that involve some of the village youth against migrants living in the community. However, the case certainly had a dimension that related to fans of one of the two clubs which have a problem with racism: the attackers were youths who organised their attacks from the local syllogos/club, which is a ‘bastion’ of Apollon supporters (interview with officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 6.3.2009).
52 This involved the student organisation called EFEN and had close links with the Athens-based Neo-Nazi newspaper group Chrysi Avgi (Χρυσή Αυγή).
53 In an interview in Philaleitfros («Η Εκτελεστική αρκετές φορές μας άφησε εκτεθειμένους», 1.3.2009). The President of tribunal said that he felt like resigning after it was revealed to APEL officials that he took a tough stance on the matter and “became a personal target”.

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conducted in 2002 indicates that there is a connection between violent fans and predisposition towards racism and xenophobia: the violent fans appear more xenophobic than the non-violent ones and have generally a more negative predisposition towards the Turkish-Cypriots (Peristianis, 2002: 179-201). Also the fans of the right-wing teams researched (APOEL, Anorthosis) are more likely to be racist and xenophobic than the supporters of the left-wing teams (OMONIA, AEL).

[25]. The new measures, mostly of a repressive nature as a result of the new law on prohibiting racist slogans has certainly had some effect in restricting the racist banners from the football pitches. However, the measures do not address the problem in its entirety and may in fact have shifted it outside the sporting pitches, in much the same way as it happened with repressive measures on hooliganism. For instance fans often shout racist chants and slogans in neighbouring areas of the sporting grounds prior to or after the ‘big’ matches. Racist slogans are often used wherever some of fans of the two clubs teams who have a serious problem of racism hang out places where the various organised fans meet ‘Thières’ There has been an enormous upsurge of football-related electronic racist hate speech and other publications, which go unopposed, despite the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of Racist or Xenophobic Nature committed through Computer Systems.

[26]. In order to appreciate the situation as regard racism in sport one has to view this in the light of the wider social context. In this sense research and surveys are valuable here. The Second Country Report of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance made abundantly clear the need urgent action. The Report falls short of using the term ‘institutional racism’ but the inference is apparent. In all but name the picture painted by the report is particularly gloomy: excessive violence by the police; immigration officers abuse their discretion; public figures’ public statements that lead to a xenophobic climate all of which cause the ‘vulnerable position of migrants’.

[27]. All major studies on the third country migrant workers in society point to the same conclusion that they remain ‘a vulnerable position’, as the Second ECRI Report on Cyprus described them; they continue to be in a vulnerable position in spite the improvements of the institutional and legal framework, as the Third ECRI Report on Cyprus indicates. Moreover, the Third ECRI Report on Cyprus refers inter alia to ‘manifestations of racism and discrimination affecting Turkish-Cypriots.’

[28]. Other research conducted in the last ten years reached similar conclusions as to the seriousness of problem of racism in Cyprus, illustrating how racialisation was endemic in the media, in employment, in education and amongst the youth. A

57 Interview with interview with coach of women’s football team (Nea Salamina), 10.3.2009.
quantitative study conducted by the Centre of the Study of Childhood and Adolescence on children’s perceptions of and attitudes towards foreigners of various nationalities who live in Cyprus showed a serious problem of racist stereotyping.64

[29]. Academic research and surveys in Cyprus reveal a connection between violence in football on the one hand and racist and xenophobic behaviour on the other, even if the two matters are distinct. A study by Peristianis et al conducted in 2002 on the social phenomenon of football violence in Cyprus resulted in the following main findings: the so-called “gates” are characterized by elements such as uniformity in appearance (dress-code in team colours), massive attendance of football matches,


64 “Greek-Cypriot children’s familiarity with, knowledge about, perceptions of and attitudes towards a variety of foreigners who live in Cyprus”, 2005: The study was carried out with fifth and sixth grade elementary school children (i.e. around the ages of 10-12) from ten different schools in Nicosia during May and June 2004. With permission from the Ministry of Education and Culture, the schools were selected based on certain criteria such as the size of the school and its social class profile to ensure maximum variability. The questionnaires were self-administered in the classrooms in the presence of a research assistant who responded to students’ questions and provided clarifications. The questionnaires were then analysed using SPSS. See also Spyrou, S. (2006), 'Children Constructing Ethnic Identities in Cyprus’ in Y. Papadakis, N. Peristianis, and G Welz, (eds.), Divided Cyprus: Modernity, History and an Island in Conflict, Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, pp. 121-139; E. Papamichael (2008) “Greek Cypriot Teachers’ Understandings of Intercultural Education in an Increasingly Diverse Society”, in: The Cyprus Review, Special Issue on Rethinking Migration, Discrimination and Multiculturalism in a Post-tourist Society, Volume 20:2 Fall 2008 pp. 51-78.


66 The methodology used focused on the investigation of the behaviour of a number of fanatic football supporters, based on the following: (1) Extended questionnaires with 200 “fanatic” supporters of 4 football teams (APOEL, AEL, Omonia and Anorthosis) 50 from each team. The teams were selected because they have large numbers of supporters; they come from different towns and they are affiliated to different political parties with different political ideologies. The sample selection was based on the method of “multiple snowballs”, in an attempt to locate fanatic supporters of different age groups, social strata and occupations. (2) Participant observation: the researchers attended football matches of the 4 teams under consideration, so as to observe the behaviour of fanatic supporters, especially the members of the fan “gates” (fan subculture groups). (3) Personal interviews were conducted with persons actively involved in football, whose opinion on various aspects of the football violence phenomenon carries special weight (i.e. football players, coaches, referees, sports journalists / commentators, football club executives, police, football stadium authorities etc.) (4). Study of the Media coverage: the aim was to study whether the Media play a significant role in stirring football violence, either in the way violent incidents are covered, or in the way football matches are represented. (5) Study of historical sources that refer to sports violence: a small scale review of old newspapers, which focused on incidents in sports grounds was conducted, as well as a sample review of the minutes of the Judiciary Committee of the Cyprus football Federation. (6) Bibliography: A review of Greek, as well as international bibliography was conducted.
organised marches to and from the football grounds, coordinated manifestations of supporting the team as regards slogans, chants and body movements that resemble (religious) rituals. Sixty two per cent of the sample were involved in violent incidents either inside or outside the football grounds, especially after the end of the matches. The incidents mainly involved conflicts between rival fans, as well as between fans and the police. From the findings of the research, it is concluded that young people ending up involved in football violence are not special “types” of “criminals” – but rather common youngsters, with a more than common share of social problems. Hence any policy planning towards tackling the phenomenon of football violence should start from the need to tackle the crime-inducing circumstances / social environment that allow or encourage violent forms of behaviour. The main profile characteristics of the violent fans as compared to the non-violent ones, are the following:

- They come from all social strata, but mainly from the middle classes. Their age group is mainly under 20 years (15-20).
- Children of divorced families are slightly overrepresented.
- They smoke and drink alcohol to a higher degree than the non-violent ones. Furthermore, a higher percentage of the violent fans have tried drugs.
- They demonstrate a lower degree (than the non-violent ones) of trust in socio-political institutions and their representatives – politicians, clergy, the police, football club executives and especially the referees.
- They are less content with their education, their relationship with their parents, their standard of living and with themselves, but they are more pleased (than the non-violent ones) with their leisure activities and their social affiliations.
- The main reason they present for getting involved in violent incidents is the provocation by rival fans and strong feelings that the referee wronged their team.
- Violent and non-violent fans, as well as all other functionaries interviewed, feel strongly that the penalties imposed on vandals are non-deterring.

[30]. The findings of the research of Charakis, Sitas et al on the anti-social behaviour of the Cypriot youth and racist tendencies provide some interesting data. Methodologically the research is sound and covers a large and representative sample of teachers, school heads and deputy heads, media persons and youth and the results were published in 2004 and 2005. The aim of the research was to investigate

67 The authors are K. Charakis, A. Sitas, K. Sotiriades, L. Demetriou, C. Charakis, E. Alexandrou and the book is edited by K Charakis (ed.) (2005) Αντικοινωνική Συμπεριφορά των Νέων της Κύπρου- Ρατσιστικές Τάσεις, Athens: Sakoulas. The book publishes the report of the research conducted by a team of social scientists and financed by the Research Promotion Institute in Cyprus. Part III, Chapter I of the book deals with education and covers issues such as discrimination in the school system, the role of the church and religious instruction, the content of school textbooks, etc.
68 The sample included thirty nine school heads and deputy heads from all over the part of the island controlled by the Cyprus Republic; forty four teachers (ages: 28 – 60); two special questionnaires for 1,242 youths, between the ages 15-23; sixty two non-Cypriots who were mostly students of unspecified age; twenty three persons aged between 18-52 who are connected to the mass media.
racist predispositions amongst the Greek-Cypriot youth, referred to as habitués by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu. Some relevant questions asked and answered in the questionnaires included:

- **“Is racism justified?”** The question was addressed only to the youth. Ten per cent responded that racism ‘is justified’, 39 per cent answered that racism is ‘unjustified’, 48 per cent that it is ‘sometimes’ justified and three per cent that ‘many times’ racism is justified.

- **“Is racism and discrimination promoted through educational books and material?”** This question only applied to educationalists. Forty per cent of the teachers and 41 per cent of the school-Heads said that racism is ‘not promoted’ through the educational material; twenty three per cent of the teachers and 26 per cent of the school-Heads said that racism is promoted ‘very sporadically’; twenty six per cent of the teachers and 23 per cent of the school-Heads said that racism is ‘not particularly promoted’; and finally 12 per cent of the teachers and 10 per cent of school-Heads said that the educational material given to schools ‘regularly’ promotes racism and discriminatory stereotypes.

- **“Racist tendencies: Is there a ‘superior race’?”** Seventy two per cent of the respondents rejected this statement; eighteen per cent answered “yes, it is a social construct”. Finally, 10 per cent of the respondents said “yes, this exists by nature”.

- **“Racist tendencies: Are stereotypes real?”** Amongst the youth 19 per cent said that stereotypes ‘are justified’; another 19 per cent said that are ‘usually’ justified; twenty three per cent said ‘sometimes’ and 39 per cent ‘never’. Amongst media persons, 30 per cent said that stereotypes ‘are justified’; seventeen per cent said that stereotypes are ‘usually’ justified; nineteen per cent answered ‘sometimes’ and 35 per cent that stereotypes are ‘not justified’. Amongst teachers 37 per cent said that stereotypes ‘are justified’; nineteen per cent said that are ‘usually’ justified; fourteen per cent ‘sometimes’ justified and 30 per cent ‘never’ justified. Amongst school heads and deputy heads: Eighteen per cent said that stereotypes ‘are justified’; twenty eight per cent that they are ‘usually’ justified; twenty one per cent are ‘sometimes’ justified and 33 per cent ‘never’ justified.

- **Racist tendencies:** Degree of rejection and acceptance of foreigners from the youth (Grade from 1 – 6, 1 less acceptable, 6 most likely to be accepted): Turkish-Cypriots living in the government controlled areas are the less acceptable group among the youth (grade 3); workers of Arabic origin come second (3.2. grade); the Roma (3.3 grade); Pontians of Greek origin (4.1 grade); domestic workers of Asian origin (4.2 grade); workers coming from East-Central Europe (4.3 grade) and finally women working as artists in cabarets (4.6 grade).

- **Racist tendencies: “When you listen to the news, what is the expected issue when referring to foreigners?”** Fifty per cent of the respondents said that foreigners are usually connected with crime incidents (e.g. drugs); eighteen per cent said that the expected news are related to cultural events and lastly, thirty two per cent of the respondents said that they do not expect a particular issue connected to foreigners.

The overall conclusion of the study is significant and has a strong bearing on understanding racism in sport which appears persistent amongst a minority of youths, despite some repressive measures in the football grounds. On the basis of
the findings, the research team has constructed what they refer to as an “emotional map” of the respondents’ dispositions of Greek-Cypriot youth between “two intractable extremes”. The study revealed that, in depicting the parameters of racist and anti-racist dispositions, 20 per cent belong to an intractable group which dismisses all forms of discrimination and who espouse a culture of equality and human rights; ten per cent “articulated deep racist dispositions of a primordial sense based on the reduction of phenotype to genotype and dismissed all forms of ‘otherness’”. The scholars deduce from their empirical research that “whatever correlation is undertaken or frequencies studied, the two cohorts present an intractable boundary…[;] all their responses emanate from an unwavering system of beliefs” (Charakis and Sitas 2004: 152). However, what is crucial in terms of tendencies is what happens to the remaining 70 percent in middle and how they shift, depending on the issue. Charakis and Sitas argue that “if we correlate respondents with ideas that were discriminatory in the broadest sense possible, the concentration of responses would move from the intractable racist [group] … to spread all the way up to a 79 percent but stop short of the boundary [of the other group]… If we were to correlate respondents with active derogation of the cultural ‘other’ we would find that it also corresponds with ‘xenophobic’ feelings and shrink back to 30 percent …”.

[31]. The tripolar depiction of the chart of racist/anti-racist dispositions of youth is important. Five years ago Charakis and Sitas could confidently conclude that the intractable boundary of one third of the youth on the ideals of equality, human rights and respect for others are shared by 82 percent, which would allow for “a tide of racism and xenophobia to be checked and diminished,” on the condition however that “intensive work from all the relevant organisations and networks” is carried out. Nevertheless, the alternative possibility in what we can term as the ‘negative scenario’ was also predicted as there were strong dispositions to discriminate: hence the research findings issued “a warning that unless the broader society is challenged and indeed disturbed by them and begin to implement measures to curb the phenomenon wherever it can, such tendencies may and will proliferate”.

[32]. Various researchers and anti-racist NGOs consider that we have an escalation of the violent racist incidents, some of which have been manifested within a sporting context. For instance the two most violent racial attacks over the last four months, being the attack on the teenage black Cypriot girl who was playing volleyball for her school team, and the attack on Turkish-Cypriot fans of OMONIA by Greek-Cypriot APOEL fans outside the club on one of the main boulevards of Nicosia were both related to sporting events. According to an anti-racist NGO: “This is one of the most serious crimes concerning racist violence in Cyprus, since the reason of the attack was the young girl’s skin colour. She is a Cypriot national of African origin… The incident may be an unusually extreme form of racist violence, but it nevertheless takes place in a broader social framework, where racist attitudes and discrimination against migrants and refugees (concerning employment, housing and other aspects of daily life) now dominate. […] Unfortunately, the racist venom has been allowed to poison the souls of a portion of our youth…” It has been suggested that “the problem is not that there is a small, extreme, racist minority opposing the presence of migrants that makes their lives difficult” but “the larger problem is that the majority

71 This was raised by one officer of the anti-racist NGO KISA, who complained that migrants have reported violent attacks within walled Nicosia almost every weekend with racist thugs attacking all the migrants they find in the streets.
72 KISA news release on 20.12.2008
simply does not care about the experience, conditions, problems, or joys of migrants in Cyprus and this perpetuates a situation of ‘living apart’ and not ‘together’. Or it may well be the case that antiracists and a significant portion of the more sensitive population do not react immediately due to a tradition of violence by extreme right wing groups that can be observed in Cypriot history over the last 60 years, particularly at the time of inter-communal and intra-communal violence.

[33] The above conclusion conforms with the research findings of Charakis, Sitas et al which found that there is a ‘hard core’ of ten per cent amongst the Greek-Cypriot youth who express a racist predisposition. The findings of that research, even though they were based on empirical data that goes back almost a decade are still valid today, as more research shows. The research findings are instructive as they provide us with the basis to sociologically explain and interpret racism amongst the youth in general and more specifically explain the level, intensity and perpetuation of racist tendencies in professional sport, mostly affecting fans of a couple of top football clubs. Moreover, it allows us to assess the impact of some policies to combat the phenomenon and explain why, despite the enhanced repressive measures that have been imposed racism in and around sport has not been eradicated. Rather what we seem to be experiencing a transformation of the phenomenon which is manifested in there tendencies:

[34] The first is a shifting or a transfer of racist behaviour into arenas where there is no system of surveillance, repression and proper monitoring, in the fashion that football violence has been transferred to lower divisions in the UK and elsewhere following the repressive and surveillance measures take. It may well be that there is also a shifting to younger ages but this needs to be properly investigated as a research hypothesis; what we have is a number of serious indications from existing research drawn from an increasing number of research on education, exclusion and racism, as

73 Quoted from the presentation of O. Demetriou, project leader at PRIO Cyprus (the International Peace Research Institution Oslo), who presented her work on Migrant Cities in 2008 entitled Migrant Cities Research, Nicosia South, part of the Living Together Project of the Institute for Public Policy Research and British Council, November 2008 http://www.prio.no/upload/NicosiaSouth.pdf.

74 The NFP is grateful to sociologist Andreas Panayiotou for offering this insight.


well as the violent attacks against the African pupil in the volley match and the cases investigated by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, referred to above.

[35]. In terms of the reported and recorded cases, an increase in violent racist incidents can be observed which may not necessarily mean that there is more racial violence now, but rather more awareness and better systems of reporting, complaining and investigating. Nor does it mean that there is no expression of political will by the education authorities; on the contrary we have had the strongest ever public statement expressing the political will to stamp out racism by the Minister of Education, who was one of the first to condemn the attack on the 14-year-old African pupil as racist. However, racism is a problem accumulated over the years, which was not properly tackled via anti-racist education as indicated in specialised body reports. Also, there seems to be resistance by organised teachers to treat racist violence as a more serious aggravating factor in the context of a more generalised “youth deviance” or “delinquency”. Moreover, the approach of CFA and the sports authorities at large is one of general complacency as pointed out by one scholar as well as a number of informers of this Report. It may well be the case that the ten percent of youths with an overtly racist disposition that the study of Charakis and Sitata points out have become more violent or more organised. We can therefore speak of indications, even if this cannot be considered to be conclusive evidence based on direct research, that there has been an escalation or an increase in frequency of violent racist incidents over the last years. The question certainly warrants further investigation.

[36]. In terms of policy, it may well indicate that the prima facie ‘success’ on the pitch, which is essentially the repression of racist symbols and slogans during the match, was coupled, in the absence of a more effective general policy to eradicate racism through education rendering racism socially and politically unacceptable, with the spreading and contamination of more youths in the way of the ‘negative scenario’ predicted by Charakis and Sitas. Of course such contentions require further research and analysis, but they are certainly plausible explanations for the recent rise in racial violence cases.

3.1. Racist incidents in organised men's amateur adult sport

[37]. There is no detailed information about the situation in organised men’s amateur sport. The persons interviewed stated that there is no noticeable problem of racism in amateur adult sport, nor are there any racist incidents reported during 2003-2008.

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78 See the report of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, which criticises the approach taken by teachers, who to this day refuse to recognise that the attack on the African pupil was racist.


3.2. Racist incidents in men's professional adult sport

[38]. The system of properly monitoring and recording racist incidents in general and sport in particular is inaccurate and inadequate. The data collected for the purposes of this paper was drawn from a number of sources that do however provide us with an important bearing serving as an indication as to the issues, the frequency, intensity and seriousness of the racial incidents in sport, which are by and large concentrated in professional sport, and primarily affecting men’s professional football. Moreover, the interviews with officials, coaches, researchers, journalists and sports experts and fans offer an insight into the main problems of racism and the policies and practices to combat racism in sport.

[39]. With reference to football, in addition to the data derived from the specialised body reports, significant information is provided by the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) itself. The CFA tribunal has imposed sanctions on five first division clubs, mostly fines, and on some occasions the hefty sanction of banning them from playing in their home ground, as a result of club fans carrying banners with or chanting racist slogans in matches. Six clubs were fined or had some other sanctions imposed on them for racist slogans on fifteen occasions since 2003: APOEL six times; Apollon five times, Anorthosis once, AEK once, Omonia once. In addition we are informed at least on another six occasions there were racist incidents on the pitch for which the CFA has accepted in mitigation that the (foreign) footballers was provoked by some racist abuse by another player before fining them for “retaliating” in some manner (e.g. by fouling or resorting to some other form of aggressive behaviour): such incidents are unfortunately not reported in public, but he have it on good authority. APOEL is the club with the most frequent and most serious incidents, with Apollon following closely. Moreover, there are allegations against both teams that their fans are very often engaged in racist slogans: in the case of APOEL, the club faced a fine for a racist incident by their fans in a basketball match and the club faces allegations for the recent attacks against Turkish-Cypriots near the premises of the club, a matter currently under investigation by the Cyprus Anti-racist Authority.

[40]. As far as basketball is concerned the only available information concerns the case of Randle of AEL, who was referred to the Cyprus Basketball Association tribunal for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans of the opponent club in the semi-final playoffs of the championship in first division men’s match between ASPIS-APOEL-PROTEAS V. EKA AEL. At the same time the basketball club of APOEL was referred to the Cyprus Basketball Association tribunal for the conduct of its fans which involved the throwing of objects and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour at a match. During warming up prior to a basketball match, a group of fans of the club (APOEL) were making sounds and gestures imitating monkeys and shouting racist remarks to a black basketball player of the opponent club (AEL). The player in question went up to them in the fans’ quarter and a fight of pushing and shoving started. The police who witnessed the incident told the fans to stop the abusive behaviour but made no arrests. The fans were not charged with racism related offences. However the player was referred to

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82 Interview with officer of the Cyprus Football Association.
83 Officer/judge of Cyprus Football Association tribunal, 10.3.2009
84 On 09.03.2008 (referral No. 57).
the Cyprus Basketball Federation Tribunal for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans of the opponent club. By majority, the tribunal decided that the player be fined with 450 euro plus 100 euro for costs. The descending view was that he should have been banned from playing in one game. APOEL was fined with 850 Euros. The descending view was that the club should have been banned from playing on home ground. Although the decision is not justified or supported with any reasoning, it is clear that the tribunal did not accept the defence lawyer’s argumentation in its entirety, that the player was unjustly provoked, and presumably based its decision on the premise that the player should not have involved himself in a fight despite having been provoked.

[41]. An empirical question relevant to understanding the intensity and frequency of racism in sport at present as well as the effectiveness of the policies to combat racism is the extent to which this practice continues to this day, or whether the manifestations of racism referred to in the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority report of 2004 reported above have been substantially reduced as alleged by the officers of the football authorities. There are reports about the human suffering caused by racism even by an APOEL footballer: according to reports, the manager of AEK, Marios Constanti nou said that during the match between APOEL V. AEK, the 25-year old Gambian player of AEK Mustafa Camal was racially abused by a footballer of APOEL. Apparently the Gambian footballer burst into tears in the changing rooms and revealed to his playmates that it was because of the racial abuse he suffered after the end of the match. It is a near consensus from those interviewed that for 2008-2009 there has been some reduction in the shouting or racist slogans or use of racist banners, but from the interviews conducted it is apparent that the problem of racism has not been eradicated. Teachers interviewed consider that there is a great deal of education to be done as the racist graffiti, including the swastika and Celtic cross is routinely used by fans of the teams of APOEL and Apollon on desks, walls of corridors inside schools as well as public places. Moreover, concern has been raised by a number of teachers interviewed that students display racist attitudes. Even though a minority has overtly racist views the trends located by research findings indicate that a complacent approach to the problem of racism without active campaigning against it may become even more serious a problem. In a newspaper interview in February 2009, the black African player Mahamantu Sintibe stated that he faces racism in the pitch but not as much as in Greece. Having interviewed two black footballers we can safely conclude the racist behaviour by the minority of fans of APOEL, APOLLON and Anorthosis continues: (a) during the match between Enosis Neon Paralimniou and APOEL (31.03.2009) the fans of APOEL were imitating monkey sounds when the black

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85 C. Bratsos (2006) ‘Το ”μικρόβιο” του ρατσισμού παραμένει ζωντανό στο ποδόσφαιρο’ in: Contra.gr (02.10.2006), which refers to the allegations by the manager of AEK, Marios Constantiniou that during the match between APOEL V. AEK, the 25-year old Gambian player of AEK Mustafa Camal was racially abused by a footballer of APOEL. According to this article, the Gambian footballer burst into tears in the changing rooms and revealed to his playmates that it was because of the racial abuse he suffered after the end of the match. More information is available at: http://www.contra.gr/Soccer/Cyprus/DivisionA/APOEL_AEKitiou/130759.html (13.03.2009).

86 Interview with coach of women’s football team (Nea Salamina), 10.3.2009; interview with sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 10.3.09; interview with Turkish-Cypriot researcher, Nicosia, 8.3.2009; interview with Turkish-Cypriot committee member of Yeni Cami and political scientist, Nicosia, 7.3.2009; interview with officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 5.3.2009; interview with author, cultural commentator and sport journalist, Nicosia 19.2.2009.

87 Interviews with primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 27.2.2009; primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 9.3.2009; deputy head teacher in secondary school, 11.3.09; and with deputy head in secondary school, 11.3.09.

player Mustafa Camal touched the ball,\textsuperscript{89} the same happened when the team played with Apollon (4.03.2009) for the cup\textsuperscript{90} and in 2008 in Limassol, when the Nigerian footballer touched the ball;\textsuperscript{91} the same behaviour was demonstrated by Anorthosis fans.\textsuperscript{92} According to the interviewees, the referee and sports officials did nothing at the time and the matter was not referred to the tribunal of the Cyprus Football Federation, nor was it reported in the media.\textsuperscript{93}

It is contended by many sports and club officials and fans that there is no serious problem of racism in sports in Cyprus and that the little that does exist, it is confined to premier league football amongst fans. Some officials even speak of the problem of racism in Cypriot sport as being at a “zero base.”\textsuperscript{94} The prevailing attitude as expressed by almost all sports officials is that any possible manifestations of racism or xenophobia is (a) sporadically expressed by a minute number of fans; (b) where it does happen, it is not necessarily ‘racist’ or ‘xenophobic’ as such but rather more ‘benign’ as it is a kind of misguided action by over-zealous supporters in the spirit of sporting competition and; (c) if there is some violence, this is part of the wider problem of ‘hooliganism’, which is essentially a generalised rather than racially motivated or targeted violence. However, these contentions, which by and large explain the more ‘benign’ elements of football incidents by masses of football fans, and the fact that the there is not generalised racial violence, cannot stand to greater scrutiny when it comes to the more serious allegations of racism around sports. The Report of the Cypriot Anti-Discrimination Authority disputes the allegation that the racial incidents are “sporadic”\textsuperscript{95} and cites numerous occasions of racist chanting and slogans in football matches. Recent evidence suggests that the problem of racist slogans in the match has not been ‘resolved’: black footballers interviewed in the media, even in 2009,\textsuperscript{96} point out that racist abuse against them is still a routine affair in Cypriot pitches; moreover the numbers of times of clubs being fined by the Cyprus Football Association Tribunal for shouting racist abuse is indicative of the continuation of the problem.

\subsection*{3.3 Racist incidents in organised women's amateur adult sport}

There is no detailed information about the situation in organised women’s amateur sport in general. Female football in Cyprus has developed in the last four years: 2008-2009 was the first year that foreign footballers were hired, who are semi-employed (interview with coach of women’s football team, 10.3.2009). Save for one serious incident taking place recently, which will be outlined below, there is no noticeable problem of racism in amateur adult sport, nor are there any racist incidents reported during 2003-2008. No reasoning was offered by the tribunal for this decision, as is the norm in these procedures. The player’s lawyer argued that the fans had demonstrated grossly racist behaviour and that fining him would amount to\textsuperscript{97}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{89} Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{90} Interview with Eric Ejoron, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{91} Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{92} Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{93} Interviews with Mustafa Camal and Eric Ejoron footballers playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{94} For instance interviews with director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009; Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009; officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009; and with press officer of basketball team of AEL, Limassol, 24.2.2009.
\item \textsuperscript{96} \begin{quote}Α. Χριστού (2009) ‘Μαχαμαντου Σιντιµι: “Ήρθα να τους δείξω ποιος είµαι”’, in: \textit{Politis} (12.02.2009). \end{quote}
\end{itemize}
equating the victim with the assailant. The player’s lawyer also protested against the favourable treatment which the opponent club (APOEL) is receiving from the prosecution, stressing the racist nature of the incident.

[44]. According to a coach of a football team during a recent football match between Apollon V. Nea Salamina (02.02.2009), a number of organised male fans entered the stadium and started swearing against Nea Salamina and racially abused the black footballer of the guest team in violation of the criminal provisions of the law and the regulations of the football federation. There were five police officers present and the referee was from the first division. Neither the referee, nor the observer, nor the clubs referred the matter to CFA for reference to its tribunal. But we are informed that a complaint may be lodged to the specialised body. The informer reported that he had approached and confronted one of the leaders of the fans to inform him that the racial abuse was illegal but he was ignored.

[45]. No data is available on any problems of racism in athletics.

3.4. Racist incidents in women's professional adult sport

[46]. There are no reports of incidents or other forms of racism in professional or amateur women’s basketball or athletics.

3.5. Racist incidents in organised children's and youth sport

[47]. There is no data regarding racist incidents in organised children’s and youth sport during 2003-2008. The only case reported involved the December 2008 racist attack against a black Cypriot female pupil during and after a school volleyball match, which the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority had investigated and criticised the handling by the police and by the school authorities. The attackers were a group of about 40 other Cypriot white of another school, whose team was playing volleyball with the victim’s team. The attack took place when the victim tried to defend one of her co-players in the match and was then attacked by pupils of the other school shouting racist insults. The victim was severely injured and had to be hospitalised. When the police arrived on the scene, the school headmaster informed them that the matter would be handled internally between the two schools. No arrests were made and no charges were brought against anyone by the time of issue of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority’s report, three months after the incident. The police who initially refused to accept a statement from the victim’s father, subsequently agreed to do so following the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority’s intervention. A statement issued later by the school’s teachers rejected the allegations of racist motives and described the incident as the manifestation of youth delinquency. The only measure taken by the school was to permanently expel one pupil who initiated

97 The referee’s name is published in the match document (S. Tryfonos).
98 Interview with coach of women’s football team, 10.3.2009.
the attack against the victim but cited as reasons for the expulsion her involvement in
the incident and her shouting insults against the teachers; the school’s decision made
no mention of racist behaviour. By contrast, the Minister of Education unequivocally
described the incident as racist and committed himself to the setting up of a
monitoring mechanism for the recording and analysis of violent incidents
maintaining a special record for racist incidents. In its’ decision the Cyprus Anti-
discrimination Authority criticised the school authorities for refusing to attribute
racist motive to the attack and for stressing the allegedly provocative behaviour of
the victim, in an apparent effort to shift responsibility from the assailants to the
victim. The report also criticised the decision of the school to permanently expel one
of the assailants stating that this measure is not only inadequate in that it failed to
address the racist motive of the pupil but it was also lacking educational sensitivity,
as the repercussions from the permanent expulsion are likely to intensify the
problem. The Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority also criticised the attitude of the
police who failed to take an active stand against racism in spite of the victim’s
unequivocal position that she wanted the case to go to Court, and stated that the lack
of commitment of the police against racism will lead not only to the intensification
of the phenomenon but also to the vulnerable groups losing faith in the police. The
report welcomes the stand of the Minister of Education who consistently described
the incident as racist and visited the schools as well as the victim in order to show his
solidarity and concern. After emphasising once more the inadequacy of the system
of recording racist incidents maintained by the police who clearly make an
underestimation of the problem, the report refers to decisions of the ECtHR and to
ECRI recommendations on recording racist incidents on the one hand and on anti-
racist education on the other hand. The report concluded that as long as
educationalists do not take an active stand against racism and prefer the
oversimplified interpretation of youth delinquency and as long as incidents are not
addressed and handled and assailants go unpunished, the phenomenon of racist
violence will be reproduced and multiplied. The problem becomes more serious
when the victims are migrant children who form a particularly vulnerable group and
even more so when they were born or raised in Cyprus or acquired Cypriot
nationality as there are serious issues of integration of second generation Cypriots
posed and racist incidents must be faced decidedly in order to reinstate their feelings
of security and social acceptance. The report falls short from recommending
concrete measures to be taken in order to address this and other incidents of racist
violence, despite its emphasis on the growing tendencies of the phenomenon. In that
vein, the report accepts the setting up of the monitoring mechanism promised by the
Minister of Education as exhaustive of the measures that may be taken. In addition,
although the report hints on the fact that teachers essentially disregard state policies
over the handling of racist incidents and apply their own decisions, it does not
recommend any measures to be taken against the teachers. This is a wider problem
facing Cypriot society in recent months, where the leadership of the teachers’ unions
are openly opposing the government’s efforts for comprehensive educational reform
towards multicultural education and go as far as issuing decisions contradicting the
circulars issued by the Ministry of Education.

100 Similar comments were made by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority in previous reports: AKR 37/2005, dated 11.07.2005; AKR 7/2006, dated 01.08.2007; and AKR/AYT 2/2008, dated 26.01.2009.
101 Bekou & Koutropoulou v. Greece where Greece was found guilty of not adequately addressing the racial
motive involved in an attack against a group of Roma
102 ECRI General Policy Recommendation No 11 on combating racism and racial discrimination in policing.
4. Indirect (structural) racial/ethnic discrimination

4.1.1. Structural discrimination in all sports

It is difficult to make any assessment regarding the most common forms of structural discrimination as there is hardly any information gathered on statistics of sport participation of migrants, minorities or other potentially discriminated groups in Cyprus. There is no authority keeping track of statistics on the representation of migrants and ethnic minorities in any of the sports, save for professional football and basketball, who employ non-nationals – but these are usually specially recruited and well-paid professionals rather than members of immigrant communities living in Cyprus, who are located in the lowest echelons of the labour hierarchy.\(^\text{104}\) We can therefore not quantify the extent of the involvement of migrants and ethnic minorities as athletes, coaches, officials and fans in the sports under examination (football, basketball and athletics). In general, the only visible non-natives are the professional athletes and coaches of the top leagues in football and basketball. There is minimum involvement of migrants, who have only arrived in mass after 1990; as for the Turkish-Cypriot ethnic community, the problem of the de facto partition and the ethnic conflict that preceded the de facto partition meant that there is minimum participation of Turkish-Cypriots in sports, although there are some individual cases of Turkish-Cypriot who do participate, despite the political and social problems: we are informed that there are a handful of young Turkish-Cypriot footballers playing with some second division football clubs;\(^\text{105}\) Until a couple of years ago, the first division club Nea Salamina had some Turkish-Cypriot footballers playing up. There are also some Turkish-Cypriot athletes in track and field.\(^\text{106}\) There is no information about the involvement of the smaller minorities designated by the constitution as “religious groups” (Maronites, Armenians and Latins). Officials are almost always Greek-Cypriots, with some notable exceptions and the makeup of the fans varies enormously according to sport and club.

4.2. Structural discrimination in the three focus sports

4.2.1. Organised men's amateur sport

As far as structural discrimination prevailing in the three sports the following can be identified we have no relevant data or statistics on amateur football, basketball and athletics to draw any conclusions on the subject.


\(^\text{105}\) Interview with officer of the Cyprus Football Federation, Nicosia, 11.2.2009.

\(^\text{106}\) The officer of Cyprus Athletics Federation informed us that there have been efforts, but the only real problem is that the Turkish-Cypriot athletes find it difficult to compete as the infrastructure within their community is lacking. No figures were provided (interview with officer of the Cyprus Athletics Federation, Nicosia, 19.2.2009).
As far as football is concerned, there is the issue of exploitation of foreign footballers who play in second division teams as “amateurs” was raised by the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association. The current rules allow for third country nationals, who reside in Cyprus to play in amateur football as ‘amateurs’. The footballers’ association is concerned that the practice of some football clubs to obtain work permits and register some footballers in jobs unrelated to football and use them in matches as ‘amateurs’ has resulted in numerous instances of non-payment and deportation from the country. We are informed that from next year the new regulations will no longer allow third country nationals to be registered as ‘amateurs’ but can only be registered in lower division teams as ‘professionals’ (interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009)

4.2.2. Men’s professional sport

There is currently no ‘official’ or ‘unofficial’ quota system to reduce the non-Cypriot players in men’s professional or amateur sport.

There are 230 Cypriots and 110 foreigners playing in the second football division of Cyprus. There are calls by the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association for the Cyprus Football Association to adopt the Scottish football regulations since last year which contain a rule compelling each team to include within their 18-squad four to five under twenty-one year olds. The journal of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association which raises concerns about the fact that Cypriot footballers are being displaced by foreigners (EU nationals and third country nationals), is of the view that the adoption of a Scottish-type of rule will work as an indirect quota for Cypriots, who will become the ‘core’ of the squad, as it is unlikely that foreigners would move to Cyprus before they are 21 years old. The officer of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association considers that Cypriot footballers suffer from discrimination as they are less likely to accept conditions that are unacceptable for locals – but which may be adopted by foreigners. In any case this is a major European issue of debate following the Bosmans ruling in 1995. The Pancyprian Footballers’ Association is arguing in favour of the adoption of a rule in the spirit of the UEFA ‘Home-grown Player rule’, which is also discriminatory under EU law but unlike a quota system it constitutes indirect, rather than direct discrimination. The argument is that the system may be justified under the EU anti-discrimination acquis if it can be “objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary”.

The Pancyprian Footballers’ Association has further informed the NFP of a discriminatory practice by the Cyprus Football Association regarding the football games scheduled during the Christmas vacations: the scheduled fixture was planned for the 27 and 28 of December 2008, which was arranged following pressure on CFA by the football clubs which wanted to avoid their contractual obligations of paying the plane tickets of foreign footballers to return to their countries of origin for the vacation. As a result of industrial action by the Pancyprian Footballers

107 Interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009.
109 Interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009.
110 Union Royal Belges des Sociétés de Football Association ASBL & others v. Jean-Marc Bosman; Case C-415/93, ECR I-4921.
111 Article 2(b) of the EU Directive 2000/43/EC.
112 Interview with officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009.
Association, there were no matches for the second, third and fourth division, but the first division went ahead as scheduled.\textsuperscript{113}

\textbf{[54].} The Cyprus Football Association has so far failed to participate in any serious initiative of campaigning to combat racism in football. However, some individual clubs do make endeavours to address the issue of racism. For instance Apollon had tried to address its problem in 2005-2007. In 2005, despite strong advice from FARE and UEFA, the Cyprus Football Association refused to accept an offer of 50,000 Swiss francs to organise a campaign to combat racism from football, claiming that there is no problem of racism in Cypriot football. A scholar involved in the FARE initiative described this as “incomprehensible” and a “disgrace”: “while the problem of institutional racism is self-explanatory, one feels compelled to ask whether the incomprehensible response of the Cyprus Football Association adds a new dimension to the issue.” \textsuperscript{114} A similar approach was taken in various newspaper editorials and featured articles at that time.\textsuperscript{115} This becomes all the more questionable given the calls by black footballers to stamp out racism in Cypriot football: for instance Seyni N’Diaye, a Senegalese player described an “unacceptable situation, which the authorities must clamp down on” and that “in Cyprus, the crowd make derogatory noises towards me and shout insults”. Chants such as “let’s throw some bananas at him,” and “go back to the jungle you black bastard” are a common occurrence at some grounds. Moreover, he singled out fans of APOEL, Anorthosis and Apollon as being the main culprits, with the rest being “generally OK”.\textsuperscript{116} It was reported at that time that some black players wanted to leave Cyprus as a result of this behaviour.\textsuperscript{117} As for the current situation, more research is required.

\textbf{[55].} Regarding the adoption of measures for the combating of discrimination, the Cyprus Football Association official interviewed (10.03.2009) stated that he had no idea about the offer of CHF 50,000 from FARE and that if it was declined it was done so only by mistake. He stated that the two clubs which had experienced problems of racism had launched campaigns and one of them, Apollon, was commended by UEFA for its campaign. He denied the allegation made by the Pancyprian Footballers Association that the Cyprus Football Association rejected its proposal for an antiracist campaign to be launched monthly such as the “red card to racism” campaign. In support of this, he added that the CFA’s launching statement at the beginning of the league contains unequivocal condemnation of racism and rules for the punishment of those guilty of racism. He stated that the Cyprus Football Association is ready to promote any kind of measures needed for the combating of racism and encourages the clubs to take measures to raise awareness amongst the fans. When asked whether in his opinion it is the duty of the clubs and not of Cyprus Football Association to educate the fans and the public in general, he said yes. By way of good practice, the officer of the Cyprus Football Association stated that in March 2009 another Cyprus Football Association official visited a school in Dali (a Nicosia suburb) to talk about violence and racism in sports.


4.2.3. Organised women's amateur sport

[56]. No data is available on the extent and the forms of structural discrimination prevailing in the football, basketball and athletics in women’s amateur sports.

[57]. The Sports Authorities officials have informed the NFP that currently there is no official or unofficial quota system to reduce the non-Cypriot players in women’s professional or amateur sport or in any other sport.\textsuperscript{118}

[58]. The NFP has been informed about a quota system operating in women’s volleyball league, which is not one of the focused sports under examination.\textsuperscript{119}

4.2.4. Women’s professional sport

[59]. No data is available to enable the forming of an opinion on the extent and the forms of structural discrimination prevailing in women’s professional sport.

[60]. The sports officials interviewed have stated that there are no regulations of national sport federations and sport organisations limiting the access of women from migrant or ethnic communities to sport.\textsuperscript{120}

[61]. There is no statistical data on the representation of women from migrant, ethnic or religious minorities as athletes/players, as spectators, as members of sport clubs, or in administrative and leadership positions.

4.2.5. Organised children’s and youth sport

[62]. No data is available to enable the forming of an opinion on the issue of structural discrimination prevailing in children’s and youth sport.

[63]. The sports officials interviewed stated that there are no regulations of national sport federations and sport organisations limiting the access of children or youth originating from migrants and ethnic minorities to sport.\textsuperscript{121}

[64]. There is no statistical data on the representation of children or youth from migrant or ethnic/religious minorities as athletes/players, as spectators, as members of sport clubs, or in administrative and leadership positions.

\textsuperscript{118} (Interviews with director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009 and Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009).

\textsuperscript{119} Interview with sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 10.3.09

\textsuperscript{120} Interviews with the director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009; the Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009 and the General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009.

\textsuperscript{121} Interviews with the director of Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.2.2009; the Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009 and the General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009.
4.2.6 Media (representation of ethnic minorities among sport journalists)

[65]. There is no statistical data on the representation of migrants and ethnic minorities in sport journalism. There are no ethnic minorities amongst sport journalists.

[66]. The findings of the research of Charakis, Sitas et al on the anti-social behaviour of the Cypriot youth and racist tendencies provide data inter alia data on the perceptions of the public (mostly the youth and educationalists) on the contents of the media representations regarding foreigners as well as the perceptions of journalists themselves regarding foreigners, which are indicative of the context in which foreigners are often portrayed. In response to the question “when you listen to the news, what is the expected issue when referring to foreigners”, 50 per cent of the respondents said that foreigners are usually connected with crime incidents (e.g. drugs), 18 per cent that the expected news are related to cultural events and 32 per cent said that they do not expect a particular issue connected to foreigners. In response to the question as to whether stereotypes of foreigners are justified, the journalists interviewed responded that they are justified (30 per cent), ‘usually’ justified (17 per cent), ‘sometimes’ justified (19 per cent) and not justified (35 per cent).

[67]. Research has shown that the media depicts migrants and ethnic minorities in a negative light. Stereotypical negative approaches are commonplace depicting migrants as a threat to society and to economic and social order.

122 The authors are K. Charakis, A. Sitas, K. Sotiriades, L. Demetriou, C. Charakis, E. Alexandrou and the book is edited by K Charakis (ed.) (2005) Αντικοινωνική Συµπεριφορά των Νέων της Κύπρου- Ρατσιστικές Τάσεις, Athens: Sakoulas. The book publishes the report of the research conducted by a team of social scientists and financed by the Research Promotion Institute in Cyprus. Part III, Chapter I of the book deals with education and covers issues such as discrimination in the school system, the role of the church and religious instruction, the content of school textbooks, etc.

5. Regulations and good practice

5.1.1. Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia and related intolerance in sport

Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in all sports

[68]. The Cypriot sports authorities maintain that the regime regulating the prevention of racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in all types of sports complies fully with what is required by EU law (interview with director of the Cyprus Sports Association, Nicosia 19.02.2009).

[69]. There is no specialist legal instrument to regulate or prevent racism and xenophobia in sport, save for the legal regime of regulating abusive behaviour during sports matches (Cyprus/Law N.48(I)/2008), which is contained in a recent law that came into force on 11.07.2008. This law addresses violence in sporting venues in general and includes racist conduct in sport. The law includes a provision (article 71) prohibiting statements by sports actors amounting to encouragement of violence and of feelings of prejudice, racism or discrimination against inter alia other spectators or sports fans, sports actors, journalists, players or referees. Such statements are punishable with a fine not exceeding Euros 5,000. A further provision of the same law (article 72) prohibits the use of posters or banners with racist or insulting content, gestures or the uttering of words with racist or insulting content, the penalty for which is imprisonment not exceeding six months and/or a fine not exceeding Euros 1,000.

[70]. The legal provisions regarding regulating combating racism in sport, particularly as regard the power of the Anti-discrimination Authority to intervene was summarised in the 2004 report. The law to combat racism and discrimination is the result of the transposition of the EU anti-discrimination acquis.

[71]. Until the eve of its EU accession, Cyprus lacked a comprehensive primary anti-discrimination legal framework: the pre-accession anti-discrimination framework did not provide an effective enforcement mechanism, even though there was one case that provided that human rights created rights against the state and individuals.

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127 This ineffective regime was noted by the Second ECRI Report on Cyprus (2001), as well as the European Commission Report of 2002, under the heading On the issue of human rights and the protection of minorities, states that significant work still needs to be done in the area of anti-discrimination. The relevant section reads: “Cyprus has ratified all major human rights conventions and signed Protocol 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights on 4 November 2000 prohibiting discrimination on any grounds. Whereas Art. 28 (2) of the Constitution prohibits any direct or indirect discrimination against any person on the grounds of his community,
01.05.2004 three laws came into force purporting to transpose Directives 43/2000/EC and 78/2000/EC: (a) The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law\(^{128}\) purporting to discharge of the Republic’s obligation to appoint a national Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority under Article 13 of the Race Directive (hereinafter Law No. 42(1)); (b) The Equal Treatment (Racial or Ethnic Origin) Law\(^{129}\) purporting to transpose the Race Directive; and (c) The Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation Law\(^{130}\) purporting to transpose the Framework Directive. Cyprus has not taken the option to defer implementation of the provisions of Directive 78/2000/EC relating to age and disability to 02.12.2006. The relevant laws came into force on or before 1\(^{st}\) May 2004, the date of Cyprus’ accession into the EU. Law No. 42(1) appoints the Commissioner of Administration or Ombudsman, an independent officer appointed by the President of the Republic, as the specialised body to (i) combat racist and indirectly racist discrimination as well as discrimination forbidden by law and generally discrimination on the grounds of race, community, language, colour, religion, political or other beliefs and national or ethnic origin;\(^{131}\) (ii) promote equality of the enjoyment of rights and freedoms safeguarded by the Cyprus Constitution (Part II) or by one or more of the Conventions ratified by Cyprus and referred to explicitly in the Law\(^{132}\) irrespective of ‘race’, community, language, colour, religion, political or other beliefs, national or ethnic origin\(^{133}\) and (iii) promote equality of opportunity in the areas of employment, access to vocational training, working conditions including pay, membership to trade unions or other associations, social insurance and medical care, education and access to goods and services including housing.

The Law vests the Ombudsman with powers beyond those prescribed by the two EU Directives as the designated Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority of Cyprus: the power to receive and investigate complaints of discriminatory treatment, behaviour, regulation, condition, criterion or practice prohibited by law; the power to issue Reports of findings; the power to issue orders (through publication in the Official Gazette) for the elimination within a specified time limit\(^ {134}\) of the situation which directly produced discrimination, although such right is somewhat limited by a number of exceptions.\(^ {135}\) The Ombudsman’s decisions can be used for the purposes race, religion, language, sex, political or other convictions, national or social descent, birth, colour, wealth, social class, or any ground whatsoever, there is no specific implementation legislation for the EC non-discrimination directives adopted in 2000.”

\(^{128}\) The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004)

\(^{129}\) The Equal Treatment (Racial or Ethnic Origin) Law No. 59(I)/2004 (31.3.2004)

\(^{130}\) The Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation of 2004 No. 58 (1)/2004 (31.3.2004).

\(^{131}\) The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 3.(1).(a), Part I.

\(^{132}\) These Conventions are: Protocol 12 of the European Convention for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms; the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; the Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture and Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

\(^{133}\) The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 3(1).(b), Part I.

\(^{134}\) Which time limit shall not exceed 90 days from publication in the Official gazette ( The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 28). 

\(^{135}\) The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), section14(2) and section 14(3), Part III, list the limitations to the Commissioner’s power to issue orders as follows: where the act complained of is pursuant to another law or regulation, in which case the Commissioner advises the Attorney General accordingly, who will advise the competent Ministry and/or the Council of Ministers about measures to be taken to remedy the situation [ The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Sections 39(3) and 39(4)]; and where discrimination did not occur exclusively as a result of violation of the relevant law; where there is no
of obtaining damages in a district court or at an employment tribunal. The Ombudsman in its capacity as the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority is further empowered to impose small fines,\textsuperscript{136} to issue recommendations to the person against whom a complaint has been lodged, and to supervise compliance with orders issued against persons found guilty of discrimination.\textsuperscript{137} However, all orders, fines and recommendations issued or imposed by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority under this Law are subject to annulment\textsuperscript{138} by the Supreme Court of Cyprus upon an appeal lodged by a person with a ‘vested interest.’\textsuperscript{139} The Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority may also investigate issues on his/her own right where the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority deems that any particular case that came to his/her attention may constitute a violation of the law.\textsuperscript{140} Also, the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority may investigate cases following applications by NGOs, chambers, organizations, committees, associations, clubs, foundations, trade unions, funds and councils acting for the benefit of professions or other types of labour, employers, employees or any other organised group, local authorities, public law persons, the Council of Ministers, the House of Parliament etc.\textsuperscript{141} In such cases, the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority is empowered to issue recommendations to the person or group found guilty of discriminatory behaviour as to alternative treatment or conduct, abolition or substitution of the provision, term, criterion or practice. The findings and reports of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority must be communicated to the Attorney General of the Cyprus Republic who will, in turn advise the Cyprus Republic on the adoption or not of appropriate legislative or administrative measures, taking into account the Republic’s international law obligations and who will at the same time prepare legislation for the abolition or substitution of the relevant legislative provision.

\[73.\] There also a number of important criminal provisions that enhance combating racism and discrimination in sport. Cyprus has ratified the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of Racist or practical direct way of eradicating the situation or where such eradication would adversely affect third parties; where the eradication cannot take place without violating contractual obligations of persons of private or public law; where the complainant does not wish for an order to be issued; or where the situation complained of no longer subsists.

\textsuperscript{136} The fine to be imposed cannot exceed CYP350 for discriminatory behaviour, treatment or practice [The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 18(a)], CYP250 for racial discrimination in the enjoyment of a right or freedom [The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 18(b)], CYP350 for non-compliance with the Commissioner’s recommendation within the specified time limit [The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 26(1) (a)] and CYP50 daily for continuing non-compliance after the deadline set by the Commissioner [The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 26(1) (b)]. Generally speaking, the fines are considered to be very low.

\textsuperscript{137} Cyprus/The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 24(1).

\textsuperscript{138} Cyprus/The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), Section 23.

\textsuperscript{139} Term used in Section 146 of the Cypriot Constitution, which sets out the procedure for appeal to the Supreme Court of Cyprus.

\textsuperscript{140} Cyprus/The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), section 33.

\textsuperscript{141} Cyprus/The Combating of Racial and Some Other Forms of Discrimination (Commissioner) Law No. 42(1)/ 2004 (19.03.2004), section 34(2).
Xenophobic Nature committed through Computer Systems\textsuperscript{142} which also creates a number of criminal offences:

- Article 4 criminalises the dissemination of racist and xenophobic material through a computer system.
- Article 5 criminalises racially and xenophobically motivated threat disseminated through a computer system.
- Article 6 criminalises racist and xenophobically motivated insult.
- Article 7 criminalises the denial, gross minimisation, approval or justification of genocide or crimes against humanity.
- Article 8 criminalises the aiding and abetting of any of the crimes provided for in Articles 4-7 of the law.

With the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,\textsuperscript{143} as well as with the subsequent amendments introduced to the basic law,\textsuperscript{144} Cyprus established a number of offences relevant to combating racism and intolerance, in conformity with a recommendation of the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The offences include incitement to racial hatred, participation in organisations promoting racial discrimination, public expression of racially insulting ideas and discriminatory refusal to provide goods and services. As a result of these amendments, it is no longer necessary that the incitement to racial hatred is intentional for the corresponding offence to be committed; in addition, for the refusal to provide goods and services to constitute an offence it is no longer necessary that race be the sole ground of discrimination.\textsuperscript{145} Article 2A of amended law renders criminally liable those persons who:

(a) incite acts which are likely to cause discrimination, hatred or violence against persons on account of their racial or ethnic origin or religion;

(b) establish or participate in organisations that promote propaganda aiming at racial discrimination;

(c) express ideas that insult persons by reason of their racial or ethnic origin or religion;

(d) refuse to supply goods or services to people by reason of their racial or ethnic origin or religion.

The penalty is up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to CYP £1,000 (Euros 1,708.82).

Article 2A (4) of the same law reads: “Any person who supplies goods or services by profession and refuses such supply to another by reason of his racial or ethnic origin or his religion, or who makes such supply subject to a condition relating to the racial

\textsuperscript{142} Cyprus/The Additional Protocol to the Convention against Cybercrime concerning the Criminalisation of Acts of Racist or Xenophobic Nature committed through Computer Systems (Ratification) Law N. 26(III)/2004.


\textsuperscript{144} Cyprus/Laws amending the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (Ratification) Law, No. 11(III)/1992 and 28(III)/1999

\textsuperscript{145} Section [about 6700 euro].
or ethnic origin or to the religion of a person is guilty of an offence and is liable to imprisonment not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding four hundred pounds or to both such punishments”. The section referring to the refusal to provide goods and services has resulted in at least one conviction.[146]

[76]. There are some other relevant provisions of the Criminal or Penal Code. Under the Cypriot Criminal Code (Cap.154) a number of discriminatory acts are punishable offences:

- Article 47: publication[147] with a seditious intention;
- Article 48: “intention to promote feelings of ill will and hostility between different communities or classes of the population of the Republic”;[148]
- Articles 51 and 51A: the calculated statement, printed or published to “encourage recourse to violence on the part of any of the inhabitants or to “encourage recourse to violence or promote feelings of ill will between different classes of communities or persons in the Republic of Cyprus” or which “procures the inhabitants to acts of violence against each other or to mutual discord or foments the creation of a spirit of intolerance.”[149]

[77]. Moreover, the law transposing Directive 2000/43/EC[150] renders all violations of all its provisions by physical persons criminal and punishable with up to six months imprisonment and/or with a fine of up to CYP£4000 (approximately Euros 6,900).[151] Article 6 of the law contains the general prohibition against, direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and instruction. Similarly, the law transposing Directive 2000/78/EC[152] renders violations of its articles 6 and 10 by physical persons criminal and punishable with up to six months imprisonment and/or with a fine of up to CYP£4000 (approximately Euros 6,900).[153] Article 6 of the said law contains the general prohibition against, direct discrimination, indirect discrimination, harassment and instruction to discriminate, whilst article 10 contains the protection against victimisation.

5.1.2. Regulations preventing racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the three focus sports

[78]. The anti-racist and/or anti-discriminatory regulation of the national sport federations and sport organisations for the three focus sports vary between them. Only football has strict rules and specific provisions for racist messages in the stadiums.

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[146] In criminal case No. 31330/99 dated 12 December 2001 where the accused was actually convicted and a term of imprisonment was imposed.
[147] The wording reads “any person who publishes any words or documents or makes any visible representation whatsoever with a seditious intention is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for five years.”
[148] This is deemed to be seditious intention for the purposes of the above offence under article 47.
[149] A person who commits any of those acts is “guilty of a misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for twelve months or to a fine of one thousand pounds or to both such penalties and, if a body corporate, to a fine of three thousand pounds” [1000 pounds is 1700 euro; 3000 pounds is 5000 euro].
[150] Cyprus/ Equal Treatment (Racial or Ethnic Origin) Law No. 59(1)/2004 (30.04.2004).
[151] Cyprus/ Equal Treatment (Racial or Ethnic Origin) Law No. 59(1)/2004 (30.04.2004), article 13(1).
[152] Cyprus/ Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation Law No. 58(1)/2004 (30.04.2004),
[153] Cyprus/ Equal Treatment (Racial or Ethnic Origin) Law No. 59(1)/2004 (30.04.2004), article 15(1).
Rule 77.1 of the latest launching call, which is the binding document containing the statement for the championship of 2008-2009 provides the following: “it is explicitly forbidden to put up [banners], show or chant racist, political or advertising messages and generally messages that insult the dignity of the person in stadiums [...] The club whose fans, employees or members of management who put up or show such messages before and/or during and/or after the end of the match will be reported to the tribunal/disciplinary committee of the CFA with a penalty up to a ban from home ground match of the club”.

In the Basketball regulations there are no specific references to racism or xenophobia. The Cyprus Basketball Association therefore needs to rely on the general regulations against offensive, abusive and anti-athletic behaviour to deal with racism by fans or other parties involved. We are informed by the Cyprus Basketball Association official interviewed\textsuperscript{154} that the basketball authorities adopt a similar approach to tackling racism as in football; however as the problems of fans’ violence and racist abuse are nowhere as severe as with those faced on the football pitch, we do not see the same stringent rules governing football matches. The same official\textsuperscript{155} pointed out that in general the atmosphere in the basketball stadium is not as tense as in football matches for two reasons: first, the basketball stadium is much smaller, hence the anonymity of the mass football stadium is not there and policing is easier and more ‘relaxed’; secondly, given that there are no physical barriers in the fans seats within the stadiums to separate the fans of the two opponent teams in order to avoid potential outbursts of violence, it was decided that only the home team fans can attend matches. It must be pointed out that the Law on Prevention and Combating of Violence in Sports Venues (N.48(I)/2008) addressing violence in sporting venues in general does cover basketball, volleyball, swimming pools or any other kind of sporting activity.

In practice, the sanctions imposed on clubs for their fans’ behaviour are very light; the heftier sanction that may be imposed is for the club to be prohibited from playing in their home field and very often the sanctions imposed are small fines. No sanctions are foreseen against sport associations or sport clubs that have racist practices in place or that fail to take action against racist behaviour by their fans.\textsuperscript{156} This allows the clubs to evade responsibility for the actions of their fans, even when the fans are using the club premises to launch their various racist activities.

\textbf{5.1.3. Decisions by national courts, specialised bodies or tribunals regarding all sports}\textsuperscript{[82]}

There are no decisions by national courts on the subject. There are two cases involving racism in sport that were investigated by the specialised body. One case involved a complaint about the racist behaviour of fans against a black footballer\textsuperscript{157} and another involved a violent racial attack against a black female pupil after a volleyball match.\textsuperscript{158} However, the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority instead of making its decision binding and impose the sanctions that are provided by the law to

\textsuperscript{154} Interview with General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009.
\textsuperscript{155} Interview with General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009.
\textsuperscript{156} This was pointed out to the researchers by some interviewees (interview with author, cultural commentator and sport journalist, Nicosia 19.2.2009; interview with sociologist and media analyst, Limassol, 7.3.2009.
\textsuperscript{157} The complaint was lodged by Nicos Kelftis, on behalf of the club Enosis Neon Paralimniou (Ενωσις Νέων Παραλιμνίου).
\textsuperscript{158} ΑΚR 241/2008, dated 10.03.2009.
culprits, it chose to analyse the situation and make non-binding recommendations. The only other case is a basketball incident involving racial abuse against the black player Randle who was charged by the basketball authorities for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans.\textsuperscript{159} All the cases are analysed in the main body of this Report when discussing incidents of racism and are listed with the relevant information in Annex 4.

5.2. Good practice

5.2.1. Overview of positive initiatives combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in all sports

\textsuperscript{[83].} A good practice that is currently at the stage of development by the Cyprus Sport Authority is the setting up and funding of the “Pupil Athletic Associations and Student Athletic Associations” in a variety of sports such as basketball, volleyball, gymnastics swimming etc). These will be voluntary associations and initiatives whenever there is an interest by 20 or more pupils or students, who have all selected a particular sport. The activities will take place beyond school time and will provide facilities (sporting places, equipment, training material and guides) and support for the enhancement of the activity such as the provision of trainers in certain instances. In cases of ethnic and migrant communities residing in deprived neighbourhoods there will be additional provisions of sporting facilities and the building of sports premises. This is a project that may alleviate some structural and systemic issues of racial discrimination and as such it is a welcome plan. It will involve the participation of the ethnic and migrant communities in choosing a sport of the common liking and would allow for a national development of sport for all classes and strata. It is of course depended on state, EU and private funding to continue.\textsuperscript{160}

5.2.2. National initiatives and projects combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerance in the focus sports

\textsuperscript{[84].} Very few initiatives have been taken by the sports authorities themselves to tackle racism. One of the positive measures adopted by the Cyprus Football Association was a visit by an official to a secondary school in Dali (a Nicosia suburb) to talk about violence and racism in sports. The sports authorities apparently do visit various schools when invited. However, there is no long-term plan or any systematic planning of making this into a genuine good practice.

\textsuperscript{[85].} Amongst club initiatives taken that can be commended as good practices are those taken by the football club of Apollon since 2006, particularly during the time of the presidency of club of Frixos Savvides.\textsuperscript{161} The campaign was high profile and it

\textsuperscript{159} Information provided by the General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association (interview 26.2.2009, Nicosia).

\textsuperscript{160} Information provided by the officer of Cyprus Sports Association interviewed on 19.2.2009, Nicosia.

\textsuperscript{161} Between 2006-2008.
involved regular educational seminars on history and anti-racism that showed that racism and Nazism had no place in the history of the club and the modern day life. The club officials, footballers of different ethnic backgrounds made a few dozens of visits to various schools of Limassol aiming to promote the anti-racist message across to teenagers from the ages of ten onwards. Banners were carried in the football matches and the club officials appeared regularly on televisions and the radio with condemnations of racism. The club president did not hesitate to publicly denounce the fans’ club on television and was the victim of attack by extremist fans who damaged the windscreen of his car. In terms of the effectiveness and impact, it has certainly created more awareness and gave confidence to those with sensitivity to speak out against racism. However, its effects are likely to be of a longer-term nature, provided that the campaign will be regularly reinvigorated and renewed. The campaign is said to continue, however it no longer has the same focus and high profile as it did last year. It seems that there is a problem with the sustainability of the good practice since the change of the president of the club and it appears as a limitation or weakness of the good practice: the new leadership of the club appears to somehow assume that the problem of racism is over and belongs to the past, as there is currently no trace of its anti-racist program in either the official website of the club or in the official website of the organised fans. However, only a few weeks ago there was a racist abuse against a black female footballer of Nea Salamina (interview with coach of women’s football team, 10.3.2009), whilst the racist behaviour of a group of fans who make monkey sounds whenever an opponent black player makes contact with the ball continues to this day (see relevant section in this report). Another weakness is the fact that the Cyprus Sports Federation refused to offer any financial support for the campaign, as the former president of Apollon has informed the NFP.

Another example of good practice involves the series of activities organised by the football club of Anagennisi-Elpida. Between 18-25 October 2008 a number of activities were held including an intercultural evening with players and fans from Anagennisi-Elpida football club and the partner organisation members on 18.10.08; a seminar that brought members from the organisations and young people from different local minorities, mostly from Eastern European countries was organised on 22.10.2008; the creation of a poster and a leaflet inspired from these activities in order to introduce the start of a game of Anagennisi-Elpida FC; a website to be designed based on activities and ideas of the participating organisations; an article to be published in a local newspaper regarding the action and its purpose. Throughout the programme there was dissemination of relevant informational material to be made available to partner organizations along with the 10 point plan of action of UEFA/FARE.

6. Conclusions

There is a near consensus amongst persons interviewed that the main area of concern is football and to a lesser extent basketball and athletics. However, this does not take into consideration the structural and systemic problems of exclusion of ethnic, migrant and other vulnerable groups. As far as the problem of overt racist behaviour

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162 According to Mr. Savvides, this did not scare him, but strengthened his resolve to tackle racism (communication with the authors 16.03.2009).
164 Communication with the authors 16.03.2009.
165 See http://www.farenet.org/default.asp?intPageID=151
is concerned, there appears to be a hard core fans from the clubs APOEL, Apollon and Anorthosis who persistently and systematically racially harass black football players in pitch and Turkish-Cypriot fans. The sports authority officers appear oblivious to the persistence of this problem, insisting that the measures taken (i.e. fines for the clubs for racist slogans and messages) are working and therefore the problem has been eradicated. However, what this fails to take into account is that:

- Black footballers tell a different story; even in 2009 a group of fans of the same teams continue to behave in the same racist manner: this report has located at least four times where racist behaviour was demonstrated by the fans of the same three teams but the referee, the observer and police failed to take any action and refer the matter to the Tribunal of the Cyprus Football Association.

- Turkish-Cypriot fans are extremely concerned about their safety and are systematically harassed by fans of the same three teams (mostly APOEL and Apollon and to a lesser extent Anorthosis).

- We may be witnessing a transfer of the problem into areas less monitored and even an escalation into a more violent form as there has been a rise in the numbers of violent incidents outside the football pitch; there are indications that extreme right groups may be using football clubs to recruit young members.

[88]. There is disagreement as to the direction of any discernible trend regarding the level or the direction of the trend in terms of increase or decrease of racist incidents and racial/ethnic discrimination in football. The available data is very restricted in terms of reporting the incidents, the way these are dealt with by the sporting authorities, or other issues regarding the participation of ethnic communities and migrant groups.

[89]. Regarding structural and systemic elements of racism, the authorities must conduct a more detailed data collection must be carried out and there should be monitoring of the statistics and research on the subject which can be developed in cooperation with the Cypriot academia. This is necessary in order to properly locate the seriousness and depth of the problem and develop policies to address it. This report has located elements of structural discrimination, policies that may be discriminatory and identified areas and practices that need to be questioned. The failure to respond to the problem of racism in football itself may indeed be a result of institutional discrimination by the sports authorities.

[90]. Sport can be considered a powerful positive force in the fight against racism within the Cypriot context provided that a serious effort is made to implement a comprehensive anti-racist program. The particular context of the chronic ethnic conflict, the war and the de facto division requires that sport is used to unite and reconcile and not divide the country and its people. The approach taken by the sports authorities so far has been one of denial and complacency, based on the assumption that the implementation of a repressive regime confined to the sporting field (just before, during and immediately after the match) and the imposition of a few fines to teams for fan behaviour, will eradicate the problem. Moreover, the attitude of taking ‘low profile measures’ so as ‘not to provoke fans’ is not only misguided but may be sending the wrong messages to racist groups. Racism is only verbally condemned to avoid its public display, as it is perceived to be embarrassing internationally to our European partners; however no serious effort has been taken to eradicate it. This can be understood as a policy of appeasement and acquiescence rather than one of showing zero-tolerance. It is therefore possible for racist behaviour to be shifted elsewhere, in areas beyond the public spotlight which do not directly affect the sporting activities. In this way the sports authorities, football clubs, the police and
the authorities in general do not take responsibility for combating racism. Responsibility is shifted elsewhere rather than in developing a systematic method for the collaboration of all stakeholders to eradicate the phenomenon. Sport can be a powerful tool to show that there is no room whatsoever for racism: it can act as a symbolic and educational force for advancing inclusion, mutual respect, cooperation and inter-ethnic and inter-cultural diversity and respect. At the same it has to be recognised that symbolic gestures can work only if they are accompanied by a systemic drive and a broader agenda for enhancing equality, human rights and understanding and combating racial and other forms of discrimination.

In terms of improving the situation in sports in general and the three focus sports in particular, a broad and a more focused anti-racist agenda is required. From the research conducted for this study and as well as from reviewing the existing literature and research, it emerges that a more comprehensive policy framework to combat racism and xenophobia is required. Putting an end to what the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority called “new racism”, which corresponds to the notion of a dangerous “European apartheid”\textsuperscript{166}, requires a robust anti-racist program as proposed by the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority: this means developing new instruments (as proposed by ECRI and local anti-racist experts and NGOs); full implementation of existing penal provisions and more effective and specialized policing, monitoring, recording and tackling racist incidents and crime; the development and full implementation of a specific action plan by the sports authorities, especially the Cyprus Football Association, along the lines of the UEFA and FARE guidelines; finally, enhancing the educational aspects of anti-racism in the wider sense of the term ‘education’, in schools, the media, public and private institutions and organisations, so that all social stakeholders cooperate towards an inclusive society.\textsuperscript{167} Sport policy must be part of a wider process to open up Cyprus as an inclusive society that allows all those living and working here to feel free from racism, secure and safe from xenophobia and intolerance.\textsuperscript{168}

\textsuperscript{168} These sort of ideas were developed for Cyprus but also have been articulated in the Greek context (see. Pavlou, M. and Christopoulos, D. (2004) Η Ελλάδα της Μετανάστευσης, Athens: Κριτική).
7. Annexes

7.1. Contact list of national sports federations

[92]. Cyprus Sports Association President Nikos Kartakoulis Makarios Sport Centre Av., Engomi, 2400 Nicosia. P.O. Box: 24804, 1304 Nicosia Cyprus, Telephone +357 22-897000; Fax +357 22-358222; Web address: http://www.cyprussports.org/

[93]. Costakis Koutsocoumnis, President of Cyprus Football Association, 10 Achaion Street, 2413 Engomi, P.O. BOX 25071, 1306 Nicosia, Telephone 22352341, Fax 22590544, e-mail: info@cfa.com.cy

[94]. Spyros Neofitides, President of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association, 48 Themistocli Dervi, office 202, 1066 Nicosia, Cyprus. Telephone 22466508, Fax 22375755, Contact e-mail: info@pasp.org.cy; Web address: http://www.pasp.org.cy/links.shtml

[95]. Neophitos Neofitides, President of Cyprus Basketball Association, 9 Zenonos Kitieos str., Engomi, 2406 Nicosia, 22449830.

7.2. Statistical data

[96]. In general there is no systematically collected statistical data to monitor the situation. There is some data that relates to football:

- The number of instances where football clubs were sanctioned for the racist behaviour of their fans by the Cyprus Football Association tribunal (provided by the Cyprus Football Association).

- The number of non-Cypriot footballers playing in the second division league (provided by the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association).

- The number of instances where basketball clubs were sanctioned for the racist behaviour of their fans by the Cyprus Basketball Association tribunal and the number of non-Cypriot managers of basketball teams (provided by the Cyprus Basketball Association).
7.3. Interviews

7.3.1. List of interviews

Sports officials

- Director of Cyprus Sports Association (KOA), Nicosia 19.2.2009.
- Officer of Cyprus Sports Association (KOA), Nicosia 19.2.2009.
- Deputy Director of Cyprus Football Association 10.03.2009.
- General Secretary of Cyprus Basketball Association, Nicosia, 26.2.2009.
- Officer/judge of Cyprus Football Association tribunal, 10.3.2009

Black Footballers interviewed

- Mustafa Camal, Footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009;
- Eric Ejoron, Footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009

Journalists, academics and sports experts

- Author, cultural commentator and sport journalist, Nicosia 19.2.2009.
- Sociologist and media analyst, Limassol, 7.3.2009.
- Sociologist and researcher, Nicosia, 8.3.2009.
- Social anthropologist, Nicosia, 9.3.2009.
- Turkish-Cypriot committee member of Yeni Cami and political scientist, Nicosia, 7.3.2009.
- Turkish-Cypriot researcher, Nicosia, 8.3.2009.
- Researcher, fan of ANORTHOSIS, Nicosia, 8.3.2009.

Officers of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority

- Officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 5.3.2009
- Officer of the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority, 6.3.2009.

Club officials, footballers association

- Press officer of basketball team of AEL, Limassol, 24.2.2009;
- Officer of Pancyprian Footballers Association, Nicosia, 3.3.2009.

Teachers and coaches
• Deputy Head teacher in secondary school, 11.3.09.

• Primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 27.2.2009.

• Primary school athletics teacher, Nicosia, 9.3.2009.

• Deputy Head in secondary school, 11.3.09.

• Coach of women’s football team (Nea Salamina), 10.3.2009

• Sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 10.3.09.

• Athletics trainer, Nicosia, 27.2.2009.

• Sports teacher in secondary school and coach in women’s volleyball team 5.3.09.

Summary of Answers to Interview Questions

What are the main problems and issues of racism and xenophobia affecting the particular sport in your country?

[97]. The sports officials interviewed from the Cyprus Sports Association (KOA),169 the Cyprus Football Association and the Cyprus Basket Association claim that at least since 2008-2009 there is no serious problem of racism as this has been eradicated. The allegation is that even in football, where there had been some incidents in previous years, today there is no serious problem of racism; the few incidents that may occur are sporadic. In basketball the incidents that occur are sporadic and in athletics there are not reported incidents. The officials interviewed do not see any evidence or have any knowledge of structural racism or discrimination in the specific sports under examination, or sports in general.

[98]. From the perspective of the footballers’ Association, the President of Pancyprian Footballers Association reported that there is no problem of racism of Cyprus; especially amongst the football players themselves there is no problem whatsoever, as the foreigners are embraced by the locals. He added that if there are problems, these are only amongst the fans. He referred to incidents where the fans were booing the “coloured” players. Regarding the participation of minorities and ethnic communities, he said Turkish Cypriots can participate but there is the political problem which poses obstacles for them. The Pancyprian Footballers Association has 1,035 members, half of whom are non-Cypriots. One third of the members are third country nationals and there are several foreign coaches. However, there are no foreigners serving on the Committee, but there are liaison officers appointed in order to maintain contact with the foreign members. Cooperation with the foreign footballers is flawless and there is no problem whatsoever. In order to demonstrate the positive attitude of the supporters, he added that the black player DiGumana was voted best player in fair play by Cypriot fans.

[99]. It is a near consensus amongst sports officials interviewed that for 2008-2009 there was a serious reduction in the shouting/chanting of racist slogans or in the use of racist banners by football (and other) fans.

169 Interview with director of the Cyprus Sports Association (KOA), Nicosia 19.02.2009
However, from the interviews conducted with black footballers, sports journalists, coaches and teachers, it is apparent that the problem of racism has not been eradicated. These perspectives suggest that there is still a serious problem of racism, at least in professional (male) football concerning the three clubs, which had problems in the past (APOEL, Apollon and Anorthosis). A former officer/judge of the Cyprus Football Association tribunal said that there is a serious problem of racism amongst fans of the above three football clubs. Moreover the black of footballers interviewed stated that they face regular abuse and cited incidents in the last time their club was playing against the above three clubs. Female football does not have the same kinds of problem as it is less popular but again there have been some incidents reported to the researchers but no complaints to the authorities so far. The two black footballers suggest that the racist behaviour by the minority of fans of APOEL, Apollon and Anorthosis continues: (a) during the match between Enosis Neon Paralimniou and APOEL (31.03.2009) the fans of APOEL were imitating monkey sounds when the black player Mustafa Camal touched the ball; the same happened when the team played with Apollon (4.03.2009) for the cup and for 2008 in Limassol, when the Nigerian footballer touched the ball; the same behaviour occurred with Anorthosis. The interviewees reported that the referee and sports officials did nothing at the time and the matter was not referred to the tribunal of the Cyprus Football Federation, nor was it reported in the media.

Teachers interviewed consider that there is a great deal of education required to address the rising problem given the extensive use of racist and neo-Nazi graffiti, including the swastika and Celtic cross, which are routinely used by fans of the teams of APOEL and Apollon on school desks, walls of corridors inside schools as well as public places. Even at this moment in the garden of APOEL there is a Celtic cross, which is also the symbol of a target used by the neo-Nazi Greek newspaper/group called STOHOS (“The Target”). Moreover, concern has been raised by a number of teachers interviewed that a number of students display racist attitudes: even though a minority has overtly racist views the trends located by research findings indicate that a complacent approach to the problem of racism without active campaigning against may become even more serious a problem.

Turkish-Cypriots interviewed said that they fear attending matches of APOEL, Apollon and to a lesser extent Anorthosis following the recent attacks against Turkish-Cypriots by APOEL fans in the streets of Nicosia. They reported of many instances in the past where Turkish-Cypriots who used to attend matches are now reluctant to do so fearing that they will be attacked or that their cars will be damaged due to their ethnic origin, particularly by APOEL fans.

Informants on basketball said that the main problem that exists is again with the fans of the three clubs mentioned (APOEL, Apollon and Anorthosis); they claim that they are the same hard core of fans as in football.

One club official stated that racism is essentially a police matter and the club officials could do very little unless the police took serious action, otherwise they themselves or their families could be in danger from these ‘criminal’ elements.

170 Interview dated 10.3.2009.
171 Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
172 Interview with Eric Ejoron, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
173 Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
174 Interview with Mustafa Camal, footballer playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
175 Interviews with Mustafa Camal and Eric Ejoron footballers playing for Enosis Neon Paralimniou, 15.03.2009.
who are violent and whose identity is known to everybody. This view was also supported by some sports journalists and coaches who point out that the main problem is not racism as a primary manifestation, but rather that the problem of racism and xenophobia as a surrogate problem that operates on the back of the primary problem which is the wider issue of football violence and hooliganism. Moreover, it was pointed out that it is difficult for clubs, particularly smaller clubs, to confront their own ‘hard core’ fans as they are the most committed fans and may affect the numbers of tickets sold and the performance of the teams. Unlike massive football clubs abroad, the ‘football market’ in Cyprus is small, people know each other and this may act as a deterrent for clubs to take decisive action such as banning individuals who are considered to be ‘troublemakers’. The small size of the scale may be an advantage in one sense allowing manageability of the problem, but it may be a deterrent in taking decisive or drastic action in other contexts, as there is no anonymity in a small country at the level of city and club fans. And of course there is also the well-known problem of administrative laxity. One former football club official, who has taken decisive action against racism within his own club’s fans, reported that he had his car windscreen smashed and received many threats and regular harassment by raving fans.

[105]. No problem of racism was reported for athletics.

Could you provide some examples of cases of racism and xenophobia within your sport?

[106]. No incidents in athletics were cited.

[107]. The basketball official interviewed referred to the 2008 incident involving the player Randle of AEL for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans of the opponent club in the semi-final playoffs of the championship in first division men’s match between ASPIS-APOEL-PROTEAS V. EKA AEL on 09.03.2008 (referral No. 57). However, he said that it was an isolated incident for basketball; he interpreted such incidents as ‘spill over’ problems of football violence and racism by a minority of fans of specific clubs.

[108]. Football Officials claim that for the season 2008-2009 there had been only two incidents which were isolated. When asked which clubs were concerned, the Cyprus Football Association official said this is not important. He subsequently admitted that one incident concerned AEK Larnaca, where a small number of fans was booing a “coloured” player and was punished by the tribunal of the CFA with a fine of Euros 2000. The fine was low because the incident was isolated. The other case concerned a football match in Limassol where during the game fans sprayed the Celtic cross on a banner with the name of the club (APOEL) using a spray they managed to smuggle into the field. The Celtic cross was only 30 centimetres long but it was seen by an observer and the club was fined with Euros 1,500. However, during a game in 2008 the fans of the two clubs Apollon and APOEL raised banners with swastika and the Celtic cross respectively and were subsequently sanctioned by the Cyprus Football Association tribunal with exclusion from playing in their home ground. From an investigation carried out by the NFP, it emerged that the banners which were posted were drawn by fans that did not have knowledge of the meaning of the symbols; the symbols were drawn as a reaction to the leadership of the club or at least this was the defence put forward by the club’s lawyers. In any case, the Cyprus Football Association tribunal imposed a very
hefty sanction by banning them from playing in their home field, a sanction with serious economic repercussions for the team.\textsuperscript{176}

[109]. In order to show its commitment in tackling racism in football, the Cyprus Football Association official interviewed, stated that when it comes to racism the rules of Cyprus Football Association provide for deduction of points and exclusion from playing at their home field. From 2003 until 2009, Anorthosis was fined once for racist behaviour of its fans, APOEL six times, Apollon five times, AEK Larnaca once and Omonia once. When asked for the use of the Celtic cross on the building of the club APOEL, he responded that he has not seen it. He stated that overall the problem has now been eradicated since after several fines and sanctions imposed, the fans were convinced that they should not demonstrate racist behaviour. For instance Apollon has not been referred to the Cyprus Football Association tribunal since 03.04.2008 and it has carried out a lot of anti-racist campaigning. The problem of the swastikas has been completely eradicated, the only case this year being with the Celtic cross on the banner of APOEL which was due to an oversight that allowed the fans to smuggle a spray in the field. In comparison with other countries, Cyprus does not face serious problems; in a recent conference in Poland which was attended by a Cyprus Football Association official, it was apparent that the scale of the problem faced in Cyprus is negligible compared to that of other countries. There are countries which exclude players because they are Roma, whilst in Cyprus there are no such barriers and the Bosman decision is applied. However, no percentages could be offered regarding the participation of foreigners.

[110]. There is however a different perspective which suggests that not only racial incidents are continuing, but the sports authorities continue to deny the existence of the problem. The officer of the Cyprus Football Association tribunal explained that there is reluctance by tribunal officers to take serious action to eradicate the problem from sports. Some tribunal panellists, under pressure from the club lobby, went as far as revealing what other panellists supported in the tribunal hearing to club officials of APOEL, which rendered them a target for raving club fans. In some cases instead of having the backing of the Cyprus Football Association executive, the Cyprus Football Association tribunal was exposed to threats by the hard core fans. In addition the Cyprus Football Association tribunal officer stated that there have been additionally five or six incidents of racism against black football players. These involved instances where the players concerned were brought before them accused of attacking other players or showing aggressive behaviour against other players who, in mitigation explained that their behaviour was retaliation after they had been racially abused.

[111]. Turkish-Cypriot fans and researchers interviewed referred to various instances where Turkish-Cypriots were racially (verbally) abused due to their ethnic origin by fans of the right-wing teams.

[112]. Moreover, some teachers, coaches and sports journalists and experts claim that there is growing problem of violence amongst the youth, something that is connected to racial abuse and behaviours in fans of some teams. They draw the attention to the growth of football violence on and off the pitch and in schools.

Are there any statistics on the representation of migrants and ethnic minorities in the particular sport?

\textsuperscript{176} This is one of the most serious sanctions that can be imposed, as the club is losing a lot of money in tickets it could have sold.
If yes, could you describe and quantify the extent of the involvement of migrants and ethnic minorities as (a) athletes, (b) coaches, (c) officials and (d) fans in the particular sport?

[113]. No statistical information was provided by officials about the extent of participation by migrants and ethnic minorities as athletes, coaches, officials and fans in the particular sports examined. The officers form sports authorities informed us that no statistical data is available. However it is generally known that few people drawn from migrant labour populations are known to be involved in professional sports and we have little evidence of their participation in amateur sports. Sports authority officers and other informants claim that there is a large number of migrant participation in certain types of sports that carry traditions from their countries of origin, such as martial arts.

[114]. However, in basketball some data was provided: the first division rules (men and women) allow for three non-Europeans and an unspecified number of Europeans, which includes any nationals from any of 52 members of FIFA Europe and not merely EU nationals. There are teams that consist entirely of non-Cypriots. In the second division the clubs are not allowed to hire non-European players. In the men’s league there are nine teams, consisting mostly of non-Cypriot players; this is less so in the second division. There is also a registered team with players of Armenian origin but it does not compete as it has organisational problems. Currently in the first division there are two non-Cypriot coaches; the rest are Cypriots. In the beginning of the season there were five non-Cypriot coaches.

[115]. In the women’s basketball teams there are fewer non-Cypriot women but there are clubs that use non-Cypriots extensively (AEL for instance is made entirely by non-Cypriot athletes; KERAVNOS and ACHILLEAS have some non-Cypriots; the others consist mainly of Cypriots. The coaches for women’s teams are Cypriots.

[116]. No data was available for athletics.

If there is no statistical data available, could you please provide a general description of the involvement of migrants and ethnic minorities as (a) athletes, (b) coaches, (c) officials and (d) fans in the particular sport?

[117]. The Pancyprian Footballers’ Association officer states that in the second football division there are 230 Cypriot players and 110 foreigners. Although no precise figures have been provided to the NFP, sports journalists and coaches referred to media reports where the complaints voiced are not for the limited participation of foreigners but for ‘too much’ foreign participation. There are very few cases of officials who are foreigners and he quoted one example from 2007 in APOLLON. Teams often contract foreign professionals to work as coaches, trainers, physiotherapists but these cannot be termed as economic migrants. At the level of football players, regulations-wise there is nothing stopping Turkish Cypriots from participating and there are about ten young Turkish Cypriots playing with youth teams (under 18 years of age). There are several Pontian players, especially in Paphos where there is a high concentration of Pontians, although he could not state the precise number.

[118]. There is minimum involvement of migrants, who have only arrived en mass after 1990; as for the Turkish-Cypriot community, the problem of the de facto partition
and the ethnic conflict that preceded meant that there is minimum participation of Turkish-Cypriots in sports, although individual cases of Turkish-Cypriots who do participate, despite the political and social problems. The NFP was informed that there is a handful of young Turkish-Cypriot footballers playing with second division football clubs. Also, until 2007 the first division club Nea Salamina had Turkish-Cypriot footballers playing. There are a few Turkish Cypriot athletes in track and field. There is no information about the involvement of the smaller minorities designated by the constitution as “religious groups” (Maronites, Armenians and Latins). Officials are almost always Greek-Cypriots, with some notable exceptions, and the makeup of the fans varies enormously according to sport and club.

[119] There is some participation of non-Cypriot fans, particularly in football but minimum to negligible participation in mainstream clubs and in the sports authorities. However, there are sports clubs run by migrants in areas which are predominantly resided by migrants such as the Pontians in certain areas of Paphos.

[120] For basketball many top teams consist almost exclusively of non-Cypriots; however these are foreign professionals from various parts of the world and not ‘economic migrants’ or ‘ethnic minorities’. However, officials and sports experts consider that in basketball and athletics we are now beginning to see the emergence of the second generation of migrants who come from the more settled migrant communities.

Are there any regulations on federation level affecting the participation of EU- and third-country-national athletes / players in amateur sport and professional sport?

If yes, do these regulations create any obstacle to athletes from other EU- or non-EU countries in being treated equally?

[121] According to the sports officials interviewed in all sports there is full compliance with free movement of sportspersons as stipulated by the EU law following the Bosmans case. There are no obstacles to athletes from other EU- or non-EU countries in being treated equally.

[122] We are informed by the Footballers Association that regulations provide that out of the 26 professionals allowed to play in the first division teams, nine have to be “home grown”; however “home grown” does not necessarily mean Cypriots; the rule stipulates that anyone who is an EU citizen and at the age of 18 is registered with a Cypriot team is considered “home grown”. There are calls by the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association for the Cyprus Football Association to adopt the Scottish football regulations since last year that have a rule compelling each team to include within their 18-squad four to five under twenty-one year olds. The chair of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association referred to the journal of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association which raises concerns about the fact that Cypriot footballers are being displaced by foreigners (EU nationals and third country nationals), is of the view that the adoption of a Scottish-type of rule will work as an indirect quota for Cypriots, who will become the ‘core’ of the squad, as it is unlikely that foreigners would move to Cyprus before they are 21 years old. The president of the Pancyprian Footballers’ Association considers that Cypriot footballers suffer from discrimination as they are less likely to accept conditions that are unacceptable for locals – but which may be adopted by foreigners. The Pancyprian Footballers’ Association is arguing for the adoption a rule in the spirit of the UEFA ‘Home-grown Player rule’, which is also discriminatory under EU
law but unlike a quota system it constitutes indirect, rather than direct discrimination.

[123]. When asked specifically about the problem that was raised by the footballers association regarding the second division foreign amateur players the Cyprus Football Association officer responded that football clubs discovered a loophole in the regulations which allowed them to change the status of foreign players from professional to amateurs thus avoiding the duty to pay them. He explained that in the second division it was possible to have up to 14 professional footballers out of who six must be “home grown”; at the third division teams should have 8 professionals. He stated that the loophole in the regulations will be addressed in the forthcoming year.

[124]. An officer from the Pancyprian Footballers Association has informed the NFP that there was a problem of exploitation and abuse of foreign footballers who were registered merely as ‘amateurs’ and thus not given a footballer’s contract. The practice detected was that, instead of properly registering them as professionals, some clubs used to register them as migrant workers in one of the other occupations that allow for third country migrant workers: the result was that they were often exploited, left unpaid and expelled from the country. According to one interviewee, new regulations are currently under way, which will prohibit foreign amateur footballers from playing in the lower divisions, so that these positions are filled by professionals. The authors were not supplied with a draft of the new regulations so as to be able to comment safely: there is a possibility that this may be discriminatory, unless it is a measure to protect the rights of foreign footballers from possible abuse and/or it is purely an immigration and work-related issue. It must in any way result in discrimination when compared to EU nationals.

[125]. No issues as to regulations can be reported about basketball or athletics.

Are there any regulations by the sports federation on anti-discrimination issues and/or equality measures?

[126]. No there are no such targeted policies. Only general policies exist

If yes, could you give a brief description of the regulations and their implementation? Could you give examples of their effect? If no, what is in your opinion the reason for the absence of regulations?

[127]. The sports authorities consider that there is no serious problem of racism; therefore such measures are according to officials unwarranted.

Are there any initiatives against racism and xenophobia in the particular sport?

[128]. The Pancyprian Footballers’ Association complained that the Cyprus Football Association refused to take the initiative to combat racism, even rejected proposals to have some campaigns against racism before the football matches start as proposed by the European Footballer’s Association. The Cyprus Football Association rejects any such criticisms. Regarding the adoption of measures by Cyprus Football Association for the combating of discrimination, he stated that he had no idea about the offer of 50,000 CHF by FARE and that if it declined it was done so only by mistake. He stated that the two clubs which had experienced problems of racism had launched campaigns and one of them, APOLLON, was
awarded a prize from UEFA for its campaign. The Cyprus Football Association official denied the allegation made by the Pancyprian Footballers Association that Cyprus Football Association rejected a proposal by Pancyprian Footballers Association for an antiracist campaign to be launched monthly, such as “red card to racism”. In support of this, he added that CFA’s launching of the league contains unequivocal condemnation of racism and rules for the punishment of those guilty of racism. He stated that the Cyprus Football Association is ready to promote any kind of measures needed for the combating of racism and encourages the clubs to take measures to raise awareness amongst the fans. When asked whether in his opinion it is the duty of the clubs and not of CFA to educate the fans and the public in general, he said yes. In general, the Cyprus Football Association finds that the measures taken, mostly of a repressive form, have had a positive impact, as shown by the reduction of referrals to the CFA tribunals. If one considers that there are thousands of matches played every year and only a small number of cases of racism referred to the tribunal, this is indicative of the fact that the incidents are isolated.

If yes, could you give examples and describe the impact of these initiatives?

[129]. There is little evidence to go by to make an impact assessment of policy initiatives to combat racism. The tougher policing and monitoring of slogans is considered to be successful as there is more sensitivity on the subject and most persons believe that it gave the right signals to fans, the clubs and the public at large that racism is unacceptable, even if there are problems with the implementation. Also it is generally believed that the initiatives taken by Apollon have been successful in empowering those fans that are not happy with the racism demonstrated by a small group of fans.

If no, what is in your opinion the reason for the absence of initiatives?

[130]. Sports officials are of the view there is no need for any further initiatives because the problem is not of such intensity so as to necessitate any further measures. Some officials and sports journalists claim that the major problem in Cyprus is not racism but violence.

Are there any good practice models for promoting integration and diversity in the particular sport?

[131]. An example of good practice is the policy to promote the involvement and participation of migrant communities residing in economically and socially deprived areas. The initiative, which is still at the stage of design, involves the setting up of Pupil and Student Athletic Associations and is developed and funded by the Cyprus Sport Association, spreading into a variety of sports such as basketball, volleyball, gymnastics swimming etc. These will be voluntary associations set up whenever there is an interest by 20 or more pupils or students, who have all selected a particular sport. The activities will take place outside school time and will provide facilities (sporting places, equipment, training material and guides) and support for the enhancement of the activity including in certain instances the services of trainers. In cases of ethnic and migrant communities residing in deprived neighbourhoods there will be additional provisions of sporting facilities and the building of sports premises. This is a project that may alleviate some structural and systemic issues of racial discrimination and will involve the participation of ethnic and migrant
communities in choosing a sport of common preference, allowing for sports development amongst all classes and strata. It is however dependendent on state, EU and private funding to continue. It is not possible to evaluate such activities as they are still on paper.

[132]. The Cyprus Football Association official stated that in March 2009 a colleague of his offered a lecture to a school in Dali (a Nicosia suburb) on violence and racism in sports.

In your opinion, is there a rather positive or a negative trend regarding racism and discrimination in sport in general and in your particular sport?

[133]. Although there is disagreement as to the direction of any discernible trend regarding the level of racist incidents and racial/ethnic discrimination in football, the NFP is of the view that the problems of racism, discrimination and xenophobia are not effectively combated. The sports authorities fail to properly report the incidents; the way racist incidents and practices are dealt with by the sporting authorities is problematic; the participation of ethnic communities and migrant groups is not effectively monitored and encouraged; there is evidence of structural and systemic discrimination.

What are the main obstacles for the implementation of positive measures and good practice models regarding equality and non-discrimination?

[134]. The main obstacle is the reluctance of the authorities to acknowledge the existence of racism in sports which inevitably impedes their ability to design and implement effective measures.

What would you propose that addresses the problems you describe and helps to improve the situation?

[135]. More detailed research is necessary and a system of recording and monitoring statistical data must be developed in cooperation with the university sector of the country. An action plan must be compiled to effectively and holistically address the problem, covering the area of education.

[136]. Policing must be improved, together with a concerted effort by the sports authorities, football, basketball and volleyball clubs, fans’ clubs and local authorities and the media to fully tackle the problem. Sports in general and the three focus sports in particular need broader as well as a more focused anti-racist agenda via the development of a comprehensive policy framework to combat racism and xenophobia in sport.

[137]. For athletics it is necessary to conduct a study on the participation of migrant and minority groups and a needs assessment for the encouragement of vulnerable groups in athletics as well as various integration and infrastructural improvements.
## 7.4. Annex 4 Court, specialised body or tribunal decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case title</th>
<th>Referral of basketball player R. Randle of AEL for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans of the opponent club in the semi-final playoffs of the championship in first division men’s match between ASPIS-APOEL-PROTEAS V. EKA AEL on 09.03.2008 (referral No. 57). Referral of APOEL for the conduct of its fans which involved the throwing of objects and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour in the semi-final playoffs of the championship in first division men’s match between ASPIS-APOEL-PROTEAS V. EKA AEL on 09.03.2008 (referral No. 54)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision date</td>
<td>17.03.2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference details</td>
<td>Disciplinary committee/tribunal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(type and title of court/body; in original language and English [official translation, if available])</td>
<td>Δικαστική Επιτροπή Κυπριακής Ομοσπονδίας Καλαθόσφαιρας Tribune of the Cyprus Basketball Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key facts of the case</td>
<td>During warming up prior to a basketball match, a group of fans of the club (APOEL) were making sounds and gestures imitating monkeys and shouting racist remarks to a black basketball player of the opponent club (AEL). The player in question went up to them in the fans’ quarter and a fight of pushing and shoving started. The police who witnessed the incident told the fans to stop the abusive behaviour but made no arrests. The player was referred by the Cyprus Basket Federation for assault and/or anti-athletic and/or inappropriate behaviour against fans of the opponent club. The fans were not charged with racism related offences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main reasoning/argumentation</td>
<td>No reasoning was offered by the tribunal for this decision, as is the norm in these procedures. The player’s lawyer argued that the fans had demonstrated grossly racist behaviour and that fining him would amount to equating the victim with the assailant. The player’s lawyer also protested against the favourable treatment which the opponent club (APOEL) is receiving from the prosecution, stressing the racist nature of the incident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case</td>
<td>No reasoning was offered, no concepts or interpretations were discussed. The tribunal’s decision consisted only of imposing the fines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)

By majority, the committee decided that the player be fined with 450 euro plus 100 euro for costs. The descending view was that he should have been banned from playing in one game. APOEL was fined with 850 Euros. The descending view was that the club should have been banned from playing on home ground. Although the decision is not justified or supported with any reasoning, it is clear that the tribunal did not accept the defence lawyer’s arguments, that the player was unjustly provoked, in their entirety and presumably based its decision on the premise that the player should not have involved himself in a fight despite having been provoked.

### Case title

Report of the Anti-discrimination Authority regarding the manifestation of racist behaviour during football matches

### Decision date

24.12.2004

### Reference details

Equality body

Αρχής κατά του Ρατσισµού και των Διακρίσεων

Anti-discrimination Authority

### Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)

The club Enosis Neon Paraliminiou complained about the racist behaviour against an African footballer from fans of the club Anorthosis who were booing and imitating ape sounds, whilst there was no reaction either from the referee, or the Cyprus Football Association, or the stadium authorities or the police. The club also complained to FARE and the disciplinary committee of UEFA arguing that in 2003 the fans of Anorthosis demonstrated similar racist behaviour against black players of AEL, whilst fans of APOEL displayed racist behaviour in every match where there are African players playing in the opponent club. The reaction of the Cyprus Football Association to the allegations was that the incidents were sporadic and did not warrant the intervention of any of the sports institutions.

### Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)

The Anti-discrimination Authority found the complaint to be well founded and concluded that the frequency of racist behaviour in the football field and the shouting of racist slogans are not isolated incidents but a phenomenon that is not confined to sports but widespread in society.

### Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)

The report refers to “a new type of racism” which manifests itself in athletic grounds finding opportunities for expression within the anonymity of the crowd and is disguised in a manner that makes the individual racist actors difficult to detect.

### Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)

No sanctions were imposed but the following recommendations were offered:

(i). The Ministry of Education, the Cyprus
Sports Authority, the Cyprus Football Federation, the football clubs and the police must play an active role in the education of the young and the public at large; (ii) The Cyprus Football Association must immediately proceed to the development of a “Ten Point Action Plan” along the lines recommended by UEFA; (iii) A common coordinating body must be set up for the combating of racism and xenophobia; (vi) Recommendation (2001)6 of the Council of Europe, which provides for the establishment of a special and separate legislative framework to combat racism in sport, must be adopted; (v) The Cyprus Football Association must monitor the situation closely and impose a progressively tougher regime of sanctions for reoffending clubs, whose fans have been accused of racist behaviour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case title</th>
<th>Report of the Anti-discrimination Authority regarding the physical assault of a pupil of African origin and the handling of the incident by the Ministry of Education and the Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision date</td>
<td>10.03.2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Reference details | Equality body
Αρχής κατά του Ρατσισµού και των Διακρίσεων
Anti-discrimination Authority |
| Key facts of the case | Following a volleyball match between two schools in December 2008, a Cypriot black pupil was attacked by a group of about 40 other Cypriot white pupils, shouting racist insults. The victim was severely injured and had to be taken to hospital. The police made no arrests and brought no charges against anyone three months after the incident. The schools’ teachers rejected the allegations of racist motives and described the incident as the manifestation of youth delinquency. The only measure taken by the school was to permanently expel one pupil who initiated the attack against the victim but did not cite racist behaviour as one of the reasons for the expulsion. The Minister of Education described the incident as racist and committed himself to the setting up of a monitoring mechanism for the recording and analysis of violent incidents maintaining a special record for racist incidents. |
| Main reasoning/argumentation | The report criticised the school authorities for (i) their refusal to attribute racist motive to the attack; (ii) their emphasis on the allegedly provocative behaviour of the victim, in an |
The apparent effort to shift responsibility from the assailants to the victim; (iii) the decision of the school to permanently expel one of the assailants as lacking educational sensitivity. The report also criticised the attitude of the police who failed to take an active stand against racism in spite of the victim’s unequivocal position that she wanted the case to go to Court.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</th>
<th>The report concludes that as long as educationalists do not take an active stand against racism and prefer the oversimplified interpretation of youth delinquency and as long as incidents are not addressed and handled and assailants go unpunished, the phenomenon of racist violence will be reproduced and multiplied. Particular emphasis was placed on the fact that children of migrants, and particular those born/raised in Cyprus are especially vulnerable and actions taken must be such to reinforce their sense of security and belonging.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<th>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</th>
<th>[138]. No sanctions were imposed. The report welcomes the measure promised by the Minister of Education for the setting up of a monitoring mechanism in order to record and handle violence in schools and particularly racist violence.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Case title</th>
<th>Report of the Anti-discrimination Authority regarding an incident of racial attack against foreigners in Ypsonas and its handling by the Police</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decision date</td>
<td>26.01.2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference details (type and title of court/body; in original language and English [official translation, if available])</td>
<td>Equality body Αρχής κατά του Ρατσισµού και των Διακρίσεων Anti-discrimination Authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars) | In June 2008 a group of Cypriot youth attacked a number of migrants and vandalised their homes in a rural area of Limassol, in retaliation to an alleged attack the previous night against a Cypriot by two Polish men. The migrants fled the scene without reporting the incident to the police. The incident was reported to the police by a number of British persons who rushed to
the rescue of the migrants and who were attacked themselves by the youth, whose number had meanwhile grown and who equipped themselves with stones and iron bars, causing considerable damage to homes of migrants and of the British people, shouting racial remarks and injuring several of them. The perpetrators were charged with offences related to common assault, malicious damage to property and riot, which do not involve racial motive.

| Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars) | The report criticises the police in general and particularly the Police Department for the Combating of Discrimination (PDCD) whose mandate had been extended following the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority’s recommendation, to cover and record not only racial *offences* but also racial *incidents* (as defined inter alia by the victim), does not have any mechanism in place to record racial *incidents*; only a small number of racial *offences* were recorded[^177] none of which led to any conviction. No special training is offered to police officers on the identification and recording of racial motive. The Head of the PDCD informed the Cyprus Anti-discrimination Authority that in the particular case under investigation there did not seem to be a prima facie case of racist offence in violation of the anti-discrimination legislation, a view which was criticised in the report. |
| Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars) | The report found that the incident was not an isolated one and that there is an increase in the number and intensity of racial incidents. It notes that previous investigations have also shown the failure of the police to prosecute racial incidents, and that even though the legislative framework appears to be adequate, the authorities stubbornly refuse to prosecute racial incidents. The report notes with concern the fact the migrants attacked did not file a complaint with the police, which indicates that vulnerable groups feel discouraged from reporting racial incidents for fear of deportation or for lack of trust in the police. |
| Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars) | No sanctions were imposed. The report recommends the following measures: the precise and credible recording of racial incidents; the provision of assistance and protection to victims and their encouragement to report incidents; the upgrading of the PDCD and its adequate staffing; the training of police officers on |

[^177]: Two incidents were recorded in 2005, eighteen in 2006 and three in 2007.
The identification and handling of racial incidents. Although this is not the first time that the Anti-discrimination Authority finds that the police has failed to address and prosecute racist crime, the report does not identify this practice as discriminatory in itself and restricts its criticism in the area of lack of efficiency. Also, the failure of the Attorney General and the Legal Service to take a more active role in the prosecution of racial incidents is not addressed.
### 7.5. Annex 5 Positive initiatives (PI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title (original language)</th>
<th>Μαθητικοί Όμιλοι Αθλητάτων &amp; Φοιτητικοί Όμιλοι Αθλητισμού</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title (EN)</td>
<td>Pupil Athletic Associations and Student Athletic Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation (original language)</td>
<td>Κυπριακός Οργανισµός Αθλητισµού</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation (EN)</td>
<td>Cyprus Sports Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society</td>
<td>Sports Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet link</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyprussports.org">http://www.cyprussports.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressed problem</td>
<td>Under-representation of minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of initiative</td>
<td>awards, grants community cohesion – social integration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of project</td>
<td>youth sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main target group</td>
<td>youth (children, young people, students) ethnic minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief description (max. 1000 chars)</td>
<td>Setting up of voluntary associations and initiatives whenever there is an interest by 20 or more pupils or students, who have all selected a particular sport. Activities to take place beyond school time and will provide facilities (sporting places, equipment, training material and guides) and support for the enhancement of the activity such the provision of trainers in certain instances. In cases of ethnic and migrant communities residing in deprived neighbourhoods there will be additional provisions sporting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
facilities and the building of sports premises. This is a project that may alleviate some structural and systemic issues of racial discrimination and as such it is a welcome plan. It will involve the participation of the ethnic and migrant communities in choosing a sport of the common liking and would allow for a national development of sport for all classes and strata.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title (original language)</strong></th>
<th>Εκστρατεία ενάντια στο Ρατσισμό</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title (EN)</strong></td>
<td>Campaign against racism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisation (original language)</strong></td>
<td>ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organisation (EN)</strong></td>
<td>APOLLON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society</strong></td>
<td>Sports Organisation / Civil society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Internet link</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.cyprussports.org">http://www.cyprussports.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Addressed problem</strong></td>
<td>Racism and xenophobia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of initiative</strong></td>
<td>training, education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>awareness raising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>intercultural dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area of project</strong></td>
<td>professional sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main target group</strong></td>
<td>Media, general public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth (children, young people,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>students), victims of racist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teachers, public authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brief description (max. 1000 chars)</strong></td>
<td>The campaign was high profile and it involved regular educational seminars on history and anti-racism that showed that racism and Nazism had no place in the history of the club and the modern day life. The club officials, footballers of different ethnic backgrounds made tens of visits to various schools of Limassol aiming to put the anti-racist message across to teenagers from the ages of ten onwards. Banners were carried in the football matches and the club officials appeared regularly on televisions and the radio to issues strong condemnations of racism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title (original language)</td>
<td>Διαπολιτισµικός διάλογος</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title (EN)</td>
<td>Intercultural dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation (original language)</td>
<td>Οργανισµός Προώθησης Ευρωπαϊκών Θεµάτων (ΟΠΕΙ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation (EN)</td>
<td>Organization for the Promotion of European Issues (OPEI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government / Sports Organisation / Civil society</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet link</td>
<td><a href="http://www.european-issues.info">http://www.european-issues.info</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addressed problem</td>
<td>Racism and xenophobia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Type of initiative       | training, education:
|                          | awareness raising:
|                          | intercultural dialogue |
| Area of project          | organised amateur sport |
| Main target group        | Media, general public:
|                          | Youth (children, young people, students), victims of racist violence:
|                          | Teachers, public authorities |

**Brief description (max. 1000 chars)**

Together with Anagennisi-Elpida football club a number of activities were organised such as an intercultural evening with players and fans from Anagennisi-Elpida football club and the partner organisation members on 18.10.08; a seminar that brought members from the organisations and young people from different local minorities, mostly from Eastern European countries was organised on 22.10.2008; from the first two activities would be inspired and get ideas for a poster and a leaflet that would introduce at the start of a game of Anagennisi-Elpida FC; a website to be designed based on our activities and our ideas, by the participating organisations; an article will be published in a local newspaper regarding the action and its purpose.
7.6. List of sources

**Books and Research papers**


• S. Spyrou (2005) Greek-Cypriot children’s familiarity with, knowledge about, perceptions of and attitudes towards a variety of foreigners who live in Cyprus, Report for the Centre of the Study of Childhood and Adolescence.


List of documents

EU-institutions


- Council of the European Union Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, Luxembourg, 19 April 2007 8665/07 (Presse 84)

Council of Europe:

- European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches (1985)

- Nomination of National Ambassadors for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play

- Council of Europe Resolution on preventing racism, xenophobia and intolerance in sport (N0 4/2000)

- Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers, Recommendation Rec (2001) 6 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the prevention of racism, xenophobia and racial intolerance in sport, Adopted by the Committee of Ministers 18 July 2001


- Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Declaration on the occasion of EURO 2008, 'Unite against Racism'


United Nations:

- UN General Assembly, Resolution 61/149. Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 7 February 2007, Sixty-first session, Agenda item 65 (b)

UEFA and FIFA:

- UEFA Ten Point Plan of Action for Professional Football Clubs (October 2002)
-