**Unified Football – I love it!**

We have a great pleasure to announce that Special Olympics Poland, have been granted, as one of only four countries worldwide, FIFA Football For Hope Programme Support financial help. The funds will be dedicated towards the development of Unified Football in Poland.

Our project “Unified Football – I love it!” involves 6 Regional Offices:

1. Świętokrzyskie
2. Opolskie
3. Podkarpackie
4. Śląskie
5. Pomorskie
6. Zachodniopomorskie

Throughout the year we will be building new unified football teams, supporting at the same time the existing ones. We will organize training and competition opportunities as well as series of seminars for coaches and teachers. Moreover, we are planning to implement our Index for Inclusion programme, in order to win new schools and Unified Supporters. We will engage former or active football players and coaches (one in each regional office) to conduct one of the training sessions and seminars.

The 6 regional offices will organize 3 joint training sessions each. Every session will involve three existing Unified Football teams plus a newly built one and will end with a round-robin tournament. In six cases (one in every regional office) we will organize a seminar for coaches and teachers, who are willing to get involved into Unified Football but lack knowledge about it.

These training sessions and seminars will include work on the importance of communication and will use inclusive training techniques to give a sense and experience of full integration for those involved. As groups become experienced as Unified teams, the coaches will support the development of regular regional training and competition opportunities.

The seminar will consist of two parts: the practical (training session) and theoretical one (seminar concluding the training session and explaining the methods and needs of Unified Football training).

 The trained coaches will in turn run Unified Football training sessions, initially in the form of "come and try", in their local areas, where both athletes (with learning disabilities) and Unified Supporters (mainstream) will be invited to experience Unified Football.

The seminars and the whole project will be summed up and evaluated during a 3-day International Football Congress which will take place in December. Special Olympics PL will organize a panel and a final seminar for their representatives from whole Poland.

The aims of the project are:

* Creating at least one new Unified Football team in each Regional Offices participating in the project
* Having at least two new coaches involved in Unified Football, responsible for creating training and competition opportunities
* Wining at least three new schools by implementing the Index for Inclusion programme

Our long term vision of supporting the development of Unified Football in Poland includes building Unified teams alongside professional football clubs.

**Training sessions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Regional Office* | *1st session* | *2nd session* | *3rd session* |
| *Świętokrzyskie* | **12.06.2014 Opatów/Niemienice** | **26.09.2014 Skarżysko-Kamienna** | **10.10.2014 Sandomierz** |
| *Opolskie* | **28.04.2014 Kędzierzyn-Koźle** | **04.06.2014 Opole** | **30.09.2014 Kędzierzyn-Koźle** |
| *Podkarpackie* | **13.05.2014 Dębica** | **04.06.2014 Tarnobrzeg** | **01.10.2014 Mielec** |
| *Śląskie* | *To be confirmed* | *To be confirmed* | *To be confirmed* |
| *Pomorskie* | **22.05.2014 Gdynia** | **12.06.2014 Sztum** | **26.09.2014 Sztum** |
| *Zachodniopomorskie* | **15.05.2014 Koszalin** | **21.06.2014 Szczecinek** | **24.09.2014 Szczecin** |

**Seminars**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Regional Office* | *Date* | *Place* |
| *Świętokrzyskie* | **12.06.2014** | **Opatów / Niemienice** |
| *Opolskie* | **20.09.2014** | **Kędzierzyn-Koźle** |
| *Podkarpackie* | **04.06.2014** | **Tarnobrzeg** |
| *Śląskie* | *To be confirmed* | *To be confirmed* |
| *Pomorskie* | **26.09.2014** | **Sztum** |
| *Zachodniopomorskie* | **24.09.2014** | **Szczecin** |