



## United in the joy that football brings

### Description of project

The Captains of Change project in FYR Macedonia is about creating equal opportunities and increasing the inclusion of disabled people as participants as well as spectators in football on a national level.

By revising existing projects, and through reconstruction of four stadiums in the country to improve stadium infrastructure, the association have helped create a barrier-free environment for disabled people. By appointing a disability officer in every first division club they are also improving services for disabled people. A policy statements for the inclusion of disabled people has been created, and the association worked a lot on raising awareness of the needs of disabled people both within the organisation and at national level.

The main project stakeholders have been stadiums, clubs, municipalities, national organisations for disabled people in FYR Macedonia and the associations' business community. There is constant work ongoing to improve awareness about the associations' work within the country, presenting the Football Federation of Macedonia (FFM) as a socially responsible



*Macedonia v Belarus European Qualifier*



*Disabled access to our administrative building*

### Objectives

- Develop greater **AWARENESS** among employees of the FFM and its stakeholders (by July 2015)
- Increase **BARRIER-FREE** environments for disabled people (by December 2017)
- Create **OPPORTUNITIES** for disabled people to be participants as well as spectators and improve **INCLUSION** (ongoing process)

### Results

- Added access to our administrative building
- Added access and seats for disabled in the small stadium (category 2) at the training centre next to the administrative building
- Revised four football stadium projects from the HatTrick 4 programme
- Collaborated with Mobilnost, a national organisation for disabled people
- Collaborated with the Macedonian Chamber of Commerce
- Raised awareness within the organisation and throughout the first division clubs in FYR Macedonia
- Raised awareness at national level

### Tips for replication

- Get support for the project from the association's top management
- Map the infrastructure in your country
- Collaborate with an association for disabled people
- Collaborate with potential sponsors and organisations that share the same values
- Collaborate with the stadiums and municipalities, as they are some of the main stakeholders
- Make a project budget and start the project implementation

### Contact information

Should you have any questions with regard to this project, please contact Irena Bakrevska Miloshevska (tel. +389 2 3129 291, mob. +389 71 219 580)