



SpecialOlympicsItaly



Special Olympics
**EUROPEAN
FOOTBALL WEEK**
27 May - 4 June | 2017



Partnership with UEFA



More than 6000 grassroots activities have been successfully organized by Special Olympics with National Football Federations over the past 17 years that have resulted in changed attitudes towards players with intellectual disabilities.

UEFA is delighted to be involved in the annual Special Olympics European Football Week since 2000. We are committed to supporting Special Olympics football activities so that everyone, regardless of ability level, has the opportunity to enjoy football.

This year's focus is on Unified football for boys and girls, which UEFA fully endorses. We wholeheartedly believe that football has the power to instill values of acceptance, respect and inclusion in youth communities all over Europe.

PETER GILLIÉRON,

Chairman, UEFA Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee



#PlayUnified



It is a testament to its popularity that the Special Olympics European Football Week is back for the 17th consecutive year!

This initiative is a hugely important event on the annual Special Olympics calendar – and its success is only made possible by the tremendous commitment shown by our Programme leaders, partners such as UEFA, football federations and clubs – but most of all the dedication of our athletes.

This year we are working to expand Unified Football for boys and girls, by bringing together players with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team leading to a more inclusive world for everyone. Let us redouble our efforts to engage more football fans, families, football clubs and be a part of this annual celebration of the beautiful game!"

DAVID EVANGELISTA,

President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Europe Eurasia



Valerio Pennichio / UEFA



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The goal of this year's European Football Week is to encourage even more children across Europe, those with and without intellectual disabilities, to #PlayUnified football and in doing so promote a healthy lifestyle.

This year's event will include:

- 45.000 participants; 450 Events; 50 countries
- Local **grassroots competitions** for all ability levels
- 'Come and try' events to expand **Unified Football**
- 50+ Coach training sessions and clinics
- 37 National Football Federations
- 120+ Football Clubs

Football is the most popular of the 33 sports offered by **Special Olympics** with a total of 135.000 registered players and 7.000 coaches in 58 European countries.

The number of youth players aged 2-15 years of age stands at 40.000 and its growing.

Special Olympics and MetLife

One of the world's leading insurance companies, MetLife is generously supporting Special Olympics to conduct employee engagement events in **17 countries across the Europe Eurasia** region as part of their Community Service Week initiative. MetLife EMEA staff will volunteer at **Young Athletes** and **Unified Football** events during the Special Olympics European Football Week.

Thanks to this generous support from the MetLife Foundation, the Young Athletes Program and Unified Football can be further developed in each participating country.

MetLife





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European Football leagues and their clubs support players with intellectual disabilities during the Special Olympics European Football Week.

Clubs of Italian Serie A and B, German Bundesliga, Dutch Eredivisie, Polish Ekstraklasa, Hungarian NB I-OTP Bank, Spanish La Liga and the English Premier League will welcome and support Special Olympics athletes in 2017.



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