

Families & Young Athlete Programme

Working Together - 2012 Leadership Conference

Istanbul, Turkey 2012

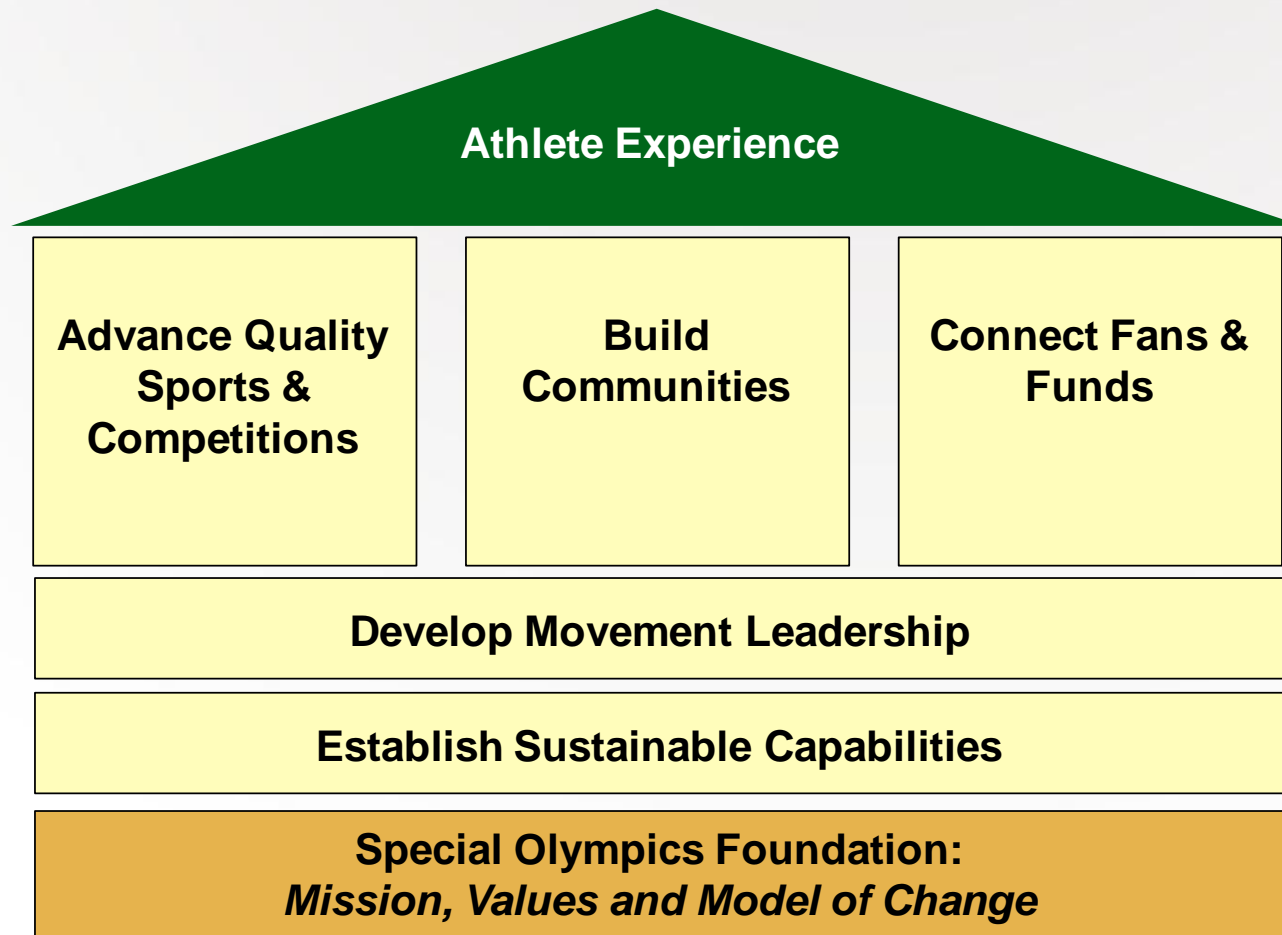
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Special Olympics



Strategic Plan 2010 -2015

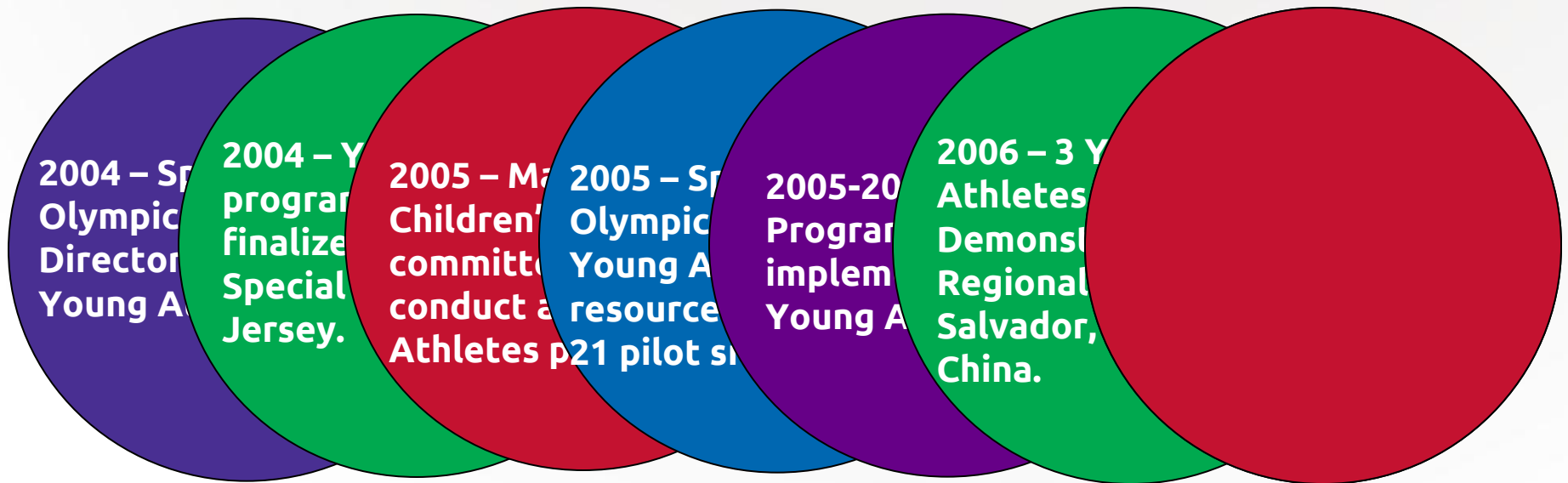






- ✓ Involves play activities designed to promote physical, cognitive & social development.
- ✓ A very versatile programme which can take place at home, pre-school, play groups and school , for children with and without intellectual disabilities.
- ✓ Young Athletes welcomes families and their young children into the Special Olympics family.

History of Young Athletes Programme



Resources & Equipment



Brochure



Activity Guide



DVD



Equipment Kit



Online Resources



Family Support Network E-Library:

<http://resources.specialolympics.org/RegionsPages/content.aspx?id=23808&LangType=1033>

Young Athletes Programme SOEE



Pilot project 2005 – 4 Countries

2010 – 12 Countries

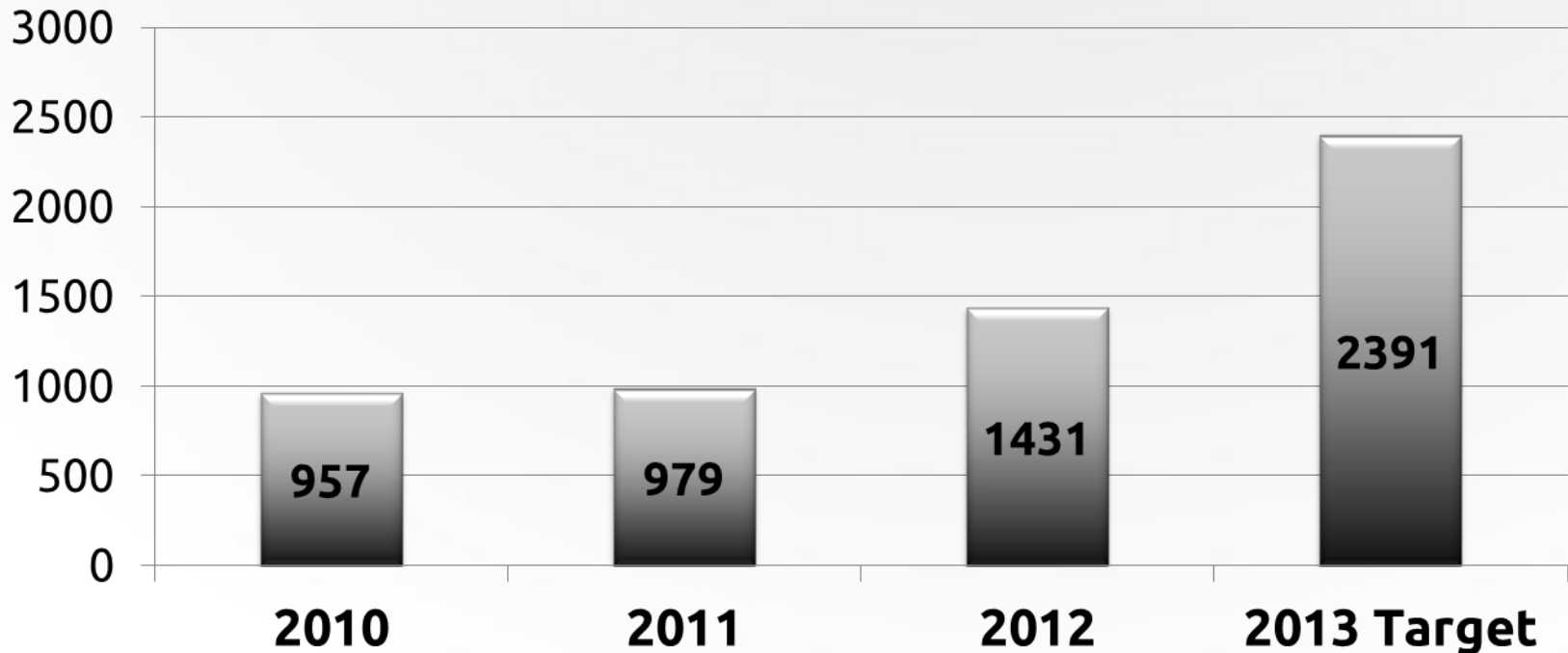
2011 – 14 Countries

2012 – 18 Countries

2013 – Target = 20+



SOEE Young Athletes Numbers



Steps in Implementing YAP



- Make contact with kindergartens, schools, colleges & centres.
- Organize a seminar for parents, caregivers, physical therapists, teachers and students.
- Presentation of Special Olympics & Young Athletes Programme.
- 3-4 months trainings
- Demonstration

Typical Young Athletes Demonstration



- ❖ Welcoming activities for children (and parents)
- ❖ Warm up activity
- ❖ Social/Play time for children
- ❖ Cool down activities
- ❖ Family time
- ❖ Drinks and snacks
- ❖ Closing activities for children (and parents)



Family Day



- T-shirts
- Certificates
- Special medals
- Gifts
- Drinks, sweets, music, fun 😊

Benefits of YAP



Benefits for the parents:

- An excellent way for parents to work with their children
- A measure for the parents of their child's abilities
- It addresses the parents' need to involve their children in some kind of sports activity
- Being part of the weekly trainings, some of the parents feel like going to a "special club"
- Family expectations are raised as they see their children learn new skills



Benefits of YAP



For the *children*:

- Children become more and more cooperative as the trainings develop
- Significant improvements in motor development and social skills
- Children are ready to take part in Special Olympics competitions

For the *physical therapists*:

- An opportunity to learn new methods to work with children with intellectual disabilities and to involve the parents in the trainings



Success Story – SO Greece



Implemented YAP in 2011 in advance of World Games.

	Before World Games	After World Games	Current
YAP Training Sessions	3	4	6
Young Athletes	30	50	70
Trainers	3	4	6
Assistant Trainers	3	6	10



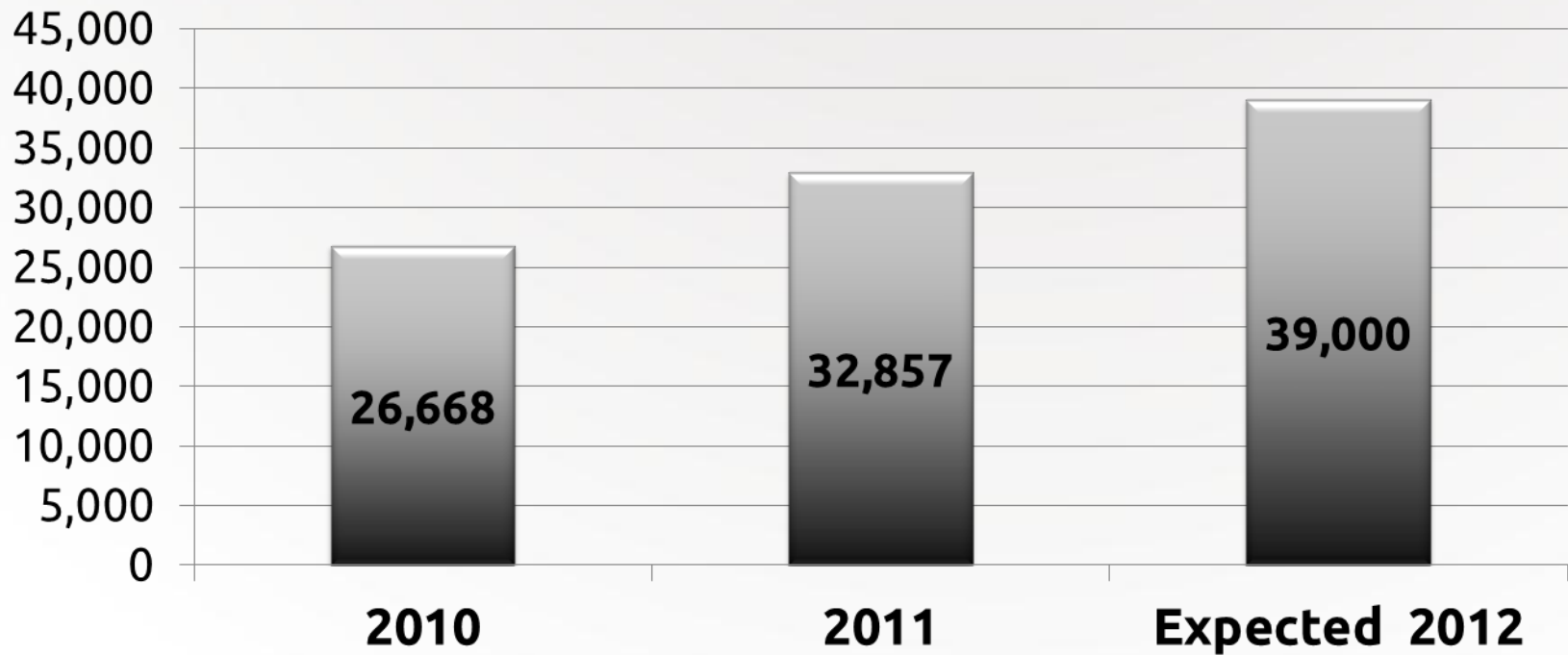
Additional Events: Lets Play Together & Young Athletes Camp

FAMILY PROGRAMME

Special Olympics



SOEE Registered Family Members



SOEE Family Programme Goals for 2011 -> 2015



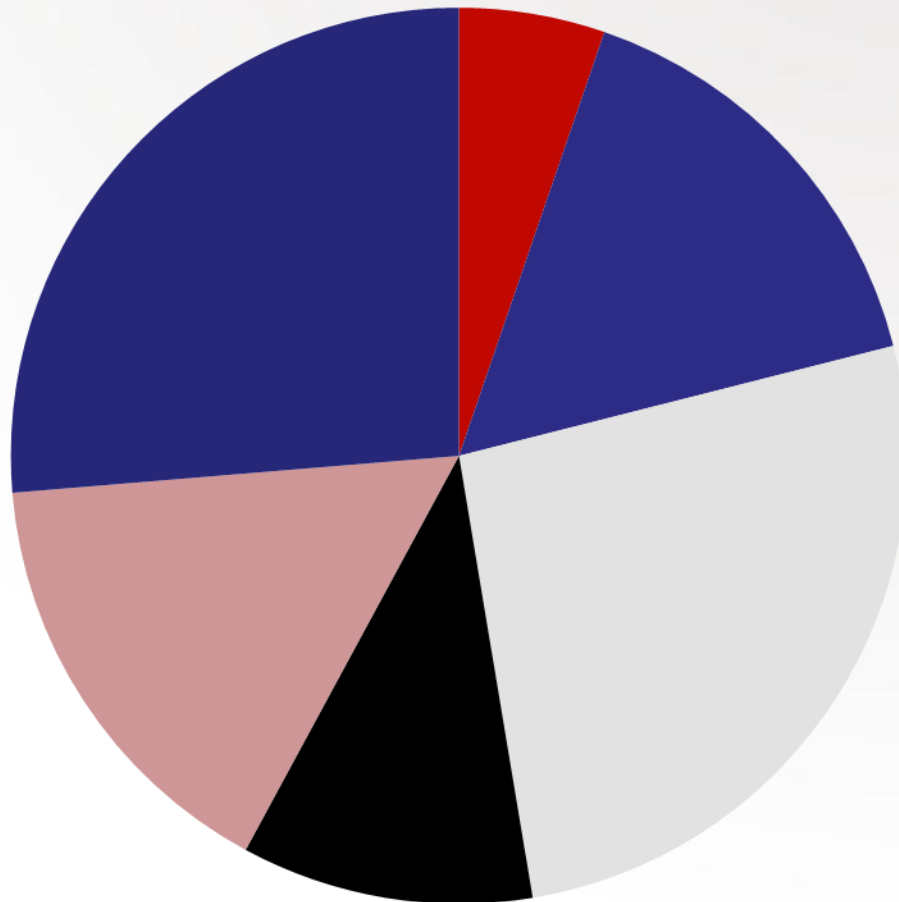
- 6 new Family Support trainers available across the region – 2013
- Family Support materials available in at least 4 major languages – 2013
- 2 new Family Community Builders in place across the region – each year
- 2 internal + 2 external speaking opportunities at regional level for family ambassadors – each year

Families as Community Builders



- Families are athletes first fans
- Sharing stories of success makes an impact
- Families can be passionate spokespersons and recruiters for Special Olympics

Sample Opportunities for Families, Athletes & Youth



- Board members
- Fundraising Committee
- Family Support Network
- ALPS Mentors
- Young Athlete Leaders
- Youth Activation

Thank You



Questions, Comments, Discussion.