



Special Olympics
EUROPEAN
FOOTBALL WEEK
21 May - 29 May | 2016



Partnership with UEFA

"More than 5,500 grassroots activities have been successfully organized by Special Olympics with National Football Federations over the past 16 years that have resulted in changed attitudes towards players with intellectual disabilities. UEFA is pleased to be involved in the annual Special Olympics European Football Week since the year 2000. We are delighted to support Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) towards developing participation at all ability level. UEFA aims to increase playing opportunities to footballers of all abilities at grassroots level. This year's focus is on Under 12 Unified football, which UEFA fully endorses. Football has the power to instill the values of acceptance, respect and inclusion to youth communities all over Europe." Peter Gilliéron, Chairman, UEFA Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee"

Peter Gilliéron,
Chairman
UEFA Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee



The goal of this year's **European Football Week** is to activate more Under 12 (U12) players with and without disabilities across the region to play **Unified Football** and to promote a healthy and active lifestyle. Football is the most popular of the 33 sports offered by **Special Olympics** with a total of 137,700 registered players and 7,400 coaches in 58 countries. The number of female players stands at 27,000 and 1,400 children between the ages of 6 and 7 years are involved in football in the Europe Eurasia region. Italian Serie A and B, German Bundesliga clubs, Polish Ekstraklasa, Hungarian NBI-OTP Bank Liga, Dutch Jupiler League and Finnish Veikkausliiga will support and host players with and without intellectual disabilities during **European Football Week 2016**.



European Football Week FACTS:

- 21-29 May 2016
- 16th Year of UEFA support
- 50,000 players; 450 Events; 50 countries
- Focus on Under 12 Football with Young Athletes introduction supported by MetLife
- Local grassroots competitions for all ability levels
- 'Come and try' events to expand Unified Football®
- 50+ Coach training sessions
- 37 National Football Federations support
- 120 Football Clubs' involvement



Special Olympics Ambassador and Brazilian national team player, FC Barcelona defender Dani Alves is a committed supporter of Special Olympics and holds football skills clinics with athletes on a regular basis. Above image shows Alves with Special Olympics athletes from Spain.



Dedicated supporter of Special Olympics is Belgian national player and Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne with Special Olympics Belgian athlete Jelle Rosseel

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 first ever Community Week of Service initiative. MetLife staff will volunteer at Young Athletes and Unified Football events during the Special Olympics European Football Week. Thanks to this generous support from MetLife, the Young Athletes Program and Unified Football can be further developed in each participating country.



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