



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

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An impression of a week



Thursday august 5 2010

Today we had our last talks about the final ceremony of tomorrow. The SIGN song "A brand new day" resounds all over the campus. Participants are singing along. The weather is great for outdoor sports. Every evening people can dine together in the big hall. As before, the awards take place there. It is quite an organization and everything goes well. After dinner people can attend an interesting program in the hall. Lots of music and dancing people. But darts and chess are also an option. It is great to see these games and the partying people in one room.

Friday august 6 2010

The final sprint for the last medals takes place. There are 300 medals to be won during the Games. Participants and spectators alike are enjoying themselves. The final ceremony is touching. Again, we can enjoy a beautiful show. Everyone who takes part is already a winner. Jochem Uytdehaage, two fold Olympic champion long track skating, hands out special incentive prizes and Olympic certificates for special achievements. After the ceremony there is a barbecue and a big party. The Games are over. Participants had a wonderful week. Now they have to wait for two years and then they can join the Games again in Sweden!

Review from the management

It was a wonderful experience to see this and be part of it. Every day we saw happy faces, pleasure and laughter, a high dose of fanaticism and sportsmanship. Every day we interpreted questions and complaints as chances and possibilities, we looked for solutions and received appreciation for it. There was a huge solidarity among the athletes and their coaches, volunteers and members of the organization. Of course not everything went smoothly. Flexibility and creativity and patience were keywords to us all and were part of a basic, positive attitude.

We have all grown in the event. From the second day on you could see that people became more at ease. After the first awards after diner, it was clear where people had come for. Eventually the marbles were important too. The medal winners were awarded with cheering and warm applause. They received medals made by an artist and showed their pride on the platform.

I heard many people say that they did not want to have missed it for the world. Whether it was an athlete, a volunteer, someone from the organization or a visitor, they all felt the same. The press was enthusiastic too, and paid a lot of attention to the games. It was remarkable that certain terms changed during the games. The homeless and addicted were now called the weaker people in our society, the socially marginalized people, those at the fringe of society trying to fit in. People became more open minded. The athletes were the heroes of this event. They delivered a fanatic but sportive game and created a positive atmosphere in which pleasure and meeting others were the main components. They also were the ones who asked for continuation and showed us the importance of it. During the Games Sweden was found to be the next country prepared to organize the Social Inclusion Games in 2012. They will accept the challenge with which the Social Inclusion Games have been made a recurring international event, also thanks to the support of the IOC and the European Committee. It is an event that you should have experienced in order to feel the impact on your own life.

On behalf of the management of SIGN 2010 I thank everyone who made this event into a big success. I hope we will all meet again in a new sportive setting.



Quotes of the Founding Fathers / sponsors

"Participating in sports will lead to participating in society. It will only bring us winners!"
Kees van der Burg, Ministry of VWS

"Sport makes you stronger. People who have to concur setbacks discover their power through sport. And that has its effect on other things. Even when they have to return to a difficult situation. They have experienced that they matter. To themselves and to the world."
Maarten Witteveen, Arcon

"We support the Social Inclusion Games because it gives socially marginalized people a good feeling and self consciousness. It gives them a feeling of success. And that can be the start of a new beginning."
Rob Stiekema, municipality of Hengelo

"Enthusiastic participants, committed volunteers, proud organizers, it was a beautiful opening on Monday. We are happy that we have been able to contribute to the Games."
Menno Meihuizen, Ministry of SZW

"With pride I look back on the SIGN 2010, a wonderful international event to which everyone contributed. Participating was more important than winning, but to me every participant was a winner. What a commitment, sportsmanship and what a feeling of solidarity!"
Bram Koppenaal, member of the management team SIGN

Quotes of participants

"In one word: GREAT.
A good collaboration with the crew."
Team Tower, The Netherlands

"Just a perfect week. This people have their hearts on the right place!"
Team Fenixe, Litouwen

Colophon
This paper is an edition of SIGN

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Bert Deliën, directeur Humanitas Onder Dak & chairman SIGN 2010:

Thanks!

SIGN had never been so successful if it weren't for all those dedicated people, the volunteers, the people from the University of Twente, the people from the First Aid Team, the night watch, the security people, the catering and the supervisors. All have shown a tremendous effort. The Games would not have been realized without the Founding Fathers who gave their financial support to this project from the start. Together with the sponsors they supplied us with the financial means to organize the games.



An impression of a week

Sunday August 1 2010

Today is the day. Everyone is up early. It is a beautiful Sunday. The participants arrive and are welcomed by the volunteers. All participants receive a goodie bag and a sports outfit. The camping site changes into a sea of colourful tents. There is room for everyone, and the organization has a tent for those who do not own one.



Monday August 2 2010

The sun is shining and suddenly it begins to rain. Can we go through with the opening ceremony on the large field? Fortunately the gods are with us, no more rain! The opening is wonderful. Participants, glowing with pride, enter the field. Guests and spectators are clapping enthusiastically. The fires are lit, flags are raised, the cheerleaders are dazzling. There are three flags, the Dutch flag, the SIGN flag and the one of the Olympic games. Moving and interesting speeches, for instance of Trinko Keen, a table tennis player and 3 fold participant of the Olympic Games. Then the Games can really begin.

Tika, the Games mascot, is having a good time. Everyone loves her and wants to have their picture taken with her. The press is well presented. National television but also national and regional papers pay a lot of attention to the Games. In the evening everyone takes part in an energetic djembé session. Into the early hours the drums can be heard on every part of the campus.



Games for socially marginalized people: Social Inclusion Games Netherlands

The Social Inclusion Games Netherlands (SIGN) took place from 1 to 7 August in Enschede on the campus of the University of Twente. A unique week of sports and games for socially marginalized people from women's shelters, homeless shelters, secure housing and RIBW' s (Dutch organizations for supported housing) from all over Europe. Over a 1000 participants from 8 European countries took part.

Participating, being together and meeting others are the most important aspects of the Social Inclusion Games. Participation is more important than winning!

The first Social Inclusion Games were held in 2009 in Odense, Denmark.



Bert Deliën, director Humanitas Onder Dak/ Chairman SIGN 2010:

"It was almost impossible to organize these games with so many participants in just six months. Actually, nobody knew exactly what was in store for us. That was something we found out during the Games. Thanks to the Danish government that organized the games last year, we had a thorough preparation. We could use their scenarios and experience. Thus we made our own scenarios and set up our own SIGN organization. We looked for partners and found the Founding Fathers. We looked for co-financers and found our sponsors. We looked for co-workers and found our volunteers and project organization. And we looked for European participants and found our athletes."



Sponsors

The Social Inclusion Games were financially supported by the so-called founding fathers and various sponsors. Apart from the Federatie Opvang and Humanitas Onder Dak, the founding fathers are the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS), The Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW), housing corporation Domijn, the municipality of Enschede, the municipality of Hengelo, the province of Overijssel, friends of Humanitas and the University of Twente.

Initiators

Humanitas Onder Dak and the Federatie Opvang (Federation of shelters) took the initiative to host the Games in the Netherlands. Humanitas Onder Dak is an organization that offers professional help and shelters to the homeless and socially marginalized people. The Federatie Opvang is a national federation that promotes the interests of their members: women's shelters and homeless shelters.

Quotes of participants

With complete strangers at a table – a participant of Humanitas Onder Dak
"Taking part in sports was a real eye-opener to me. You can show so many qualities with sports!
Another important aspect is that sport helps to believe in yourself, in such a short time you experience that you are capable of so much more than you thought you were. This new self-consciousness helps you after the sport week to be stronger in everyday life."

"Great atmosphere in the camp and great friendship.
Good Sportmanship.
Good facilities."
Team Varestedet Midlergårdsvej, Denmark

"Heat plooggees en entoesiasme gewänne, heat solidariteit gevónde en is zich alweer volop aan ut voorbereide veur de volgende speule."
Stichting Maatschappelijke Opvang Voorziningen Limburg

Quotes of Founding Fathers/sponsors
"It is wonderful to be present here with so many people, so vigorously sporting with each other"
Ineke Buursink, Domijn

"Thanks to the facilities of the University of Twente, it was a feast for the participants and volunteers, with surprising and difficult sports! The organization, sponsors and founders deserve a big compliment. Bravo! As far as I am concerned the Games may recur at the University of Twente."
Henk Heegen, Tex Town Tigers

"I am deeply impressed by the Games, the organization and especially the participants. Over 1000 homeless people together cause less nuisance than the same number of students during their introduction week."
Marianca Hümmels, Municipality of Enschede



Marije van Houwelingen, VWS, direction Sport:

"VWS participated with the aim of reaching these socially marginalized groups with sport, for instance with the programs "Meedoen alle jeugd door sport" and "Special Heroes". Other examples are the National Plan Participating in Sports with which municipalities are able to develop a range of sports for people who do not exercise (enough).

The Ministry of SZW participated from another angle, namely poverty. 2010 is the European year against poverty and social exclusion. Financial obstacles are often negative factors that prevent people from participating.

MeeDoen! Participating in Sport
Organizing the Social Inclusion Games is an important part of the program "MeeDoen! Sport en bewegen" of the Federatie Opvang. This program wants to trigger socially marginalized people to participate in sports. The Ministry of VWS finances the program.



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“Meedoen” (participating), that is what it is all about

Meedoen means giving people a sense of belonging somewhere, helping them to rediscover their place in society. This is the basis of a three-year program of the Federatie Opvang. Their slogan “Everyone matters” is the fundament for this program. The three pillars are: Participating in Sport, Social Activation and Employment, and Meaning and Culture.



One of our goals is to offer all of our clients the possibility to participate in sports. The Federatie Opvang cooperates with important partners in the world of sport such as NOC*NSF (Dutch Olympic Committee Dutch Sport Federation), The National Institute for Sport and exercise, and various other partners like municipalities, associations and corporations. Clients are actively involved in the program. We will do everything to make the program a success for our clients.

More information about the program can be obtained from Karen van Brunshot, project manager MeeDoen! Sport en bewegen, Federatie Opvang (secretariaatfo@opvang.nl).

Quotes of the founding fathers / sponsors

“When participants let us know every day that we mean so much to them, that we change their lives and make new things possible....it gives me goose pimples. What a success, they really know that they participate.”

Karin Lodder, Living Vision

“Keep using what you have shown us this week: energy, power and a smile. For everyone you love including yourself. All the best and hope to see you next time.”

The security team

“We too see sports as a means to get people out of their isolation. That is why we like to support the Social Inclusion Games.”

Han Milder, PVM notaries

“As an international event, the Social Inclusion Games have shown us that participants did not need many words to give us a sportive manifestation with an enthusiastic opening and supported by a good organization.”

H.Exterkate (SHOD/SGHT)

“I have been working here for 40 years, but I never experienced this before. It is great. The 1000 participants are 1000 blank pages. People who have lived through so much. They have always been rejected. I am so glad I cancelled my holiday for this event. We work 24 hours a day for 6 days in a row, but are enjoying it very much.”

Tonnie Buitink, University of Twente

I hope that the Social Inclusion Games will stimulate participants to continue exercising on a structural basis, so that they can profit optimally from the power of sport.

Marije van Houwelingen, Ministry of VWS



The International Olympic Committee (IOC)

The Social Inclusion Games are organized under the protection of the IOC. According to the IOC the Games are the ideal opportunity to focus on the value of participating in sports for people from all walks of life. Moreover, participation in sports helps to create a sense of wellbeing. SIGN uses sports to unite people and make a positive change in our modern society.



SIGN the film

During the Games a professional film team has recorded the atmosphere and the performances of the participants. During the preparations several people have been filmed, for instance during the trainings held at the Olympic stadium in Amsterdam. The film focuses on the importance of sport for our clients. That is also illustrated with portraits of the participants. The film in which the Social Inclusion Games are the main subject will be released on DVD.



Quotes of participants

Metta girls gold, silver and bronze
“On Thursday we went to the sport day in Enschede with Metta 1 and 2 and it was wonderful!

We got up at 5 on Thursday morning in order to take the bus of 7 o'clock to Enschede. In advance we received white pants and a T-shirt with Fier Fryslân on it, so it was clear to everyone to which organisation we belonged. We also received a bag with fun stuff, a hat, a frisbee, water etc.

There were many teams from other countries, it was really awesome! First we received a basketball training. We even won from male adults! We were so proud of ourselves and came second and third with basketball. So those medals were ours.

With soccer our opponents were from Humanitas and we beat them with 5-0.

This brought us our first golden medal. At the awards we got one golden medal, two silver and two bronze medals. We were really glowing with pride at the podium.

It was all very well organized and we were all so proud of Fier and ourselves.”

“The biggest success is our team cooperation. An unforgettable experience.

Sports games are great for socializing, learning and is of course good for your health. We hope that next year one country will organize the games. We will be happy to attend again such sports games.”

Team King of the Street

“I think I can talk for everyone in our crew, when I say that we had an amazing week.

Great sports that everyone could join no matter age or physics. It has been a great experience to meet nice people from many different countries.

Thanks to everyone who has made this social inclusion game possible.”

Team Kris Karlstad, Sweden



An impression of the week

Thursday August 3 2010

The Games have begun. It was a tremendous organization that took months. At the last moment things had to be adjusted. But the result is there: a fine and varied program. Soccer, archery, jeu de boules, badminton, etc. There are over 25 kinds of sports, really cool!

Even though participation is the most important thing, participants are also eager for a medal. In the evening the first medals are handed out, gold, silver and bronze.



Wednesday August 4 2010

We start the day with a warming up under the supervision of an aerobics instructor. When everyone is warmed up, the games begin. The atmosphere is enthusiastic but sportive. Unfortunately the First Aid Team has to take action now and then.

In the afternoon there is a special program for children with Tika, a colouring contest and a magician.



76 children are present during the week. In the evening the Bombing Championship takes place, under the supervision of a DJ. There is a long line for the swimming pool. But the karaoke in the big tent is popular too.

Participants

The participating countries are: Denmark, Germany, Georgia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Sweden. In total nearly 80 teams were present.

The medal ranking:

		Number of medals	gold	silver	bronze	Total points	
1	Association FK "Fenixas"	Lithuania	15	9	2	4	35
2	Sananim o.s.	Czech Republic	11	3	4	4	21
3	Kornbakken	Denmark	8	2	6	1	19
4	Idrætskraftcenter Esbjerg	Denmark	6	1	4	11	12
5	Himmelblå	Denmark	6	1	2	3	10
6	Humanitas Onder Dak	The Netherlands	6	1	1	4	9
7	Rampen	Denmark	3	2	1	0	8
8	Lyset	Denmark	3	2	0	1	7
	X-CONS	Sweden	3	1	2	0	7
	Clean House	Denmark	3	1	2	0	7
	Midlergaardsvej	Denmark	3	1	2	0	7
	Fier Fryslan	The Netherlands	3	1	1	2	7
	Solstrålen	Denmark	3	1	1	2	7

