

On the 26th of July the project "Kick-off Europe 2012" was honoured by Horst Winkler (Bavarian Football Association) presenting a cheque from the German Football Foundation (DFB) Egidius Braun. "Football is more than a 1:0 result" is the motto of the founder Egidius Braun. He emphasized how important youth work is, especially when sport is involved. For this reason the Egidius Braun Foundation of the German Football Association decided to donate money to the project "Kick-Off Europe 2012", which should ensure that it will take place again next year. Football unites people from different cultural and historical backgrounds and working with young people underpins this goal. Engaging in team sports and playing music together at a young age and across borders is the speciality of this project. The team spirit is engendered through involvement in team sports and in music.

In the context of the European Cup 2012 in Poland and Ukraine, "Kick-Off Europe 2012" wanted to bring German, Polish and Ukrainian youths together by means of political education, fun, sports activities and playing music. Project partners are the Krzyzowa Foundation for European Understanding (<http://www.krzyzowa.org.pl/index.php/en/fundacja-krzyzowa>), and the German-Polish Youth Office (http://www.dpjw.org/a679,german_polish_youth_office_gpyo_.html).

The project took place at the international youth meeting in Krzyzowa (former Kreisau) near Wrocław. This location also has an important historical background in the relationship between Germany and Poland. On the one hand it is the place of resistance against the Nazi Dictatorship and on the other hand the place for international understanding since the reconciliation mass in 1989, which was attended by the Polish prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and the German chancellor Helmut Kohl. For a week during the preparation for the European Cup 2012, 70 children and youths played music and football together. Through these activities language barriers were reduced and it showed how easy it is to make friends with peers from other countries.

The beginning of the event at the Centre of Applied Policy Research (CAP) was introduced by an impressive musical performance by the youth brass band under the lead of Dieter Kanzleiter, the musical director of the project. This was closely followed by an address of welcome by Prof. Dr. Dr. hc Weidenfeld and an acknowledgement to all the supporters and sponsors of the project "Kick-Off Europe".

Before presenting the donation to the project leader Eva Feldmann-Wojtachnia (Research Group Youth and Europe at CAP), the Munich council representative Susanna Tausendfreund and Jochen Kubosch (Director of the European Parliament Information Office in Munich) expressed their appreciation for the project.

Ms Tausendfreund expressed delight that the donations of the DFB as well as the support of the Munich region have fallen on fertile grounds. Both speakers emphasized how important an admirable engagement across frontiers is, so that young people in Europe can get to know each other. A small presentation of photographs from a media workshop provided a good overall impression of the week in Kreisau.

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