



Young Europeans are not racist, according to a KBF-commissioned study. But 16 per cent of respondents feel discriminated against because of their skin colour or religion. One in 10 has been a victim of a racist incident. These figures double for young people from a migrant background.

## DISCRIMINATION IN SPORT

Supported by Nike, the Discrimination in Sport study examined discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, nationality and gender. The [research](#), carried out in 11 European countries, surveyed young people 10 to 14 years old.

The study shows four out of five young people surveyed have friends with different skin colours; 82 per cent believe having players of different ethnicities on the same football team is positive. However, acceptance levels for various kinds of discrimination varied among regions.

Rafal Pankowski, Associate Professor, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw and member of the 'Never Again' Association participated in the study.

"Discrimination, exclusion, manifestations of pervasive xenophobia and racism are all too present in the world of sports, both in western and, especially, eastern Europe," he said.

Particularly in football, minorities are underrepresented in coaching and managerial positions in sport. In the United Kingdom, 3 per cent of football coaches are black, whereas 20 per cent of players are black. Coaches play a key role in influencing access to sport for all. However, they generally lack the qualifications to deal with diversity and inclusion. The authors warn that the fight against racism can only be successful if governments support anti-discrimination policies and if violations are punished. Tools include developing coaching modules on diversity and

inclusion, as well as codes of conduct for children, coaches, referees, parents and managers. Schools could set up online forums and regular workshops to raise awareness of discrimination.

Pankowski said the study shows the challenges are "acute" but it highlights signs of hope. "Young people are often receptive to the message and values of anti-discrimination and there is a pool of successful education initiatives contributing to a non-discriminatory, racism-free culture, challenging xenophobia and various forms of exclusion across the continent."

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*Dr Rafal Pankowski, Associate Professor, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw*



### More info?

> Read the study or download it for free: [www.kbs-frb.be](http://www.kbs-frb.be) Keyword: discrimination

### Stand up Speak up – call for projects

KBF and Nike's campaign empower football fans to voice their opposition to racism. More than 250 projects have been supported since 2005. The final call for projects in Italy, the United Kingdom, Russia and Turkey was launched mid-March 2014 and closes in June 2014.