

**Football-fans as political players**  
**About the enforcement of participation potentials and political co-determination**  
**of the fan-community**

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Football is part of political/civil society. That means the standards of civil society such as democratic structures and transparency in decision-making must be part of self-confidence of the whole football-community. Problems and political challenges (violence, racism etc.) are affecting the football-area in a special expression as well as football itself can work on own solutions for those matters for the benefits to society. This is a challenge for the people engaged in football – as functionaries, as player, as spectators and especially as „fans“: to be active as citizens.

The project „Ein Dach für Fans“ (EDFF) was based on the idea that football-fans are confident in themselves as competent partners and can be active parts in the sense of civil-responsibility. Football-fans are no longer just objects of social educational work (such as traditional fan projects) but partners for political education. Football-fans are going to initiate an own active part in the context of prevention (of violence, racism etc.).

Conclusions and tasks:

- Empowerment in the context of regional networking which enables a continuing integration of special fan-competences in a common decision-making, for example: round table talks for organizing security matters. This means a communication setting that brings together fan-delegates, police and local authorities. It's important to enforce sustainability (continuous communication, acceptance of the competences).
  
- Empowerment in the context of international networking. It's interesting to see that parts of the international fan-community are going to express their interests as a political lobby. It's a challenge to organize international communication and to enforce those parts of the international fan-community specially those from eastern Europe countries, where there is still a lot of work to do in building up civil-democratic structures.
  
- There is a growing political and participating self-awareness on the national and international level of fan-culture. Anyway it's still necessary to enforce the competences. This is part of political education. That means: to give them the basics of political participation.