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Youth Development through Football (YDF)  
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## Youth Development through Football - European Union joins successful sports partnership

**Today the European Union joins the successful South African-German Youth Development through Football (YDF) partnership. The EU's €6 million (R60 million) commitment to this initiative takes the partnership's overall value to €13.5 million (R135 million). Implemented on behalf of the German Government by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), in partnership with the South African Department of Sport and Recreation, the project is part of the South African Government's Mass Participation Programme (MPP).**

The Director General of Sport and Recreation, Vernie Petersen, said: "There is no doubt that sport is increasingly being used in a wide variety of ways to promote social inclusion, prevent conflict, and to enhance peace within and amongst nations. Although sport alone cannot prevent conflict or build peace, it can contribute to broader, more comprehensive efforts in a number of important ways. We hope that the initiative we are launching today will go a long way towards contributing to peace on our continent".

Sport in general has the power to unite people and cultures all over the world. YDF, through the medium of football, involves socially disadvantaged girls and boys in expanded life skills programmes and assists them in shaping their future.

The EU's EuropeAid Cooperation Office's Director-General, Koos Richelle, cuts to the point: "We have a responsibility to provide children with the life skills they require for responsible citizenship. This is true throughout the world. I believe that this programme will contribute to turning young people into responsible and morally strong members of society".

Through sport youths will gain valuable life skills and, among other things, learn how to deal with conflict in a peaceful manner. Football, being a team sport, is well suited to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, overcome gender boundaries, and contribute to the positive development of personality and character.

Country Director South Africa of GTZ, Peter Conze, notes: "The prospect of the first FIFA World Cup ever to be staged on the African continent in 2010 fills many Africans with a great sense of pride. This has led to football taking on a new standing. In 2006 we hosted the FIFA World Cup™ in Germany. One of the lessons learnt was that football can serve to approach the youth and motivate them to engage in social topics. YDF was created to tap into this spirit. By establishing lasting structures with both governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as with the private sector, the project has become an ideal vehicle to empower disadvantaged girls and boys."

### Background:

YDF kicked off in 2007 as a South African-German partnership project. YDF seeks to integrate girls and boys from different backgrounds and race groups. Together with the South African Ministry of Sport and Recreation (SRSA), YDF aims to create enduring structures that will remain



Implemented  
by GTZ



Federal Republic of Germany  
The Federal Government

On behalf of the  
German Government



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

In partnership  
with SRSA



in place long after the final whistle of the World Cup has blown. The project is to be rolled out across the whole of South Africa and into nine other African countries by 2012.

The launch event was hosted by Soccer 4 Hope, a GTZ partner in the Youth Development through Football Project, at the Ikamva Labantu Rainbow Community Centre in Cape Town's Gugulethu Township.

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