

Good practice n° 4	
Title	Lost Boyz and Lost Girlz
Author/Name of the institution (organization)	SIDFOOT
Type of the good practice	Program
Place	Chicago's South Shore neighbourhood
Start date / End date	-
Target group of learners	It focuses on at-risk children aged 4 to 18 and youth aged 15 to 24, specifically those who have problems with academic performance or behaviour in and out of school.
Institutions involved	Sidfoot (Community Football Drivers for social inclusion in deprived districts) and Co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce youth violence by using a youth development model based on sport, mainly football. • Improve the physical health, sporting and academic skills of young people. • Provide cultural and community enrichment.
Description	Lost Boyz, Inc. (which also includes a programme for girls: Lost Girlz) is the only sports-based youth development organisation in the region that specifically uses baseball and softball to address the unique needs of at-risk youth. It also provides opportunities for athletes to transition into a secondary programme that addresses workforce readiness and helps participants earn income.

	<p>This programme keeps youth engaged in positive activities during times when they are most at risk (after school and during the summer). In addition, Lost Boyz has saved boys from potential gang involvement and victimisation, while providing personalised developmental skills, training and care to participants.</p> <p>Lost Boyz and Lost Girlz has had a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable youth in Chicago through violence prevention. For this reason, Lost Boyz and Lost Girlz can be considered a best practice for being unique in Chicago and for using baseball/soft ball as a tool in a totally disadvantaged area.</p> <p>Lost Boyz/Lost Girlz recognises the individual struggles of each member and tailors its approach accordingly.</p> <p>Young people who have participated in this programme often gain benefits and life skills that they can use in their daily lives. In addition to having significantly improved discipline, self-esteem, teamwork, healthy habits, management and healthy relationships with peers and authority figures.</p>
<p>Link to the source (if available)</p>	<p>https://best.practices.sidfoot.eu/portfolio-item/lost-boyz-lost-girlz/</p>