

Good practice n° 5	
<b>Title</b>	City Pirates
<b>Author/Name of the institution (organization)</b>	SIDFOOT
<b>Type of the good practice</b>	Project
<b>Place</b>	Antwerp, Belgium.
<b>Start date / End date</b>	2012
<b>Target group of learners</b>	Children and young people between 5 and 18 years old in Merksem, Linkeroever, Luchtbal, Deurne and Dam (areas of Antwerp that are known for poverty, unemployment and drug trafficking).
<b>Institutions involved</b>	Sidfoot (Community Football Drivers for social inclusion in deprived districts) and Co-funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make sure that the children of the youth participants do not need the assistance that the current youth needed.</li> <li>● Help the young participants prepare for life and give them life lessons and structure they lack through football.</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	<p>The main belief of this project is that football can change the world. For this reason City Pirates is active in five complex areas (Merksem, Linkeroever, Luchtbal, Deurne and Dam), areas that are known for poverty, unemployment and drug trafficking. Children and young people growing up in these areas are vulnerable and often connected to the streets.</p> <p>City Pirates currently reaches out to 1,300 structurally active pirates between 5 and 18 years old, boys and girls, of 100 nationalities. What unites them first and foremost is their love for</p>

	<p>the game. At the same time, the organisation has a team of 6 social workers.</p> <p>This project aims to offer young people a safe place where they can be who they want to be using football as a tool, accompanied by confidence, a warm welcome and the structure they need. Although some of these young people have the dream of becoming a professional football player, we have to be realistic and be aware that most of them will not make it to a professional level. For this reason, the organisation contacts their schools, monitors their results and the youngsters receive help with their homework at the club. This project, therefore, has school results as the main goal.</p> <p>Based on the trust that is built through football City Pirates can visit the players in their home. During such a visit parents ask questions about administration, job search, debt mediation, their children's school results, violence...</p> <p>Due to the vulnerable and complex context in which young people grow up, City Pirates tries to help parents in their pedagogy.</p> <p>The programme is accompanied by other competence workshops such as the acquisition of digital skills (Digitale Wolven), music and dance workshops in their River Side Studio, assistance in finding a (student) job, neighbourhood cleaning, organisation of European Erasmus+ projects, and they are actively present in public squares in several neighbourhoods.</p> <p>In conclusion, this good practice shows us that football connects. So, this programme values football as a great "product" to combine with social work and share its work/history to a public board/government.</p> <p>City Pirates started as a pilot project and is now growing into a model project.</p>
<p><b>Link to the source (if available)</b></p>	<p><a href="https://best.practices.sidfoot.eu/portfolio-item/city-pirates/">https://best.practices.sidfoot.eu/portfolio-item/city-pirates/</a></p>