

# Finland and Estonia celebrate centenary with a big football challenge

Football associations of Finland and Estonia have joined forces to celebrate the centenary of both countries with a big football challenge held on 10 June 2017.

In 2017 Finland celebrates 100 years of independence while 2018 will mark a century since Estonia declared its freedom. The grand project named Suomi - Eesti Challenge aims to celebrate this occasion by bringing the two countries closer through football and cultural ties.

"On 10 June 2017 we will join hands and organise during one day 100+ football matches between teams of both countries. We plan to engage professionals, amateurs, men, women, boys, girls, people from different areas across the society to form football teams and challenge your neighbour", said Pertti Alaja, President of Finnish Football Association.

"We strongly believe that it is possible to make Finland and Estonia breathe in the same rhythm for a day as football is not only about sports. It is a cultural phenomenon," said Aivar Pohlak, President of Estonian Football Association.

Finnish and Estonian football associations encourage already now different organisations, companies, football teams and all people interested to plan matches with their counterparts. The registration platform will open in autumn 2016.

"It is a unique possibility to either host a match or to travel to the neighbouring country, but also to contribute to the sportive success of your country as the total score will be counted throughout the day," commented Marco Casagrande, General Secretary of Finnish Football Association.

For the organisation of the Suomi - Eesti Challenge football associations of Finland and Estonia have set up an organising committee and signed a memorandum of understanding.

