

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 00:01

Sliema nursery in Irish youth exchange trip

A group of 18 youths from the Sliema Wanderers FC nursery have just returned from a week-long exchange visit to Ireland. The trip was co-funded by the Youth in Action Programme, supported by the EU Commission.

"In line with our policy to assist youngsters to fully develop as individuals as well as footballers, this youth exchange project, 'YES: Youth Embracing Sport', was based on the philosophy that while sport can help people develop healthy lifestyles it can also teach valuable life skills and help with an individual's personal development process," the Sliema nursery said in a statement.

Led by nursery chairperson Mark Pace and project co-ordinators Martin Sacco and Stephanie Rocco, the Sliema boys were hosted by Dublin-based Home Farm FC, one of the leading academies in Ireland and home to Wanderers' nursery coach Karen Heneghan.

During their stay in Ireland, the youths participated in a packed programme of events featuring sports and outdoor activities combined with other cultural and educational experiences.

In the presence of Chantal Sciberras, Chargé d'Affairs at the Embassy of Malta in Dublin, the young footballers were protagonists in a Maltese cultural night.

They also had the opportunity to try out some Irish sports such as Gaelic Football and Hurling. After an interactive visit at Croke Park Stadium, they met former Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at a Gaelic Football match.

The Sliema team, under the guidance of coach Lawrence Formosa, played two matches against Home Farm Academy.

They also had a training session with the Home Farm coaches.

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