

PHOTO CAPTIONS

• DE-MAYDA_001.jpg

Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland - May 2018. The ÍBV women's football team during a training in Heimaey. In January 2018, Iceland became the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women for doing the same job, an inequality that exists in almost every country. The small island nation has been ranked as the globe's most gender-equal country by the World Economic Forum.

• DE-MAYDA_002.jpg

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - A North Macedonia supporter in the Macedonia Square. North Macedonia's soccer federation sees the national team at a unifying force that transcends ethnic differences. During a period of "antiquitisation" a decade ago, a nationalist government rebuilt the capital Skopje with neoclassical monuments that supposedly evoked Alexander the Great's Macedonian kingdom. You can see a statuesque Alexander raising his right fist behind the middle-aged fan sitting on the grandiose fountain. The remade Skopje has been called "the Disneyland of the Balkans".

• DE-MAYDA_003.jpg

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - F.K. Vardar fans, in front of Arena Toše Proeski, the stadium of the Macedonian national team. F.K. Vardar, a club popular with ethnic Macedonians, has a nationalist ultras' group known as the "Komiti", named after bands of rebels who resisted Ottoman rule. The Komiti's most recent crusade was against the country's name change, in 2019, from Macedonia to North Macedonia.

• DE-MAYDA_004.jpg

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - Mateo, 8, a young North Macedonia fan in front of the Archaeological Museum of Republic of Macedonia. During a period of "antiquitisation" a decade ago, a nationalist government rebuilt the capital Skopje with neoclassical monuments that supposedly evoked Alexander the Great's Macedonian kingdom. The remade Skopje has been called "the Disneyland of the Balkans".

• DE-MAYDA_005.jpg

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - COOL Football Club trains at the former home ground of FK Cementarnica 55, Skopje

• DE-MAYDA_006.jpg

Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland - May 2018. An ÍBV player during a training in Heimaey. In January 2018, Iceland became the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women for doing the same job, an inequality that exists in almost every country. The small island nation has been ranked as the globe's most gender-equal country by the World Economic Forum.

• DE-MAYDA_007.jpg

Hveragerdi, Iceland, May 2018. The indoor field of Hamar, the team of the town of Hveragerdi: "Since the 2000s, the technique of Icelandic players has improved significantly thanks to the indoor courts. It's a kind of community center, open 24 hours a day and managed independently by the people of the neighborhood".

• DE-MAYDA_008.jpg

Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, May 2018. The IBV stadium is in Heimaey, an island of four thousand inhabitants in the Vestman archipelago.

• DE-MAYDA_009.jpg

Reykjavík, Iceland, May 2018. A match of Víkingur, team which plays in the Úrvalsdeild, the highest football league in Iceland.

• **DE-MAYDA_010.jpg**

Tetovo (North Macedonia), May 2021 - A member of the Ballistët, an ultras group that supports Shkëndija, a team in the largely Albanian city of Tetovo. Shkëndija — spark in Albanian — plays in red and black, the colors of the Albanian flag, and was banned in the latter years of Communist rule amid concerns its popularity might stoke nationalistic fervor.

• **DE-MAYDA_011.jpg**

Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland, May 2018. Futsal field in Heimaey. The federation has also promoted the construction of dozens of artificial turf fields and over 120 outdoor futsal courts all across the island. One of the federation's objectives for the next five years is getting more kids from the northern regions to try the sport, which is still relatively unpopular there because of the freezing temperatures and extremely short days of the winter months. "When I was young, fields were made of gravel," recalls Gudmundur Benediktsson, a forward with Iceland's team in the nineties, "In winter, we trained on the town's commercial street, the only one that had underground heating that would melt ice and snow."

• **DE-MAYDA_012.jpg**

Tetovo (North Macedonia), May 2021 - The women of ZFK Ljuboten, a team in Tetovo, near the border with Kosovo. In North Macedonia, the significance of qualifying for its first major tournament extended far beyond sports. "From now on, the whole world will know where our country is," said Muamed Sejdini, the president of the Football Federation of Macedonia. "When I talk to people from abroad, I will no longer have to explain that we border with Serbia, Albania, Bulgaria and Greece."

• **DE-MAYDA_013.jpg**

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - Young women's players from F.C. COOL, a youth team in Skopje. The Macedonian women's team find themselves ranked 129th out of 159 active women's footballing nations registered with FIFA. The national team has never qualified for the final stages of an international competition.

• **DE-MAYDA_014.jpg**

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - An F.K. Vardar fan wears her passion on her shirt, and her arm. Many of the teams in Macedonian soccer are defined by their ethnic ties, and violence between ultra groups can run along those lines. In June 2018, a Vardar Skopje fan was killed in broad daylight at a bus stop; two fans of Shkupi, a team from an ethnic Albanian neighborhood in the capital, ended up in prison.

• **DE-MAYDA_015.jpg**

Kópavogur, Iceland, May 2018 - When the weather it's bad, up to 200 children at the same time train on the indoor Breidablik field. "Since the 2000s, the technique of Icelandic players has improved significantly thanks to the indoor courts. It's a kind of community center, open 24 hours a day and managed independently by the people of the neighborhood".

• **DE-MAYDA_016.jpg**

Strumica (North Macedonia), May 2021 - Akademija Pandev, founded by the star Goran Pandev, trains about 300 children aged 7 to 21 in Strumica, and another 1000 scattered throughout the country. Goran Pandev's face is everywhere in Strumica, a sleepy city tucked away in the corner of North Macedonia, not far from the borders with Greece and Bulgaria. It is on the banners around the field at the local stadium. It is painted on the walls of the changing rooms. It beams out from the television screens of dozens of cafes, which faithfully broadcast every game played by the striker's Italian club team, Genoa.

• **DE-MAYDA_017.jpg**

Tetovo (North Macedonia), May 2021 - Horses in a football field in Tetovo, near the border with Kosovo. When in 1990 Yugoslavia was about to fall, over 2,000 ethnic Albanians marched through Tetovo demanding secession from the Socialist Republic of Macedonia and unity with Albania. Since that moment, Tetovo has become the unofficial capital and centre of a predominantly ethnic Albanian region which extends in an arc from Tetovo to Struga.

• **DE-MAYDA_018.jpg**

Skopje (North Macedonia), May 2021 - Diedon, 16, is a Shkupi fan, a team from an ethnic Albanian neighborhood in the capital. His parents are Kosovars, but he was born in Skopje and supports North Macedonia.

• **DE-MAYDA_019.jpg**

Strumica (North Macedonia), May 2021 - A tribune of the stadium of FK Belasica, Strumica. Most stadiums in North Macedonia only have one grandstand. Capacities rarely exceed 4,000.

• **DE-MAYDA_020.jpg**

Hveragerdi, Iceland, May 2018. The Hamar camp in Hveragerdi is located on a very active geothermal area.