

## Swimming as a tool to achieve full integration of people with disabilities

**LOCATION:** Seville

**DURATION:** 1'28"

**SUMMARY:** Swimming to promote integration. Juan José Polo, from Seville, studies Physical Education and loves swimming. He wanted people with and without disabilities to train together, so they could compete in the same level. That's how the Al-Andalus Sevilla Sports Club was created in 2015. Its members have already won several medals. There're no barriers for this club that has opened its doors to integration.

### VTR:

In the beginning of 2015 a young Sevillian had an idea: why not making swimmers with and without disabilities compete among each other in the same place? Juan José, also known as Polo, was certain: despite they were people of different ages, if they had the same competitive level, they could do it.

**JUAN JOSÉ POLO**  
Al-Andalus Club Director

*"The idea is to bring together people with and without disabilities. That's the goal of my project, creating a club where there's full integration, where people with disabilities have a place, because currently there is only a few."*

The idea was based on his own experience in the pool. Polo studied Physical Education, he was a swimming coach and worked with people with disabilities. When he had to make his end-of-degree project, he decided to establish the theoretical basis for a sports club that, put into practice, has already begun to win medals.

**MARIA LUISA BELLIDO**  
Swimmer

*"I have won a gold medal and one silver."*

**PEPI ESCOBAR**  
Natalia's mother

*"It is very rewarding, very satisfying at personal level, both for her and for us."*

**MARINA POLO**  
Al-Andalus Club Coach

*"They go together to the championships, it doesn't matter if many of them aren't competing, they go as supporters."*

They have become a big family. And only in its first year, the club has won 20 medals and became Champion of Andalusia 2016. They all train together, and the best part of the experience for them is:

**JESÚS MARTÍNEZ**  
Swimmer

*"The mixture of people with and without disabilities. Because they all learn a lot from each other."*

There are no barriers in this club that has opened its doors to integration.

For more information or support please call +34 647 310 157 or email [info@andalusianstories.com](mailto:info@andalusianstories.com)