



EYOWF
2011 Liberec

EYOWF 2011 info

10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival 2011



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Mystic Flame Burns at the Festival Location Schoolchildren to Arrive in Buses



Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee, will personally attend the EYOWF 2011 Opening Ceremony in the Liberec Region

Jacques Rogge: I am looking forward to the Liberec Region!



INTERVIEW
OF THE MONTH

The President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Jacques Rogge, was one of the founders of the European Youth Olympic Festivals back in the 1990s. On Sunday, 13th February, he will personally attend the Opening Ceremony of EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region. He shared his views in an exclusive interview.

Some may even go on to become future Olympians, if they choose to continue with sport as a career. Sport events and festivals are a great opportunity for young athletes to become accustomed to high-level competition, make friends from different countries and cultures, open their minds and share the values of sport. I truly believe that events such as the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) and the Youth Olympic Games provide the younger generation a wonderful path to a better, brighter and healthier future.

How has this competition changed since its beginnings in the 90's?

In October 1989, I was elected President of the European Olympic Committees with a mandate to create a youth event that would break through the barriers of Cold War-era Communism. East and West were totally divided by the iron curtain. There were exchanges between athletes, but only at an adult level, nothing for the youth. So I thought that it would be nice to organise a competition to bring the youth from all of Europe together. However, by an irony of history, the decision was almost made redundant as the Berlin Wall fell in early November of the same year.

The first youth festival in Brussels in 1991 was organized very quickly...

Nevertheless, we considered that even if the political situation had changed, there was still no real union between the two so we went ahead. The first summer edition of the EYOF, then called European Youth Olympic Days, was held in Brussels in 1991 and was a great success resulting in a winter edition two years later in the Italian region of Aosta. Twenty years since the inaugural festival, I am delighted that the EYOF is still going strong and is a biennial multi-sport event for youth athletes.

Apart from the number of participants, where has been the most significant shift?

The number NOC delegations participating in the EYOF has certainly increased. If I remember correctly, 33 NOCs took part in the inaugural event in 1991 and since then the figure has steadily increased. In fact, next month's Winter Festival in the Liberec Region expects to host 1,549 participants from 44 countries. Like any other sporting event, the EYOF had to adapt to the needs and expectations of the young generations with a more exciting sports programme and the use of social media. Their importance is enormous in today's society.

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Flame Flew in from Athens

The Flame, which will shine from 13th to 18th February 2011 at the European Youth Olympics (EYOWF) in the Liberec Region, arrived in the Czech Republic from Greece on 21st January. A delegation of organisers brought the flame from the Panathinaiko Stadium in Athens, the location of the first modern-day Olympic Games in 1896. The delegation consisted of **Roman Kumpošt**, President of the Organising Committee, **Kateřina Nyčová**, the Executive Director, **Petr Hrubec**, Secretary General of the Czech Olympic Committee, **Zdeněk Bursa**, Councillor of the Liberec Region and **Vladimír Richter**, Chairman of the Administrative Board of the EYOWF 2011 Public Benefit Corporation. More on this event on page 2.



Advice for foreigners

During EYOWF 2011 in Liberec, organisers of the most important sporting event for youth will take part in a special **Observer Programme** (15th to 17th February) in order to learn about the know-how of the local hosts. Among the applicants are representatives from Nanjing in China, hosts of the Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2014, as well as organisers of the winter version in Innsbruck. The seminar will also be attended by future organisers of summer and winter versions of the Festival in Trabzon, Utrecht, Brasov and Vorarlberg / Liechtenstein, as well as candidates from Sarajevo.



The Best Cube Belongs to Lithuania

The entire „Old continent“ has symbolically met in Liberec in mid-January. This took place during a unique competition called **Europe in the Heart of Europe**. The motto of the competition is „Know the countries we will host“ and the students of the region were asked to carry out illustrated projects characterising all the 49 countries of the European Olympic Committees and all the participating countries of the 2011 Festival. They were placed on cubes with an edge of 1 metre on display in shopping centres in Liberec and will brighten the Festival's atmosphere. The overall winner is the local F. X. Šalda Secondary School for the content and graphic design for the Republic of Lithuania.



QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

„I wish the European Youth Olympics the best of success and hope it leaves a wonderful memory in the hearts and souls of all the participants. I also believe that during this competition many talents will emerge who will later become stars of world sport.“



VĚRA ČÁSLAVSKÁ,
seven-time Olympic champion
and living legend of Czech sport

Mystic Flame at the Festival Location



TOPIC

The Olympic Flame from Greece, which will become the symbol of the European Youth Olympics (EYOWF) 2011, arrived for the first time in the Czech Republic on 21st January. The Opening Ceremony of EYOWF 2011 will take place on 13th February from 19:30 in Tipsport arena in Liberec and will be personally attended by Mr. Jacques Rogge, President of the International Olympic Committee.

The ceremony of handing over the Flame took place at the Panathinaiko Stadium which hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. At the end of the Ceremony, **Spyros Capralos**, President of the Greek Olympic Committee, handed over the symbolic torch which was lit by the rays of the Sun God Apollo, to Roman Kumpošt, President of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee.

"Of course, it is an extraordinary event and a great honour for us. This Flame will not only become a symbol of the entire competition, but will also serve as a motivation and obligation for us to organise this event on the best possible level without any major complications," said **Roman Kumpošt**.

The Flame was transported in three special safety lamps on a regular service Athens-Prague flight by Czech Airlines.

Support of Czech Legends

Three days after the Flame arrived in Liberec, another major event took place. The Flame was passed from the hands of the delegation members to Stanislav Eichler, President of the Liberec Region, as the highest official of the host region of EYOWF 2011.

Stanislav Eichler added: "Two years ago, during the Closing Ceremony of EYOWF 2009 in Szczyrk, the Olympic Flag was handed to me. Today, we have added another significant symbol. The only thing left is to bring the event to a successful end."

Afterwards, he handed over the lanterns, a gift to the Festival from the Company OKD, with the Olympic Flame to representatives of the host towns – **Jan Korytář**, Mayor of Liberec, **Petr Beitzl**, Mayor of Jablonec nad Nisou and **Luboš Marek**, Mayor of Kořenov. The symbolic flames will shine in their town halls until the end of the Festival.

This unique ceremony was witnessed by legends of Czech sport – the gymnast **Věra Čáslavská**, the track and field legend **Dana Zátopková** and the rower **Oldřich Svojanovský**. **Věra Čáslavská** commented: "I wish the European Youth Olympics the best of success and hope it leaves a wonderful memory in the hearts and souls of all participants."

"The Olympic Flame is a symbol of friendship among people of all nations. It has a mystical value," said **Dana Zátopková**, the famous javelin thrower, at the conclusion of the ceremony.



I am looking forward to the Liberec Region!

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What is the most important piece of advice you would give to young athletes so they could bring their talents to the leading adult athletes?

The most important piece of advice that I would like to convey to young athletes is my own life lesson: simply to respect the rules of sport and work hard to strive to be the best they can be while also enjoying themselves.

What are your expectations for the EYOWF 2011 in the Liberec Region?

I am really looking forward to the EYOWF in Liberec. Not only because it is great to see that the event that I initiated years ago is still popular and attracting talented young athletes, but also because I expect to see good sporting spirit, professionalism, teamwork, an exhilarating atmosphere and of course world-class competitions and performances. I hope the people of Czech Republic will enjoy the event and fully support the athletes and welcome the spectators. I am sure that the 2011 EYOWF will be successful and memorable.



INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

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Schoolchildren to Arrive in Buses

Students of primary and secondary schools of the Liberec Region should provide a roaring atmosphere in the venues of EYOWF 2011. The organisers will provide special buses to take them to the venues. „We will give preference to schools which participated in our accompanying programme vyCOOL se! which lasted for more than a year and a half. Students from these schools will be taken right from their schools directly to the venues for the morning events. Other schools may join the afternoon programme and make use of the transportation schedule for the bus stop on Fügner Square in Liberec,“ explained Radana Kubešová, Marketing Coordinator.



Video News on the Web

Organisers of EYOWF 2011 will inform all the participants and guests of the Festival about the happenings in the venues and in the Olympic Village not only through an updated website, but also with the daily issue of the Czech-English **COOL News**. In addition to this, the organisers are planning video reports which will be produced in cooperation with the internet television **muvi.cz**. Reports placed on the Festival website will provide shots from the races and background, surveys and interviews with interesting guests.



Focus on Europe

From 10th to 12th February, the Department of Physical Education of Faculty of Science, Humanities and Education, Technical University of Liberec, in cooperation with the organisers of EYOWF 2011 and the Czech Olympic Committee will host a conference on the topic **Europe – Youth – Olympism**. It will take place in the Hotel Zlatý Lev and will consist of lectures by prominent Czech and foreign professionals on the topics of financing sport, organisation of large youth sporting events, the contribution of European youth to sport or the training and preparation of young athletes.



NUMBER OF THE MONTH

116

the total number of medals won in the history of the winter EYOWF by the most successful delegation so far, Russia

SILVER PARTNER



BRONZE PARTNERS



PARTNERS

