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Festival raises interest from abroad With a Camera on the Trail of the Patrons



Ivo Gréger, the EYOWF 2011 Sports Director

Ivo Gréger: There are 216 medals waiting for young Europe

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

There is no doubt that the 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region will feature top performances by all the participants – athletes under 18 years of age and future stars of world sport. Ivo Gréger, the Sports Director of the event, describes the programme for athletes and fans in Liberec, Jablonec nad Nisou and Kořenov – Rejdic

There will be eight traditional winter sports – Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Biathlon, Figure Skating, Ice Hockey, Ski Jumping, Ice Hockey, Nordic Combined and Snowboarding.

How many sets of medals are going to be awarded to the participants during the Festival?

There are 28 sets because this is the number of races in all of the disciplines. Together with the relay races and the Ice Hockey tournament, it makes 216 gold, silver and bronze medals.

At the first four Festivals there were short track competitions and the last three included curling. Why are these disciplines missing this time?

The selection of the sport disciplines is subject to approval by the European Olympic Committees, which also establish the obligatory set of disciplines. The rest is up to the organisers. Despite short track and curling being very attractive sports, after considering the Czech sports traditions, we have decided on a different option.

In contrast, will there be any new, non-traditional races?

Yes, there are two interesting novelties. The first involves Alpine Skiing, where we will have a slalom of mixed teams, boys and girls. The second novelty will be in the Nordic Combined which

will consist of a team sprint of two-men teams.

Have you taken in consideration high-quality artificial lighting when preparing the programme?

Of course. The EYOWF 2011 programme is not wholly concentrated in the morning or afternoon sections, but we have tried to divide it in order to allow the spectators to follow various disciplines throughout the whole day. Both the ski Jumping races - individual and team - will take place in the evening with artificial lighting at Ještěd.

What venues are you offering to the young European athletes?

There are seven tried and tested venues, which regularly host top international events including World Championships and European or World Cups. The venues offer cutting-edge technical and sporting parameters and are equipped with a first-class infrastructure.

How did you choose the organisers who will be in charge of the organisation of each race?

We have asked particular regional sports clubs and organisations which have a wide experience with hosting races regularly. Only the best made it through the selection rounds. We are convinced that these experienced, well coordinated and reliable teams will not fall short of our expectations.

www.eyowf2011.cz

In the name of diplomacy

The organisers of EYOWF 2011 are expecting a massive diplomatic push at the beginning of November. The reason is the 90 notable guests from the European Olympic Committees, national Olympic Committees and other international sports institutions, who will be interested in the current state of preparations. First, there will be an EYOWF 2011 Coordination Commission meeting, then a meeting of the Technical delegates of the Festival disciplines and finally the crucial Chefs de Mission meeting of all the delegations taking part in the February Festival.



Cameras ready

Selected attractive competitions of the EYOWF 2011 programme will also appear on television screens. The Eurosport 2 channel will provide viewers with ten hours of live coverage. The preliminary coverage should include the Ice Hockey match of the Czech Republic against Finland and the tournament finals, individual and team Ski Jumping competitions and the Cross Country sprint. The signal will be produced by Czech Television. A 20-minute report with daily highlights is also under negotiation. A documentary film covering the entire proceedings of EYOWF 2011 is also planned.



Liberec supports Brno

At the EOC General Assembly, which takes place at the end of November in Belgrade, a decision will be made as to which town will host the summer variant of the Youth Olympic Festival in 2015. Apart from Tbilisi in Georgia, the Czech Republic will also have its representative involved, as one of the candidates is the city of Brno. The EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee supports the candidacy, as Brno offers first-rate venues, experienced organisers and an all-round infrastructure, together with a rich sporting tradition and highly interested audience.



QUOTATION OF THE MONTH

"I consider EYOWF an excellent event for young athletes. Foreign competition at this age is one of the key prerequisites for further development and performance."



ONDŘEJ BANK,
Patron of Alpine Skiing at the
EYOWF 2011

Chasing sport stars



Eight pairs of students from the Liberec Region will have the opportunity to meet successful Czech athletes face to face and spend part of a day with them. As part of the „On the Trail of the Patrons“ competition, they were asked to make a profile documentary about the Czech national athletes who support the EYOWF in Liberec.

Starting in September and lasting until mid-October, selected students from secondary schools followed the Patrons of all eight disciplines – Lukáš Bauer for Cross Country Skiing, Ondřej Bank for Alpine Skiing, Veronika Vítková for Biathlon, Pavel Churavý for Nordic Combined, Michal Novotný for Snowboarding, Roman Koudelka for Ski Jumping, Tomáš Verner for Figure Skating and Marek Schwarz for Ice Hockey.

„This was undoubtedly an extraordinary experience for all the participants; some had the opportunity to witness their training sessions, some promotional photo shoots or press

conferences. This competition is important for the 2011 Festival's promotion with the public as well, because the profile documentaries will be published on the websites of several media,“ says Radana Kubešová, Marketing Manager of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee.

The results of the competition will be announced on 24th of November in Liberec by a jury consisting of members of the Liberec Region, the Czech Olympic Committee, artists and sport commentators and organisers of the Festival. The three best pairs can look forward to a prize in the form of a new digital camera.



Fun during shooting – from left: Pavel Churavý, Marek Schwarz and Lukáš Bauer

EYOWF 2011 raises interest



The 10th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) 2011 in the Liberec Region has attracted great attention among foreign delegations. After the first round of applications in mid-October, there are 1,630 registered participants.

The first country to respond to the first round of applications was Romania. The largest sport delegation was nominated by the Czech Republic and has 102 members so far. The Swiss delegation has only one member less and Russia is just below one hundred with 99 members.

„These preliminary numbers suggest that EYOWF 2011 will become one of the largest festivals in the history of the event. In total, there are only two countries still to send their applications, however, they are expected to nominate only a few athletes. We must bear in mind, however, that



these are only Preliminary Entries by Number. The final application deadline is in mid-November,“ Kateřina Nyčová, the Executive Director of the EYOWF 2011 Organising Committee, explains.

The largest Festival so far in terms of participants was the Polish Szczyrk, which hosted 1,620 participants in 2009. Countries which are not going to participate in this year's event are Azerbaijan, Malta and Portugal. Kateřina Nyčová adds: *„They have excused their absence by stating their athletes do not meet the required performance levels.“*



SILVER PARTNER

BRONZE PARTNER

MEDIA PARTNERS



EYOWF 2011 info

„vyCOOL se! Programme“ Near the Finishing Line

After a year and a half, the accompanying social programme „vyCOOL se!“, which is an integral part of the preparations for EYOWF 2011, is approaching its end. Up until the Festival's beginning, participants may continue to look forward to the event on ice (Cool Day), the knowledge quiz (Hey you, do you know the answer?!) and the day of active sport (Clever Fun Day). The programme will culminate in an art competition „Europe in the Heart of Europe“, in which students design cubes with the edge measuring one meter and depicting all 49 participating countries. The „vyCOOL se!“ programme has been joined by more than four thousand participants.



Reinforcements from abroad

The EYOWF Team, which at present consists of more than 500 volunteers chosen to participate in the organisation of the 2011 Festival, can boast of international cooperation. Eight of its members come from foreign countries – two from Slovakia and one each from Luxembourg, Finland, Italy, Spain and Serbia. These volunteers will mostly join the NOC Services Department, but also the Sport and Medical departments. Their great advantage is their language competency and definitely their ability to speak fluent Czech.



The Return of our Mothers

After a short break, the organisers of EYOWF 2011 welcome back two managers, who have recently given birth to babies. In mid-July, the Figure Skating manager **Jitka Mokrá** had a son **Vojtěch** and at the beginning of September, the NOC Services & Relations manager **Marie Sokolová** gave birth to her second son, **Lukáš** (see photo). As both mothers agreed, their babies will assist in the preparations for the Festival, which is a sufficient guarantee that they will become great sports officials in the future.



NUMBER OF THE MONTH

90

the number of foreign delegates who are expected to arrive in Liberec to take part in the meeting of the Coordination Commission, Technical delegates and Chefs de Mission