



**EUROPEAN
YOUTH
OLYMPIC
FESTIVAL**



EUROPEAN
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEES



WHAT IS EYOF

the European Youth Olympic Festival?

The biggest European youth sport event and the pride of the European Olympic Committees with over **25 years** of tradition

A **multisport** event for young athletes aged 14 to 18, with a summer and a winter edition every two years

The first **Olympic experience** for young athletes

A springboard for future sports stars

An important means of promoting sport and Olympic values

A meeting point for young athletes from **50 European countries**

An opportunity to **educate and motivate** young people and the general public to do sport and adopt a healthy lifestyle

A great opportunity for European cities to become the European Capital of sport for the duration of the event

The EYOF symbolically **unites the youth of Europe** in one Athletes' Village



FACTS and Figures

The event was founded by the then President of the **European Olympic Committees** Jacques Rogge, now the Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee

The summer edition began in **Brussels in 1991**

The winter edition followed two years later in Aosta, Italy - both under the original name European Youth Olympic Days (EYOD)

Since 2003 the event has been known as the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF)

The ceremonies are organised in accordance with Olympic protocol, including the Olympic flame, parade of nations, athletes' and judge's oaths, etc.

To date, **29 editions** (15 summer and 14 winter) have been held in **26 countries**



"This Festival provides young European athletes with great motivation, as it gives sense to their careers from the very beginning."

JACQUES ROGGE
Honorary President of the International Olympic Committee and founder of the EYOF

SUMMER EYOF

Approximately **3,600 athletes** and officials from 50 European National Olympic Committees

10 sports on the programme, for both boys and girls

Around **1,500 volunteers** and **10,000 accredited participants**

WINTER EYOF

Approximately **1,600 athletes** and officials

7-10 sports on the programme, for both boys and girls

Around **800 volunteers** and **4,500 accredited participants**

THE EYOF and the European Union

Contributes directly to reaching the objectives of EU policies in the field of sport, youth, education, culture and mobility

Putting in practice EU values and Olympic principles, in particular through its cultural and educational side activities, **the EYOF fosters a spirit of friendship, fair play and tolerance**

Brings together young athletes, officials, volunteers and fans from 50 European countries to meet and thus **enhances European integration and people-to-people contact**

Promotes sport and physical activity and inspires young people to #BeActive

Contributes to the European Week of Sport (EWoS). The European Olympic Committees is an official partner of the EWoS

Provides hundreds of volunteers with a unique opportunity to **develop their work and social skills within an international environment**

The next summer edition will take place in **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia in July 2022**, while the next winter edition will be held in **Vuokatti, Finland in February 2021**



"As the biggest youth sport event in Europe, the EYOF is an ideal and sustainable platform for the EU to implement the goals of its sport, youth and education policies."

FOLKER HELLMUND
Director of the EOC EU Office

FAMOUS Medallists

JANICA KOSTELIČ (CRO),
Alpine skiing

ANJA PAERSON (SWE),
Alpine skiing

MARIT BJÖRGEN (NOR),
Cross-country skiing

YEVGENIY PLYUSHCHENKO (RUS),
Figure skating

JASON LAMY CHAPPUIS (FRA),
Cross-country skiing

FABIAN CANCELLARA (SUI),
Cycling

JUSTINE HENIN (BEL),
Tennis

PIETER VAN DEN HOOGENBAND (NED),
Swimming

GABRIELA SZABO (ROU),
Athletics

ESTER LEDECKÁ (CZE),
Snowboard and Alpine skiing

ELIA VIVIANI (ITA),
Cycling

SARAH SJÖSTRÖM (SWE),
Swimming

and many others...



HOSTING Cities

Summer EYOFs

1991 Brussels (BEL)
1993 Valkenswaard (NED)
1995 Bath (GBR)
1997 Lisbon (POR)
1999 Esbjerg (DEN)
2001 Murcia (ESP)
2003 Paris (FRA)
2005 Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA)
2007 Belgrade (SRB)
2009 Tampere (FIN)
2011 Trabzon (TUR)
2013 Utrecht (NED)
2015 Tbilisi (GEO)
2017 Győr (HUN)
2019 Baku (AZE)
2021 Banská Bystrica (SVK)

Winter EYOFs

1993 Aosta (ITA)
1995 Andorra la Vella (AND)
1997 Sundsvall (SWE)
1999 Poprad-Tatry (SVK)
2001 Vuokatti (FIN)
2003 Bled (SLO)
2005 Monthey (SUI)
2007 Jaca (ESP)
2009 Slask-Beskid (POL)
2011 Liberec (CZE)
2013 Brasov (ROU)
2015 Vorarlberg/Liechtenstein (AUT/LIE)
2017 Erzurum (TUR)
2019 Sarajevo & East Sarajevo (BIH)
2021 Vuokatti (FIN)



"The EYOF is a great opportunity for young athletes to cut their teeth at a major multi-sport event, where the key element is not personal success but the core values of Olympism: excellence, respect and friendship."

GERD KANTER

Chair of the EOC Athletes Commission

MORE THAN JUST A **Sports Event**

The EYOF is not only a celebration of Europe's elite young athletes, but is also a valuable platform for **education, peace and friendship**

Off the field of play, a number of fun and **interactive activities, workshops and team-building** exercises are offered to teach the athletes about each other's cultures and provide them with the skills to become **true ambassadors** of their sports and beyond

These activities cover a wide range of subjects such as physical activity, inclusion of Paralympic athletes, educational and anti-doping programmes and environmental initiatives

In order to highlight its overarching character, the event is named "Festival" and not "Games"

The EYOF is also a great opportunity for hundreds of **young volunteers** to gain experience organising a big event, develop their work skills and meet people from other European countries

Since its launch at the EYOF Erzurum 2017, the **European Young Ambassadors Programme** aims to engage with young athletes with special educational activities inside the Athletes' Village. Twenty-one ambassadors aged 18-25 were in Baku to encourage cultural exchange and teach the Olympic values, including non-discrimination, fair play and the pursuit of excellence.

"I was sure that being part of this spectacular event would be a milestone and great leap for my professional life. This was not only because I enjoy dynamic work but because I also wanted to play a role in creating history with my home country hosting the best athletes of Europe."

SEVDA JAHANGIROVA
Volunteer at the Summer EYOF Baku 2019

"The EYOF educated me about what to expect competition-wise and in terms of food and accommodation. It made me familiar with the whole aspect of representing your country. I have so many great memories from Győr and Baku. It's kind of like a duplicate of the real Olympics."

RHASIDAT ADELEKE
Irish sprinter at Győr 2017 and Baku 2019





Sarajevo & East Sarajevo 2019 Winter EYOF

The Sarajevo & East Sarajevo EYOF brought together in the name of peace through sport the two political factions that had previously been at war with each other. This is an excellent example that the power sport has to unite peoples in peace and friendship, and has earned the EOC a candidature for the 2019 Peace and Sport Award in the Diplomatic Action of the Year category.



Baku 2019 Summer EYOF

Two of the main educational activities organised at Baku 2019 were the **European Young Ambassador (EYA)** programme and the **Olympic Culture and Education Programme (OCEP)**. The EYA programme involved **twenty-one ambassadors** aged 18-25 and inspired them to encourage cultural exchange and teach the Olympic values, including **non-discrimination, fair play** and the pursuit of **excellence**. The **Olympic Culture and Education Programme** was launched with a goal of promoting culture, sport and Olympic values among the young generations of Europe. As part of the programme, **48 schools** in Baku were twinned with counterparts in countries across Europe. The students shared aspects of their local **culture, history, art, and sport**, while also learning about Olympic values and principles with their peers from various countries. An **Olympic Culture and Sport Pavilion** was constructed at the Athletes' Village as a final event for the programme, with tents and booths representing each European country.



Banská Bystrica 2022 Summer EYOF

As a follow-up to the successful EYOF Baku 2019, the OCEP programme will be an integral part of the EYOF 2022 in Banská Bystrica. Designed specifically for young people, the initiative will involve a total of 50 Slovak schools and aims at inspiring young students and athletes to become real champions of friendship, excellence and respect.

Key objectives

- Supporting and promoting sport as an effective tool to make **positive changes in the society**
- Strengthening **cooperation between young people from European countries**
- Enhancing ties between National Olympic Committees, new horizons and objectives for joint events and projects before and after the EYOF



EYOF 2021
VUOKATTI

Vuokatti 2021 Winter EYOF

The 2021 Winter EYOF is not the first EOC flagship event organised by Vuokatti. The Finnish city already hosted the originally-called European Youth Olympic Days (EYOD) in 2001, which has been considered for a long time the most important sport event in the region of Kainuu. 20 years later, the country will once again host a great **event of youth for youth**. As a must-have in the EYOFs, some educational activities are already on the programme, including the organisation of a media training for athletes, as well as a media camps for young people whose dream is becoming a sport journalist.



EUROPEAN
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