



MARIBOR
EUROPEAN CITY
OF SPORT 2018
Candidate



MUNICIPALITY OF MARIBOR
UNIVERSITY CITY OF MARIBOR



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PREFACE





Maribor is the second biggest city in Slovenia and is known for its many unique characteristics. It is the city with the oldest vine in the world; in 2012

Maribor was the European Capital of Culture and in 2013 the European Youth Capital. Furthermore, the city has a favourable geographic position as it is located near four transport corridors, which have a positive influence on Maribor's economic development; and close to the border with Austria, Croatia and Hungary. Above all, however, Maribor is a city of sport. According to our estimates, 50% of Maribor's population actively participates in sports.

It is the home of numerous national, European and world champions. Maribor has hosted an array of European and World Championships and Cups, and has organised various sports and recreational events. In Maribor, sports have always played an important role. Not only because of its geographical position at the south-easternmost part of the Central Alps but also because of the rich sports tradition that became established in the second half of the 19th century.

Maybe these are the reasons why some many successful athletes come from Maribor and why the city is known as a popular and growing sports tourism destination. The city and its surroundings offer excellent conditions for training at both a recreational and professional level. In this area – of only a few square kilometres – on offer are larger-scale facilities such as sports halls, centres, pitches, hospitality infrastructure and outdoor sports grounds in natural surroundings. Maribor's citizens can use various public sports grounds for free to improve their well being and health.

Furthermore, Maribor is an attractive destination for football and hockey summer training camps and numerous state, European and world championships that are organised here. The city is known as the organiser of one of the oldest World Cup ski races for women – the Golden Fox race.

NK Maribor, the local football club, is the most successful club in Slovenia which played in the UEFA Europa League and in the Champions League respectively. Maribor is without doubt the football capital of Slovenia but it is also the city where the current world champion in downhill skiing Ilka Štuhec was born.

Our strategy as a city is to focus on sports tourism, develop sports infrastructure and promote a healthy lifestyle among citizens. We want to become

city of sport for all citizens, daily visitors, sports tourism and professional sport groups, but also the disabled through our “barrier-free and disabled friendly city” initiative (Access City Award).

Our vision is to develop sports tourism, infrastructure, programmes and fitness workouts because the conditions here are excellent. The title European City of Sport 2018 would help substantially to promote sporting activities and Maribor as the destination of sport among citizens, athletes in the region, Europe and worldwide.

Welcome to the most beautiful city in Slovenia!

*Dr. Andrej Fištravec,
Mayor of the Municipality of Maribor*



Sport and Maribor – the two words which became inseparable during the times of the Olympic gold medal winner Leon Štukelj and intertwined even more when the local football club

scored its biggest successes at international level.

Maybe it is the city's position next to the Drava river – where the green slopes of Pohorje almost merge with lively city life – why Maribor earned its place on the map of sports. Traditional international sporting events are numerous in the city. Let me mention only the ones which make us – partly because of the successes of our athletes – particularly proud: The Golden Fox skiing competition, football matches held by the most successful football club in Slovenia, swimming, tennis, volleyball and other international competitions. However, we are also proud of the successes of individual sport athletes: Taekwon-Do (Tomaž Barada), athletics (Sonja Roman), tennis (Katarina Srebotnik), ski cross (Filip Flisar), alpine skiing (Ilka Štuhec), rowing (Rok Kolander), bowling (Marija Nagy), biathlon (Sašo Grajč), karate (Ljubo Javoršek), swimming (Matjaž Koželj) and many others. Each year, workers in sports and tourism strive to provide the city with opportunities to host new generations from multiple sport disciplines, and to uphold a positive environment that promotes sport. A lot has

already been done in sports tourism because we are aware that it is of vital importance for the city and its development as a tourist destination. Sports tourism is one of the fastest growing tourism segments and has an impact on the results of consumption and overnight stays (when Maribor hosts sporting events and competitions, accommodation capacities in and around Maribor are normally booked up from 90 to 100%).

The potential of the city and the destination Maribor – Pohorje is enormous because the infrastructure – indoor and outdoor sports facilities of very good condition – is already here. At the same time the city boasts beautiful natural surroundings where guests, athletes and their supporting team will feel well regardless of the time of year. The sports and recreational charge of the city can be felt alike by tourists who come to Maribor for active holidays or to relax in nature.

This potential is also without doubt linked to the success of Maribor athletes at team and individual sports competitions. The combination of the Styrian hospitality and organisation of competitions at the highest level puts Maribor high on the list of quality, attractive and affordable destinations for the organisation of sporting events and camps.

*Doris Urbančič Windisch,
Director of Maribor – Pohorje
Tourist Board*



“Welcome to the city of sport”

Philosophers like Kant and Schiller elaborated on the observation or manifestation of sport

and its influence on human contentment.

If we understand philosophy as the highest principle of human fabric and make sport part of the aforementioned axioms, then the thought that man is the closest to himself when he practices sport is very close to us. In this sense it is possible to understand why human autonomy was constructed through sport and games. Since antiquity, sport and games have been associated with celebration. They create a festive atmosphere – we are all therefore aware of the power of sport in bringing people together, and creating new bonds and values.

This way of thinking does not allow the separation of sport, culture and tourism in a broader social context. By attaching such great intimate importance to sport we see how significant the bigger picture is.

But being a European City of Sport is a step higher on the ladder. It means that we are doing a good job

and that we want to share the values of our city in a broader context. In this sense we are talking about Maribor as it was in the past, as it is today and as we want to have it in the future. Maribor has been recognised as a great city on a number of occasions – as a city of great people and great ideas. This synergy of ideas can go towards a sustainable, positive environmental legacy. The awareness that we can and want to achieve more creates forms of cooperation that today seem unimaginable, and offers the opportunity for others to get to know us and our nature.

For many decades, some of the most important ambassadors of our city have been the athletes. Assuming the title European City of Sport is an acknowledgement to them and their contribution, and we can be only proud of being part of such wonderful stories.

If I may conclude with Kant's philosophy: sport and games are a symptom for a serious and pressing dimension moving towards other dimensions – where a person can be free morally and physically. This dimension is free of everything rational and the power of imagination gives man the possibility to play and express through sport.

*Mag. Gregor Žmak,
Director of the Sport Office, Municipality of Maribor*



Maribor has always been regarded as a city of opportunities and its citizens have always known how to find and seize them. The same holds true for sports: the

city priding itself on a wide range of sporting activities that its citizens have taken up as a hobby or for recreation, and have done so actively or even professionally. This holds true for all sporting activities – team or individual, winter or summer, and mass or unusual sports.

Numerous locations in the city are known as the cradle of sporting activities and events. The Ljudski vrt Football Stadium and the Tabor Sports Park are considered the facilities with the most diversified offerings. The hills of Mariborsko Pohorje and the Drava river are places where top-class sport and recreation as well as competitive sport and tourism meet.

Maribor has produced many top-notch athletes. It is almost impossible to find a national sports team without an athlete from Maribor among its ranks. This is mainly due to the wide range of sporting activities but also because of a large number of recreational athletes: in Maribor over 30% of people actively pursue

sport – including occasional recreation the percentage is higher than 60%. **The city long ago decided to earmark a budget to co-finance sporting activities for vulnerable groups – children, young people and disabled persons, but also the elderly above 63 years of age. This investment pays off richly because it is almost impossible to find a primary school child that isn't participating in at least one physical activity.**

The Sports Federation of Maribor takes great delight in organising and carrying out mass sport and recreational programmes and events. We've now organised the Maribor Sports Weekend for the 27th time. It is known as one of the biggest sporting events in Slovenia because we offer participants – each year a few tens of thousands join the event – over 40 different sporting activities at 20 locations. There is also the Maribor City Run, the Maribor Sport Festival and special programmes for certain target groups (children, young people, the elderly, etc.).

Therefore I am of the opinion that Maribor certainly deserves the title European City of Sport 2018. It will be our great pleasure and honour to carry this title, and we are convinced that the additional activities and enhanced status will create only positive impressions among our professional and amateur athletes.

*Uroš Lovrenčič, dipl. manag. org.
President of the Maribor Sports Association*



“Knowledge and tradition for the development of sport in Maribor.”

Not only is the tradition of sport long-established in

Maribor, it is also a rich tradition steeped in stories and events. Many of Maribor's clubs have passed the 100 year mark. In addition to the development of clubs and their activities, the sports infrastructure has also seen advancements. Importantly, when it comes to sport Maribor is one of the most developed cities not only in Slovenia but also internationally. Also noteworthy is that some of the most visible events in sports take place in Maribor – the Golden Fox World Cup ski race, many European and world championships and more besides. But we also should not forget that Maribor is known as a football city. Here in Maribor you will find one of the most successful Slovenian football clubs, which even made it to international status.

Maribor is also a city of well-known and renowned names in sports. These are the people who gave not just Maribor but also Slovenia recognition globally. What also makes Maribor special is the extensive sports grounds both in the form of infrastructure and natural

environments. There is the river where rowers train, large indoor facilities, the unspoiled hills of Pohorje, nature, and so much more... All these attractions are something we can be proud of.

The title European City of Sport 2018 would prove that even globally Maribor is recognised as a city which places great emphasis on the development of sport. In this regard it would become easier to raise awareness of sports, promote Maribor and its surroundings as a sports region and stimulate interest and a positive attitude towards the available sports activities in our region. What is more, such titles are an opportunity to develop current sports activities and facilities further, and offer the potential for engagement with neighbouring towns to write a common success story in the future.

The Športni objekti Maribor Public Institute makes a positive contribution to the development of sport in the city. The institute was established with the aim of managing, planning, reconstructing, building, organising and maintaining sports facilities which are in the ownership of its founder – the Municipality of Maribor.

*Anton Knez,
Director of the Športni objekti
Maribor Public Institute*



1

MARIBOR –
DEVELOPING INTO
A CITY OF SPORT





DEAR FRIENDS OF SPORT, HI OR ZDRAVO, AS WE SAY IN SLOVENE!

Maribor is the second largest Slovenian city. It is the economic and culture hub of south-eastern Slovenia. Its location at the juncture of important transport routes from Central to Southeast Europe and from West-Central Europe to the Pannonian Plain had already long ago established Maribor as a significant city and since then this has not changed. Because the border with Austria is only 18 km away the city of Maribor represents the gateway into Slovenia.

Maribor is a city of sports where numerous professional and recreational sports activities take place every day. The time people devote to sport and recreation can be well spent in the sports and recreation facilities in and around the city where they can carry out various sport activities or simply enjoy endless walks, hiking or cycling in the restful green of Pohorje or the surrounding hills.

The city has all the infrastructure needed for preparation training camps and competitions of various sport teams with the advantage that all the facilities are only a short distance away from the hotels. In all the facilities sport clubs perform their regular trainings, and league competitions of all teams as well as other international competitions take place.



However, professional sport is not the only segment carried out in these premises: companies organise recreational gatherings and concerts and cultural events take place. For the people of Maribor sport is an everyday part of their lives and without it we cannot imagine the city to function or develop. It is an important social activity and an expression of its dynamics and the general culture that enriches the quality of the life of every individual.

Since 2011 numerous European clubs have spent their pre-season training for the winter season in the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall – the likes of which include the Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod, Spartak Moscow and Salavat Yulaev hockey clubs from Russia, Medveščak from Croatia, and Slovan Bratislava from the Czech Republic.

The football clubs Celtic, Željezničar Sarajevo and Olimpiakos Nicosia selected Maribor as the place to hold their summer training camps.

Sports tourism is thus becoming one of the largest and fastest-growing segment of tourist integral products in the city.

In **2016** Maribor hosted:

- the athletics quadrathlon for young athletes' national teams (300 young athletes of which 250 were foreigners);
- the Kickboxing European Championship;
- the European Team Gym Championships;
- the Slovenia Open G1 Taekwon-Do tournament;
- Ski World Cup (the Golden Fox).



The positive influence of sports tourism continues into **2017** when the following events have taken place or will take place:

- Junior European Judo Championships;
- European Shooting Championship 10 m;
- Veterans World Fencing Championship;
- Ski World Cup (the Golden Fox);
- Taekwon-Do World Cup and
- the European Wine-Makers Football Championship.

In **2018** Maribor will host:

- the European Veterans Basketball Championship;
- the Senior and Junior European Taekwon-Do Championships;
- the European Kickboxing Championship;
- Ski World Cup (the Golden Fox) and
- the Women's World Ice Hockey Championship.



In recent years, Maribor has gained its reputation for hosting numerous sport competitions and events that create a true sports atmosphere. Thus the city continues to shape its sports tradition that began with the Golden Fox skiing competition, which all those years ago put Maribor on the map as an important place for sporting events.

Today, Maribor is firmly positioned on the global tourist destination map as:

- the European Capital of Culture 2012; the European Capital of Youth 2013;
- one of the TOP 10 tourist destinations in the world according to the opinion of various media in the past few years;
- the centre of one of the fastest growing destinations in Slovenia;
- the city of the Old Vine, the oldest vine in the world, which attracts many visitors from all over the world to the Old Vine House; and
- one of the developing sports destinations for sport clubs and national teams' preparation training camps.



Maribor is wonderfully nestled in the green Pohorje Mountains on one side and the picturesque wine-growing hills on the other. The city is located by the Drava River where visitors will also find the oldest – over 450 years old – vine in the world. Not many world cities can claim such a natural attraction. Moreover, Maribor and its surroundings represent one of the most important wine-growing areas in Slovenia. The beautiful vine of respectable age is certainly one of the many reasons why the Maribor – Pohorje, Slovenian Styria destination is worth a visit. All these wonderful natural attractions contribute to the well-being of local people and visitors feel great here as well.



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THE KEY COMPONENTS OF MARIBOR TOURISM ARE:

- wine and cuisine;
- recreation and sport, including preparations and matches of professional athletes;
- urban and rural culture;
- natural environment, rural tourism, ecotourism, wellness, (spiritual) pilgrimages;
- conference and business tourism; and
- gambling, shopping, etc.



MARIBOR IS ALSO EASILY ACCESSIBLE.

The nearest airports (distance by car):

- Maribor Edvard Rusjan Airport – Slovenia: 10 km;
- Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport – Slovenia: 150 km (less than an hour and a half drive);
- Graz Airport – Austria: 60 km (a good half hour drive); and
- Zagreb Airport – Croatia: 130 km (less than an hour and a half drive).

MARIBOR IS A PERFECT BASE FOR EXPLORING SLOVENIA.

From Maribor by car:

- just a good hour's drive to Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia;
- a good two-hour drive to the Slovenian coast with Koper, Portorož and Piran; and
- an hour and a half drive to Bled and the Julian Alps.

From Maribor by train:

- approximately 2 hours to Ljubljana,
- approximately 2 hours to Bled,
- a little over 4 hours to Koper.

2

SPORTS
INFRASTRUCTURE



Sports facilities owned by the Municipality of Maribor are managed by the Športni objekti Maribor Public Institute; Javno podjetje Marprom d.o.o. is the concessionaire for operating the lifts and slopes at Mariborsko Pohorje.

2.1 PUBLIC SPORTS FACILITIES

Športni objekti Maribor Public Institute is responsible for managing the Tabor Sports Hall, the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall, the Tabor Sports Park, the Pristan Swimming Baths, the Mariborski otok Outdoor Swimming Baths, the Kamnica Hippodrome, the Lukna Hall and the Ljudski vrt Football Stadium. It manages and maintains the facilities, equipment and installations and at the same time leases the buildings and premises to the executors of the Municipality's annual sports programme and other users to guarantee:

- the development of sports, sport clubs and associations;
- sport activities for pre-school children, pupils and students;
- sport opportunities for children and youths with special needs;
- sport activities for children and youths to become professional athletes;
- quality sport;
- professional sport;
- recreational sport activities for children, youths and the elderly;

- sport for the disabled;
- sport events;
- recognition for athletes, sport clubs and associations to promote the Municipality of Maribor;
- an effective coordination of interests between individual users of the sport facilities and its premises;
- cooperation in planning, reconstruction and construction of sport facilities in the Municipality of Maribor;
- guarding and safe operation of buildings and equipment; and
- expertise and organisational help for the executors of the annual sports programme.



TABOR SPORTS HALL

The Tabor Sports Hall comprises a 9,500 m² large building with 118 premises which offer a place for training and competition to athletes from Maribor clubs. In the morning hours the facilities are used by primary and secondary schools for physical education.

The main hall is suitable for basketball, volleyball, badminton, fitness training and the organisation of various events. From 1984 to today over 7,500 events took place in both halls which attracted over 6 million visitors.

The building accommodates a hall for table tennis, a six-lane bowling alley, a gym, a martial arts hall, a massage room, a seminar room and a bar.



EVENTS HOSTED AT TABOR SPORTS HALL:

- Ray Charles concert;
- James Brown concert;
- Mamma Mia musical;
- 2Cellos concert;
- the Dalai Lama;
- European Judo Championships;
- Slovenian Futsal League;
- Taekwon-Do Slovenia Open international tournament;
- final matches of the Slovenian Women's Basketball Cup;
- sport games for the disabled;
- special event commemorating Dejan Zavec's official farewell to his professional boxing career;
- international gymnastics meet (Šalamunov Memorial); and
- European Kickboxing Championship.



Activity/facility	Tabor Sports Hall
Scheduled programme	103,462
Other programmes	41,550
Competitions	33,500
Recreation	5,027
Sports days, physical education and courses	14,360
Total	197,899



LEDNA DVORANA ICE SKATING HALL

Next to the Tabor Sports Hall is the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall. A covered and closed artificial ice skating rink is the place where Maribor's hockey and ice stock sport players train and compete.

Alongside recreation and "disco skating" many other club and school activities take place at the rink. The Maribor – Lisjaki ice hockey club (HDK Maribor – Lisjaki) has been working successfully in Ledna dvorana for many years and both their women and men teams belong to the very top of Slovenian ice hockey. Beside ice hockey the club also has a figure skating team. For ice stock sport enthusiasts the Ledenko Club (DKNL Ledenko) was established a couple of years ago. The Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall also hosts the Curling Club Maribor – the first curling club in Slovenia.

When the hall is not being used by athletes a wide array of other events take place, including: basic and advanced ice skating courses; recreational ice skating for Maribor's citizens; sports days for primary and secondary schools from north-western Slovenia; physical education for the University of Maribor students; and "Maribor Hockey League" amateur ice hockey competitions.



In cooperation with HK Maribor and DKNL Ledenko a great number of high-profile international ice hockey and ice stock sport tournaments were organised.

Activity/facility	Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall
Scheduled programme	125,800
Other programmes	5,542
Competitions	9,210
Recreation	12,010
Sports days, physical education and courses	39,210
Total	191,772

EVENTS HOSTED BY LEDNA DVORANA ICE SKATING HALL:

- "Piše se leto" – music concert at the end of the school year;
- "Poštne igre" – games for the Post of Slovenia employees;
- "Komunalne igre" – games for the employees of Slovenian public utility companies;
- 2nd Division European Ice Hockey Championship in 2013;
- 2nd Division World Junior Ice Hockey Championship in 2014;
- Slovenian First Ice Hockey League;
- International brother's Hiti Ice Hockey Camp;
- European and world ice hockey championships;
- European Chess Championship 2012;
- Sports in Winter for Children – a programme for children available each year during winter school holidays; and
- Training camps: Slovenian national hockey team 2013, KHL Medveščak 2013, Spartak Moskva 2013 and 2015, Vitez 2013, HK Torpedo 2013, 2014 and 2016.



TABOR SPORTS PARK

Tabor Sports Park is one of the most beautiful and biggest sport parks in Slovenia. It is known as one of the best-maintained parks. Its numerous green areas and halls offer clubs and associations from Maribor the best possible conditions for the development of professional sport and recreation. The complex is comprised of three halls: the Tabor Sports Hall, the ŽŠD Hall with two basketball or six badminton courts and a tennis hall with three courts. The outdoor complex comprises: a volleyball court; outdoor fitness; two basketball courts; a handball and a five-a-side football court; three large turf football fields; the main football field with a stand; the Poljane Athletics Stadium; and 12 well-maintained tennis courts.

areas of the Tabor Sports Park and can be found on all football fields. All football areas are connected with a well-tended green plot where PE teachers can organise an unforgettable sports day with ball games for their students. Furthermore, five-a-side football courts, football fields, and fields for handball, basketball, volleyball, baseball and other less familiar and know team sports can be found at the sports park. In total the Tabor Sports Park comprises 84.000 m² of well maintained green areas.



POLJANE MARIBOR ATHLETICS STADIUM

Due to its geographical location and a high-quality track the Poljane Athletics Stadium offers good training conditions for all track and field disciplines: jumping, throwing and running. It is one of the few stadiums that is dedicated only to track and field and has eight 400 m circular tracks, four long jump pits, two high jump and pole vault pits, two shot put and javelin throw areas and a discus throw and hammer throw area. Besides numerous training events around 30 different competitions are organised at the stadium every year; whilst

schools and other educational institutions also organise various meetings, competitions and testing events for their pupils and students.

The Poljane Maribor Athletics Stadium was built in 1977. Back then, this was one of the first and one of the most modern stadiums with synthetic surfacing in Slovenia. In the same year the first competition took place, when the new facility hosted a state military athletics competition.



Since then, every year over 25 athletics competitions and around 30 other events are taking place. In recent years, the stadium has been increasingly used by pupils and students of numerous primary and secondary schools located in Maribor and its surroundings, namely for school competitions and competitions between individual school classes, PE-testings and other events. Every year the stadium hosts children from Maribor's preschools that organise various events and activities. For the past 20 years, ever since Slovenia got its independence, international athletics competitions are regularly organised in Maribor. Furthermore, many athletes professionally trained in other non-athletics disciplines are using the Poljane Stadium for their basic preparation. In short, the stadium is busy from morning when pupils are having their PE-classes till the evening when members of the Track & Field Club Poljane Maribor and the Maribor Štajerska Athletic Society perform their regular practice.

Due to its east-west geographical location the Poljane Athletics Stadium is a paradise for athletes in case of favourable weather conditions because they can achieve exceptional world-class results. In recent years, world champions, Olympic medallists and participants of world and European competitions have competed at this stadium. Because of the Polytan artificial surface



it is also possible to achieve outstanding results in case of adverse weather conditions. Athletes love to compete at the Poljane Stadium in Maribor, particularly at the annual International Athletics Meeting when all the best Slovene athletes and athletes from Europe and other continents (on their European summer tour) descend on Maribor and take part in the largest meetings.

In the late evening hours when it gets quiet for a few hours the Poljane Athletics Stadium can be used by recreational athletes as well.

In 2017, the stadium was completely renovated and is now the most modern athletics building in Slovenia. The stadium comprises about 10,000 m² of high quality surfaces, all track and field areas have been thoroughly renovated (long jump, high jump, pole vault); furthermore, the stadium infrastructure has been completely renovated so that competitions can be managed by the latest IT equipment. This consistent and thorough renovation gives professional and recreational athletes the best possible practice opportunities. For the Municipality of Maribor this high quality and modern overhaul of the athletics stadium is of utmost importance because it enables the organisation of large track and field events.

EVENTS HOSTED AT POLJANE MARIBOR ATHLETICS STADIUM:

- Slovene championships for seniors;
- Slovene Athletics Cup for seniors;
- European Cup Combined Events (2nd league);
- International Athletics Meeting for seniors;
- National School Championships in Cross Country Running for primary and secondary schools and schools with special educational programmes; and
- National Youth Athletics Championships.



TABOR FOOTBALL FIELDS

A large part of the external green areas of the Tabor Sports Park comprises four football pitches – enough space for families with children or friends to play football. All football pitches are connected with green plots with enough space for recreational athletes. The Tabor Sports Park comprises a total of 60,000 m² of well-tended green areas. The following clubs use the Tabor Football Fields: NK Železničar, Rugby Club Maribor, American football – Maribor Generals and KVN ŽNK Maribor. Other clubs from Slovenia and abroad are starting to use the fields for their training and matches.

EVENTS HOSTED AT TABOR FOOTBALL FIELDS:

- national league championship for senior and cadets (1st Slovenian Women's League);
- national league championship for boys U15, youth and cadets (1st Slovenian League);
- national league championship for seniors – FC Branik Maribor B team (1st Slovenian League);
- training camps for football teams – FC Partizan Beograd, FC Crvena Zvezda and others; and
- national cup competitions for female senior, female cadets, youth, cadets and boys U15.



ŽŠD HALL

The multi-purpose sports hall (850 m²) offers good conditions for playing basketball, volleyball or badminton. It comprises six badminton fields that are perfect for high quality training of both recreational and professional athletes. The following clubs are regularly training in the hall: BK Železničar, BK Branik, ŽTK MARIBOR and AK Poljane. In the upper rooms of the multi-purpose hall the Gomes Billiard Club has its premises, where you can play billiards every afternoon or evening.

EVENTS HOSTED AT ŽŠD HALL:

- Bodifit Convention;
- badminton tournament – national championship.



TABORTENNIS PARK

The Tabor Tennis Park comprises 13 outdoor tennis courts and a modern tennis hall with three courts.

In winter, practice and recreation are possible in air domes where five tennis courts are located.

Practice at the tennis courts is managed by ŽTK Maribor, one of the best tennis clubs in Slovenia. The high quality tennis courts will satisfy even the most demanding players.

EVENTS HOSTED AT TABORTENNIS PARK:

- Infond Open;
- Radenska Open; and
- Grawe Open.

Activity/facility	Tabor Tennis Park
Scheduled programme	208,200
Other programmes	8,220
Competitions	74,200
Recreation	105,000
Sports days, physical education and courses	50,970
Total	446,590

BRANIK TENNIS PARK

The first two tennis courts in today's Ljudski vrt were built in 1901. They were owned by the German speaking "Kasinoverein" and tennis was primarily a form of social life; therefore two courts were more than enough (they were located at today's courts numbers 5 and 6). In Maribor, tennis was introduced only around 10 years after it had been introduced in Zagreb, and the courts were among the first ones in Slovenia. During World War I the tennis activity came to a standstill.

Shortly after the war, in 1918, the two forgotten, devastated and unusable courts were bought by the Slovenian tennis enthusiast Zora Ravnik. A tennis club was founded in the framework of the ISSK, which was established in 1919. In the following years, tennis developed in the city and members of the Branik Tennis Club achieved great results.

The latest great achievement (in 2016) was the construction of a unique "US OPEN" Deco Turf court and three mini courts for children. This means that at the Branik Tennis Club, competitions and tennis lessons can be organised and recreational tennis can be played throughout the entire year.

This surface is very easy to maintain and has very good characteristics; it is extremely player-friendly (consistent rebound of the ball, less knee and ankle injuries, easier movement of players).

EVENTS HOSTED BY THE BRANIK TENNIS CLUB:

- Bergant Memorial (every year, the biggest international competition for boys and girls aged 14-16, organised by the European Tennis Association);
- ZM Open – from 2012 till 2016 (ITF international professional women's tournament);
- Fredi Memorial (annually, former Večer Tournament, national traditional tournament for boys and girls aged up to 12 years);
- Branik Tennis Club Day (all generations of the Branik Tennis Club who have played so far, every year in September).



PRISTAN SWIMMING BATHS

The Pristan Swimming Baths is a large complex of indoor pools in a total size of 3,480 m²; the pools itself comprise 1,875 m², other pool areas 1,322 m².

The following facilities can be used for practice and recreation:

- olympic pool (pool size: 50 m x 25 m; depth: 2 m; length: 50 m = 10 lanes or 25 m = 18 lanes);
- middle-sized pool (closed due to renovations; pool size: 25 m x 17 m; depth: 2 m, at the diving board: 4 m; length: 25 m = 6 lanes);
- small pool (pool size: 17 m x 1 m; depth: 1.07 m); and a
- children's pool.

Visitors can freely use water polo goals, balls and other swimming equipment (surfs, pool noodles, etc.). Furthermore, the meeting room with a projector, tables and seats for approximately 30 persons can be rented. The old part of the swimming baths comprises a 310.50 m² large changing room with 136 lockers and 4 large changing booths with 37 hangers, well-maintained showers and toilets. The Olympic pool area comprises a 145 m² large changing room with 4 large changing booths and 100 hangers, well-maintained showers and toilets.

The swimming baths are used by many sports clubs: Branik Maribor Swimming Club, Branik Academic Water Polo Club, Maribor Swimming Association, Maribor Diving Association, Maribor Triathlon Club, H2o Team Sports Club, Maribor Water Basketball Association and the Pro Dive Diving Club as well as the Swimclinic, which organise many events in the swimming baths: water polo competitions for seniors, tournaments, national championships, international swimming meetings, international competitions, tournaments and diving courses. Because the swimming baths are located in close vicinity to the Drava river, rowing organisations have their premises at the baths – among others the Maribor Rafting Club and the Students Rowing Association.

EVENTS HOSTED BY THE PRISTAN SWIMMING BATHS:

- Božič Memorial;
- International meeting MM Maribor;
- International meeting Pomlad;
- Adriatic Water Polo League;
- Martin Tournament; and
- National Swimming Championship.



Activity/facility	Pristan Swimming Baths
Scheduled programme	31,928
Other programmes	6,820
Competitions	10,500
Recreation	30,481
Sports days, physical education and courses	25,863
Total	105,592

LJUDSKI VRT STADIUM

The Ljudski vrt Stadium is a stadium in Maribor that fulfils all requirements of the European Football Association for playing international matches. Ljudski vrt is a natural, cultural, architectural and sporting attraction of Maribor. Since 1961 it has been used for football purposes. It was named after the Volksgarten Tree Park in Maribor, which was established at the location of today's stadium in 1873. Later on, the park was transformed into a military shooting range. The first football field was built in 1920.

The Ljudski Vrt Stadium comprises 12,782 m². The sports facility includes a football field, spectator stands and auxiliary buildings. The football field (105 m x 68 m) fulfils all requirements of the European Football

Association for the playing of international matches. The stands can hold up to 12,702 spectators. The facility is used for sport practice and football matches (FC Maribor, Football Association of Slovenia) as well as for cultural and entertainment events. Located underneath the eastern spectator stands, is a gym for martial arts where judo (Branik Judo Club), karate (Branik Karate Club) and aikido (Branik Aikido Club) is practiced, as well as a court for basketball (AKK BRANIK), volleyball (OK NKBM) and badminton (Branik Badminton Club), used especially by junior teams. Under the western spectator stands, a gym for fencing and the football school are located.



The Ljudski Vrt Stadium is very important for Maribor and its surroundings because it is a major driving force for sports tourism in this area. When European matches are played, more tourists are visiting the city and the number of overnight stays, visits to restaurants and other events increase.



EVENTS HOSTED BY THE LJUDSKI VRT STADIUM:

- Slovenian First Football League;
- UEFA Champions League;
- UEFA Europa League;
- matches of the Slovenia national football team; and
- European Under-17 Championship.



Activity/facility	Ljudski vrt Stadium
Scheduled programme	184,550
Other programmes	12,120
Competitions	24,970
Recreation	-
Sports days, physical education and courses	59,140
Total	280,780

LUKNA HALL

The Ljudski vrt – Lukna Sports Hall is the sports hall with the largest floor area in the country. The total floor area is 1,525 m² (58 x 26.30 m), the height is 14 m.



The hall can be divided into two basketball or four volleyball courts, six badminton courts, table tennis courts or surfaces for martial arts. The capacity of the spectators stand is 2,100 seats. 500 additional seats can be added for larger events.

The hall comprises eight changing rooms and rooms for VIPs, doping control, journalists and TV broadcasts. The hall is used for physical education classes of secondary

schools, sport practice and competitions in handball, basketball, volleyball, indoor football, badminton, table tennis, martial arts and artistic and rhythmic gymnastics. Furthermore, cultural and entertainment events are organised at the hall.

The following associations are using it for their practice: AKK Branik, OK NKBM, ŽRK Branik, DŠRG Branik.



EVENTS HOSTED BY LUKNA HALL:

- European TeamGym Championships;
- European Junior and Cadet Championships;
- Volleyball matches of OK NKBM; and
- Maribor's Athlete of the Year Maribor.



KAMNICA HIPPODROME

In Maribor, the equestrian sport has a long tradition. The city was well known for its exciting horse races and excellent racehorses. The Hippodrome houses the Piramida Trotting Association and the Maribor Riding Club – both are developing the equestrian sport in Maribor. At the Hippodrome everyone can establish their first bonds with horses and make the first steps towards horse riding.

EVENTS HOSTED BY KAMNICA HIPPODROME:

- international harness race;
- show jumping competitions; and
- equestrian theatrical performance “Konjenikova Pot”.



Activity/facility	Kamnica Hippodrome
Scheduled programme	29,124
Other programmes	-
Competitions	3,160
Recreation	-
Sports days, physical education and courses	-
Total	32,284

MARIBORSKI OTOK OUTDOOR SWIMMING BATHS

Mariborski otok is a unique river-type island in Slovenia. It is located in close vicinity to the Kamnica settlement, which is only five kilometres away from the centre of Maribor, in the direction of the Koroška region. Access is possible via a well-maintained path along the Drava river.

Mariborski otok was granted the title of:

- a natural attraction as early as 1951,
- and a natural monument in 1992 – Ordinance on the Declaration of Natural Attractions in the Maribor Municipality Area, Inter-municipal official gazette no. 17/92.



Activity/facility	Mariborski otok Outdoor Swimming Baths
Scheduled programme	-
Other programmes	-
Competitions	-
Recreation	28,995
Sports days, physical education and courses	-
Total	28,995

MARIBOR POHORJE SKI RESORT

Pohorje is a low forest-covered mountain range in the north of Slovenia. It is surrounded by the second largest city in Slovenia, Maribor, to the east, Dravograd to the west and Slovenske Konjice to the south. It extends over 1000 km² to the south of the Drava river. The dense forest area doesn't have any distinctive peaks. The highest peak is called Črni vrh. Geologically, Pohorje belongs to the Central Eastern Alps. For centuries Pohorje maintained its pristine natural beauty. Its slopes and forests, once known in folklore for dwarfs and other fairytale creatures, are the perfect place for skiing, relaxing and enjoying in nature, sports and events.

The Maribor Pohorje Ski Resort is the largest ski resort in Slovenia, located south of Maribor, in the area of Maribor and Arh Pohorje. It has 42 km of ski slopes (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and 19 different ski lifts.

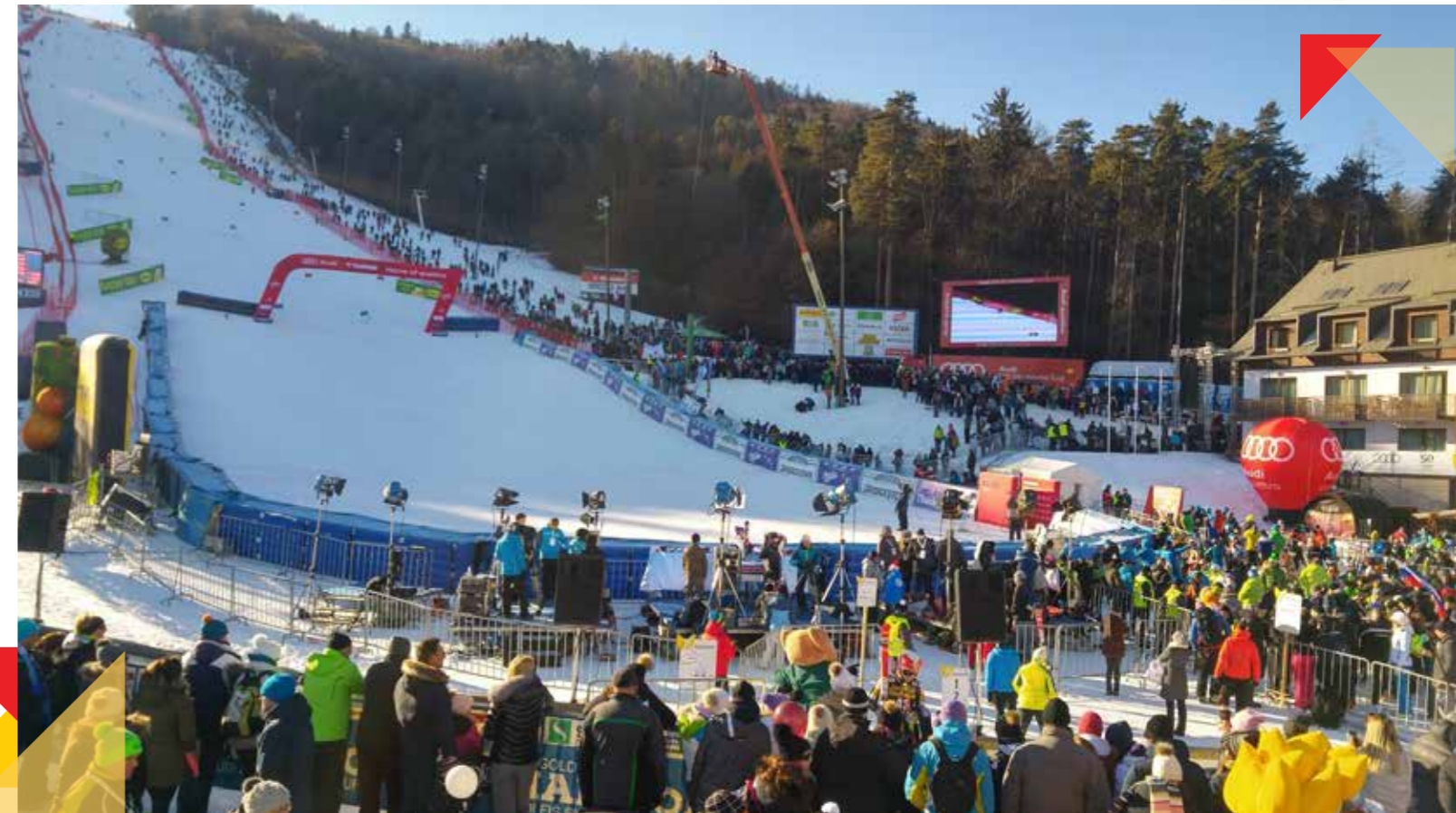
The main one is the circular cable-car Pohorska vzpenjača, which has been operating since 1957; in 2009 a completely new cable-car was installed. The Maribor Pohorje Ski Resort is also known to have the longest night skiing trail in Europe; the 10 km of ski

slopes for night skiing are suitable for beginners as well as for more advanced skiers and snowboarders.

Besides skiing, snowboarding and cross-country skiing you can also engage in other winter activities like sledging, ski seat riding and panoramic snowmobile rides. The ski resort is known throughout the world because it hosts the women's competition for the FIS Ski World Cup called the Golden Fox.



During the ski season 2016/2017 the public company Marprom that manages the lifts and slopes at Pohorje sold over 112,000 daily ski passes. Furthermore, 2,000 season ski passes were sold. In the last winter season, skiing at the Pohorje Resort was possible on 113 days.



Pohorje is a popular sports centre in summer as well, when visitors can engage in various activities and relax in nature. The summer possibilities includes hiking and mountain path trips, exciting experiences in the Pohorje Bike Park, the summer slide run Pohor Jet and the toboggan slide Mini Jet, the Monster Rollers and a gigantic swing.

The Pohorje Bike Park comprises tracks of different lengths and difficulty levels for exhilarating mountain bike rides. At the moment, the approximately 7 km long track Flow Line is operating, which leads from the upper circular cable-car station to the valley and is also suitable for less experienced riders. At the lower circular cable-car station there is also an even less demanding track, the Pump Track. The public company Marprom is also currently preparing the black World Cup track and the red Freeride track.



OUTDOOR FITNESS PARKS

In Maribor there are two outdoor fitness parks, one at the Magdalena Park and the other at the Tabor Sports Park. All equipment can be used free of charge and it serves its purpose – giving the citizens the possibility to engage in the ever more popular street workout.

The workout equipment is eco-friendly, it doesn't need electricity, it is protected from corrosion and has a long service life. Two workout sets were selected – the CALISTHENICS CAGE and the STREET WORKOUT COMPLEX 08. They are made of high quality inox material.

Since December 2016, the Tabor Sports Park has also boasted a street workout park. The outdoor fitness equipment at the Tabor Sports Park is used by athletes (who train at the "Železničar" premises) and other citizens of Maribor who come to the urban sports courts (volleyball, basketball, football) to have fun and be active. It would increasingly seem that the citizens who come to use the urban sports courts are incorporating use of the conveniently located fitness equipment during their visit.

Thus, the number of outdoor fitness park users is increasing. The park is the busiest from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. during the week and from 4.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on

weekends. Outdoor exercise in terms of circuit workouts and bodyweight/resistance exercises are getting more popular every day.

The park is very busy at times and sometimes visitors even have to wait their turn to use a piece of equipment.



In the summer months the park is even busier because of school holidays. The important thing is that the facilities are free of charge and there are no time limits.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORTS AREAS

The sports premises of local primary schools comprise 70 sport facilities, 38 indoor areas (total size 10,000 m²) and 32 outdoor areas (total size 31,000 m²). The outdoor areas comprise 14 handball courts, 9 basketball courts, 4 volleyball courts, a football court and a tennis court. The indoor sports areas are a jump pit, various outdoor courts and a running track. The indoor areas are used for basketball, badminton, volleyball, other sports and sports games.

The sports premises of local secondary schools comprise 18 sport facilities, 16 indoor areas (total size over 6,000 m²) and 2 outdoor areas. The outdoor sports areas include a handball court and a volleyball court. The indoor areas are used for volleyball, badminton, handball, basketball, other sports and sports games as well as fitness and dance workshops.



2.2 LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES SUBJECT TO PRIVATE MANAGEMENT

LEON ŠTUKELJ UNIVERSITY SPORTS CENTRE

The capacities of the University of Maribor's Leon Štukelj University Sports Centre, which was opened to students and employees of the university in the 1995/96 academic year, are as follows:

- Large hall – 1,898 m² (34.60 m × 55.60 m) , divisible into three sections – can accommodate a variety of sports: volleyball, basketball, badminton, handball, mini football, and table tennis;
- Martial arts hall – 113 m² – for aikido, karate and judo, physical preparation and yoga;
- Aerobics and dance hall – 113 m² – for aerobics, dance and rhythmic gymnastics;
- Squash hall – two courts, 125 m² each;
- Fitness hall – two rooms, 130 m² in total;
- City Wall climbing wall – 160 m² – for sports climbing;
- Sauna – dry sauna for up to 6 people.

Additional facilities comprise eight changing rooms with toilet facilities and eight offices for teachers, coaches and referees.

A small lecture hall with 20 seats and a large lecture hall with 80 seats are available for any theory lessons. The centre features spectator seating with a capacity of over 800, as well as standing room on the balcony.



UNIVERSITY OUTDOOR FITNESS PARK

In May 2015, the Maribor Student Dormitories opened a sports/outdoor fitness park (Outdoor Fitness Street Workout) with fifteen modern exercise machines on a surface area of 250 m² in the campus on Gosposvetska cesta. The outdoor fitness park is primarily intended for residents of the Student Dormitories, but is also available to other students of the University of Maribor and external users for a nominal fee.

The primary aim of the outdoor fitness park is to encourage students of the University of Maribor to be more active, maintain their physical fitness and develop a positive attitude towards healthy living, in line with the university's commitment to sustainability and social responsibility.



BRESTERNICA ROWING CENTRE

The sports infrastructure consists of the Maribor rowing centre, a boat hangar and an outdoor sports ground. The total surface area of the facilities is 1,450 m². The centre is managed by the Dravske elektrarne Maribor Rowing Club.

The manager operates and maintains the sports and leisure infrastructure, implements annual sports programmes within the municipality, organises training and recreational sports activities, rowing competitions and various other sports events, and runs tourist and catering activities.



The rowing centre building is the central facility of the Drava rowing centre. Total surface area of the building is 700 m².

The building contains:

- business premises;
- a gym with a fitness room (450 m²);
- changing rooms;
- a boat hangar (300 m²) for boat storage; and
- a boat maintenance workshop.

The outdoor sports ground with a surface area of 450 m² is part of the rowing centre. The sports ground is open to members of the club as well as other users.

The rowing centre is intended for rowing training and competitions, recreation and tourist programmes. The centre is used by over 18,000 people every year.

SIDRO BRESTERNICA BOATHOUSE

The Bresternica boathouse is located by Lake Bresternica, where, in the direct vicinity of Maribor, the Drava widens and flows into the reservoir of the Mariborski otok hydroelectric power plant. The Sidro Boating Society manages the hangar and the boat storage enclosure, as well as part of the lake's shore, and the beautiful river marina.

MARINKO GALIČ SPORTS CENTRE

Not far from the city, surrounded by the beautiful natural habitat below Pekrska gorca, is the Marinko Galič Sports Centre. Its sports facilities include an indoor football field with artificial turf, two beach volleyball courts and a multi-purpose sports ground (basketball, mini football and in-line hockey). Children can play on the playground by the café's terrace, which features a wooden play tower with two slides and a climbing frame, a swing bridge and a swing.

DRAVA SPORTS CENTRE

The Drava Centre offers activities such as:

- kayaking, canoeing, sailing, stand-up paddle boarding and slacklining as well as sports equipment and activities in all its sports facilities;
- guided sports activities for children, youth and adults,
- group boat rental,
- organised and guided sports activities for adults (“night-time kayaking by the full moon”, “DC night-time rowing”, “cycling & kayaking”); and
- a variety of courses and group and individual lessons (sailing, rowing, slacklining and surfing).



BOLFENK FOOTBALL CAMP

The Bolfenk football camp is located at the top of Pohorje, 1050 m above sea level, and is suitable for altitude training, offering a football field with 4th generation artificial turf (80 m × 45 m). The natural grass football fields on the foothills of Pohorje are most easily accessible by cable car.



TERME MARIBOR

Terme Maribor d.o.o. is a major Slovenian provider of tourist services. Their activities, which include hotel, congress, medical, wellness, food, catering and trade services, are provided at the following facilities:

- Hotels below Pohorje
 - Hotel Habakuk 4*
 - Hotel Arena 4*
 - Hotel Arena Annex 3*
- Hotels on Pohorje
 - Hotel Bellevue 4*
 - Hotel & App Bolfenk 4*
 - Hotel & App Videc 3*
- Hotels in Maribor
 - Best Western Plus Piramida 4*
 - Hotel Orel 3*
 - Youth Hostel Uni

EVENTS HOSTED BY TERME MARIBOR:

- 2016 EMF Champions League (mini football)
- 2016 Medigames (World Medical and Health Games)
- 2017 Eurolawyers (European Football Cup for Lawyers)



DRAŠ SPORTS CENTRE

The Draš Sports Centre is located in the beautiful natural environment below the slopes of Pohorje, only a few minutes away from the city centre. It offers two football fields with latest-generation artificial turf and a multi-purpose court for badminton and volleyball. Two beach volleyball courts are also available during the summer. The sports and event centre's design allows the sports grounds to be adapted to the needs of different events very quickly. The centre can also accommodate various business, cultural and entertainment events.

The Draš Sports Centre is regularly visited by foreign national volleyball teams, who use the court and the area surrounding Pohorje for their summer preparations.



EVENTS HOSTED BY DRAŠ SPORTS CENTRE:

National volleyball teams: Canadian, Slovenian, Slovenian women's, Ukraine, Sweden, USA, Qatar, Qatar junior, Israel, Belgium, England, Iran, Slovakia, Hungarian, Montenegro, Tunisian, Azerbaijan women's, Macedonia, Greece, Turkey women's, Turkey, China, Mexico women's, Kuwait and Volero Zurich women's, Arkas, Dynamo Moscow women's.

PLAYGREEN FOOTBALL CAMP

The Playgreen Football Camp was constructed in 2006. Situated below the Pohorje foothills, it features:

- 4 FIFA standard football fields (on terraces);
- Natural grass;
- Drainage system;
- Watering with eco-friendly water;
- Direct proximity to hotel accommodations and the centre of Maribor; and
- Proximity to several airports: Maribor – Graz – Ljubljana – Zagreb

EVENTS HOSTED BY PLAY GREEN FOOTBAL CAMP:

- Collaboration with over 100 professional clubs and teams from around the world, most notably: FC Dinamo Zagreb, FC Partizan, FC Arsenal Kyiv, FC Bayer Leverkusen, FC Villarreal, FC Apoel, FC Panathinaikos, FC Lokomotiv Moscow, FC Maccabi, FC Glasgow Rangers, FC Braga, FC Birmingham, FC Celtic, FC Sporting, FC Chelsea, FC Schalke
- Collaboration with the Football Association of Slovenia.
- Collaboration with UEFA on the final tournament of the 2011 European U-17 Football Championship.





There are also a number of other non-public (privately owned) sports facilities in the Municipality of Maribor for a variety of sports, including:

- Tennis: Mima Tennis Club, Kamnica Tennis Club, Zrkovci Tennis Club (tennis and beach volleyball), Radvanje Tennis Club, Pekre Tennis Club;
- Fitness: Bodifit fitness centre, Brezje fitness centre, Forma fitness centre, Sokol fitness centre, Slavija fitness centre, Fitinn fitness centre, Unifit fitness centre;
- Swimming: Habakuk swimming baths;
- Bowling: Lokomotiva Bowling Club;
- Shooting: Železničar Shooting Society;
- Badminton: badminton courts below Pohorje;
- Bocce: Angel Besednjak Bocce Club, Tabor Pensioners' Society Bocce Club; and
- Beach volleyball.

2.3 INVESTMENTS IN SPORT FACILITIES

The Municipality of Maribor's largest investments in sports facilities during the period 2015–2016 were as follows:

2016

- Protective covering for parquet in the Tabor Sports Hall = €15,082
- Tabor Sports Park athletic track restoration = €243,817
- Roof restoration at the Branik Bocce Club = €6,715
- Roof restoration study for the western stands of the Ljudski vrt stadium = €4,973
- Works on one of the platforms of the Ljudski vrt Stadium = €39,937
- Restoration of changing rooms at the Branik Tennis Club = €14,115
- Urgent restoration of sports flooring at the Lukna Sports Hall = €129,848
- Removal of the sports flooring in the Lukna Sports Hall = €18,699
- Water drainage system for the Lukna Sports Hall = €37,207
- Boiler room at the Lukna Sports Hall = €5,035
- Electrical installations at the horse racing track = €3,64

2015

- Restoration of wheels on stands in the Tabor sports Hall = €12,358
- Tabor Sports Hall parquet = €55,289
- Tabor Sports Hall server = €11,593
- Curling stones for the Ledna dvorana Ice skating Hall = €9,000
- Restoration of the compressor at the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall = €8,974
- Design documentation for the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall = €118,091
- Restoration of platform flooring at the Ljudski vrt Stadium = €51,578
- Restoration due to leakage at the Ljudski vrt Stadium = €20,445
- Artificial turf for the Ljudski vrt Stadium = €141,072
- Swimming lanes at the Pristan Swimming Baths = €12,682
- Starting blocks for the Pristan Swimming Baths = €5,085
- Fence supply and installation at the Tabor Sports Park = €9,974
- Hammer and discus throw cage at the Tabor Sports Park = €17,673
- Tabor Sports Park roofing replacement = €6,343

2014

- Tabor Sports Hall emergency lighting = €17,839
- Tabor Sports Hall parquet replacement = €86,037
- Utility infrastructure for the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall = €71,204
- Restoration of the compressor at the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall = €19,896
- Design documentation for the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall = €14,432
- Lawnmower for the Ljudski vrt Stadium = €23,033
- Ljudski vrt Stadium condition assessment = €19,844
- Ljudski vrt Stadium roof restoration = €47,391
- Blinds for the Mariborski otok Swimming Baths = €3,984
- Cleaning unit for the Pristan Swimming Baths = €17,809
- Restoration of standing areas at the athletics stadium = €19,947
- Tabor Sports Park floodlights = €19,980
- Furnace replacement = €10,016

2.4 PLANNED SPORTS FACILITIES AND PROJECTS

The allocated funds will be used for major maintenance and the purchase equipment totalling €1,500,000 for the public and other sports facilities owned by the Municipality of Maribor. We have submitted the following projects within the area of responsibility of Športni objekti Maribor to the Sports Foundation:

- the Poljane athletic track;
- the artificial turf football field at the Tabor Sports Park;
- the construction of a field for rugby, American football and other sports;
- the restoration of the fitness room at the Tabor Sports Hall; and
- construction, finishing and installation works, including energy rehabilitation, at the Pristan Swimming Baths.

In the region of Mariborsko Pohorje, we have submitted two projects to the Sports Foundation, one for the update of the beginners' training area (for skiers and snowboarders) and one for the update of the competitors' training area. Another key project will be the implementation of a high-quality automated snowmaking system.

The Municipality of Maribor will give priority to projects that will receive funding from the Sports Foundation. The estimated total value of the above projects is over €2,000,000.

Also the Tabor Hall, the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall (including energy rehabilitation) and the western stand at the Ljudski vrt Stadium are planned for renovation by 2023.

The following new sports facilities are planned for constructed by 2023:

- the Mariborski otok Swimming Baths (public-private partnership);
- the Tennis Centre hall at the Ljudski vrt Stadium;
- a bowling alley at the Tabor Sports Hall and
- Renovation or construction of indoor courts and outdoor sports surfaces at various primary and secondary schools.

In February 2016 the city council of the Municipality of Maribor adopted the Sustainable Urban Strategy, a strategic document of the city that provides the foundation for the drawing of European funds in the 2014–2020 cohesion period. By adopting the strategy, Maribor gained a basis for drawing EU funds available until 2020 under the Cohesion Policy.



With an integrated approach to planning and implementing investments in the area of sustainable urban development as part of the Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) mechanism, cities are focused on:

- making cities and urban areas more attractive;
- rejuvenating cities and urban areas (particularly residential neighbourhoods and poorly utilised and degraded areas in cities);
- reinforcing the economic, residential and supply functions of cities;
- providing conditions for sustainable mobility;
- improving the quality of the environment and city living; and ensuring the great social inclusion and cooperation of residents of urban areas.

The EU funds for sports and recreational infrastructure are planned to be used to construct a new skate park by Pekrski potok and for part of the Drava Cycling Route between Dravograd and Maribor.

MARIBOR SKATE PARK

By encouraging youth to engage in urban sports, we can help them spend their leisure time more actively on an individual level and adopt an active lifestyle in general.

The skate park will comprise four main sections:

- an upper platform with a pool;
- a lower platform featuring urban-style elements;
- a children's training area; and
- a house that will serve as a district culture, sports and youth centre. It will also be used for other activities (dance and music events and workshops, photography and film workshops, information point, computer room, multimedia room, social area and storage area).

The park will enable the organisation of schools for various urban sports as well as interregional and international competitions under the auspices of recognised international organisations. The investment is prudent, as it will enable the organisation of youth centres and the provision of surfaces for youth activities. By renovating the existing skate park, young people will gain surfaces suitable for hosting large events, competitions and active socialising.



Estimated project value: €366,671

Project start: 2017

Project completion: 2019

DRAVA CYCLING ROUTE

The Drava Cycling Route, an international cycling route, spans from the spring of the Drava in Italy, following cycling routes along the river through the Austrian state of Carinthia to Dravograd and continuing along roads with low levels of traffic to Maribor and then on to Ormož. The Drava flows alongside the cyclist most of the way to Maribor and onwards to Ptuj and Ormož, for a total of 129 km.



The newly opened section of the cycling route extending from the Vič border crossing, through Dravograd to Maribor and on to Ptuj and Ormož is part of an international cycling route between Italy, Austria and Slovenia.

PROJECT 1: MARIBOR–RUŠE SUBSECTION

The Municipality of Maribor will construct an 11.2 km two-way cycling route between Ruše and Maribor, along with the necessary support infrastructure, which will be compliant with the standards applicable to long-distance cycling routes.

PROJECT 2: MARIBOR–DUPELEK SUBSECTION

The project will involve the construction of a 4.5 km two-way cycling route from Maribor (Malečnik) to Duplek (municipality border).



Estimated project value: €358,000

Project start: 2017

Project completion: 2019

3

CLUBS AND
COMPETITIONS



3.1 SPORT CLUBS

There are more than 300 active sports clubs and societies in Maribor, 180 of which are members of the Sports Federation of Maribor. Those clubs and societies have a total of some 30,000 members between them, which constitutes 30% of the population.

In all those organisations, people engage in sports on a recreational and professional level. Famous for the exceptional athletes it produces, Maribor is also known as the City of Sports. At every Olympics, Slovenia is represented by quite a few members of our clubs. Many of them are permanent members of our national teams and attend European and world championships on a regular basis. The top name at the moment is Ilka Štuhec, a member of the Branik Alpine Skiing Club and the current downhill world champion, who will be going for gold at next year's Winter Olympics. Her fellow club member, Boštjan Kline, will also be on the shortlist of favourites. We have exceptional swimmers, track and field athletes, martial arts masters, and more. Our footballers are the current national champions and have

competed in the group stage of the Champions League on two separate occasions. A large proportion of young people in Maribor are actively involved in sports as well. Without a doubt, Maribor is extremely proud of its athletes.

The following clubs and societies, whose results have contributed to Maribor's visibility and the popularisation of their respective sports in the city and throughout the region, are notable in particular:

BRANIK ALPINE SKIING CLUB

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@ask-branik.si

Website: www.ask-branik.si

Skiing courses, alpine skiing school, competitive sports

MARIBOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@nkmaribor.com

Website: www.nkmaribor.com

MARIBOR ŠTAJERSKA ATHLETIC SOCIETY

Engelsova ulica 6

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@ad-stajerska.si

Website: www.ad-stajerska.si

Athletic nursery school, children's athletics, youth and senior athletics, recreational sports

MARIBOR BREZJE FUTSAL CLUB

Ulica Borcev 27

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: vinko.gajser@eles.si

Website: www.sdbrezje.si

MARIBOR BRANIK RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS SOCIETY

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: dsrgbranik@gmail.com

Website: www.dsrgbranik.si

MARIBOR CENTRE SPORTS SOCIETY

Mladinska ulica 12a

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: sd.center.maribor@gmail.com

Website: www.gimnastika-maribor.si

Competitive gymnastics, recreational gymnastics

BRANIK BROKER JUDO CLUB

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: judo.branik@gmail.com

Website: www.judobranik.si

MARIBOR BRANIK CYCLING SOCIETY

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: kd.branik@triera.net

Website: www.kd-branik.com

Road cycling

MARIBOR BRANIK SWIMMING CLUB

Koroška cesta 33

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: plavalniklubbranik@siol.net

Website: www.plavalniklub-branik.si

Swimming school, competitive programme

MARIBOR PINGI DANCE CLUB

Plečnikova 9

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@pk-pingi.si

Website: www.pk-pingi.si

MARIBOR RAILWAY TENNIS CLUB

Popovičeva ulica 8

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@ztk.si*Website:* www.ztk.si

Tennis school, competitive tennis, recreational tennis

MARIBOR VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Engelsova ulica 6

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: ok-maribor@amis.net*Website:* http://www.okmaribor.si

Men's volleyball club

NOVA KBM BRANIK VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Mladinska ulica 29

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: volley.branik@siol.net*Website:* www.branik-nkbm.si**MARIBOR HOCKEY AND ICE SKATING CLUB**

Koresova ulica 7

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: hokejskiklubmaribor@siol.net*Website:* www.lisjaki.net

Men's and women's hockey

MARIBOR BRANIK HANDBALL CLUB

Mladinska ulica 29/1

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: info@rk-maribor.si*Website:* www.rk-maribor.si**ASSOCIATION OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING
PODRAVJE MARIBOR**

Trubarjeva 15

SI-2000 Maribor

Email: dgn.maribor@guest.arnes.si*Website:* www.dgnp-mb.si/**3.2 COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY SPORTS
FEDERATION OF MARIBOR MUNICIPALITY**

The Sports Federation of Maribor is an independent non-governmental and non-profit organisation. Operating since 1967, it brings together more than 180 Maribor sports clubs, societies and federations, enabling them to more easily exercise their common rights and pursue their common interests. The Sports Federation of Maribor is recognised as an organisation working in the public interest and is a proud partner of the Slovenian Olympic Committee, national sports associations and other sports organisations operating in the local and broader community. The Sports Federation of Maribor also acts as and performs the

duties of the Regional Office of the Slovenian Olympic Committee & Association of Sports Federations for Podravje – as a part of which the Sports Federation of Maribor collaborates with 17 other municipalities and their sports associations and societies.



The goal of the Sports Federation of Maribor is to ensure the balanced development of sports within amateur sports associations, professional sports associations, the University and other educational institutions.

The Federation's duties include:

- duties in relation to the implementation of sports programmes in the Maribor region;
- representing the members of the Sports Federation of Maribor in matters of common interest;
- developing and strengthening relations with other sports federations in Slovenia and abroad;
- collaborating with all federations in the Republic of Slovenia engaged in sports-related activities;
- promoting sports and recreation among citizens;
- promoting and organising sporting events;
- informing members of the Sports Federation of Maribor of new developments in relation to the sports-related activities of societies;
- encouraging members of sports societies and associations and educational institutions in Maribor to take an active part in sports competitions;
- organising various lectures, seminars and courses for members of the Sports Federation of Maribor;

- other agreed duties for the benefit of sports in Maribor;
- participating in the selection of the "Athlete of the Year"; and
- presenting awards to athletes, sports professionals, societies, schools, nursery schools, the University and other organisations.

MARIBOR SPORTS WEEKEND

The Maribor Sports Weekend is the largest recreational event in the region. On the first weekend each June, people of all generations are invited to take advantage of all the sports and recreation surfaces, facilities and equipment that are available to them free of charge. The event takes place at 20 locations and is organised in collaboration with more than 30 sports societies. This year's iteration of the event, which is attended by more than 30,000 people each year, was the 27th in a row.



MARIBOR CITY RUN & MARIBOR SPORTS FESTIVAL

The Maribor City Run is currently the largest running event in Maribor. The first run took place in 2016 and was met with an outstanding response from runners. Its unique route leads runners through the city centre, past all of Maribor's most important natural and cultural attractions.

The inaugural event gave sports in Maribor a healthy boost, with over 1,000 people joining the run. The run also had a charitable element, raising more than €1,800 for the Friends of Youth Association.

The event is complemented by the Maribor Sports Festival, which takes place at the same time in the city's central square and gives people a chance to play some tennis, get some exercise and try their hand at different sports. With the aim of raising the event to an even higher level, in the 2017 event children's runs were added to the programme and more than a thousand children are expected to attend.



MARIBOR'S ATHLETE OF THE YEAR CONTEST

The Sports Federation believes that Maribor is home to exceptional athletes who are also great people and act as role models for younger generations. The fact that our athletes are involved in more than 50 different sports proves that our city lives for sports. For that reason, the Federation holds the contest for Maribor's Athlete of the Year in collaboration with the Municipality of Maribor every year as a tribute to our champions, who work for days, weeks and months to make us proud with their exceptional achievements. The event is very well organised and is attended, in addition to all the top athletes of Maribor, by nearly all of the city's most prominent figures.



3.3 THE UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION MARIBOR

The University Sports Association Maribor (hereinafter UŠZM), which operates under the motto ZDRAVA ZABAVA, was founded in 1998 as a union of student sports associations operating in the field of the University of Maribor. At the same time as the founding, the Student Organization of the University of Maribor (ŠOUM) was entrusted with the responsibilities and responsibilities for the organization and implementation of student interest-related activities in the field of sport. This was done with a concession contract. The main purpose of the UŠZM, together with the members, is the preparation and implementation of sports programs to a large extent intended for students and students of the University of Maribor. The main feature of these programs is their attractiveness and accessibility, so that they include as many students as possible. In this way, we try to enable active sporting activity and acquire new knowledge in the field of sports to the widest possible range of students.



THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF OUR PROGRAM CONSISTS OF:

- Recreation - the possibility of recreation for all members, who have at their disposal various sports sectors, which are performed mostly in the Vrbanska sports hall (basketball, volleyball, mini-football, badminton, speedminton, table tennis, group exercise, martial arts).
- Student sports competitions - under the auspices of HEALTHY ENTERTAINMENT, student leagues and tournaments are held in indoor team and individual sporting disciplines (basketball, soccer, volleyball, badminton).
- Massively-Recreational Events - Healthy Entertainment organizes several massive events, attended by hundreds of people. We present our programs at the ZZ Festival of Sports, where you can try out several sports activities for free; The ZZ-rolling place allows skilful fans to occupy the city streets; Just down the stairs to the Calvary is a real challenge, as it is necessary to beat 455 steps to the top; The marathon of aerobics, however, is especially inspired by members of the gentle gender.



- Sport schools and courses - they could be divided into two parts. The first part, where professional training is involved, and the students receive the title of the instructor, a teacher (for example, skiing, swimming, boarding, aerobics, ...), while the second part offers participants the knowledge of the basics Upgrading to certain sports disciplines (eg rolling, skiing, swimming, diving, sailing, etc.)
- Providing cheaper access to the inclusion of sports programs prepared by others (eg student ski passes, fitness tickets and saunas, action sales of sports products, discounts in stores with sports equipment ...)
- Organization of student competitions:
 - state university championships
 - European University Championships
 - World University Championships

4

SPORTS
EVENTS





4 SPORTS EVENTS

Each year, Maribor hosts a number of sports events that are co-financed by the Municipality of Maribor with provision from its local budget. The municipality also assists in the organisation and execution of events, the provision of sports infrastructure, security, transport, as well as the reception of guests and the provision of guest entertainment. The sports events are laid down in the Annual Sports Programme.

THE MOST IMPORTANT CO-FINANCED EVENTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- International chess tournament;
- Skerbinek volleyball memorial;
- International rowing meeting;
- Božič swimming memorial;
- Šalamun gymnastics memorial;
- International athletics meeting; and
- a number of other events that meet the requirements and criteria for selection under the Rules on the Co-financing of the Annual Sports Programme.



MARIBOR - EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORT 2018 candidate

ANNUAL MASS RECREATION EVENTS:

- Maribor Sports Weekend;
- Winter Sports Weekend;
- Maribor City Run;
- Maribor Sports Festival; and
- Spring Sports Festival.



CITY SPORTS AND RECREATION EVENTS:

- ZZ City on Wheels;
- Night Run to Kalvarija;
- Cycling Marathon around Pohorje;
- 2017 Team Time Ride; and
- 2017 Pohorje Bike Ride.



Every year, the municipality of Maribor also hosts various European and world championships and world cups, which contribute greatly to the city's visibility.

IN 2017, THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARIBOR HOSTED OR IS DUE TO HOST THE FOLLOWING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

- Junior European Judo Championships;
- European Shooting Championship 10 m;
- Veterans World Fencing Championship;
- Ski World Cup (Zlata lisica);
- Taekwon-Do World Cup (WTF); and
- The European Wine-Makers Football Championship.

IN 2018, MARIBOR WILL HOST THE FOLLOWING:

- European Veterans Basketball Championship;
- Senior and Junior European Taekwon-Do Championships;
- European Kickboxing Championship; and
- The Women's World Ice Hockey Championship.

The Municipality of Maribor also allocates funds each year to co-finance sports events that promote the city as a sports and tourist destination. In 2017 the city will host the Maribor Beach Volleyball Festival and the 2017 City Games – Games Without Frontiers.



5

TRAINING COURSES,
WORKSHOPS AND
CONFERENCES



EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINERS AND COACHES

Based on the Annual Sports Programme of the Municipality of Maribor, the Rules on the Co-financing of the Annual Sports Programme of the Municipality of Maribor and the public call for proposals, providers of sports services can apply for the Basic and Advanced Employee Training programme. This programme is aimed at co-financing the education of support staff that will carry out activities in sports training for youth and sports for persons with disabilities. All this is in accordance with programmes accepted by the national professional sports federations and other institutions.

The Strategy identified the following strategic goals:

- raising the level of sports workers' expertise;
- increasing the annual number of newly educated sports support staff by 5% per year;
- becoming the main educational centre for non-professional support staff in northeastern Slovenia; and
- increasing the accessibility and competitiveness of basic and advanced training programmes for support staff by financing those programmes through the Sports Federation of Maribor.

Another important measure taken by the Municipality was the provision of funds for the systematic

employment of professional coaches at sports societies. The Municipality has made it a strategic objective under the Strategy to ensure that 30 coaches are employed by 2023 by upgrading the system for the employment of coaches at sports societies with new employment criteria, designating the Sports Federation of Maribor as the body responsible for the associated activities.

Various sports societies organise lectures and seminars for athletes and coaches (tennis, chess, skiing, volleyball, athletics, etc.).

MARIBOR INSTITUTE OF SPORTS MEDICINE

A variety of professional meetings, seminars and training courses on sports and sports medicine are also hosted by the Maribor Institute of Sports Medicine, which, in 2016 received the prestigious title of a FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence.

In 2015, in collaboration with the Slovenian Olympic Committee and the Football Association of Slovenia, the institute organised the 5th International Congress of Sports Medicine, which was attended by a number of experts on the subject, including Jan Ekstrand,

Vice-Chairman of the UEFA Medical Committee, Ron Maughan, one of the world's leading experts on sports nutrition, and Rodney Whiteley, a physiotherapist and researcher at one of the leading sports medicine hospitals in the world, Aspetar in Doha, Qatar.

AC MILAN JUNIOR CAMP SLOVENIA

The AC Milan Junior Camp Slovenia took place in Maribor in March 2016 as an exclusive football camp for children aged 6–15. The children who took part in the football camp came there to convince the Italian experts that they are good enough to join the famous AC Milan football club and to get a chance to try out for Milan's football academy, which is renowned as one of the best in Italy. The children practiced twice a day for 5 days under the skilful guidance of Italian experts and Slovenian football legends. Twenty chosen children took part in an international tournament in Milan, where they met and competed against their peers from 50 countries from around the globe. The very best players were then offered the chance to try out for Milan's famous football academy.

6

VOLUNTARY WORK AND EVENTS





Voluntary work is a charitable activity for which volunteers either go unpaid or receive only reimbursement for costs. It is a very important source of municipal sports activities outside the educational system. Although volunteers work for free, their work must be as professional as possible. In accordance with its 2014–2023 Sports Strategy, the strategic goal of the Municipality of Maribor is to maintain the scope of volunteering while increasing the quality of voluntary work and adopted measures aimed at achieving its strategic volunteering goals. These aforementioned goals are the promotion of volunteering in sports and improving the management of volunteers within sports societies through a programme aimed at securing volunteers for sports societies and through a policy of rewarding voluntary work for sports societies.

The most active organisation in this area is the Maribor Friends of Youth Association, which offers free creative, entertainment and educational activities during the summer holidays as well as during the academic year. The association's activities include child rights protection, research, consulting, and information services. The

organisation promotes programmes at schools and organises major events in the city. Its programmes are carried out at the Youth Creativity House, in various neighbourhoods and on-board their mobile centre, dubbed the Flying Bus. The Friends of Youth Association organises summer and winter camps, out-of-school classes, seminars and international exchanges at its summer homes in Poreč and Pohorje.

The association promotes tolerance, solidarity and the importance of social interaction and human values.



They also take part in the annual National Volunteer Week, which in 2017 will be devoted to celebrating volunteering, giving volunteers a chance to get together, networking between participating organisations and presenting volunteering and volunteer organisations. During Volunteer Week, a variety of local events take place throughout Slovenia, ranging from round tables on topical issues in relation to volunteering to presentations of organisations and other events.

7

ACCESS TO
FACILITIES FOR ALL



On 7 December 2010, the Municipality of Maribor received the Disabled People Friendly Municipality award from the Association of Disabled Workers of Slovenia for its work on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, with an emphasis on human and civil rights, acknowledging the contribution of the municipality's work to the realisation of important United Nations documents, the Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Municipality of Maribor has also established the Council of Persons with Disabilities as an advisory body of the mayor, whose duty it is to:

- highlight general disability-related issues in the Municipality of Maribor and take an initiative to resolve them;
- raise awareness and inform the public of the activities and issues of persons with disabilities in the Municipality of Maribor;
- monitor and implement the Action Plan for the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in the Municipality of Maribor;
- coordinate between disabled persons' societies and the city administration to ensure the better and more efficient resolution of disability-related issues in a manner that facilitates access to bodies responsible for resolving those issues;

- bring attention to architectural and communication obstacles and take an initiative to resolve them; and
- take an active part in the prevention of new architectural and communication obstacles and non-functional solutions in their planning and implementation.

The council consists of permanent members (chairperson, two vice-chairpersons and representatives of disabled persons' societies, recognised humanitarian organisations and associations of disabled persons' societies active in the municipality) and non-permanent members (representatives of specialist services, organisations and institutions in the municipality that deal with disability-related issues, representatives of the municipality and representatives appointed by the mayor, representatives of charities active in the municipality, and media representatives).

Since 1 May 2017, citizens with disabilities can use public transport in the Municipality of Maribor and the circular cable car in Mariborsko Pohorje for free.



Pursuant to the relevant decision of the Municipality of Maribor's City Council, one person accompanying a disabled person can also ride free of charge.

In Maribor, people with disabilities are allowed to engage in sports exercises through the Association of deaf and hard of hearing Podravje Maribor.

The Association offers training in the following sports fields: mini football, volleyball, basketball, chess, alpine skiing, darts, tennis, table tennis, bowling, swimming, hiking, athletics, chess, shooting with air rifle, bowling, Chess, squash and shooting with an air rifle and athletics.

Exercises take place at different locations, including the following:

OŠ Destrnik, Home of Disability Associations, Association of deaf and hard of hearing Podravje Maribor, Ballerina Club Angela Besednika, Pond Nebova, Bowling-Planet TUŠ, ŠRC Fontana, ŠD Malečnik and ŠD Zrkovci.



7.1 ACCESS TO PUBLICLY OWNED SPORTS FACILITIES

The facilities operated by Športni objekti Maribor are disability-friendly. Persons with disabilities can access the following:

- Tabor Sports Hall;
- Ljudski vrt Stadium;
- Lukna Sports Hall;
- the horse racing track;
- Pristan and Mariborski otok Swimming Baths;
- the athletics stadium, the football fields and basketball courts at the Tabor Sports Park;
- the badminton hall; and
- the Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall.

Through a call for applications under the Annual Sports Programme, the Municipality of Maribor gives disabled persons' societies an opportunity to receive co-financing for the use of sports facilities, particularly the bowling alley at the Tabor Sports Hall (co-financing has been granted to the Podravje Paraplegic Society, the Maribor War Disabled Society and the Invalid Sports Society).





8

ACTIVITIES
PROMOTING HEALTH
AND INTEGRATION



Sports societies, the Sports Federation of Maribor and the Municipality of Maribor organise various cycling and running events to promote health, healthy living and well-being.

There are also a wide variety of sports weekends and events (Maribor Sports Weekend, Winter Sports Weekend, Maribor Sports Festival, Spring Sports Festival, Maribor City Run, ZZ City on Wheels, Night Run to Kalvarija, Cycling Marathon Around Pohorje, 2017 Team Time Ride, 2017 Pohorje Bike Ride) that give sports societies an opportunity to promote their activities and try to bring various sports closer to children as well as adults, such as the 6th Maribor Library Day and Recreational Run Along the Drava.

This year's 6th iteration featured a sports and cultural programme aimed at highlighting the fact that the city needed a good general library in the centre as well. The focus of this year's event was lifelong learning and maintaining a healthy mind (reading, learning and thinking) in a healthy body (running and nutrition). The Municipality of Maribor also helped organise Toti Europarkovi pohodi (a series of hikes across Kalvarija,

Mestni vrh and Piramida) and Toti pecikl (a series of cycling trips around Maribor).

The most active organisation in this area is the Bodifit society. Active for 17 years now, it is the largest Slovenian organisation in the area of fitness, group exercise, pilates, recreation and physical activity and is an internationally recognised brand that represents top recreation, fitness and wellness know-how. Bodifit raises awareness about the importance of regular exercise and healthy living. They set a good example of a modern, well-founded and professional method of work. Their goals are and have always been education and expertise. They are therefore focused on long-term work with individuals to help them understand that regular exercise is a long-term investment in themselves and not just a fad.



HOW FIT IS THE CITY is a research project that has been conducted by the Bodifit society since 2012. The simple idea of encouraging people to engage in physical activity in an organised manner led to an interesting concept that evolved into a successful project.

More than 2,000 people have taken part in their well-designed programme, achieving good results and, most importantly, changing their lifestyle.

Participants have described the programme as a very positive experience. No matter their sex, age or status, all those who have taken part in the programme made the decision to improve their well-being, their lives and their bodies.

Research has clearly shown that inadequate physical activity, everyday stress and inappropriate nutrition are the main reasons for poor well-being and the cause of a number of diseases. The HOW FIT IS THE CITY project is also a study aimed at proving to all citizens of Maribor (as well as other cities) that both active and inactive individuals of any generation and either sex can significantly improve their well-being and health in a relatively short time (five weeks).



Results from 2012–2017

1568 total participants
1680 kg of weight lost
2083 kg of fat lost
827 kg of muscle gained

9

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT PLAN



The Municipality of Maribor has adopted a 2014–2023 Sports Strategy, which lays down the vision, objectives, measures (sports programmes, sports facilities, sports development activities, organisation in sports, sports events, sports promotion and sports support mechanisms), sports development opportunities, public funding for sports and sports management.

Each year, the City Council of the Municipality of Maribor adopts an Annual Sports Programme based on the National Sports Programme, which frameworks the programmes that are to be co-financed from the municipal budget and the scope and types of activities for the implementation of the programmes.

The objectives of the Annual Sports Programme are as follows:

- to give every individual a chance to actively engage in sports in a safe and healthy environment;
- to provide all young people with proper physical education that will allow them to learn about keeping physically active so that they can develop a healthy lifestyle that includes sports;
- to provide all interested and capable individuals an opportunity to improve their sports performance and an opportunity to have their achievements publicly recognised;
- to develop the moral and ethical values of sports and to protect the human dignity and safety of all individuals involved in sports;

- to create an encouraging environment for the development of all types of sports activities for all population groups; and
- to improve the urban sports environment by providing new covered and uncovered sports surfaces and restoring existing covered and uncovered sports surfaces.

Priority will be given to the following sports programmes:

- sports education for children and youth, high-quality sports activities for children and youth with a focus on elite sports, and sports activities for persons with disabilities;
- major maintenance of facilities and purchase of equipment; and
- investments according to the adopted programme, and sporting events.

The tasks under the programme will cover the following areas:

- public sports facilities;
- sports programmes for children and youth;
- high-quality sports activities for children and youth with a focus on elite sports;
- elite sports;
- sports activities for persons with disabilities;
- sports and recreational activities for adults;
- sports information; and
- the operation of associations of societies and the Sports Federation of Maribor.



10

SPORTS
TOURISM



Sports tourism is extremely important for the city and the development of its tourism, as it is one of the fastest-growing segments of integrated tourism products and has a major impact on the achievement of good results in terms of consumption and the number of arrivals.

In Maribor and also Pohorje, sports tourism is becoming an increasingly important factor in the development of tourism and tourist offerings, as the region regularly hosts a number of events and competitions at the highest level. We have an adequate infrastructure and are surrounded by a natural environment that in itself ensures the well-being of our guests as well as athletes and their entourage. During sports events and competitions, the accommodation facilities in the city and the surrounding area are usually filled to 90% or even full capacity.

Our destination has enormous potential, being the second largest city, surrounded by a pristine natural environment (Pohorje, Drava and the hills on the outskirts) and equipped with all the necessary infrastructure, which places us very high on the list of high-quality, attractive and affordable destinations for sporting events and sports preparations. All of these attributes also offer tourists who visit our city for its other attractions an opportunity for an active vacation.

Sports tourism in Maribor and Pohorje contributes up to 40% of the total accommodation revenue. With an altitude of up to 1,000 m, Pohorje offers a favourable climate and a healthy natural environment.



www.maribor-pohorje.si



In 2016, Maribor recorded 308,409 overnight stays, generating a gross revenue of €15,420,450.



ACCOMMODATION CAPACITIES BY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION FACILITY AND BY MUNICIPALITY, SLOVENIA, PER ANNUM

Type of accommodation facility	Municipality	Year	No. of facilities	No. of Rooms	Capacity - bed - places- TOTAL
All types of facilities – TOTAL	Hoče-Slivnica	2016	...	204	1009
All types of facilities – TOTAL	Ruše	2016	...	101	310
All types of facilities – TOTAL	Slovenska Bistrica	2016	...	202	710
All types of facilities – TOTAL	Maribor	2016	...	1819	4145

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

The annual tourism turnover data is not equal to the sum of monthly turnovers, as it also includes tourist accommodation facilities with fewer than 10 permanent bed-places.



11

AMBASSADORS AND
LOCAL SPORT ACTORS
SUPPORTING CANDIDATURE
FOR ECS 2018



As the new long-term operator of facilities in Mariborsko Pohorje, Marprom introduced a new brand – Visit Pohorje. The brand is promoted in collaboration with the Maribor representatives of the national ski team, Ilka Štuhec, Klemen Kosi and Boštjan Kline, as well as the promising young skier Nika Tomšič.

Ilka Štuhec became the women's downhill world champion in the 2016/17 season and won two small crystal globes (combined and downhill) and came second overall in the world cup. Boštjan Kline won a world cup downhill race in Kvitfjell in the last season, while Nika Tomšič won gold in slalom at the European Youth Olympic Festival. All of these now elite athletes tackled their first slopes in Mariborsko Pohorje.



11.1 LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES

ILKA ŠTUHEC

elite athlete, skier

Maribor is a city that lives for sports. This is obvious from the wide variety of sports at which we regularly achieve outstanding results. Mariborsko Pohorje has always provided myself and countless other sports enthusiasts with the right conditions to allow us to make progress. I therefore fully support the Municipality of Maribor's bid for the title of a European City of Sport for 2018. Sports bring us closer together and make us happy, which definitely holds true for Maribor as well. We have to move forward in the same cooperative and positive spirit, and I have no doubt that we can develop sports even further in our city.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- World Cup overall standing:
 - Downhill 2016/17 – small crystal globe
 - Combined 2016/17 – small crystal globe
- Olympics (Sochi 2014):
 - Downhill – 10th place
 - Super giant slalom – 13th place
- World Cup
 - Downhill: St Moritz (Switzerland) 2017 – 1st place
 - Super giant slalom: Schladming (Austria) 2013 – 6th place
 - Combined: Vail / Beaver Creek (USA) 2015 – 7th place

MARTIN BAU

elite athlete, swimmer

Without a doubt, Maribor is a city of sports and a real incubator of exceptional athletes in all sorts of sports. The conditions for swimming are absolutely fantastic in Maribor. The Pristan swimming centre's covered Olympic-size pool, the most modern Olympic-size pool in Slovenia, provides all the necessary conditions for the perfect development of swimmers who are able to achieve outstanding results at major competitions. I definitely support the idea of Maribor officially becoming a City of Sport.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Competed in 1500 m at the 2016 Olympics in Rio;
- Competed in 200 m, 400 m, 800 m and 1500 m at the 2016 European Aquatics Championships in London and the 2014 Championships in Berlin;
- Holds the national records for 1500 m long-course and 1500 m, 800 m and 400 m short-course;
- Competed in 400 m, 800 m and 1500 m at the World Aquatics Championships in Kazan, Russia; and
- Competed in 200 m, 400 m and 1500 m freestyle at the Mediterranean Games in Mersin, Turkey.

SABINA VEIT

elite athlete, athletics

A month ago, Maribor gained a new state-of-the-art athletic track that is the pride of all of us who train there on a daily basis. Athletics truly is the queen of sports, and the achievements of Maribor's athletes have really cemented the city's position on the world map. Having dedicated two decades of my life to sports, I strongly support the idea of Maribor remaining a city of sport, like it has always been.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Competed in 200 m at the 2016 Olympics in Rio and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing;
- Competed in 200 m at the 2015 World Championships in Athletics in Beijing and the 2009 Championships in Berlin;
- Competed in 200 m at the 2014 European Athletics Championships and the 2010 Championships in Barcelona;
- Competed in the 2009 Summer Universiade in Belgrade and the 2007 Summer Universiade in Bangkok;
- Competed in 200 m at the Mediterranean Games in Mersin, Turkey, and Pescara, Italy;
- Competed at the 2015 Balkan Games in Pitesti, Romania;
- Competed in 200 m at the 2007 European Athletics U23 Championships in Debrecen, Hungary;
- Competed in 200 m at the World Junior Championships in Athletics in Grosseto, Italy; and
- Represented Slovenia in national athletics teams, from junior to senior, a total of 29 times.

FILIP FLISAR

freestyle skier competing in ski cross

Maribor has contributed countless exceptional athletes to Slovenian sports, who represent Maribor and Slovenia on a global level. Slovenians, and the people of Maribor in particular, are very special indeed. They are bold, fierce and fearless people who know how to achieve top results that are envied even by the sporting superpowers of the world. We know how to draw the very best – and more – out of ourselves even when conditions are less than perfect. I find the idea of Maribor as a City of Sport fantastic.



ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Competed in ski cross at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi;
- Competed in 3 world championships: Deer Valley in 2011, Aspen in 2013 and Kreischberg in 2015;
- Won gold at the 2015 Freestyle World Ski Championships in Kreischberg;
- Won gold at the 2013 Freestyle World Ski Championships in Aspen;
- Has won 7 world cup ski cross events in his career; and
- Won a small crystal globe in the 2011/12 season.

MIHA VERLIČ

ice hockey player, member of the EC VSV hockey team

Maribor is a very successful city when it comes to sports, as it is home to a number of successful teams and individuals whose results have spread the city's name around the globe. Maribor offers good conditions for most sports, though I believe there is still some room for improvement in sports infrastructure. Ever since I was a child, I spent most of my time at the various sports grounds in Maribor, but mainly at the Tabor Ice skating Hall. Even then, I could feel that the people of Maribor are somewhat special in that they are particularly proud of the results of all their local athletes at national and world championships. I support the idea of Maribor receiving the title of a City of Sport.

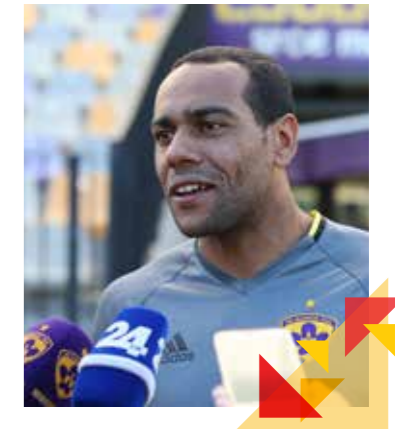
**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Competed at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi; and
- Competed in the Elite Division at the 2015 and 2017 World Ice Hockey Championships.

MARCOS MAGNO MORALES TAVARES

football player, member of Football Club Maribor

Maribor has always been and will be a sporting place. Nine years ago, when I joined the Football Club Maribor, I immediately felt the sport pulse of the city and the affiliation of people who live and breathe for sports and for their sporting heroes. Maribor as a city definitely deserves the title European City of Sport, after all, almost every year is a part of the European football story. As a captain of the largest sports team, I invite you to our City of sports.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Multiple state champion with Football Club Maribor; and
- Best scorer of the history of Football Club Maribor.

12

PLANNED EVENTS
AND PROMOTIONS
AS EUROPEAN
CITY OF SPORT



The sports activity programme for 2018 will be based on the annual sports programmes and projects co-financed by the Sports Office of the Municipality of Maribor. Every year there is a public call for proposals for the co-financing of the Municipality of Maribor sports programmes that lays down the requirements, procedures and criteria for evaluation and the allocation of funds earmarked for co-financing sports programmes in the Municipality of Maribor. These sports programmes

are held in the public interest and are included in the Annual Sports Programme of the Municipality of Maribor, along with the manner of and requirements for the use of sports facilities. All this is in accordance with the Rules on the Co-financing of the Annual Sports Programme of the Municipality of Maribor.

12.1 SPORTS EVENTS IN 2018

The following events will be organised under the auspices of partners in the project:

Maribor Winter Sports Weekend, March 2018

The Winter Sports Weekend will take place at three locations: Mariborsko PohorjeAreh and the Maribor Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall.

- Organised by Martura

The varied programme will include a variety of sports activities in Pohorje, such as a giant slalom race for the Bolfenk Cup, skiing lessons for children, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, mono-ski sledding and cross-country skiing lessons. Aréh will also host a parallel bike competition where contestants will ride fat bikes down a ski slope. The Ledna dvorana Ice Skating Hall will offer recreational ice skating, ice bowling and hockey for children and host a speed skating competition.

Spring Sports Festival, May 2018 (various sports)

The Spring Sports Festival will offer citizens a variety of options to take part in sports and be active in their free time. In the second half of May, they will be able to enjoy free sports and recreational activities, get to know various sports through short courses, watch sports competitions and take part in a recreational tournament for all sports enthusiasts. The Spring Sports Festival is intended for all generations, individuals, families, athletes, recreation enthusiasts and those who want to see, get to know and try something new. The event traditionally concludes with a special event for the youngest dubbed The Uncatchable Gnome.

- Organised by the Maribor Railway Sports Society



Maribor Sports Weekend, June 2018 (various sports)

The Maribor Sports Weekend is the largest recreational event in the region. On the first weekend each June, people of all generations are invited to take advantage of all the sports and recreation surfaces, facilities and equipment that are available to them free of charge. The event takes place at twenty locations and is organised in collaboration with more than thirty sports societies. The 2018 iteration of the event, which is attended by more than 30,000 people each year, will be the 28th in a row.

- Organised by the Sports Federation of Maribor

City Games – Games Without Frontiers, August 2018

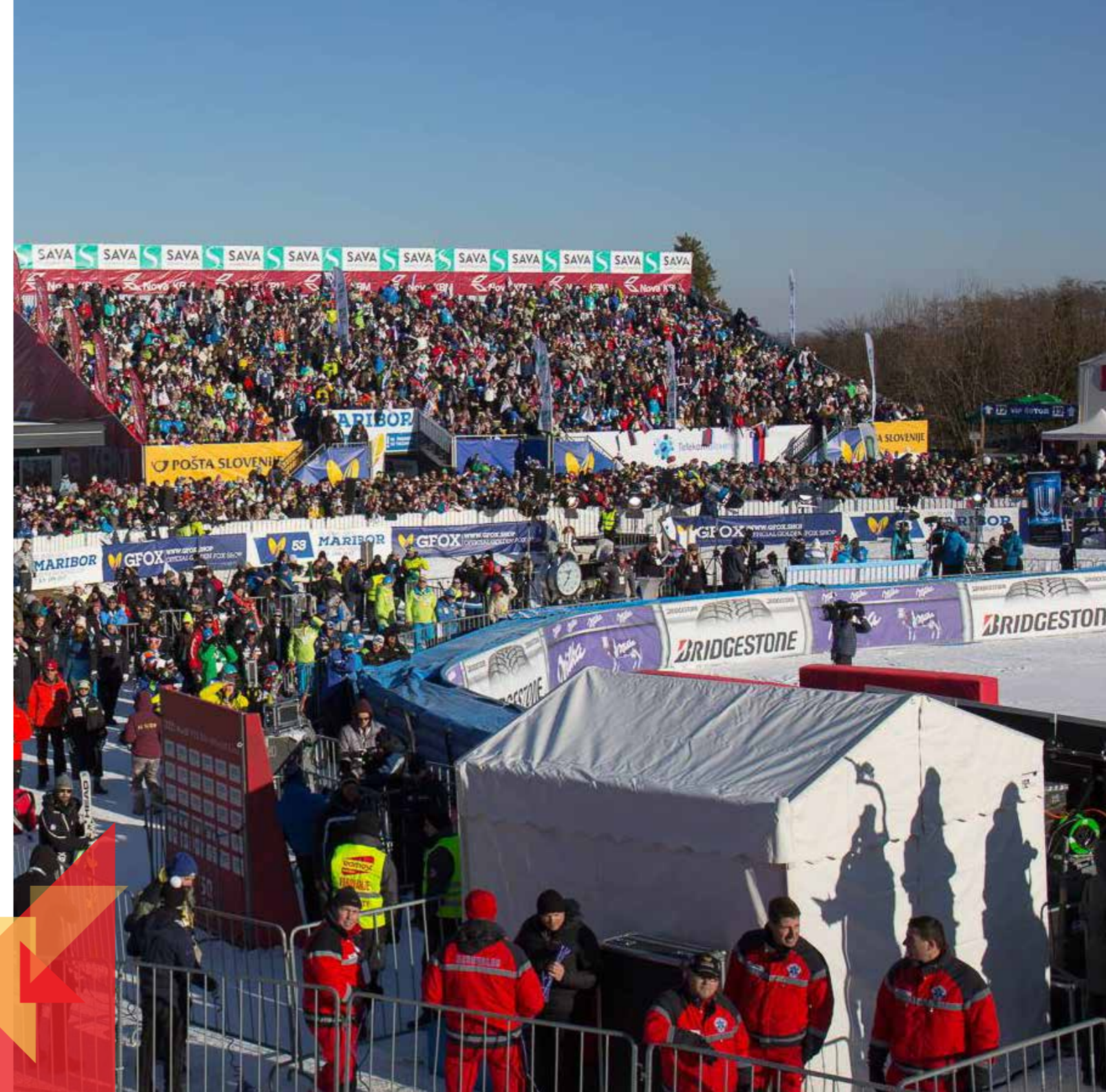
A few years ago, the legendary Games Without Frontiers, which were immensely popular among TV viewers a quarter century ago, returned in the form of the Adriatic Games, albeit on a smaller scale. One of the qualifying matches will take place at the Mariborski otok swimming Baths.

- Organised by Alter Media d.o.o. in collaboration with the Municipality of Maribor

Maribor City Run, September 2018 (running event)

The Maribor City Run is currently the largest running event in Maribor. The first run took place in 2016 and was met with an outstanding response from runners. Its unique route leads runners through the city centre, past all of Maribor's most important natural and cultural features. The inaugural event gave sports in Maribor a healthy boost, with over a thousand people joining the run. The event is complemented by the Maribor Sports Festival, which takes place at the same time in the city's central square and gives people a chance to play some tennis, get some exercise and try their hand at 24 different sports.

- Organised by the Sports Federation of Maribor



PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF SPORTS SOCIETIES:

SKI WORLD CUP ON ZLATA LISICA, January 2018
(skiing)

- Organised by the Maribor Branik Alpine Ski Club

11TH INTERNATIONAL DEAF FUTSAL TOURNAMENT,
January 2018 (futsal)

- Organised by the Maribor Deaf and Hard of Hearing Society

TOTI ŠPORT 2018, April-October 2018 (recreational
sports programme)

- Organised by the Forma Sports Society

THE "SPRING 2018" INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING
MEETING, April 2018 (swimming)

- Organised by the Maribor Swimming Society

ROBERT RAJH MEMORIAL, April 2018 (jiu-jitsu)

- Organised by the ADK Maribor Jiu-Jitsu Club

55TH BAUMGARTEN BELT MEMORIAL, May 2018
(judo)

- Organised by the Branik Broker Judo Club

2018 TEAM RIDE, May 2018 (cycling)

2018 POHORJE BIKE RIDE, August 2018 (cycling)

- Organised by Mediaevent – ME skupina d.o.o.

27TH MARIBOR SPORTS WEEKEND, June 2018
(various sports)

SPORTS FESTIVAL, September 2018 (various sports)

- Organised by the Sports Federation of Maribor

INFOND OPEN, June 2018 (tennis)

- Organised by the Maribor Railway Tennis Club

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS MEETING AND
MEMORIAL, June 2018 (athletics)

- Organised by the Maribor Poljane Athletics Club

38TH CYCLING MARATHON AROUND POHORJE,
June 2018 (cycling)

- Organised by the Maribor Branik Cycling Society

28TH VLADO SKERBINEK INTERNATIONAL
MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT, September 2018
(volleyball)

- Organised by the Maribor Railway Sports Society and the Maribor Volleyball Club

2018 MARIBOR OPEN INTERNATIONAL KARATE
TOURNAMENT, October 2018 (karate)

- Organised by the Maribor Kovinar Karate Club

18TH MARIBOR INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT, October 2018
(rhythmic gymnastics)

- Organised by the Maribor Branik Rhythmic Gymnastics Society

"IRŠIČ 2018" INTERNATIONAL JUDO TOURNAMENT, November
2018 (judo)

- Organised by the Maribor Železničar Judo Club

MARIBOR OPEN 2018, December 2018 (dance)

- Organised by the Maribor Pingi Dance Club

MM MARIBOR 2018, December 2018 (swimming)

- Organised by the Maribor Branik Swimming Club



EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, EUROPEAN AND WORLD CUPS

JUNIOR AND SENIOR EUROPEAN TAEKWON-DO
CHAMPIONSHIPS, April 2018 (taekwon-do)

- Organised by the Proficio Group Hwarang Martial Arts Club

EUROPEAN VETERANS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP, June/July
2018 (basketball)

- Organised by the Štajerska Veterans Basketball Society

EUROPEAN KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIP, October 2018
(kickboxing)

- Organised by the Proficio Group Hwarang Martial Arts Club

WOMEN'S WORLD ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

- Organised by the Maribor Lisjaki Hockey and Ice Skating Club



12.2 PROMOTION OF SPORTS TOURISM IN 2018

The strategic marketing of Maribor as a tourist destination will focus on attracting tourists in key sports tourism markets. Marketing activities will also be carried out internally and in the local region, with the aim of developing the positive image of Maribor and increasing the contribution of sports tourism to the development of tourism in the city. In accordance with the tourism strategy that is being drafted, under which Maribor is part of the Alpine region, sports tourism will be one of the key products. It will be important to market products that are essential to Maribor and Pohorje's identity. As a tourist destination, Maribor has all the prerequisites to be marketed as a sports tourism destination.



Promotional activities would be carried out:

- at trade fairs focusing on sports tourism and active vacations; in collaboration with Slovenian representatives who have successfully organised international sports preparations, EU and world championships, etc.;
- through sports celebrities;
- with the help of the Slovenian Tourist Board (based on the strategy to be adopted on 30 September 2017);
- with the help of the foreign representative offices of the Slovenian Tourist Board (London, Vienna, München and Milan);
- by including the Maribor – Pohorje Institute for Tourism in the application procedure for individual events/competitions (to promote the city, receive and entertain participants at top tourist spots, such as the Old Vine House, to actively participate in all press conferences and to prepare a comprehensive media plan for public communications in collaboration with other actors); and
- through planned presentations at selected key trade fairs, where Maribor will be highlighted as a European City of Sport as the core product.

Planned promotional materials

- a sports tourism pamphlet (printed and digital);
- a map of sports facilities and tourist infrastructure;
- a visual identity based on the title;
- a city card (second half of 2018) that will include the city's sports, cultural, tourist and catering offerings;
- sports packages (design of sales packages – daily and half-daily);
- a film on sports tourism;
- appropriate promotional imagery on the sports clothing of Slovenian and regional athletes;
- banners at all European and world championship matches in Maribor;
- promotional materials handed out at trade fairs at which Slovenia is represented, even if there is no Maribor representative attending; and
- presentation of Maribor as the future host based on information obtained regarding the applications of our sports teams to secure championships in Maribor.

I FEEL
SLOVENIA





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