

10 CSIT
INTERNATIONAL
MEETINGS

14 CSIT EU
CO-FUNDED
PROJECTS

36 SENIORS 55+
PROGRAMME
WSG2025

CSIT WORLD SPORTS GAMES 2025

LOUTRAKI (GREECE)

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A YEAR of Growth, Innovation and Inspiration

Dear friends, dear colleagues, dear members!

As we turn the pages on an extraordinary year for CSIT, I am filled with pride and optimism about the path we are forging together. Since the Congress elections in Barcelona (October 2023), up to our Congress 2024 in Loutraki – Greece, we have embarked on a transformative journey. These past 11 months have been defined by our commitment to honoring CSIT's historical legacy while embracing innovation and growth.

KEY PILLARS OF OUR SUCCESS

Three strategic pillars have guided our progress: The World Sports Games: The involvement of public entities at various levels as event hosts has greatly elevated the reach and impact of our flagship initiative. International Lobbying: Strengthened ties with the IOC and leading sports organizations have amplified CSIT's presence on the global stage. EU Projects: Funded initiatives have expanded our expertise and enriched our network, reinforcing our position as a hub for collaboration and especially youth policies development.

HIGHLIGHTS 2023 AND 2024

From the growth of our community to great partnerships, our achievements reaffirm CSIT as a global leader in grassroots sports: Expanding Membership: New members, including FSGT (France) and RKB (Germany), are not just joining but actively engaging in key EU projects. Successful Events: Our championships in Croatia, Belgium, and San Marino have set new benchmarks, with the introduction of padel as an exciting new discipline. Dynamic Partnerships: Collaborations with SCU Seeber Castle (Austria), the University of Bologna, and Sport e Salute spa (the Italian national governing body of sport) illustrate our commitment to uniting sports with education and public health. Environmental Leadership: The GreenACA initiative and the creation of the Academy for Environmental Sustainability

underscore our dedication to promoting sustainable practices in grassroots sports. Global Outreach: Strengthened relationships with international organizations, including those in the dance sector, and burgeoning collaborations with Balkan regions highlight our expanding influence.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Our presence at international forums, such as the SportAccord Convention, and leadership within the Association of International Organisations for Sport (AIOS) have solidified CSIT's global stature. Furthermore, the establishment of the International Catch'n Serve Ball Federation (ICSBF) represents our commitment to inclusion and makes the sport more accessible for families, women and children worldwide.

INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to introduce the CSIT App, a groundbreaking tool designed to enhance connectivity, accessibility, and engagement within our community. This digital milestone marks a new chapter in our mission to modernize and expand our reach.

TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

Every milestone achieved this year reflects the collective dedication of our members, partners, and supporters. Together, we are not just preserving the spirit of CSIT. We are building a future that inspires and unites through the transformative power of grassroots sports.

Welcome to the next chapter of CSIT.
Welcome to the future.

Warm Regards,

Bruno Molea
President of CSIT

CSIT Congress LOUTRAKI

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer

THE 46TH CSIT CONGRESS WEEK TOOK PLACE IN LOUTRAKI, GREECE, FROM 14 TO 20 OCTOBER. TRADITIONALLY HELD IN THE AUTUMN BEFORE THE COMING CSIT WORLD SPORT GAMES. THE 8TH EDITION OF THE WSG WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 3 TO 8 JUNE 2025, ALSO IN LOUTRAKI ON THE BEAUTIFUL GULF OF CORINTH.

The congress was perfectly prepared and organised by the Greek member association HOCSH. Thanks again for the organisation and the pleasant and stress-free time and the warm hospitality shown to the entire CSIT family in Loutraki and the very interesting and informative guided tours to the sports venues for the WSG2025 and the spectacular Greek archaeological sites nearby.

The congress day was meticulously organised and full of important information and decisions for the upcoming important dates at CSIT. Foremost the WSG2025 in Loutraki, but also the presentation of Aalborg as a candidate for the WSG2027 as well as some technical decisions regarding sports for the WSG and the new CSIT App 2.0. Another important

point, as always, was the many EU co-financed projects within the framework of the CSIT in cooperation with the member associations. Both the projects that come to an end in 2024 and the new projects that will begin in 2025. You can find a separate story about in this CSIT magazine.

10 NEW MEMBERS

The CSIT is a constantly growing organization with more than 80 member associations in more than 60 countries, more than 200 million individual members and 35 partner organisations. The congress in Loutraki once again attracted a large number of applicants. With organisations from Serbia, South Africa, Poland, Slovakia, Luxembourg, France, Chile, Brazil, Catalonia and Croatia, ten new associations were

officially accepted to the large framework. You can find all the facts and figures on the CSIT website. Also one organisation lost its membership in CSIT, because not fulfilled their financial obligations.

CSIT WSG 2027 AALBORG

The bidding period for the 9th CSIT World Sports Games ends at this turn of the year. The city of Aalborg in Denmark is currently a candidate that has officially applied to host the WSG2027. The Mayor of Aalborg, Lasse Frimand Jensen, was unable





to join the CSIT Congress in Loutraki for schedule reasons, but personally confirmed the bid in a video message and presented Aalborg to the participants in a detailed bid video. The ExCom of the CSIT will decide on the awarding of the WSG 2027 in its next meeting at the end of February 2025.

TWO GOLDEN PLAQUES OF MERIT


TC chairwoman Petanque Josette Savoldelli and TC chairman Athletics Antoine Palagonia, both from FSGT France received the CSIT Golden

Badge of Honour for their many years of loyalty and intensive work at CSIT. Josette Savoldelli was from 2001 till 2006 FSGT responsible for Pétanque within CSIT, elected as Secretary of the TC Pétanque in Rimini 2008 and finally elected as CSIT Chairwoman of the TC Pétanque in Tallinn 2010, working until today. Antoine Palagonia was from 1995 till 2000 FSGT responsible for Athletics within CSIT, was elected as Secretary of the TC Athletics in Mexico 2001 and finally elected as Chairman of the TC Athletics in Rimini in 2008, also active in the CSIT network until now.

CSIT APP 2.0

In this day and age, nothing works without applications, especially not the CSIT.

This is why the World Amateur Sports Confederation presented and

launched its newly developed App 'CSIT 2.0' at the Congress in Loutraki. With the new APP, all CSIT web news can now be accessed, the CSIT newsletter can be ordered, all CSIT news can be consumed in one tool and personal data can be exchanged with other users. The App is still being expanded and will be adapted with many more functions. 



"My first thank you goes to our Greek member organisation HOCSH with its president Nikos Kerasovitis and his staff, that hosted us. I would also like to thank Georgios Gkionis, the Mayor of Loutraki and the Municipality, who warmly welcomed the many participants from all over the world and gave us the opportunity to visit the sports infrastructure and meet the staff who will be organising the CSIT World Sports Games next June."

"It was with great satisfaction that a number of challenges that have been at the heart of the association's activities in recent years were met during the 2024 Congress week: the consolidation of the platform of young CSIT leaders who, thanks to European projects, presented the results of their work to CSIT delegates, providing concrete ideas and suggestions for future actions, in particular with regard to the organisation of international youth sports camps, guidelines for the environmental sustainability of sports organisations and their events, and training guidelines and modules for coaches in youth sports."

"Many inspirational "food for thoughts" were received during the congress activities, to put sport at the centre as a tool for healthy lifestyles and the promotion of social cohesion in communities. The Congress welcomed many new members, who offer us their support and testify how much the Confederation has grown in the world in recent years and opened the doors of amateur sport to new countries."

Important **DECISIONS** and **GUIDELINES**

by Raimund Fabi,
CSIT Media Officer

THE CSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR TO DISCUSS THE MANY CURRENT AND FUTURE PROJECTS OF THE GLOBAL ASSOCIATION, REFLECT ON THE ASSOCIATION'S STRATEGY AND FIND NEW WAYS TO MAKE THE CSIT EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE AND FUTURE ORIENTATED. IN 2024, THREE MEETINGS WERE HELD IN LIÈGE IN BELGIUM, IN SOUTHERN STYRIA IN AUSTRIA AND AS PART OF THE CSIT CONGRESS IN LOUTRAKI IN GREECE.

TOP MEETING IN LIÈGE

The new CSIT ExCom was elected and installed at the CSIT Congress in Barcelona in October 2023. The first official meeting of the newly formed board, chaired by CSIT President Bruno Molea, took place in Liège (Belgium). The agenda included strategic discussions and reports on CSIT's individual areas of activity as well as meetings with local politicians and leaders from Liège and a visit to the Walloon parliament with individual parliamentarians.

City Hall and Walloon parliament

CSIT President Bruno Molea and some members of the CSIT ExCom

had the opportunity to meet with some of the country's leading sports officials and politicians. They were invited to the city hall of Liège, to meet the Ministers Vice-President of the Parliament, Mrs. Christie Morreale as well as Mr. Frédéric Daerden and the former Olympian Philippe Saive.

Inclusion Sport and Stop Racism in Sport

Thierry Witsel, Member of the Parliament, took the opportunity to give a presentation at the CSIT ExCom on the important topics of "Inclusive Sport" and "Stop Racism in Sport". Belgium's table tennis icon, seven-time Olympian Jean-Michel Saive, President of the Belgian Olympic Committee since

2021, was a guest at the closing gala dinner of the CSIT ExCom at the Van Der Valk Selys Hotel.

E-Learning Youth Academy

CSIT's Young Leaders were also present in Liège, where they presented their most recently completed projects to the ExCom and outlined and planned their next steps in working groups. And they had the opportunity to discuss with all the ExCom members. The feedback was consistently positive and the comments very encouraging and motivating for further projects.



SPECTACULAR IN AUSTRIA

The newly elected ExCom of the CSIT met for the second time from June 20 to 23. The meeting was held in one of the most beautiful regions of Austria, in southern Styria "Südsteiermark", which is also known internationally as Austria's Tuscany. A wine-growing region on the border with Slovenia, which is known far beyond the borders of the nation as one of the most beautiful tourist regions in Europe.

Almost complete

The meeting was organized by the Austrian CSIT member ASKÖ under the patronage of ASKÖ President Hermann Krist and ASKÖ Vice-President Thomas Zacharias, who is also active in the CSIT ExCom and also holds the position of CSIT Vice-President of the International Amateur Sports Federation. Special thanks to the ASKÖ team, that organized great days and were perfect hosts. Almost the entire ExCom had traveled to southern Styria. Only the Israeli colleague attended the meeting via internet stream due to the special circumstances in their country.

A look into the future

The ExCom meeting also included several task force meetings on the further development of the WSG. Decisions on new memberships were also made. Associations from Serbia, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Croatia to be accepted as soon as the final application procedure is completed. In general, there are still a few requests in the pipeline.

LAST MEETING IN LOUTRAKI

The last meeting of the CSIT ExCom in 2024 took place as part of the congress in October in Loutraki, Greece. The main focus was, of course, on preparing for the upcoming World Sport Games next June and getting in the perfect mood for the CSIT's biggest sporting event, that takes place every two years. The ExCom members had the opportunity to see all the sports venues for the Games in Loutraki in person, got a preview on the CSIT WSG2025 and gain an impression of how the 2025 Games will be organised next summer in Greece. 





4th CSIT SPORTS FORUM SPORT IMPACTS ALL

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer

THE CSIT SPORTS FORUM HAS BEEN A FIXED PART OF THE ANNUAL CSIT CONGRESS FOR YEARS. AS THE FIRST PART OF THE CONGRESS, THE TRADITIONAL 4TH CSIT WORLD AMATEUR SPORTS FORUM AS PLATFORM FOR DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TOOK THIS TIME PLACE IN THE BEAUTIFUL SETTING OF THE AMPHITHEATRE IN LOUTRAKI. THE MOTTO OF THE FOURTH EDITION WAS “A NEW SPORTS APPROACH FOR EVERYONE”.

In Loutraki, the interactive part for all visitors was a demonstration of Catch'n Serve Ball, the new world association recently founded by CSIT. Participants from Greece, who had taken the day off from work to come to Loutraki, as well as numerous Forum partici-

pants, played a show match under the guidance of Catch'n Serve Ball President Elisabeth Speiser-Havel and visibly enjoyed the performance. Before the show, Georgios Gkionis, the Mayor of Loutraki, HOCSH President Nikos Kerassovitis, the organiser of the Forum and WSG2025, and CSIT

President Bruno Molea gave the opening speeches.

After the lunch break, there were some very interesting presentations in the congress centre of the facility. The first was about energy-efficient heating of swimming pools by extracting heat from the ground. This

is a very interesting technology that is already being used in the public swimming pool in Loutraki and could even set a precedent worldwide. Elisabeth Speiser-Havel then gave an overview of the Catch'n Serve Movement, which has gained enormous momentum in recent months with the support of CSIT President Molea and the CSIT Office in Vienna and Rome.

In the end, CSIT's EU co-funded projects were the big topic. In particular, the three projects. GREENACA, YouCAMP and PLAYS, that were finalised in 2024. GREENACA was an

academy focussing on environmental sustainability in grassroots sports, in which five CSIT member associations (AICS, HLA, TUL, UCEC, Sport Camp) and the CSIT itself took part. YouCAMP was about youth camps that were developed and organised in six nations (Italy, Croatia, Spain, Austria, Greece, Finland). PLAYS was about practical learning to advance Youngsters in Sports.

The public forum was organised for the first time in Rome in 2019 and since its inception has been a platform for discussions on current issues and innovative ideas in and

around sport, as well as a showcase for the many EU co-funded CSIT projects. It also serves as a collection of best practices in sport promotion with regard to healthy lifestyles, equality and social inclusion and as inspiration for all members and partners.



GREENACA

<https://www.csit.sport/events/eu-projects/greenaca>



YouCAMP

<https://www.csit.sport/events/eu-projects/youcamp-project>



PLAYS

<https://www.csit.sport/events/eu-projects/plays>

SPORT IMPACTS ALL – WORLD FORUM

... is an important CSIT platform for the global promotion of amateur and grassroots sport. The World Amateur Sports Forum is aimed at experts from the world of grassroots sport, the international Olympic and Paralympic community, the world of research and academia, and all sportsmen and women interested in an initiative that aims to represent the special weight of grassroots sport in the world. The Sport Impacts All World Conference aims to engage athletes, academics, sports managers, policy makers and testimonials to discuss the social, health, economic and educational impact of sport on people worldwide, as well as the impact of sport on promoting health, well-being and strengthening the social cohesion of communities, based on surveys and research. Science provides evidence of the benefits of sport for the daily lives of people and communities. These will be the pillars of the presentations and discussions.



INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE OF CSIT

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer



AS THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION IN THE FIELD OF “SPORT FOR ALL, GRASSROOTS AND AMATEUR SPORT”, IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE CSIT TO BE PRESENT AT INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE LEADERS OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS.

biggest representatives of international sport come together there. A crossroads where each of us – elite sport and grassroots sport – can strengthen relationships, but above all a great training school”, said Bruno Molea after the meetings.

SPORTACCORD WORLD SPORT & BUSINESS SUMMIT IN BIRMINGHAM

SportAccord is the most influential gathering of global sport and brings together International Federations and organisations involved in the business of sport under the patronage of the IOC. At the beginning of April more than 1,700 attendees from 65 different countries travelled to Birmingham and the West Midlands/UK from across the globe for a packed agenda of high-level meetings, conferences, exhibitions, networking, and social events. CSIT was represented both as a confederation and for the first time as an exhibitor with a stand and had a full program right from the start.

CSIT President Bruno Molea (visibly satisfied with the investment in the exhibition stand) and his team (General Secretary Wolfgang Burghardt, Head of International Projecting Office Valeria Gherardini and Administrative Secretary Samuel

Szihn) presented CSIT as well as its 8th CSIT World Sport Games, which will be held in Loutraki, Greece June 3-8, 2025. CSIT welcomed as guest SportAccord Vice Presidents AIMS President Stephan Fox (AIMS the international Alliance of Independent Recognized Members of Sport) as well as ARIFS President Raffaele Chiulli (Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations). The meetings also included CISM, the International Military Council, President Nilton Gomes Rolim Filho and Secretary General Roberto Recchia. Another meeting took place among others with CSIT Co-Operations Partner FICS and Dr. Brian Nook, Dr. Fayd Deane and Dr. Bradley Sandler, with Thailand’s Governor of Sports and many representatives of international sports federations as well as potential host cities for CSIT sporting events.

SPORTACCORD IF FORUM IN LAUSANNE

This year’s IF FORUM at the Sport Accord in Lausanne in October was dedicated to many different topics, all focussing on the future of Sports. Challenges and opportunities of the future, dedicated to strengthening the capacity of international

In 2024, CSIT President Bruno Molea and his team attended both the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit in Birmingham/UK and the SportAccord IF Forum in Lausanne/SUI, where they met with key decision-makers in international sport. “New networks are created, you get to know sports politics across borders, the



federations to identify the issues and priorities they need to work on to keep up with the changing times. IOC Vice President Nicole Hoevertsz Oly delivered a clear message in Lausanne: "Keeping up with the times means being ready for change and being flexible. From an in-depth analysis of the Paris Olympics 2024 we can draw important lessons for the preparation of the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics."

CSIT was present in Lausanne with President Bruno Molea, Secretary General Wolfgang Burghardt and Valeria Gherardini, head of the International Projecting Office. Bruno Molea stated: "In particular, AI and the benefits arising from it, the importance of gender equality, the involvement of young people and the role of social media in promoting participation and prominence were emphasised. At this edition of the FORUM, the IOC announced the inaugural edition of the e-sports Olympics, that will be staged in 2025. This too is a sign of keeping up with the times, dealing with e-sports means dealing with young people. And the message the IOC was giving us is clear: where young people are, Sport must be too. This year's IF FORUM was also dedicated to AI, lights and shadows of the tools that accompany us into the future. The topics are many, and as president of

CSIT I was there to meet the many international organisations present at this edition of the forum, 400 delegates and experts from all over the world."

Bruno Molea continues: "After three days at the IF Forum organised by SportAccord, I can say: what a great opportunity! The whole grassroots sports world should be there. They talked about emerging needs, artificial intelligence, youth policy, gender equality, the ability to keep up with the times, sport as the centre of a perfect mechanism for growth and participation. And they also talked about hot current topics, such as the high cost of the Olympic Games (increased exponentially, beyond all expectations and limits, in a few decades) or the protection policy to protect athletes from any form of abuse."

AIOS MEETING IN LAUSANNE

Bruno Molea is the president of the Association of International Organisations for Sport.

In the framework of the IF Forum SportAccord in Lausanne President Bruno Molea held a meeting of AIOS, the Association of International Organisations for Sport, which he chairs as CSIT representative.

AIOS, an association registered in Switzerland, is the organized group of the former Associate Members of GAISF, in concrete several international multi-sports organisations, also FICS (Federation Internationale de Chiropratique du Sport), IAKS (International Association For Sports and Leisure Facilities) or WFSGI (World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry). Among those present were Pierre Zappelli and Giorgio Chinellato (Panathlon International), Dr. Martin Isaksson and Dr. Bradley Sandler (FICS), to name just a few.

Together the group updated on the next possible members and the role of AIOS in Sportaccord and especially on its possible entry in the SportAccord board as observer. In the afternoon Bruno Molea had a meeting with the SportAccord President about it. "The entry of grassroots sport and organisations that do not practice elite sport in SportAccord would be an important recognition of the work of those who struggle every day to promote sport as a tool for healthy lifestyle and education", stated Bruno Molea. 🌱



SPORTS for all genders and sexualities

by Dariya Sharafan, CSIT EU Project Coordination

THE INTERSECTION OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION HAS BECOME A CRITICAL FOCUS FOR THE SPORTS WORLD, BOTH ELITE AND AMATEUR. FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE SPORT FOR ALL GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES SGS PROJECT SEEKS TO FOSTER AN INCLUSIVE SPORTS CULTURE THAT WELCOMES ALL INDIVIDUALS, REGARDLESS OF GENDER IDENTITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION. BY BREAKING DOWN ENTRENCHED BARRIERS IN EUROPEAN GRASSROOTS SPORTS, THE PROJECT AIMS TO FIGHT SEXISM, HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA TO ADVANCE A VISION OF SPORTS AS A SPACE OPEN AND WELCOME FOR ALL.





GOOD PRACTICES REPORT

The very first deliverable of SGS, the Good Practices Report identified successful examples of institutional inclusion for gender-diverse athletes across five partner countries: Spain, Italy, Austria, Germany, and the Netherlands. This report provided actionable insights for national and international sports organizations, offering guidance on eliminating barriers for transgender, intersex, and non-binary individuals and ensuring long-term commitment to inclusion.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUPS IN PARTNER COUNTRIES

To deepen engagement and tailor solutions to local needs, regional working groups (RWGs) were launched in five countries. These groups convene diverse stakeholders—including LGBTQI individuals, grassroots sports clubs, and national associations—to exchange knowledge and strategies. Beginning in January 2023, RWGs have hosted regular meetings to share best practices, discuss progress of the project, and adapt SGS measures for regional contexts.

SITUATION OF WOMEN AND LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS IN EUROPEAN GRASSROOTS SPORTS

A study conducted by the German Sports University in Cologne explored gender norms and stereotypes in European grassroots sports. Surveying 2,832 participants from various roles and identities, the research revealed high levels of discrimination, persistent biases, and a pressing need to promote gender and sexual diversity. These findings underscored the urgency of addressing exclusion in sports and informed the SGS approach.

OPEN YOUR SPORT TO ALL GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES

The Rising Together campaign is a flagship initiative of the SGS project, aiming to spread its deliverables and core message of inclusivity. Through social media actions, stories from athletes, and multilingual outreach, the campaign challenges stereotypes and advocates for diversity as a strength. The use of rugby visuals highlights how differences in physicality are a resource, not a disadvantage, demonstrating that all sports can benefit from embracing diversity. The campaign's slogan, "Rising Together – Open your sport to all genders and sexualities!", reinforces the belief that sports thrive when no one is left behind.

EVENTS TO MULTIPLY THE KNOW-HOW AND AWARENESS AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Train-the-Trainers Seminar in Seville

This event managed to bring together trainers and educators from participating countries, equipping them with practical tools to implement inclusive practices in their local sports organizations. Participants gained insights into strategies for fostering open, welcoming sports environments that embrace all genders and sexualities, as well as exchanged ideas on how to promote equality in grassroots sports.

SGS Stakeholder Seminar at the CSIT World Amateur Sports Forum

Using the platform of the CSIT World Amateur Sports Forum, the SGS project hosted a comprehensive stakeholder seminar to showcase its progress and deliverables. Partner organizations from across Europe shared insights on implementing gender and sexual equality measures, fostering collaborative brain-

storming, and addressing challenges in grassroots sports. An interactive discussion with attendees underscored the importance of inclusion, with participants describing the seminar as "refreshing" and "well-tempered."

SGS at the EuroGames in Vienna

The EuroGames, Europe's largest LGBTQI+ sports event, provided a vibrant platform for promoting the SGS project's mission. SGS partner organization representatives participated in the sports conference, panel discussions, met over a partner meeting, and also took active part in side events like the Catch'n'Serve Ball Match, which highlighted inclusivity by integrating all genders and sexualities into the game.

The end of the project, the beginning of change

The SGS project has been a driver for transformation in European grassroots sports, fostering meaningful dialogue. By challenging entrenched norms, encouraging collaboration, and celebrating diversity, SGS demonstrated that inclusivity is more than an aspiration – it is an achievable reality.

While progress has been made, challenges remain, such as resistance to accommodating individuals beyond the traditional male and female binary. However, the spirit of Rising Together reminds us that by embracing inclusivity, we can elevate sports to new heights and create spaces where everyone feels they belong.



The BIG Wrap-Up of 3 **CSIT** EU Co-Funded Projects

by Dariya Sharafan, CSIT EU Project Coordination

2024 MARKED THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THREE EU CO-FUNDED PROJECTS INVOLVING CSIT. YOUNG CAMP AND GREENACA WERE LED BY CSIT AS THE COORDINATOR, WHILE IN PLAYS THE CSIT PARTICIPATED AS A KEY CONSORTIUM MEMBER.

Through the three projects CSIT has demonstrated its commitment to addressing contemporary issues in grassroots sports. The projects have laid the groundwork for future innovations, inspiring to embrace inclusivity, sustainability, and engagement with sports starting from very young. The legacy of these initiatives promises to shape the future of grassroots sports across Europe and beyond.

PLAYS
PRACTICAL
LEARNING
TO ADVANCE
YOUNGSTERS
IN SPORT

PLAYS aimed to engage children aged 6 - 12 in sport through play to develop key skills. To encourage sports participation through structured, fun activities that support physical, social and emotional development.

A needs analysis at the start of the project in 2022 highlighted the barriers to participation due to a lack of resources for parents and carers. As a result, an online platform was set up with over 70 best practices. This resulted in a PLAYS guide

covering 10 key development areas, including cognitive and social skills, emotional self-regulation and motor skills. It also includes practical educational material, nutritional recommendations and practical methods.

The guide has been trialled in Romania (focusing on children with special needs), Italy (integrated into roller skating) and Portugal (tailored to swimming). These pilot projects have shown that the programme can be used in different contexts. At the CSIT Amateur Sports Forum, PLAYS and its tools were presented to the political decision-makers of the member associations and sports experts. At the end of the pilot phase, the consortium is examining PLAYS 2.0 in order to further expand its impact.





Co-funded by
the European Union

YOUCAMP INNOVATIVE SPORT ACTIVITIES IN INCLUSIVE SPORTS CAMPS

The project YouCAMP organised sports camps for young people between 14 and 19 to plan inclusive youth sports camps with a focus on gender equality and sustainability. In 2024, there were six national camps focusing on healthy lifestyles, gender equality and youth leadership.

The camps emphasised inclusivity with mixed-gender teams and developed innovative sports activities and traditional games for all ages. Participants actively co-designed activities, set inclusive rules and ensured accessibility. The young leaders were supported in working with the camp managers, gaining organisational and leadership experience. There were also cultural activities and presentations, making for a varied experience.

At the CSIT Amateur Sports Forum, the six camp projects were presented and evaluated by the participants, who voted for the most inspiring initiative. The feedback from the participants emphasised the transformative effect.

YOUCamp has successfully expanded the CSIT's network of young leaders and brought innovative approaches to grassroots sport.



GREENACA PROMOTING GREEN GRASSROOTS SPORTS

GreenAca set up an academy to provide managers and coaches in grassroots sport with the tools to implement environmentally sustainable practices. The aim was to sensitise children and families, particularly in rural areas, to the importance of environmental sustainability in grassroots sport.

Strategies were developed to promote a more environmentally friendly

sports environment. GreenAca guidelines provided actionable protocols for waste minimisation, energy efficiency and resource conservation. Case studies highlighted best practice for transport, venue and digital processes.

There were also outdoor events for children aged 6 to 13 and their families with a focus on sustainability. Hiking, running and cycling combined with environmental awareness. Best practices for waste reduction, resource conservation and ecosystem education.

The highlight was the GreenAca workshop in Loutraki organised by the University of Seeburg Castle. Grassroots sports staff took part in training sessions that combined digital tools and live workshops, gaining practical knowledge and a toolkit for integrating sustainability into sports activities.

GreenAca set a new standard for integrating sustainability into grassroots sports and promoted community engagement and intergenerational dialogue.



CSIT WSG2025 LOUTRAKI

by Aphrodite Alexandropoulou, HOC SH



LOUTRAKI | GREECE

MORE THAN AN EVENT.
a Destination!

NOT JUST AN EVENT,
IT IS A DESTINATION!
BE PART OF IT!

THE CSIT WORLD SPORTS GAMES EVERY TWO YEARS ARE THE BIGGEST EVENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CONFEDERATION CSIT. IN 2025, THE 8TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONALLY VERY POPULAR SPORTING EVENT FOR AMATEURS WILL TAKE PLACE IN LOUTRAKI, GREECE, FROM JUNE 3RD TO JUNE 8TH 2025.



LOUTRAKI | GREECE

MORE THAN AN EVENT!
a Destination!

The picturesque coastal town Loutraki is located between Athens and Olympia, directly at the entrance to the Greek peninsula of Peloponnese, close to the very famous Corinth Canal, which separates the Peloponnese peninsula from the Greek mainland. The vibrant seaside town of Loutraki is preparing a spectacular gathering of athletes, sports enthusiasts, and cultures from all around the world.

PREPARATIONS ARE IN FULL SWING

Are you ready to be part of that global event that combines sports and culture? The countdown to the highly anticipated Loutraki 2025 CSIT World Sports Games has officially begun, and preparations are in full swing! The CSIT WSG are not only a celebration of amateur sports, but also cultural exchange and the unity of thousands of participants from all over the world.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT

The Organizing Committee is dedicated to ensuring a world-class experience for participants and spectators alike. From modern and fully equipped facilities to a carefully planned schedule of events, every detail is being crafted with excellence in mind. Having hosted various sporting events for over a decade and welcomed more than 40,000 athletes, Loutraki is honored to host the next CSIT World Sports Games and bring the Championship to Greece for the first time.

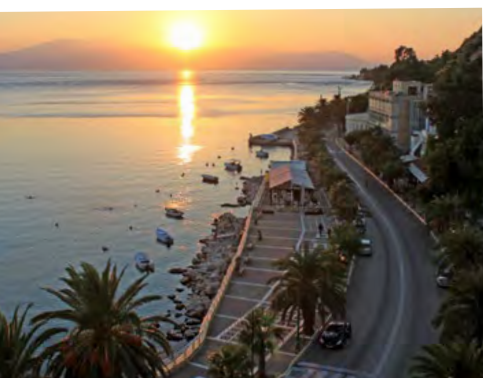
BLUE FLAG OF EUROPE

Renowned for its year-round tourism offerings, including its connection to sports and its pristine beaches awarded the "Blue Flag of Europe", Loutraki offers a perfect backdrop for the WSG2025. CSIT President

Bruno Molea expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming edition: "Our WSG represent a very important moment of competition, fun, and social inclusion for the members of CSIT." He emphasized the event's role not only in promoting sports but also in showcasing Greece as a prime tourism destination.

UNITED FOR SUCCESS

Loutraki 2025 CSIT World Sports Games are a true community effort, with the event organized by the **HOC SH – Hellenic Organization for Company Sports and Health** in close collaboration with the Municipality of Loutraki-Perachora-Agioi Theodoroi, which also serves as co-organizer. Their shared vision and commitment to organizing a successful event, ensure a welcoming and unique experience for all participants.



LOUTRAKI IS WAITING

HOC SH and the whole Municipality are working hand-in-hand with local creators, artists, and traditional cultural institutions to create an unforgettable experience for participants and spectators. From the vibrant opening and closing ceremonies to unique events, the 2025 Games promise a spectacular showcase of Loutraki's rich heritage and festive spirit.

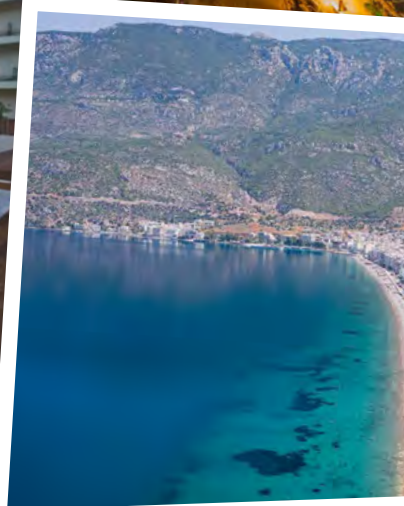
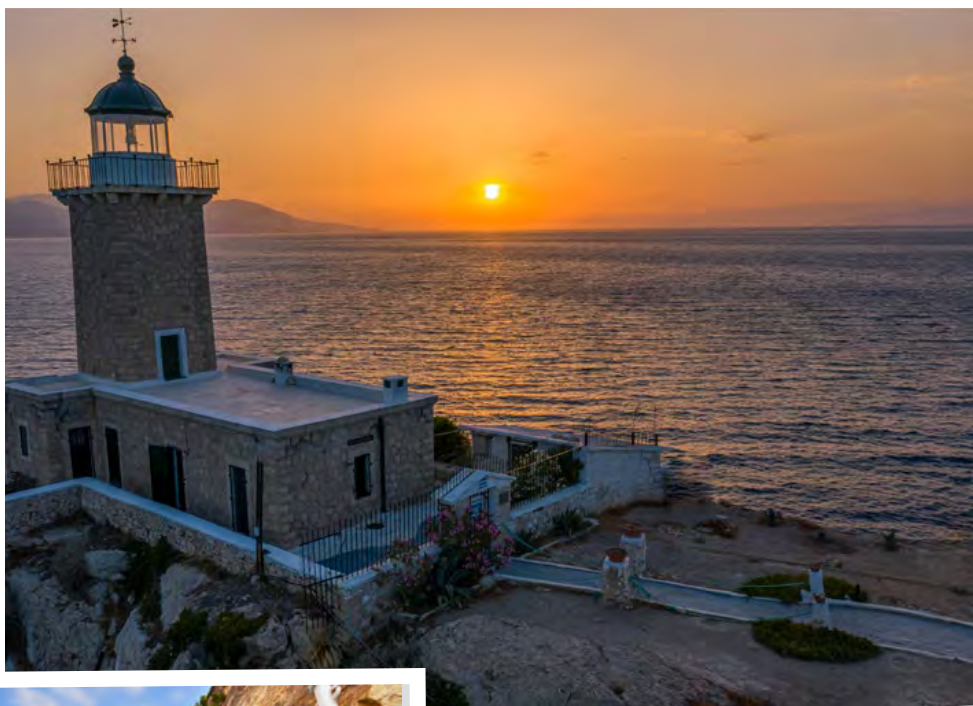
Supporters of this world-class event are the **Region of Peloponnese** and the **LTO – Loutraki Tourism Organization**. The operational expertise of **SPORTCAMP**, renowned for its high-quality sports facilities and event management, further assures the Games' success.

REGISTER NOW & JOIN IN JUST ONE CLICK AWAY

Don't miss the chance to be part of this extraordinary celebration of sport and culture. Whether you're an athlete, a sports enthusiast or a fan. Loutraki 2025 CSIT World Sports Games promise to be an unforgettable experience.

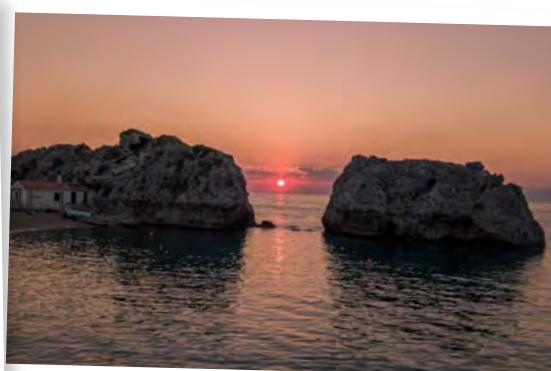
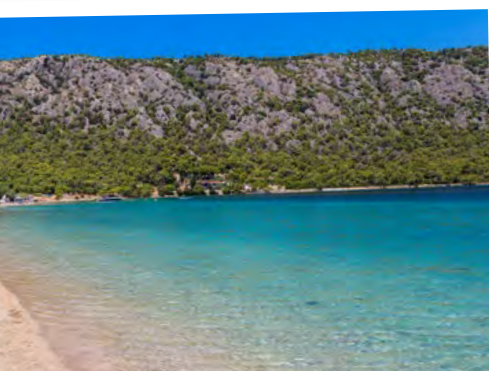
Visit the Loutraki 2025 World Sports Games for more information and stay tuned for updates as we count down to the big event. Find there all information you need to register, plan, and participate. Everything is just a click away. Stay tuned and secure your spot today!

Together, let's create memories that will last a lifetime.



CSIT WSG2025

<https://2025.csit-world-sports-games.com/>



FREE SPORT for KIDS and TEENAGERS

by Patricia Cupo, AICS

TO PROVIDE FREE AND QUALIFIED SPORTS PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS, URBAN MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS CENTERS, AND DAYCARE CENTERS FOR AT-RISK MINORS, TO HELP CHILDREN AND VERY YOUNG PEOPLE COUNTER SOCIAL ISOLATION, DISCRIMINATION, AND CHILDHOOD OBESITY, AND TO INVOLVE SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES IN A STRONG PACT AGAINST YOUTH DROPOUT IN SPORTS AND FOR SOCIAL COHESION. THIS IS WHAT AICS HAS DONE TO COMBAT OBESITY AND SOCIAL ISOLATION.

These are the goals of the three national sports promotion projects that will continue until 2025 with contributions from Italian public institutions: **Team sports and games in schools**; **Sports for all kindergartens – united against drop-outs**; and **CoESport – Community and Sport to promote healthy lifestyles and cohesive communities**.

The projects will involve dozens of provinces across Italy and more than 10,000 young people as well

as hundreds of qualified sports coaches. The goal is to engage young people and introduce them to sports as a happy place where they can find refuge and be in good company.

TEAM SPORTS AND GAMES AT SCHOOL

The project is funded by the Italian Minister of Sport through the government's Ministry of Sport. The free sports activities will begin

in November 2026 and currently include schools in 26 Italian provinces. The plan offers in detail 4 hours per week for 6 consecutive months of multi-sport practice to improve the entire sports offering in schools for all students aged 6 to 14.

But it does not stop there and does not exhaust its action with the school. The project aims to collaborate with schools to establish meaningful contact with families in such a way that school-based motor practice activities promote participation in





multi-sport events outside of school, where the families of the students and the public have the opportunity to participate in motor activities for free.

To then promote cohesion, the project does not limit itself to inclusive sports activities and sports festivals. In fact, the project introduces a board game aimed at promoting cooperation among the youngest, respect, and fair play. The "Serious Game" will be called "SOS Space Operation Challenge" and will be used in classrooms to promote a sense of responsibility in attitudes and behaviors that strengthen social cohesion.

"NURSERIES" OF SPORT FOR ALL UNITED AGAINST DROP OUT

The project is promoted by AiCS and carried out with financial support from Sport e Salute S.p.A.

– the state-owned company that supports grassroots sports. It includes 21 Italian provinces, which will

start sports activities in places most frequented by young people, particularly in the suburbs, from January 2025. These so-called "Kitas" will offer all young people sports opportunities, with a particular focus on those aged 11 to 16, and therefore are aimed at socialization. It begins with open sports days for families and not just for young people, and then continues until March 2025 with 3 months of sports activities and five different disciplines.

The open days are not only meant to introduce the project but also to train the coaching teams. The goal is to support the growth of future generations and make them responsible. For each participating province, AiCS will activate 3 kindergartens, organizing 2 weekly multidisciplinary hours (for 5 different sports) and dedicating one hour to socialization. The active role of individuals in sociocultural processes should also be stimulated,

paying attention to the generation gap among school dropouts, gender differences, and the impact on the number of sports activities, as well as the prevention of social discomfort among young people.

PROMOTION OF HEALTHY LIFESTYLES AND COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

The project is active in no fewer than 40 Italian provinces, of which 16 are directly involved in the AiCS network. It is financially supported by Sport e Salute Spa and targets young people and children aged 5 to 16. It aims to provide them with sports "at home" in the shelters and targets young people who are most at risk of isolation and discrimination.

Sports should be ensured for children and young people who are not active or cannot be active in basic sports circles. Access should also be created for "vulnerable" youth who are at an increased risk of social isolation, as well as for minors who are not connected to the AiCS club network.



TRANSPLANT FOOTBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

by Patrizia Cupo, AICS

AICS ORGANISED IN SEPTEMBER THE FIRST TRANSPLANT FOOTBALL WORLD CUP ON THE ROMAGNA COAST IN CERVIA, THE CITY OF THE 7TH CSIT WORLD SPORTS GAMES 2023. AN INTERNATIONAL 7-A-SIDE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN WHICH ONLY MALE AND FEMALE FOOTBALLERS WHO HAVE HAD AN ORGAN TRANSPLANT (HEART, LUNG, LIVER, KIDNEY OR BONE MARROW) TOOK PART. AICS THUS TOOK AN IMPORTANT STEP ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH TO CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE AND ORGAN DONATION.



The Cup, promoted by the World Association of Transplant Games, was organised in collaboration with ANED, the Italian Association for Haemodialysis, Dialysis and Transplantation, and was supported by the Italian Minister of Sport and the Italian Paralympic Committee. AiCS was entrusted with the difficult task of technical and medical organisation.

More than 300 people from all over the world met in Cervia, including 180 transplanted football players from 11 different nations. The winner was the national transplant football team from Chile. But the event was not just about sport, however, but also included plenty of socialising, a public conference on the topic of organ transplantation as a global right and the role of sports in patient management before and after transplantation. All with esteemed guests, professionals, patients, and witnesses sharing their successes and hopes in the field of organ transplantation.

For 45 years, the World Transplant Games Federation WTGF has been committed to improving the lives of transplant patients by encouraging them to participate in Olympic events and raising awareness of the success of transplantation as a medical therapy. It enables seriously ill people to regain health and prosperity through the miracle of organ donation.

The WTGF Board approved and enabled with the World Cup the launch

of a major initiative and an exciting international event for transplant football. Modelled on the FIFA World Cup, teams from the association's member countries competed against each other in a World Cup format. The event also provided comprehensive medical care with four specialists on the sidelines and in the social facilities – all to ensure the care and safety of the participants.

NOT JUST SPORTS

The opening ceremony began with the march of the 11 teams as well as the representation of the World Transplant Games Federation and thrilled the participants with the football freestyle show featuring Italy's most famous freestyler, Antonio Colella.

At the concluding gala dinner and closing ceremony, the winners from Chile and all participants from Australia, Chile, England, France, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Italy, Romania, Spain, the USA, and Wales were honored.

At the end there was a great message, initiated by the winning team: The Chilean players demanded two gold medals for each of their players: one for the transplanted football player and one for the mostly unknown donor. A clear message to remind that without organ donation, the participants would not have been able to be there.

So much life in all of this.





Back in the Game Camp

RETURN TO RAGE

by Walter Sabbioneda, AGWA Italy

THE AGWA (AMATEUR GRIDIRON WORLD ASSOCIATION) LAUNCHED THE “BACK IN THE GAME” PROJECT IN ITALY AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024 TO REBUILD THE WOMEN’S TACKLE SECTION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN FOOTBALL, WHICH DISAPPEARED AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS A FEW YEARS AGO, AND TO GIVE MANY GIRLS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO THE FIELD AND TRY OUT THIS SPORT.



The sports program is aimed at all women of all ages, players who are not registered in a team and members with initial experience. In this way, many can continue their sporting career, and others can try out a sport that really enables every girl to play a role in this sporting discipline.

In the last 12 months, the project “Back in the Game” project, the only women’s American football project active in Italy, started on 14 April 2024 in Piacenza. It is structured with a detailed calendar and already has a series of monthly meetings in different regions and cities in Italy. The meetings consist of training sessions on fixed days and at fixed times, thus offering everyone the opportunity to participate and promote the growth of a group that can revitalise an Italian representative.

The project that gave rise to the

‘Scarlet Phoenix Team’ has already played international friendly matches, such as the one on 23 November 2024 in Garbagnate Milanese against the English team Titans of Manchester. The next one will be played on 15 February 2025 in Florence against the Mexican Centinels team, in order to preserve the possibility of ensuring gender equality in American football as well and to grow this movement in every corner of Italy.

The Garbagnate game in November was the highlight of the event ‘Women and sport, a story that needs to be written’. It was organised by AGWA in view of the International Week for the Elimination of Violence against Women to raise awareness of this issue among the sports community.

In addition to the full co-operation and sponsorship of the municipality of Garbagnate Milanese, the event also received the patronage of the

Lombardy Region.

The event has been recognised by the Milan Cortina 2026 Foundation for its accessibility and inclusion, its environmental and social sustainability and its impact on the community, among other things, by joining the Italy of the Games project. This aims to promote and enhance the impact of sports initiatives related to the 2026 Winter Games.

“Back in the Game” aims to revitalise women’s football in Italy. ✨



32ND OPEN SPORT for ALL SKI FESTIVAL

by Marina Vukotić, ASFAS

THE ASSOCIATION SPORTS FOR ALL SERBIA, THE LEADING NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL SPORTS RECREATION AND COMPANY SPORTS, IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE 32ND EDITION OF THE OPEN SPORTS FOR ALL SKI FESTIVAL, SET TO TAKE PLACE AT THE KOPAONIK SKI RESORT FROM MARCH 19TH TO 23RD, 2025. THIS ANNUAL EVENT, SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF SPORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, HAS BECOME A TRADITION THAT BRINGS TOGETHER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS OF ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS TO CELEBRATE HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND ACTIVE LIVING.



The Balkan Association of Workers' Sports (BAWS) has recognized the event as a significant regional gathering, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has supported the Festival as a general sponsor on two occasions, highlighting its international significance.

including slalom, giant slalom, and alpine orienteering. With the support of JP Ski Resorts of Serbia, the event provides a safe and exciting environment for all skill levels to challenge themselves on the slopes. In addition, the recreational programs encourage participants to enjoy the snow and engage in activities that promote physical health and well-being.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FREE SKI SCHOOL

One of the highlights of the festival is the free ski school for beginners, organized in collaboration with the Serbian Association of Snow Sports Teachers and Trainers. This initiative has successfully introduced nearly 100 participants to the basics of skiing, helping them build confidence and skills on the slopes. The involvement of expert instructors ensures that participants receive the best guidance as they learn or improve their ski techniques.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

The social-entertainment segment of the festival offers a variety of activities, fostering interaction and camaraderie among participants from all over the region.

A FESTIVAL FOR EVERYONE

The Ski Festival offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage in a wide variety of activities that promote physical fitness and well-being. The event is divided into three main components: competitive, educational, and social-entertainment. These segments are designed to inspire individuals to become more active, improve their health, and foster a sense of community.

COMPETITIVE SPORTS & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The festival's competitive component allows participants to showcase their skills in various snow sports,


The Ski Festival attracts participants from across the Balkans, including organizations and companies from Bulgaria, Romania, North Macedonia, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and beyond, who value the importance of employee health and wellness.





JOIN US AT KOPAONIK

We invite all sports enthusiasts, companies, and organizations committed to improving public health to join us for this remarkable event in 2025. Whether you are looking to compete, learn, or simply enjoy the social atmosphere, the 32nd Open Sports for All Ski Festival promises an unforgettable experience.

Mark your calendars for March 19-23, 2025, and get ready to be a part of this exciting celebration of sport, health, and community at Kopaonik! 



ALIGNED WITH THE ACTIVE SERBIA 2030 MISSION THE FESTIVAL PROMOTES KEY GOALS SUCH AS

- Physical activity for everyone
- Health and wellness
- Education and skill development
- Quality of life
- Gender equality
- Social inclusion and responsibility
- Environmental sustainability
- Humanitarian values



**We look forward to
seeing you there!**

https://youtu.be/QHfWPpfhDqw?si=8fVayUT7_mET1I5p

100 years

ASKÖ Austria



by Andrea Gruber, ASKÖ

AT THE IMPRESSIVE AND COLORFUL CELEBRATORY EVENT FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASKÖ AT THE MUSEUM ARBEITSWELT IN STEYR IN OCTOBER, ASKÖ PRESIDENT HERMANN KRIST WELCOMED NUMEROUS GUESTS OF HONOR FROM POLITICS, SPORTS POLITICS, SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND EDUCATION IN ADDITION TO ASKÖ HONORARY MEMBERS, HONORARY PRESIDENTS, PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS, PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES AND GUESTS FROM OVER 40 CLUBS.

Former ASKÖ Presidents Dr. Franz Löschnak (1988-2005) and Dr. Peter Wittmann (2005-2014) as well as current President Hermann Krist (since 2014) and ASKÖ Secretary General Michael Maurer (in office since 1999) discussed and presented current topics in a high-profile round table. These included "Women in sport" and "Diversity in sport" as well as "Looking to the future". The keynote speech by Dr.

Marcel Chahrour was an impressive highlight. The historian took the 180 guests of honor on an exciting journey through the history of ASKÖ.

Sporting acts were of course a must at the anniversary celebration of the sports umbrella organization. Circus artist Susanne Haberl (originally a gymnast from ASKÖ Mattersburg), the representatives of ASKÖ Karate Steyr and the Graz Cheerleading Royals offered the guests impressive performances.

ASKÖ President Hermann Krist was able to state with satisfaction:

"This anniversary emphasizes the importance of ASKÖ as a powerful umbrella organization. In recent years, the powerful workers' association has become a modern and dynamic working group that has achieved and will continue to achieve a great deal for Austrian sport. We still have a lot to do and will also master the next few years well."

The ASKÖ was founded in 1924 as the first Austrian umbrella organization in Vienna as the "Workers' Association for Sport and Physical Culture" (then still "DER ASKÖ").



© Pictures: Florian Reumer Fotografie





The federation had the task of uniting three previously independent workers' associations: The workers' gymnasts, the workers' cyclists and the friends of nature. Other workers' sports associations were added later. It has now been 100 years since its foundation, and today DIE ASKÖ (= Working Group for Sport and Physical Culture) is one of the three

major Austrian sports umbrella organizations for cooperation, diversity, fair play, inclusion and social justice in sport. It is currently home to 4,425 member clubs with almost 170,000 volunteers and almost 1 million individual memberships.



The Magic of the NET

“BARLETI” UNIVERSITY IN ALBANIA IS FULLY COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT NOT ONLY THEM, THROUGH THE SPORT OF CATCH`N SERVE BALL IN SPECIAL PROJECTS. A KEY INITIATIVE IN IS “THE MAGIC OF THE NET”, DESIGNED AND EXECUTED AT BESNIK SYKJA HIGH SCHOOL IN TIRANA.



This project not only aims to introduce the game Catch`n Serve Ball, but also seeks to involve a diverse array of participants, including students, teachers,

members of the “School for Leadership,” school administrators, and aspiring school leaders (760 students, 60 teachers, and supporting staff).

A significant milestone in “Barleti” University’s efforts to promote Catch`n Serve Ball has been training numerous physical education teachers and trainers as Basic Level European Trainers by CSIT. These trained professionals have implemented this game from March to June and they are now actively implementing the Catch`n Serve Ball game in their schools across several regions.

Notably, the substantial participation of students in this game has successfully engaged individuals who were previously reluctant to engage in educational activities. Feedback collected from teachers and students regarding their experiences with this initiative has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the positive impact of Catch`n Serve Ball on the community.

Additionally, the growing positive climate and collaboration among school staff has significantly contributed to enhancing the overall quality of teaching and learning. We have developed awareness activities and



workshops with kids and their parents, grandparents, policymakers, politicians, and public audiences.


ACTIVE AND HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE

In this initiative, we aim to involve all students from grades 5 to 12 and teaching staff, parents, and the broader community. Thus far, we have successfully engaged many participants, and we anticipate this

number will continue to rise significantly next year. We believe that participating in this game will promote a more active and healthier lifestyle.

Through this project, we aim to reaffirm our commitment to an inclusive educational system throughout the country that encourages physical activity and welcomes all students, regardless of their physical abilities, alongside their families, teaching staff, and various stakeholders. Everyone needs to access the benefits of an active lifestyle through

activities that promote vitality and well-being. Consequently, we place a strong emphasis on involving women, girls, and mothers of students, as their active participation serves as a positive influence on their families.

We will go on to share the magic of this wonderful game with as many individuals as possible throughout Albania by organizing friendly matches between schools within various cities and between them, too. 

ACTIVE PROJECTS

- "At' Shtjefen Gjeçovi" Gymnasium, Laç, ZVA Kurbin, DRAP Lezhë (500 pupils, students and 40 teachers)
- 9-year-old school "Faslli Cami" Vicsht, ZVA (80 students, 12 teachers plus director)
- 9-year-old school "Gjon Gjonaj" Laç, Kurbin (210 students)
- United High School "Matosh Uka" Fierzë-Tropojë (170 students and 19 teachers)





**Catch'n Serve
BALL AUSTRIA**



VERY WELL DONE IN AUSTRIA

by Christina Gschweidl-Faltner,
Catch'n Serve Ball Austria

„PLAY, CATCH, CONNECT FOR EQUALITY IN SPORTS“. WITH THIS NEW MOTTO THE MODERN BRAND AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN UP CATCH'N SERVE TO OTHER TARGET GROUPS HAVE BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED ALSO IN AUSTRIA. PARTICIPATION IN MAJOR EVENTS, WHERE CATCH'N SERVE BALL WAS PRESENTED AS A MEANS OF PROMOTING EQUALITY, CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS.

SYMPOSIUM ON EQUALITY IN SPORT

Organized by the Carinthian state government, Catch'n Serve was presented as both a cool sport and a tool for equality. At the celebrity show match between well-known Carinthian athletes, the VIPs were amazed by the sporting side of Catch'n Serve Ball and the training to become a Catch'n Serve coach was also a great success.

EUROGAMES2024 IN VIENNA

A show match with prominent testimonials from politics, sport

and society brought the asphalt in front of Vienna "Karlskirche" to a boil on July 19, 2024 at 33 degrees Celsius. Participants included National Copuncil member and sports spokeswoman for the Greens Agnes Sirkka Prammer and Jennifer Kickert, President of Catch'n Serve Ball Austria and deputy state chairwomen of the Vienna Green Party, as well as the European partners of the SGS project (Sport for all Genders and Sexualities) and Magdalena Bina from the Carinthian state government.

CATCH'N SERVE IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS

Even though the mothers are the focus, the children are part of

the exercise program. This is why Catch'n Serve Ball is also regularly presented in various schools. The flagship project in school sports is the multi-year cooperation with an integrative school in Vienna. After several training sessions with the Catch'n Serve coaches and teachers from the school, the final tournament took place, where not only did the children play and laugh, but five teachers also received their certificates as Catch'n Serve Ball Austria multipliers. From this project and the initiative of the teachers, with the support of the Vienna Education Directorate, the Catch'n Serve Ball School-Championship was created, in which different schools compete against each other.





The Role of HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT

by Andrey Radchenko, AUHHCF

THE WAR IN UKRAINE CONTINUES TO POSE A GREAT CHALLENGE TO THE NATION, YET THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE SHOW UNWAVERING COURAGE IN THEIR FIGHT FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. IT IS A HEROIC STRUGGLE BY UKRAINE AGAINST AN ALMOST OVERPOWERING OPPONENT. DESPITE THE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE ALL-UKRAINIAN FEDERATION OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT (RUKBO) HAS MANAGED TO HOLD ALL PLANNED COMPETITIONS, BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

One of the most significant events was the Ukrainian Hand-to-Hand Combat Championship, held in August, in the city of Bucha in the Kyiv region. Over 200 of the strongest athletes from 18 regions of Ukraine competed for top honors in various weight categories. Following the competition, the national team was formed, which will participate in the 8th World Sports Games (WSG) in Loutraki, to be held from June 3 to June 8, 2025.

At the initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the All-Ukrainian Federation of Hand-to-Hand Combat, a new section titled "Demonstration of Applied Techniques" is being introduced as part of a pilot project for adaptive hand-to-hand combat. The goal of this project is to create opportunities for war veterans and people with disabilities to reintegrate into active life through sport.

Yuriy Radchenko, President of the All-Ukrainian Federation of Hand-to-Hand Combat, stated:

"This is an example of the unbreakable will and spirit of our heroes. Join us in supporting veterans as they return to full life through sport. Glory to Ukraine!" Oleksiy Nikitenko, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and one of the project's initiators, added: "People with disabilities will have another

path to reintegrate into civilian life through the tatami."

Adaptive sports are now a key focus of many international and governmental organizations, as well as the All-Ukrainian Federation of Hand-to-Hand Combat. The primary aim of this direction is to help veterans and people with disabilities recover both physically and mentally, while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle through hand-to-hand combat.

The Federation demonstrates to the world how sport can become a powerful tool for recovery and resilience, even in the most challenging conditions. The Ukrainian national team is eagerly awaiting the 8th CSIT World Sports Games (WSG) in Loutraki next June. Yuriy Radchenko, President of the Ukrainian Federation of Hand-to-Hand Combat, noted: "The CSIT World Sports Games are a symbol of peace and friendship." ✨



New Workers Sport Leagues in Iran

by Majid Javadian, FAWSI

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE FEDERATION OF AMATEUR AND WORKERS' SPORTS, FAWSI FOUNDED 2023 ITS OWN SPORTS LEAGUE IN IRAN. THE MAIN AIM WAS TO FURTHER INCREASE THE MOTIVATION AND ENTHUSIASM OF ATHLETES FOR THEIR SPORT.

There are numerous differences in the organisation of national championships for workers and the workers' sports league in Iran. But the national sports championships for workers are only organised once a year. However, workers' athletes have more opportunities to play sports when they participate in the ongoing FAWSI sports leagues, which are organised on a monthly or even weekly basis. This brings much more joy and incentives.

Although the Federation of Amateur and Workers' Sports in Iran organises most of its sporting events as part of the "National Sports Championships", FAWSI launched its own leagues in 2023 with futsal, darts and table tennis and even expanded the programme in 2024.

The inclusion of rules and regulations such as preparation methods, standardisation and appropriate organisation in the FAWSI leagues is intended to further increase the quality and performance level of the workers' athletes.

FIRST WOMEN MOUNTAINEERS' ASCEND OF MOUNT ARARAT

For the first time, the Federation of Amateur and Workers Sports of Iran (FAWSI) decided to allow women to participate in an international mountaineering abroad. A group of 13 female mountaineers from Iran climbed the 5137 meters high summit of Mount Ararat in Turkey and hoisted the workers' flag on the mountain peak.

It was an important, extraordinary and tough sporting event. Soosan Daneshfar, the former FAWSI Vice President for Women's Affairs, was also in the group. Before the start of the tour, the FAWSI organised three preparation camps, which helped the women to adequately prepare for the upcoming efforts in the high alpine terrain. This magnificent and indescribable sporting event will forever have a prominent place in the records of the female mountaineers in Iran.

FAWSI REPRESENTATIVES MET CSIT PRESIDENT BRUNO MOLEA

Freestyle wrestling is one of the most popular and important sports in Asia. Therefore, FAWSI is very keen to send more participants to the CSIT World Sport Games in the coming years. Serious efforts are currently being made to include freestyle wrestling in the WSG2025 programme in Loutraki.

That is why Dr Bahman Mirzaei, Secretary General of the CSIT Technical Committee for Wrestling, was also present at the congress in Loutraki. The FAWSI President had a productive meeting with CSIT President Bruno Molea, who will try to facilitate this process. During the meetings, Bruno Molea also recognised the many national sporting activities of the FAWSI and will try to support the Iranian team in the next WSG in the best possible way. ✨



Anniversary celebration 150 years of **SATUS**

by Christian Vifian, SATUS



THE SWISS WORKERS' SPORTS ASSOCIATION SATUS WAS FOUNDED 150 YEARS AGO, MAKING IT OLDER THAN THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES FOUNDED BY BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN, WHICH WERE FIRST HELD IN ATHENS IN 1896. THE CSIT MEMBER ASSOCIATION CELEBRATED THIS WITH A MAJOR SPORTS FESTIVAL AND A GALA EVENT AT THE NOBLE KÖNIZ CASTLE NEAR BERN. SATUS PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN VIFIAN WELCOMED NUMEROUS GUESTS AND CLUBS FROM THE SATUS FAMILY, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES AND INTERNATIONAL GUESTS, AND PERSONALLY HOSTED THE SPORTING FESTIVITIES.

The gala on Saturday evening was hosted by Swiss radio sports presenter Bernhard Schär, who interviewed several guests of honor in front of the invited audience. First and foremost, the President of the Swiss Olympic Committee, the Mayor of Köniz and several former and current Swiss Olympic athletes, all of whom began their careers in SATUS and went on to celebrate great international

success. The gala was accompanied by music from one of the best boogie pianists in Switzerland, Nico Brina, who is still in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most piano strokes in one minute.

The whole of Saturday was dedicated to sport. Starting in the morning, there were demonstrations of various sports from SATUS clubs and guest groups for the enjoyment of the many 100 festival participants. This included floor gymnastics as

well as pole dancing and the very traditional Swiss Rhönrad, with which the current Swiss world champion performed spectacular laps on the parcel. The well-known Swiss band "Magic Five" with Mario Capitano, one of Switzerland's best-known guitarists, provided musical entertainment during the breaks. The festival opened with Caribbean sounds from the steel band "Octopan". The festival closed with a musical program by the Swiss cult band "Calimeros". ✨

Hapoel Israel 2024

A large variety of Sport Activities

by Matan Ben Oz, HAPOEL

WITH HAPOEL ISRAEL, CSIT HAS A VERY LARGE AND ACTIVE PARTNER IN ITS RANKS, WHICH MANAGES TO MOBILISE THOUSANDS OF ITS MEMBERS TO COUNTLESS SPORTING EVENTS YEAR AFTER YEAR AND ALSO REPEATEDLY SENDS A LARGE DELEGATION TO THE CSIT WORLD SPORTS GAMES IN LOUTRAKI. THE 2024 PROGRAMME WAS ALSO CORRESPONDINGLY LARGE WITH NUMEROUS PARTICIPANTS.

SPORTS FESTIVAL THE "NEXT STEP"

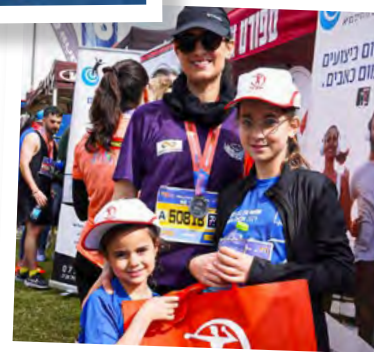
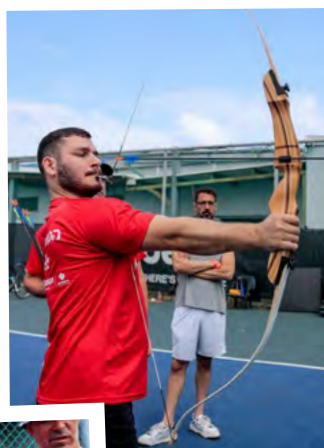
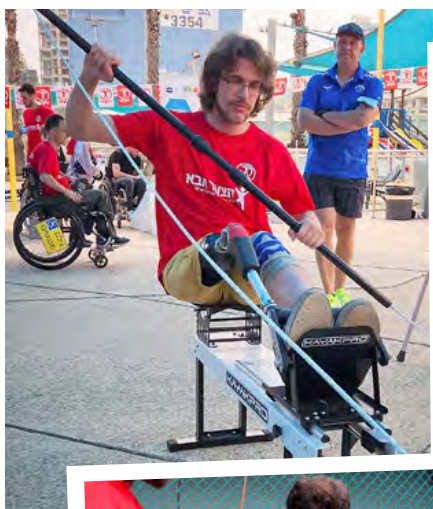
Ra'anana, initiated by the 'Next Step' organization in collaboration with Hapoel Israel and the 'Israel Sports Association for the Disabled.' Since the war on October 7, many amputees have joined the "Next Step" community, and together with Hapoel Israel, an event was

organized to showcase sports disciplines specifically tailored for amputees. The event was attended by dozens of amputees from all over the country.

JERUSALEM MARATHON 2024

The Jerusalem Marathon took place in March, with Hapoel Israel

as a proud sponsor of the event. The center set up a special area for runners, which quickly became one of the main attractions, drawing thousands of athletes of all ages who came to enjoy our activities. Hapoel Israel's booth featured special raffles with prizes that participants won after spinning the prize wheel. Additionally, in celebration of International Women's Day, Hapoel



held a raffle every half hour exclusively for women, where participants won tablets, gift vouchers for sports stores, and BlazePod kits, courtesy of Hapoel Israel! Besides the raffles, runners who completed the race and arrived at the Hapoel Israel's booth were treated to relaxing physiotherapy sessions.

SPORTS FESTIVAL TIBERIAS

The Hapoel Sports Festival came to the city of Tiberias in August. A special sports festival for the whole family at the Tiberias municipal stadium, featuring a variety of sports activities, inflatables, competitions, and plenty of fun for children and all the residents of the city.

The event was organized for the Tiberias community as part of the "Hapoel for You" project by Hapoel Israel.



FOR THE COMMUNITY HOF ASHKELON

In collaboration with the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council, Hapoel Israel held a special sports event for families and children at Hof Ashkelon. The event featured a variety of sports facilities for all ages, a challenging ninja course, and netball and soccer competitions, at the end of which medals and trophies were awarded to the winners. This was the first community sports event organized by the Hof Ashkelon Regional Council since the October 7 attack on Israel. Hapoel Israel will continue to support and assist the community and Hapoel clubs throughout the country.

WORKPLACE COURSES

Two courses were launched to support workplace leagues: 1 – A refereeing course for futsal and soccer for amateur sports, led by former international referee Liran Liany. 2 – A netball refereeing course for amateur sports,



led by referee Shlomo Brotman. Participants in both courses were trained and have already started officiating in amateur futsal, soccer, and netball competitions this year.

VENUS NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The tournament in Eilat featured 40 teams and 400 athletes from all over the country. Activities took place in the city's sports halls and on the beaches. The athletes enjoyed water and adventure activities, indoor netball games, beach netball matches, sunset yoga workshops, a costume party, and more.



Seniors 55+ at the CSIT WSG 2025 in Loutraki

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer

THE UPCOMING 8TH CSIT WORLD SPORTS GAMES FROM JUNE 3–8, 2025, IN LOUTRAKI (GREECE) WILL FEATURE AN EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAM TAILORED FOR CSIT SENIORS AGED 55+ WITH A DIVERSE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOCUSED ON PHYSICAL MOVEMENT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND FUN. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR ACTIVE SENIORS WHO ENJOY MOVEMENT AND PARTICIPATING IN GROUP ACTIVITIES. NO SPECIAL SPORTS BACKGROUND IS REQUIRED. TRAINERS AND INSTRUCTORS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO JOIN AND EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE.



A LARGE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

The “WSG2025” blend sport, history, and community in a unique event. Seniors are invited to move, laugh, and fully enjoy Greek culture. CSIT is looking forward to creating unforgettable moments with a large variety of activities. Each day offers two activity blocks, allowing participants to experience every part of the schedule. The range includes traditional Greek folk dance, “Walking Football” (a non-running version of soccer) along with innovative games like “Krolf” (a mix of croquet and golf). Other highlights include balance exercises with small rice bags

and AQUA gymnastics to enhance motor skills and coordination.

WALKING FOOTBALL THE FUN TWIST ON SOCCER

Walking football is a specially adapted version of soccer where running is strictly prohibited, adding an amusing and strategic element to the game. Participants move across the field, promoting technique, teamwork and a fair play atmosphere. This activity welcomes everyone, regardless of their previous experience with soccer, and emphasizes community building through laughter and movement.

BALANCE TRAINING WITH RICE BAGS

This session uses small rice bags to strengthen core muscles, improve coordination, and develop motor skills essential for daily life. Balance exercises also help participants gain confidence and reduce the risk of falls, enhancing overall well-being. The focus on deep muscle engagement and reflex training makes this activity both practical and preventative.

AQUA-GYM

AQUA-gym sessions cater to seniors looking to combine fun and

fitness in a low-impact environment. Exercising in water not only supports the body but also adds resistance that helps improve strength and co-ordination. This activity is perfect for seniors looking for a refreshing way to stay active, and it provides inspiration for instructors working with older adults in aquatic settings.

ANCIENT GREEK SPORTS

This unique workshop immerses participants in the culture and practices of ancient Greek athletics. Beginning with an exploration of the history and significance of the Olympic Games in 776 BCE, the session then moves on to hands-on experiences with sports like long jump, running, javelin, and even a modified version of the ancient combat sport, pankration. This outdoor activity combines history, culture, and exercise, offering participants a deeper understanding of ancient traditions.

KROLF THE FUSION OF CROQUET AND GOLF


Krolf, a mix of "croquet" and "golf," is a simple yet entertaining game that requires minimal physical exertion. Played on a lawn with croquet equipment, participants aim to get the ball into holes spread across uneven terrain, combining skill and strategy. The social and relaxed nature of the game makes it ideal for seniors, providing ample opportunity for conversation and laughter.

CATCH'N SERVE BALL SENIOR-FRIENDLY VOLLEYBALL

This adapted version of volleyball allows participants to catch and throw the ball over the net, making the game more accessible. Teams of six compete to score points by grounding the ball on the opponent's

side while maintaining a lively and cooperative spirit. This variation fosters teamwork and can be learned quickly, encouraging everyone to join the fun.

TRADITIONAL GREEK FOLK-DANCE

Dancing has been a cornerstone of Greek culture for centuries, serving as both an art form and a social tradition. This session introduces seniors to traditional dances that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Greece. Participants will not only learn the steps but will also gain insight into the stories and history behind these dances, making it both an engaging physical activity and a cultural experience. 



**Further information
and registration**

<https://2025.csit-world-sports-games.com>

WHEEL AND ROLL AGAINST HATE

by Tilmann Ziegenhain, RKB

THE “RKB SOLIDARITY GERMANY” TAKES A CLEAR STAND AGAINST RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM. RECENTLY, THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR THE SO-CALLED “ALTERNATIVE FOR GERMANY” HAVE BEEN IMPROVING AND MORE AND MORE RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST OFFENCES HAVE BEEN COMMITTED: THE RKB IS OBSERVING THE DANGEROUS SHIFT TO THE RIGHT IN GERMANY AND EUROPE WITH GROWING CONCERN AND IS TAKING A CLEAR STANCE AGAINST IT. IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2023, THE ASSOCIATION WAS ALREADY ABLE TO IMPLEMENT VARIOUS MEASURES AS PART OF THE “WHEEL AND ROLL AGAINST HATE” PROJECT.



AGAINST RACISM, SEXISM, BODY SHAMING AND HOMOPHOBIA

To raise awareness of misanthropy in sport, a number of explanatory videos have also been produced. These are dedicated to four specific, widespread forms of group-based discrimination and marginalisation: racism, sexism, body shaming and homophobia. The aim was not only to provide a low-threshold, informative introduction to a complex topic, but also to communicate the organisation's stance unambiguously both internally and externally: Everyone

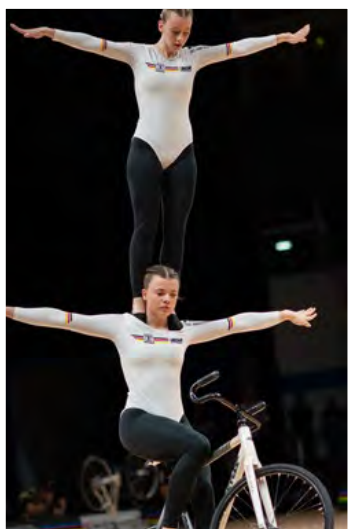
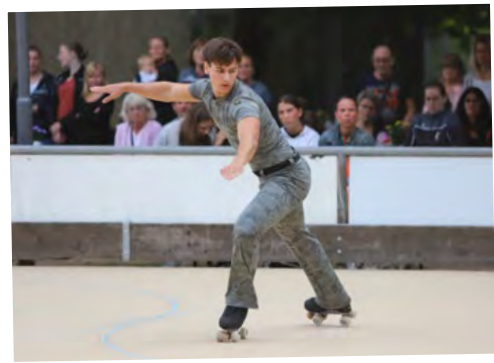
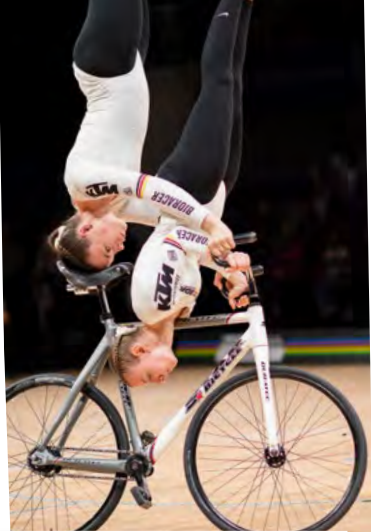
is welcome at the RKB and can find their place, regardless of origin, gender or appearance!

SPORT AND HUMAN RIGHTS A STRONG TEAM #STRONGERTOGETHER

In a three-part workshop, the participants at the 59th International Youth Encounters 2023 explored the 30 articles that were set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The focus was on how they relate to their own (sporting) lives. It was decided to create written

The project kicked off with a panel discussion in November, at which Dr Dieter Vaupel presented his new book “Radsport im Nationalsozialismus”. An almost forgotten chapter in German sports history. Afterwards, Tobias Köck (Vice President of Association Development at the RKB), who initiated the project, Janina Sander (Federal Chairwoman of Solijugend, an independent youth association of the RKB), Dr Dieter Vaupel and Dr Ben Weinberg (member of the Executive Committee of the Centre for Human Rights and Sport) discussed the role and responsibility of clubs for civil society and democracy.





instructions for the subdivisions of the RKB and Solijugend.

SPORT.MOVEMENT.SOLIDARITY

The travelling exhibition "Sport. Movement.Solidarity" presents the milestones and setbacks of the RKB in a clear and concise history: from its foundation in 1913 with almost 150,000 members as the second largest workers' sports association in the German Empire. From its growth to become the largest cycling association in the world in the first German democracy, until it was banned by the Nazis. From its re-establishment in 1945 as one of the few workers' sports and cultural associations. All members can also borrow the travelling exhibition.

GOOD RESULTS IN 2024

Probably the most important measure in 2024 was a workshop in mid-November, where creative methods were used to work on the association's mission statement.

The aim was to clearly communicate internally and externally that any form of group-based misanthropy has no place in the RKB. Solijugend also celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2024, while its traditionally most important event, the international youth camp, was successfully organised for the 60th time.

The sporting successes in 2024 are also an incentive: Theresa Sielemann and Luisa Artmann became German cycling polo champions. Jana Pfann (women's single artistic cycling) and Neele Jodeleit and Kim Leah Schlüter (women's 2-man artistic cycling) won bronze at the UCI Indoor Cycling World Championships. With the dancers from 'Dancesport Heritage', another sporting pillar was added to the association. A contact that was established via the CSIT.

OUTLOOK 2025

It will be another eventful year. Solijugend and RKB are planning

an event near the former venue of Frankfurt am Main to mark '100 years of the Workers' Olympics'. A meeting of skilled workers is organised, which is to be linked to the CSIT World Sports Games in Loutraki. Solijugend, which has been an accredited 'ERASMUS+' organisation since 2024, will play the main role in this. In the long term, digitalisation will be expanded in order to strengthen volunteering and make it more attractive, as well as to strengthen the international network of friendly contacts. Above all, the CIST World Sports Games in Loutraki, which many RKB athletes are already looking forward to!



ITALY is the 1ST CSIT CATCH'N SERVE CHAMPION

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer



HIGH LEVEL SPORT, HAPPY FACES, FAIR PLAY, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION, WOMEN POWER, PARTY, SEA AND NEW FRIENDSHIPS. IT WAS THE FIRST EDITION OF THE CSIT CATCH'N SERVE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE TOURNAMENT WAS ALREADY VERY WELL ATTENDED. MORE THAN 100 PARTICIPANTS FROM CROATIA, SLOVENIA, USA, FINLAND, ITALY, GERMANY, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, UKRAINE, BULGARIA, CYPRUS AND LATVIA TOOK PART IN ROVINJ AND HAD GREAT DAYS IN CROATIA.

Wonderful conditions have been created, great sports facilities and perfect accommodation for the delegations. It was a perfectly organized tournament by HLA, with many exciting games, nice side events and lived CSIT friendship. The victory went to Italy Pianeta Volley Aprilia, who defeated the Latvia Skabargas team in two sets in the final. Everything went smoothly. Rovinj has lived up to its reputation, known as one of the tourist hotspots in Croatia.

The CSIT was represented by Sports Director Georges Michel, General Secretary Wolfgang Burghardt and Valeria Gherardini. There was also an ExCom meeting of the International Catch'n Serve Ball Federation ICSBF in the framework of the tournament. As part of the EU „Erasmus+ Mobility project“, also several training sessions were held for the participants.

UNITED MIXED TEAM

United Mix are special teams for women all over the world who can come and join the competition. At the Croatian Championships in Rovinj, Catch'n Serve Ball 2024 managed to form two teams with players from the USA, Finland, Germany, Austria, Bosnia, Ukraine and Cyprus. United Mix Catch'n Serve Ball will always be and remain open to any woman or player who wants to join this unique, motivated, united and fun sport.

Basically, anyone can participate through this platform, even if they don't have a team. The ICSBF championship is open to members of CSIT and ICSBF and is organized in a spirit of fraternity, respect and peace. All sports federations and sports clubs that want to promote the sport together and share its values and objectives 100% are invited. The CSIT is one of the co-founders of this new international sport.



SAN MARINO at the heart of the PADEL WORLD

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer



THE INTERNATIONAL CSIT AMATEUR PADEL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO 3 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. THE COMPETITION CELEBRATED THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP, INCLUSIVITY AND PASSION FOR PADEL, RECORDED EXCITING PARTICIPATION AND PROVIDED MOMENTS OF PURE ENTERTAINMENT AND BONDING. SAN MARINO TOOK THE MEN'S AMATEUR WORLD TITLE. THE WOMEN'S TITLE WENT TO ITALY. THE BEST FOREIGN TEAM WAS AUSTRIA IN FOURTH PLACE IN THE MIXED COMPETITION.



The event, organized by San Marino Welcome under the patronage of CSIT, the International Confederation of Amateur Sports, brought together amateur teams and players from Austria,

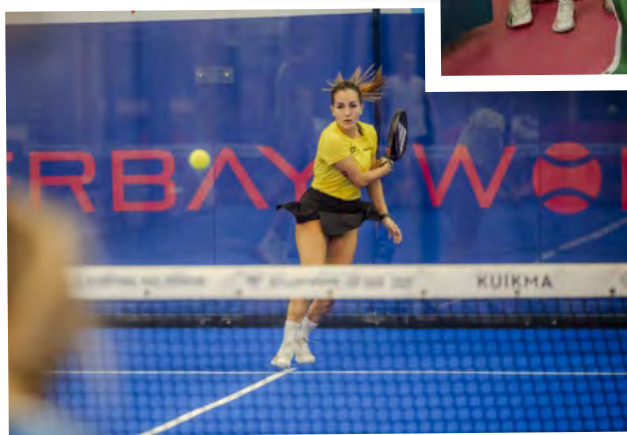
Finland, Spain, France, San Marino, Italy and Greece, who competed in an atmosphere of fair play and sharing. With more than 110 matches played on the fields of San Marino's Wonderbay, the competition brought out an astonishing technical level, making for an engaging experience for participants and spectators alike.

"We are proud to have hosted an event that celebrates sport for all and allows amateur athletes to compete in an international context," said David Bologna, manager of the organization, during the awards ceremony. "This championship is not just a sporting competition, but a platform where tourism and cultural exchange merge with sport, in

line with the values CSIT promotes around the world."

SPORT AS A TOOL FOR INCLUSION

The CSIT World Amateur Padel Championship reaffirmed its mission to spread sport as a tool for inclusion, well-being and personal growth. Also in San Marino, CSIT President Bruno Molea stated: "I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the entire San Marino Welcome team, the CSIT Technical Commission and its head of the padel section, Mauro Marino, as well as the coordinating CSIT Sports Director, Harold Van Hest, and the coordinator of the tennis technical commission,



Harald Burghard, for the impeccable organization of this prestigious international sporting event, the first ever edition of the CSIT International Padel Championship."

A first edition that exceeded expectations and paves the way for a series of prestigious sports events in the Republic. The Secretary of State for Tourism Federico Pedini Amati: "the importance of events like this for tourism is absolute, the Secretariat of State supports and sustains them recognizing their promotional value but also in consideration of their importance for the hotel sector in a season that is less attractive for tourism. Congratulations

and winners thank you from the bottom of my heart to the organizers and the international bodies that made it possible to bring this event to the Republic of San Marino."


Each match was attended by a passionate audience, which supported the teams in a festive and participatory atmosphere. The tournament featured 4 categories of play, offering participants the opportunity to compete in both men's and women's doubles, as well as in mixed doubles and in the over -45 bracket.

In men's doubles, the victory and the title of world amateur padel champions went to San Marino's Wonderbay pair, Enrico Pozzi and Luca Carli, in an all-white final against Edoardo Clementi and Alex Santi. Third-place finishers Daniele Rodighieri and Mauro Coaro.

In the women's category, the gold medal goes to Italy's Carla Di Domenico and Maria Antonietta Di Marco who beat in a spectacular final, followed in streaming by the commentary of the celebrated coach Luca Romani, the San Marino team Cristina Baciocchi – Giulia Tomassucci. Bronze for Sara Della Penna and Federica Priori.

In the mixed, the world title goes to Riccardo Raffa and Roberta Lucchini, silver to Christian Abbafati and Damiana Di Mario and bronze to Emanuele Munelli and Roberta Liberati.

For the over45 world title to the duo Stefano Corruccini – Fabio Salvini who beat Francesco Tiselli and Tiziano Tarantino. Third place finishers Fabio Gennari and Gianluca Pennino.

First of the foreigners was the Austrian pair of Floria Bohm and Sofia Flutterknecht, who finished fourth in the mixed tournament. 

Thank you Ostende

THANK YOU BELGIUM

THANK YOU FROS

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer

END OF AUGUST THE CITY OF OSTEND IN BELGIUM WAS THE HOST FOR THE CSIT SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024. TOP-CLASS SPORT AT A TOP-CLASS AMATEUR LEVEL. THE ATMOSPHERE AMONG THE OFFICIALS AND THE ATHLETES HAS BEEN EXCITING. MORE THAN 300 ATHLETES TOOK PART IN THE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS. BOTH THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE BY FROS AS WELL AS THE CSIT TECHNICAL COMMISSION HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH THE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE HARD WORK EVERYONE INVOLVED HAS PUT IN.

For their tremendous performance, the swimmers were rewarded with an ideally organized competition. Hubert Mattens of the Organizing Committee is very satisfied: "I am incredibly pleased with the presence of delegations with over 350 participants. For years it has been a dream of mine to organize this event, so I am proud we were successful. Furthermore, I am grateful for all our sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible, and obviously our team and officials who worked so well together."

TOP-CLASS SPORT AT A HIGH AMATEUR LEVEL

307 swimmers from Italy, Mexico, Austria, France, Iran, the Netherlands, Finland and, of course, Belgium took part: "Bringing amateur athletes together at this level is a special story. Not only on a sporting level, but also on a social and human level. The athletes grow beyond themselves and friendships are formed. The benefits for everyone are huge", said Katja Vranckx, Head of FROS Swimming.

SWIMMING HAS A GREAT TRADITION WORLDWIDE

Swimming is a popular sport. You could see that in the large number of participants at all events. And some of the performances were at a really high level, even at amateur level. "It was a dream come true to organise an international competition for swimmers in Belgium. It is a high-level competition and a highlight for every swimmer. When organising the CSIT World Sports Games, countries compete for

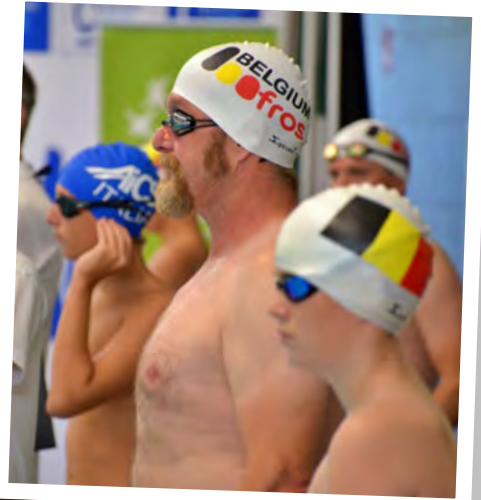


the honour of hosting the Events, as they did at the Olympic Games in Paris. It is therefore unique that this time the CSIT Singles Championships took place in Ostend," said Hubert Mattens, President of FROS Swimming and the Organising Committee.

TRADITION TO TRADITION

Swimming has one of the largest communities not only in the CSIT, but worldwide. This is confirmed time and again by the very large number of participants. "It is a great honour for

the CSIT to organise the 2024 championships in Belgium. FROS has always participated in all our CSIT Swimming Championships and for this reason, the World Federation has supported FROS' candidacy from the very beginning to recognise their long-standing presence and their great ability to organise sporting events", said Roberto Vecchione, Chairman of the CSIT Swimming Technical Commission. 



JUST GRAB A ROPE AND EXPERIENCE the UNEXPECTED

by Silke Fürnschuss, IJRU / ERSO

A JUMP ROPE. A SIMPLE, PLAIN CORD. WE ALL KNOW THIS DEVICE FROM OUR CHILDHOOD. WE'VE ALL USED IT THOUSANDS OF TIMES AT HOME, ON THE STREET OR IN PE LESSONS. BUT THIS SIMPLE ROPE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE AND IS NOT JUST AN ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN OR A WARM-UP TOOL!

Jump rope has become a very popular sport. It is no longer just a pastime, but a high-performance sport for all age groups and all fitness levels. Whether alone at home or in a group in a sports hall. Jump rope can be practised as a leisure activity, in a demonstration team or now also as a championship up to world champion level.

Since the 1960s, jump rope has been regarded as a sport in its own right. Although the sport has been around for more than 60 years, it still has to fight for recognition and recognition to be more than just a children's activity. And it's more than time to prove them wrong!

The International Jump Rope Union IJRU 2023 World

Championships in Colorado Springs (USA) were the biggest in history with more than 1200 athletes from 24 countries. The continental championships are now also reaching ever higher numbers of participants at each event. At the last European Championships there were 641 athletes from 12 countries. However, these championships are usually limited to existing jump rope communities.

During the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, a team of top athletes presented jump rope at a number of events, including the spectacular opening ceremony on and along the Seine. Through such activities at international sporting events, the

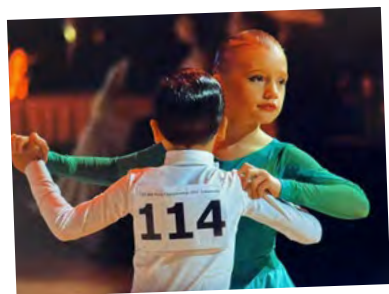
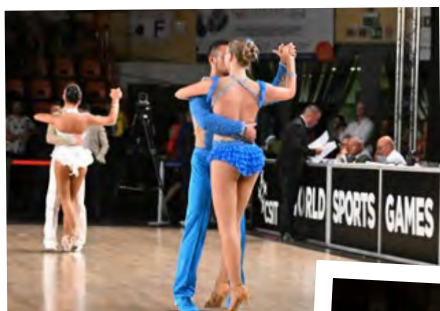
trend sport of jump rope is becoming increasingly well-known and popular with young and old alike.

However, people should not only get to know jump rope visually and as spectators, but also experience the variety of possible applications of a simple skipping rope for themselves, recognise the different variations of the sport and, in the best case, learn what you can do and achieve with a rope in your hands.

IJRU will be at the CSIT World Sports Games from 3 to 8 June 2025 in Loutraki (Greece) and will use the next big stage for some presentations of this very spectacular sport. There will be several opportunities to grab a rope, try yourself and experience the unexpected. ✨



Further information
<https://ijru.sport>



WORLD AMATEUR DANCE SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

by Raimund Fabi, CSIT Media Officer

DANCING IS A POPULAR SPORT AND MOVEMENT, DANCING IS ENERGY AND JOY, DANCING IS COMMUNITY AND CULTURE, DANCING IS FUN. WITH THESE ATTRIBUTES, DANCING IS A PERFECT FIT FOR THE CSIT. FOR THIS REASON, THE CSIT TOOK OVER THE PATRONAGE OF THE “WORLD AMATEUR DANCE SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024” IN SCHLADMING (AUSTRIA), IN WHICH OVER 500 DANCERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TOOK PART.

In total, there were entries from 36 nations, including Japan, the USA, Canada, Hong Kong and almost every country in Europe. The youngest dance couple was just 6 years old, the oldest dancers well over 80. It was a mega event, which was also attended by 90 judges from all over the world, officials, exhibitors and service providers from many areas such as styling, equipment and sound. As well as fans, clubs and dance studio graduates.

Dancing and dance sport is and should be accessible to everyone, from the youngest to the oldest and across all social classes. At the “World Amateur Dance Sport Championships 2024”, 25 titles were

awarded over three days in a wide range of categories. The event once again showed how representative dance sport is, both in terms of age and the breadth of the program. Dancing is “sport for everyone” and keeps people young.

The 2024 event far exceeded expectations in many respects. 2023 was already a complete success in terms of participants, feedback, awareness and organisation, which is why “Dance Sport Heritage Austria” was also commissioned to organise 2024. DSHÖ as an association, with Anastasia Makarova Zdrok and Manfred Stiglitz as President and Vice President, is a member of CSIT meanwhile. CSIT Vice President

Thomas Zacharias was therefore also one of the guests of honour in Schladming.

Without sponsors and a broad presence, such an event is of course not feasible. Platforms such as the CSIT at the upcoming CSIT World Sports Games in Loutraki are therefore very important. Just as important as a broad audience. That's why the 2024 event was also open to everyone with free admission. In order to attract even more guests, next year's event will be moved from the autumn holidays to November 2025. Above all, to appeal to the many schools and other educational institutions and encourage the next generation to join in. Dancing is also healthy! 



6 COUNTRIES SHARE 12 GOLD-MEDALS

by Matthias Reich, IRV

RHÖNRAD IS SPECTACULAR AND BREATHTAKING. IT COMBINES ACROBATICS, PRECISION AND PURE BODY CONTROL TO CREATE A FASCINATING PERFORMANCE. A GYMNASTICS SPORT IN WHICH ATHLETES PERFORM ARTISTIC EXERCISES ON A LARGE, DOUBLE-WHEELED METAL WHEEL.

Rolling, swinging and flying with elegance and power – performing spectacular spirals, somersaults and spins. The wheel becomes a partner when gymnasts steer it up-right, rotate it horizontally or balance seemingly weightlessly on its struts. The 2024 Wheel Gymnastics World Championships took place 2024 in Almere, the Netherlands.

The Individual Finals closed the 2024 Wheel Gymnastics World Championships. Four gold medals for Germany, three for Switzerland and two for Israel – and the first medal ever for Denmark. In an afternoon packed with action, 12 medals were decided in the individual discipline finals at the 2024 World Championships in Almere. The juniors kicked off the competition, while the seniors took the floor over later. The public was treated to a series of stunning routines in all categories.

The pressure and nerves in these competitions ran high, with some signs of fatigue among the athletes. However, despite a few falls and mistakes, the audience was still treated to a selection of excellent routines. At this high level of competition, even the smallest mistake can cost a podium place. In the end, the athletes with the strongest nerves were the ones to show their full potential. In the spiral finals for the senior categories “E” difficulty elements came thick and fast. Rolls, handsprings and

Cyr-inspired spinning elements in spiral secured the gymnasts a high level of difficulty while the audience were able to enjoy a great variety of highclass routines.

The final competition category and overall highlight of the World Championships were the straight-line routines to music, only performed in the senior category. Maneuvering in out of the wheel in positions which defy gravity. This is what the public saw in this last competition, from both women and men. Handstands on top of the wheel, twists and tumbling as well as dancing in the wheel. Beside the technical difficulties, the athletes charmed and flirted with the audience. Every gymnast incorporated a particular personality that was suited to the music and overall routine. We saw a wide range of styles, including a ballet dancer, a distressed girl, a strongman and a contortionist. It was

a fantastic experience and pleasure to watch the finalists, the best wheel gymnasts in the world.

The All Around Finals at the 2024 Wheel Gymnastics World Championships cast a spell of enchantment over the public. This proved to be a difficult decision with so much going on at the same time. Right from the start we were spoiled for choice, being treated to one highlight after the other. There were twisting somersaults in vault on one side of the gym, handsprings in spiral on the other side, while the women stole the main attention with their creative straight-line routines to music. The final Cyr Battle took everything one stage further. In four battle rounds, the new World Champions gave everything they had. This additional side event to the All Around finals was a definite hit for the audience with entertaining and surprising Cyr tricks. ✨





For a full overview of the results for the All Around Finals, see the IRV Event Page.
<https://wheelgymnastics.sport/event/2024-world-championships/>

CATCH'N SERVE BALL

at the 46th CSIT Congress

by Elisabeth Speiser-Havel, ICSBF

THE CSIT CONGRESS 2024 IN LOUTRAKI SAW ITS FIRST-EVER INTERACTIVE SPORTING SESSION WITH THE DEBUT OF CATCH'N SERVE BALL, SETTING THE STAGE FOR AN EXCITING LAUNCH OF THE WORLD AMATEUR SPORTS FORUM "SPORT IMPACTS ALL." HELD IN AN AMPHITHEATER, THE EVENT WAS ORCHESTRATED BY THE HELLENIC ORGANIZATION FOR COMPANY SPORT & HEALTH (HOCSH) UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT NIKOS KERASSOVITIS, ENSURING A SEAMLESS AND INCLUSIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL.

Following a brief introduction to the sport, attendees were invited to take part, generating an enthusiastic response. Loutraki's mayor, Georgios Gionis, a former professional volleyball player, led the charge as participants eagerly joined in. ICSBF President Elisabeth Speiser-Havel managed the game, efficiently guiding participants through the simple rules that make Catch'n Serve Ball accessible to all. This ease of play is one of the sport's highlights, as it allows newcomers to quickly understand and enjoy the experience.

Beyond the game, President Speiser-Havel also contributed to the forum's theoretical segment with a presentation on the mission of the International Catch'n Serve Ball Federation (ICSBF), which was established last year. Her presentation outlined the federation's goals and extended an invitation for new members to join this growing community, reinforcing the forum's


theme of inclusion and impact. This interactive opening underscored the core values of CSIT and the ICSBF, bringing people together through sport and fostering a sense of unity across all participants.

The decision-making body of the International Catch'n Serve Ball Federation had the opportunity to present themselves also at the Congress meeting. Important topics included the successful CSIT Single Championships in Rovinj in June 2024, the development of a dedicated Catch'n Serve Ball and, of course, the upcoming 8th CSIT World Sports Games from 3 to 6 June 2025 in Loutraki.

Furthermore, reports were given on the activities of the various working groups and on the EU Mobility Project CnS4Coaches, which will



make it possible to finance training seminars in new countries. A milestone was the signing of the document by all ExCom members including Ethic Code and Guidelines for members, which from now on must also be signed by new members when they apply for membership.

The purpose of this document is to explain what kind of behavior ICSBF encourages and what kind of behavior is not accepted. It should offer tools to create a respectful climate for the expansion of Catch'n Serve Ball and for quality activities. The aim is for everyone to feel valued in the sport and for the environment to be supportive and safe. 




R.I.P. AVIGDOR DAGON

A great man has left the stage forever.

Avigdor Dagon was one of the last Holocaust survivors, a great friend and supporter of CSIT and personally present at almost all international events of the world association until the end. Hapoel Israel and the CSIT part with deep sadness and great appreciation for a great man with incredible charisma, a great human being and philanthropist with great vision. Avigdor Dagon passed away on September 22 at the age of 95. R.I.P.



Born in Poland, he was a committed and active member at the center of Hapoel for 65 years until 2023, when he stepped down from his functions and reduced his involvement. However, the "great" man was much more than just a dedicated employee. He was a true institution in the organization, a pillar of support, a man who dedicated his life to promoting its verbal values and spreading its name, both in Israel and through his international connections abroad.

As early as 1958, Avigdor Dagon established the Hapoel branch in Ramat Hasharon and later served as secretary of Hapoel in Ramat Gan-Givatayim and secretary of the Dan district. His endless love for the organization made him a role model for many. Avigdor positively influenced generations of leaders and employees with his help, advice and wisdom. It is always right to help, support and enrich those around him with his vast experience. His great contribution and spirit will continue to accompany Hapoel. 

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