

WE HAVE COVERED THE SACRED GRASS OF LJUDSKI VRT

Dear,

We are sending you a short overview of the daily news and a trailer for the European Youth Olympic Festival events. Welcome to read!

WE COVERED LJUDSKI VRT

For the first time in the history of Ljudski vrt's sacred ground, the turf has been covered with the largest covering to this day. Due to the opening ceremony taking place at the football stadium, **the ground will be covered with specifically for this event designed and manufactured plastic covering**. After the Ceremony, the turf will remain unscattered and untouched, just as it was before the event.

During the Introduction of the young athletes and the staff, Ljudski vrt will transform into a beehive. Opening Ceremony is merely three days away and everything has to be in order for the great event, which will be witnessed either live or at the television stream. Streams will be available on two television programs, starting at 8:30 PM.



COME TO THE MINI OLYMPICS AND FIND OUT, WHO WILL BE THE FLAGBEARER, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TEAM AND HOW DOES THE OFEM ANTHEM SOUND



Friday evening will be the turning point for everyone involved. Maribor's Trg svobode will host the Introduction Ceremony of our young national team, starting the series of the Festival's opening ceremonies. The event will begin at 8 PM.

The venue will be engulfed in the Olympic spirit, as the ceremony will be moderated by **Saša Jerković, an experienced announcer** and **Petja Klojčnik, a young EYOF ambassador**. Alongside, they will host many interesting and familiar faces from the world of sports and entertainment. Not only that, they will reveal flagbearers for Sunday's Opening Ceremony.

They will be joined by **Martin Milec, the captain of NK Maribor** and **Tim Kores Kori**, who is author of official EYOF anthem's lyrics.

After the official part, the fun and great time will continue – DJ Lexy Dee will take the stage to continue the entertainment until the early morning hours. Foxy the Fox, EYOF's official mascot and everyone's beloved sporty fox made a promise to teach everyone at the square, how to dance to EYOF's official choreography.

Parents, do not miss this: Foxy the Fox is kindly inviting the youngsters to join him at the Mini Olympics at Trg svobode, starting at 5 PM. They will experience Olympic hopes in 5 Olympic challenges.

THE GREATEST PARADE BEFORE THE OPENING CEREMONY

On Sunday, approximately an hour before the Opening Ceremony, over 3.600 participants of the Festival from the Athletic Village will partake in the greatest parade before the Festival. They will begin their journeys in the Athletes village and will slowly walk down the streets of Maribor towards Ljudski vrt. Tigers – a cheerleading squad – have prepared a few cheer-dancing acts. Even you can become a part of their choreography at the following intersections: Gosposvetska Road – intersection with Turnerjeva, Kosarjeva and Prežihova Street and Prežihova Street's intersection with Gregorčičeva Street. The Parade will walk through a 10-meter-long drumming spectacle, led by Soki and played by his drummers.

ROAD CLOSURES AT THE TIME OF THE OPENING CEREMONY

Due to the Opening Ceremony on Sunday, **July 23rd**, there will be some temporary and complete road closures.

Temporary/Partial Road Closure:

- GOSPOSVETSKA ROAD (from ŠTUK ROUNDABOUT to STROSSMAYER STREET) à from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Closed Parking:

- MLADINSKA STREET (from KAJUHOVA STREET to STROSSMAYER STREET); approximately from July 21st to July 23rd 2023

Complete Road Closure:

- MLADINSKA STREET; from KAJUHOVA to STROSSMAYERJEVA STREET à approximately from 6 PM to Midnight
- KAMNIŠKA ROAD; from KAJUHOVA STREET to STROSSMAYERJEVA STREET à approximately from 6:30 PM to 8 PM
- KOROŠKA ROAD; from FERI ROUNDABOUT to MARKET à approximately from 6:30 PM to 8 PM
- PREŽIHOVA STREET; from FERI ROUNDABOUT to INTERSECTION GREGORČIČEVA à approximately from 6:30 PM to 8 PM
- OB PARKU STREET à approximately from 6:30 PM to 8 PM

PARTNERSHIP FOR EYOF, PARTNERSHIP FOR MARIBOR

This Friday will mark the one-month anniversary of the partnership contract signing between the University of Maribor and the Municipality of Maribor. The topic of the contract was the organization and execution of EYOF MB 2023. The partnership became a key element of the Festival's execution since it enabled the organisers to accommodate the athletes and usage of accompanying programs.

The University of Maribor dorms can accommodate 2522 people and will be used to house the young athletes and the staff during the Festival. Furthermore, in close proximity to the dorms, an Athletes' Village has been established with the purpose of connecting the participants in a fun, sporty, relaxing and educating ways through many interesting events. Among all of the activities, there will be a workshop to learn Slovene.

The mayor of the **Municipality of Maribor, Mr Saša Aleksander Arsenovič** thanked the University of Maribor at the signing and emphasized: *»The University of Maribor has provided many key elements of the festival. Those are accommodation capabilities for almost all of the athletes, outdoor and indoor venues for competitions, trainings and participants' free time. Without the University of Maribor and Dorms, the execution of EYOF would be impossible.«*

»It is a great pleasure to attend this event and thank the mayor and the whole team, who participates in this amazing event. Not only for the city of Maribor but also for Slovenia. Without a doubt, the Festival will be a challenge for everyone involved on one hand, but on the other, it will be an unforgettable experience for all of us,« added **the dean of the University, prof. dr. Zdravko Kačič**.

ORGANISED VISIT OF AN ATHLETES VILLAGE – EYOF'S MOST SECURED PART – FOR ACCREDITATED GUESTS

Athletes Village is the venue, where athletes rest and mentally prepare for their next big competition, expecting the great moment in many different ways. To provide them with necessary peace and quiet, and most importantly, security and a way to experience the competition without any care, access to the Athletes Village is one of the most restricted ones. Not only for EYOF but for all of the competitions of such a high level.



OFEM I OLIMPIJSKI FESTIVAL EVROPSKE MLADINE 2023 EYOF I EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL 2023



An exclusive opportunity to attend a guided media tour through the Village will be on **Monday, July 24th 2023 at 10 AM**. For any additional information, please message pr@eyof-maribor.com.

EYOF ANTHEM

You are all kindly invited to check out our official EYOF video with Tim Kores Kori, Filip Flisar, Foxy the Fox and dancers from Dance School Vibe in main roles. The video is the work of Klemn Golob, you can find it on the YouTube link below.

<https://youtu.be/ZsMgZ7SMUBw>

The organizing committee of the festival would like to thank you if you share the newsletter or pass it on to anyone else who might be interested in what is happening at OFEM. For any additional information, we are always available at the email address pr@eyof-maribor.com or at the phone number +386 51 338 598.

Olympic greetings!