

BE A FAN OF

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

An overview of how Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE)
can inspire athletes with intellectual disabilities



Special Olympics
Europe/Eurasia
Be a fan™

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BE A FAN OF **RESPECT**

Welcome



Mary Davis, Managing Director
of Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia

Through sports we are empowering a neglected population while changing attitudes, fostering community building, providing healthcare and influencing policy, and creating a more inclusive and accepting Europe/Eurasia for all of us.



Timothy Shriver, Chairman of Special Olympics,
Global Headquarters, Washington DC

We do not say we can change the whole world, but for our athletes it is a huge change in their world. Our vision is a world where every person, regardless of their ability or disability, is accepted, welcomed and valued - a world of inclusion and mutual respect, without bias or prejudice.

Our goal is to build a more civil society one athlete and one attitude at a time.



BE A FAN OF **COURAGE**

What is Special Olympics?

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organisation, providing year-round training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Created in 1968 by the vision of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics now serves more than 3.1 million athletes in 175 countries. It gives opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and share gifts, skills and friendships with families, other athletes and the community.

In 1988, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) signed a historic agreement in which the IOC officially endorses and recognises Special Olympics.

Special Olympics should not be confused with Paralympics, which provides elite level sports competition for multi-disabled groups including physical and blind.

Let me win,
but if I cannot
win, let me be
brave in the
attempt.

- Special Olympics oath



BE A FAN OF
OPPORTUNITY

About Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia (SOEE) works with half a million athletes across 30 sports in 58 countries from Western Europe to Central Asia. SOEE assists National Programmes in becoming more effective in using sports to highlight the rights and abilities of Special Olympics athletes.

Unified Sports® was developed by Special Olympics to provide opportunities for Special Olympics athletes to train and compete on the same team with partners without intellectual disabilities. Additionally, for athletes with profound intellectual disabilities, Special Olympics offers the Motor Activities Training Programme.



Special Olympics happens every day

We offer year-round training and competition in a range of summer and winter sports. Athletes of all skill levels are welcome to train with us. Within each event, competitions are arranged by organising athletes with similar abilities into groupings called 'divisions'.

When we play football, we can't see differences.

- United Sports® partner from Romania

Summer sports:

- Aquatics
- Athletics (Track & Field)
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Equestrian

- Football (Soccer)
- Golf
- Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic)
- Judo
- Kayaking
- Motor Activity Training Programme
- Powerlifting
- Roller Skating
- Sailing

- Softball
- Table Tennis
- Team Handball
- Tennis
- Volleyball

Winter sports:

- Alpine Skiing
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Figure Skating
- Floor Hockey
- Speed Skating
- Snowboarding
- Snowshoeing

Our athletes' stories

Raman Mytrasanov – Latvia



Like many children with intellectual disabilities, Raman was abandoned in an orphanage in Latvia soon after his birth. With a passion for sport – particularly football – Special Olympics has become his family.

For me, my coach is like the father I have never known. When I compete with my friends in Latvia or abroad, I know he is proud of me.

Angelina Accili – France



Angelina Accili is a 14-year-old athlete from France. She competes in Aquatics and has represented her country in the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China.

Special Olympics has given me confidence to believe in my abilities and courage to follow my dreams. Today, I am not afraid anymore.





BE A FAN OF

GENEROSITY

Changing lives for the better

According to the World Health Organization, up to three percent, or almost 200 million people of the world's population, have intellectual disabilities. This is the largest disability population in the world.

People with intellectual disabilities are often banished to institutions, hidden from public and condemned to a life of loneliness. For most, the basic human needs of love, friendship and acceptance are missing, leaving them physically and emotionally isolated.

Despite proof that people with intellectual disabilities can thrive, educational opportunities, community programmes and support are weak. Even after years of progress, we still have a long way to go.

But with your support we can change things for the better.

To help end this shameful neglect, get involved or donate now and promote dignity and inclusion for all.

In Europe/
Eurasia
there are
26.5 million
people with
an intellectual
disability.

Visit www.specialolympics-eu.org

BE A FAN OF INCLUSION

Our initiatives

Special Olympics Global Football (SOGF)

is a new initiative supporting opportunities for grassroots participation, public promotion and fundraising through the world's most popular sport – football.

Inter Milan (Italy), Tottenham Hotspur (UK), Corinthians Paulista (Brazil), the Football Association of Ireland as well as Brazilian star Kakà and Argentinean legend Osvaldo (Ossie) Ardiles, among other greats, have all signed up to be SOGF Ambassadors.

Healthy Athlete Programme

provides a preventive health screening service during Special Olympics events. Research has shown that people with intellectual disabilities have a 40% greater risk of suffering from nutritional, dental, hearing, vision and podiatric problems.

Athlete Leadership Programme (ALPs)

allows athletes to demonstrate their talents and interests, to receive training and to learn new skills that they can apply to Special Olympics as public speaker, coach assistant, committee member, volunteer, media representative, etc. Their achievements prepare them for inclusion in society at large, increasing their chances to live independently, to make friends or to find a job.

Special Olympics Get Into It™

is a free service-learning school curriculum that celebrates the diverse gifts of every student whatever his or her ability. Non-disabled school children are encouraged to start or join Special Olympics programmes as Unified Sports® partners, volunteers or fans.

Family Support Network

provides a programmed structure in which Special Olympics families reach out to new families to welcome them into the Special Olympics community.

Few things in life could have given me greater pleasure or brought me more honour than to be associated with Special Olympics... It is a testament to the indestructibility of the human spirit.

– Nelson Mandela



BE A FAN OF

HUMAN SPIRIT

Our ambassadors and partners

Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia is supported by the European Union (EU) as well as a wide range of European based corporations, celebrities, politicians, sportsmen and sportswomen. Our partners include:

SOEE Partners:

Microsoft
Vodafone Foundation

Some National Programme Partners:

ABB (Germany, GB, Italy)
Adidas (Italy)
Accenture (Ireland)
Armani (Italy)
Bank of Ireland (Ireland)
Cablecom (Switzerland)
eircom (Ireland)
National Grid (Great Britain)
Orange (Poland)
Proctor & Gamble (Turkey)
Subway (Ireland)
Weurth (Germany, Norway)

Global Partners:

Coca Cola
DHL
Disney
Essilor International (Healthy Athletes)
Lions Club International (Healthy Athletes)
Mattel
Proctor & Gamble
The Safilo Group (Healthy Athletes)

Sporting Federations:

UEFA We Care
Euroleague Basketball
FIBA Europe
LEN

Government Agencies:

European Parliament
European Commission
Local Government Agencies

Special Olympics
is the way the
world should be,
abundant in joy
and understanding
and showing no
judgment; an
environment where
competition does
not make an enemy
of your fellow
athlete but a friend.

- Colin Farrell,
Special Olympics Ambassador

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TRANSFORMATION

Volunteer, donate, coach or compete

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Visit us at

www.specialolympics-eu.org



Special Olympics
Europe/Eurasia
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BE A FAN OF
UNITY

European Games Law Enforcement Torch Run 2010

Lighting the "Flame of Hope"

10th September, 2010 sees the ceremonial lighting of the Torch to herald the official opening of the 2010 European Games in Warsaw, Poland from 18th-24th September.

Carrying the Torch through Europe

Law enforcement officers will be joined by Special Olympics athletes from across Europe in a series of relays through more than 18 cities that will open their hearts and honour athletes competing in the European Games. The route includes Greece, Turkey, Slovenia, Portugal, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Poland.

Bringing the Torch to Poland

On 15th September, members of the Polish police force (Policja) will help carry the Torch through the 58 communities in Poland hosting Special Olympics athletes. Then, on 18th September, it will arrive in Warsaw's Legia Stadium to light the cauldron at the Opening Ceremonies.

Join in the Torch Run

Community leaders, law enforcement officers, corporate sponsors, civic groups, schools and the public are all welcome to join the run in their city, and share the spirit of Special Olympics.

It is great to see the "Flame of Hope" arrive at opening ceremonies and to think it is burning for us.

- Constantinos Fotodimas,
Special Olympics Hellas athlete

To find out what your community is doing, contact your local Special Olympics organisation or:

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www.specialolympics-eu.org



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BE A FAN OF
INSPIRATION

Be inspired by the courage of Special Olympics athletes

Regional Calendar

Special Olympics happens in communities every day around the region with local, national and regional competitions. Major upcoming events include:

2010 Special Olympics European Games

Taking place in Warsaw, Poland from 18th – 24th September, 1,600 athletes will compete in the largest sporting event in Europe for people with intellectual disabilities. Visit www.warsaw2010.eu

2011 Special Olympics World Summer Games

Taking place from 25th June to 4th July, the thirteenth Special Olympics World Summer Games (ATHENS 2011) will draw 7,000 athletes from more than 180 countries around the world, 3,000 coaches and officials, 25,000 volunteers, 40,000 family members, thousands of spectators, as well as hundreds of journalists who will document the efforts and achievements of the athletes. Visit www.athens2011.org

Law Enforcement Torch Run®

For Special Olympics this is the largest grassroots fundraising and public

awareness event worldwide. It will take place in Europe ahead of the 2010 European Games and the 2011 World Summer Games. Starting in Greece, the "Flame of Hope" is carried by athletes and fundraising police officers through numerous countries, finally arriving at the opening ceremonies of the Games.

Host Town Programme

Prior to the Games, each delegation is adopted and hosted by one particular town, increasing the public's involvement and fostering understanding for people with intellectual disabilities.

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