



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2023 Games of the Small States of Europe Officially Launched

The Games of the Small States of Europe, the biennial multisport event, will be returning to Malta in 2023, two decades after it was last hosted on our island.

This was officially announced by The Ministry for Education and Sport, the Maltese Olympic Committee and Sport Malta earlier on today at Cottonera Sports Complex.

The launch took place in a hybrid format and welcomed several Maltese medallists from the 1993 and 2003 editions. Joining the event virtually were GSSE member states' Presidents and Chefs de Mission.

The GSSE feature a core of six individual sports and two team sports. Each organising committee may add a maximum of two other Olympic sports or one Olympic Sport and one non-Olympic Sport.

Maltese Olympic Committee President and Games Chairperson Mr Julian Pace Bonello explained that preparations for this sporting bonanza are well underway. *"The Maltese Olympic Committee has been working even more closely with involved Federations, ensuring the require support is given and that preparations proceed as smoothly as possible. We hope that these Games will make the country proud, in both the way they will be organized as well as the results achieved and will also serve as a catalyst to inspire up and coming athletes to keep working hard for their dreams"*

In 2023, Malta will be presenting a sports programme which includes Athletics, Basketball, Judo, Rugby 7's, Sailing, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Table tennis, Tennis.

"The Maltese Olympic Committee, SportMalta and the Ministry of Education and Sport are working in perfect synergy towards this event. A local organising committee was chosen and besides sport experts, there are experts in various fields that will ensure that the Games will be a success. In the months to come we will engage with the general public so that the Games will not only will be for athletes and officials taking part but for the society at large" remarked, Mark Cutajar, GSSE Organising Committee Chairperson



The Maltese Olympic Committee also announced that it will shortly be launching a Games Mascot and Logo Design competition. The competition calls for the design of a logo and mascot that will be used as part of the Games of the Small States of Europe branding.

Closing the event was the Minister for Education and Sport, Dr Clifton Grima who said that *“Government is really proud to support the Maltese Olympic Committee in these Games. We invested both in infrastructure to increase the number of high-level venues, but for the first time we also invested in human resources. €5m million was passed to SportMalta to facilitate the training of athletes, engaging professional coaches and their sport entourage”* Grima concluded by saying that he looks forward to enter in discussions with his counterparts in the other eight countries for sport in small states to flourish further.

The Games of the Small States of Europe will take place between the 28 May and 3 June 2023.

EDITORS' NOTES

The Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) are a biennial event created following an initiative from the Maltese Olympic Committee in 1985. The aim was to run a multi-sport event for the European countries having less than one million inhabitants.

The inaugural edition was held in 1985 in San Marino and welcomed athletes from Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, and San Marino. In 2009 Montenegro became the ninth member state.

In 1993, the fifth edition of the Games were hosted in Malta. That year Maltese athletes brought home 32 medals. Malta's second turn at hosting the Games took place in 2003 and the medal tally increased to 44. Since the start of the Games, 331 medals were won by Maltese athletes.



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2023 Il-Logħob tal-Pajjizi ż-Żgħar tal-Ewropa Imnedija Uffiċjalment

Il-Logħob tal- Pajjizi ż-Żgħar tal-Ewropa, l-avveniment li jsehh kul sentejn, ser jkun qed jirritorna Malta fl-2023, għoxrin sena wara li kien l-aħħar ospitat f'gżirtna.

Dan thabbar uffiċjalment mill-Ministeru għall-Edukazzjoni u Sport, il-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti u Sport Malta aktar kmieni illum fil-Kumpless Sportiv tal-Kottonera.

It-tnedija laqgħet diversi atleti Maltin li kisbu midalji fl-edizzjonijiet tal-1993 u tal-2003. Jingħaqdu mal-avveniment b'mod virtwali kienu l-Presidenti u Chefs de Mission tal-istati membri tal-GSSE.

Il-GSSE jinkludu sitt tipi ta' dixxiplini sportivi individwali u żewġ dixxiplini li jintlab bħala tim. Kull kumitat organizzattiv jista' jżid massimu ta' żewġ dixxiplini Olimpici ohra jew Sport Olimpiku wiehed u Sport ieħor li ma jaqax taht il-logħob Olimpiku.

Il-President tal-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti u ċ-Chairperson tal-Logħob is-Sur Julian Pace Bonello spjega li l-preparamenti għal din il-bonanza sportiva għaddejjin sew. *"Il-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti ilu jahdem aktar mill-qrib mal-Federazzjonijiet involuti, biex jiżgura li jingħata l-appoġġ meħtieġ u li t-tnejn jingħata jinxu bl-aktar mod bla xkiel possibbli. Nittamaw li dawn il-Logħob jagħmlu lill-pajjiż kburi, kemm fil-mod kif se jkunu organizzati kif ukoll bir-riżultati miksuba. Wiehed jispera li dawn l-Logħob jservu wkoll biex jispiraw lill-atleti futuri biex ikomplu jahdmu lejn l-għanijiet tagħhom."*

Fl-2023, Malta se tkun qed tippreżenta programm sportiv li jinkludi Atletika, Basketball, Ghawm, Ibburdjar, Judo, Rugby 7's, Sparar, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis.

"Il-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti, SportMalta u l-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni u Sport qed jahdmu f'sinergija perfetta lejn dan l-avveniment. Intgħażel kumitat organizzattiv lokali u minbarra esperti fl-isport, hemm esperti f'diversi oqsma li jassiguraw li l-Logħob ikun suċċess. Fix-xhur li ġejjin se ninvolvu ruħna mal-pubbliku ġenerali biex il-Logħob mhux biss ikun għall-atleti u l-uffiċjali iżda għas-soċjetà i nġenerali" irrimarka Mark Cutajar, Chairperson tal-Kumitat Organizzattiv tal-GSSE.

Il-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti ħabbar ukoll li dalwaqt se jkun qed iniedi kompetizzjoni għall-disinn ta' Mascot u Logo tal-Logħob. Il-kompetizzjoni titlob għad-disinn ta' logo u mascot li se jintużaw bħala parti integrali tal-Logħob tal-Pajjizi Żgħar tal-Ewropa.



L-attività ngħalqet mill-Ministru għall-Edukazzjoni u Sport, Dr Clifton Grima li qal li *“Il-Gvern huwa tassew kburi li jappoġġja lill-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti f’dawn il-Logħob. Investejna kemm fl-infrastruttura biex inżidu n-numru ta’ postijiet ta’ livell għoli, iżda għall-ewwel darba investejna wkoll fir-riżorsi umani. €5 miljun ġew mġoddija lil SportMalta biex jiġi ffaċilitat it-taħriġ tal-atleti, l-involviment ta’ kowċis professjonali u l-entourage sportiv tagħhom”* temm jgħid Grima billi qal li jistenna bil-herqa li jidhol f’diskussjonijiet mal-kollegi tiegħ fi hdan it-tmien pajjiżi l-oħra biex l-isport fi stati żgħar jibqa’ jiffjorixxi.

Il-Logħob tal-Pajjiżi ż-Żgħar tal-Ewropa se jsir bejn it-28 ta’ Mejju u t-3 ta’ Ġunju 2023.

NOTI GĦAL-EDITURI

Il-Logħob tal-Pajjiżi ż-Żgħar tal-Ewropa (GSSE) huma avveniment li jsejtni kull sentejn. Danw il-Logħob ġew maħluqa wara inizjattiva tal-Kumitat Olimpiku Malti fl-1985. L-għan kien li jsejtni avveniment magħmul minn sport differenti, mmirat għall-pajjiżi Ewropej li għandhom inqas minn miljun abitant.

L-edizzjoni inawgurati saret fl-1985 f’San Marino u laqgħet atleti minn Andorra, Ċipru, l-Iżlanda, Liechtenstein, Lussemburgu, Malta, Monaco, u San Marino. Fl-2009 il-Montenegro ingħaqdet bħala id-disa membru.

Fl-1993, il-hames edizzjoni tal-Logħob ġew ospitati f’Malta. Dik is-sena l-atleti Maltin ġabu d-dar 32 midalja. It-tieni darba li Malta ospitat l-Logħob kienet fl-2003 u l-ammont ta’ midalji żdied għal 44. Mill-bidu tal-Logħob, intrebħu 331 midalja minn atleti Maltin.