

EYC2023 – 1st-10th April 2023 in Vienna



The first youth European Championship ever was played in **London in 1972** – a total of **42** participants from **7** nations came and played a wide range with 3-series from 458 to 626 Pin – AND they played "**team of five**" from the beginning as well as with the adults!! As a result, there was a European Championship every 2 years - the first with a much larger field of participants of 36w + 59m = **95** took place in **Aalborg** in 1978. This number was only undercut 2 times in the following years – **Dublin** with **88** in 1980 and **Tilburg** with **86** in 1986 – otherwise there were always over 100. After the first real highlight in 1996 in **London** with 72w + 83m = **155**, 2 years later Vienna was just behind with 72+78=**150**.

As a result, it apparently continued to improve economically in many countries, because the number of participants of the nations rose incessantly. In 2004, the championships switched to an annual rhythm – nevertheless, there were around **230** participants each in Augsburg, Antwerp & Copenhagen. This was followed by Thessaloniki with **256** and Helsinki with **249** – these were the last EYCs with the "Team of Five".

As a result, there were **teams of 4** in Malmö for the first time – and "at home" Sweden won **4 x gold** and a total of 13 out of 30 medals to be awarded. Austria hosted the **EYC2013** with **171** starters – this number of participants has never been reached again since then, with the last few years in particular also suffering due to Covid. The EYC 2020 and following had to be postponed by a whole year. So it's our turn in 2023 instead of last year as planned. The **Covid** situation in 2021 particularly affected Tilburg with "only" 44w + 74m = 118 and the lowest participation since San Marino 1988.

If someone does not drop out in the last few days, we have this year in Vienna with **172** active participants, the highest number of participants since Vienna 2013 with **171**, 2 years before there were **182** in Munich. Unfortunately, this time we are not overly represented with only 3 active people at home, but the situation of the Austrian Youth is heading for a bottleneck again – a sign of this is also an unfortunately necessary dismissal from the team. In terms of quantity, we will not be able to tear out too large trees in the following years, but we will stay on the ball – also in the search for talents!

We are pleased about the lively participation, our partner hotels about a booking partly above the pre-ordered contingent, the PLUS about the organization of an international competition and the bowling sport in general about the development. The European Championship of the **LGBTQ**** will follow in **2024** and an **ECC** in **2025**. Maybe all this will bring some curiosity and new bowling enthusiasm – after the Corona period, every country in the world can use that!

In coordination with the **EYC2023**, there is also a **gender conference** – although there are rather few problems in our sport. But the conference is also cosmopolitan, because due to capacity it had to be rebooked to Atlanta in the 9th Bez. and there is the conference in the Hotel EXE as well as sports & and catering in the PLUS. The Atlanta has the advantage of being close to the city, because in addition to the conference, you should not underestimate culture and shopping in Vienna – this is proven anyway by the multi-day booking.

Thus, in this sense, all **those arriving at the EYC2023 have a good time**, good weather, successful gender conference, **many sporting successes**, good entertainment even outside the sporting competition in beautiful Vienna **and a healthy journey home!**

Anton R. SCHÖN
Vice-President ÖSKB / & Chairman OK