

2023

WT Development Fund OPERATIONS REPORT



Preface

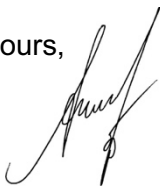
For many years, World Taekwondo has been promoting Taekwondo through funding projects worldwide. In the Continental Unions of WT, budget has been allocated to develop taekwondo in the continents as well. In 2023, ETU has used the development funds for three projects. As an idea brought to our attention by Dr. Chungwon Choue, the European Championships for the Small States of Europe was first implemented in 2022 in San Marino. In 2023, we have allocated the funds to organize a training camp for clubs from the Small States in Europe as their federations requested training with high level coaches.

The European Taekwondo Performance Center continued with its elite training program. Under the leadership of two highly recommended international coaches, athletes from all member associations were able to training in the program of the Performance Center. Four times in 2023, the team trained at different locations in Europe and prepared for the international events worldwide.

Finally, Para Taekwondo was the last project in which ETU used the WT Development funding. In 2022, the European Para Championships took place simultaneously with the G4 European Championships for abled bodies. This first-time approach of abled and disabled bodies event was a huge success and received by all athletes, coaches and officials as bringing equality into the venue. This success was continued in 2023 with the hosting of several Para Taekwondo events in Europe, including the 1st European Para Poomsae Championships in Austria.

The value of the WT Development Program has been proven each year again and again. ETU is grateful for the opportunities given and is looking forward to continue to work together with WT to further develop Taekwondo in our continent.

Yours,



Sakis Pragalos
President

Project 1: Small States of Europe

Aim of the Project

The Small States of Europe are those countries with less than 1 million inhabitants. The project aims at improving the technical capacities and capabilities of the coaches in those countries as well as providing opportunities for athletes to train with the best coaches of Europe.

Targets

- At least 1 training camp with 4 trainings per day
- Minimum 50 athletes participation
- Minimum 10 trainers present

Activities

One training camp was held in Malta. Two top trainers from the European Performance Center taught athletes from different European Small States. Next to Taekwondo, also attention was paid to nutrition, fitness training and taekwondo, and other subjects.

Result/outcome

- 1 training camp was held in Malta on 17 – 20 Augustus 2023
- 7 training sessions were held for kids, cadets, juniors and senior athletes
- 80 athletes and 17 coaches/trainers participated at the camp, from 5 Small States of Europe

Next steps

In 2024, the 2nd European Championships for Small States of Europe will be organised in Tallinn, Estonia. ETU expects maximum 175 athletes from 6-8 Small States participating.

Project 2: European Taekwondo Performance Center

Aim of the Project

The ETPC offers a different range of training programs. All programs have the same foundation: training camps in a professional training environment, personalized training programs, athlete profiling and regular online feedback. The ultimate goal is to qualify athletes for the Olympics and give the athletes the best possible preparation to be successful at the Olympics. The program is open for all Member Associations of ETU and individual athletes can participate in the program as well.

Targets

- 4 training camps

Activities

In 2023, a total of 4 training camps were organized, either as separate camps or in the week leading up to an international tournament in Europe. A small group of 5 athletes participated in the camps and followed the program under the leadership of 2 top coaches.

Result/outcome

- 4 training camps were organized in 2023
- 5 athletes followed the camps in 2023 and participated in international G1 and G2 events in Europe
- It is currently too early to evaluate the development of the participating athletes

Next steps

In 2024, the European Taekwondo Performance Center will be operational for 2 years. The expectation is that no athlete from the program will qualify for the Olympics in the European Qualification Tournament. However, the long term vision is that the activities of the Center contribute to the development of elite taekwondo in the Member Associations and eventually will lead to the realization of the Olympic dream.

Project 2: Para Taekwondo Activities

Aim of the Project

Para Taekwondo development has taken a quantum leap after the inclusion of Taekwondo in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. The expectation is that the number of paralympic athlete will grown hugely. In that respect has ETU undertaken several activities and organized events to promote para taekwondo in Europe. Under this project different para taekwondo related activities were funded.

Targets

- Integration of Para Taekwondo into the European poomsae championships
- (partially) funding classifiers for multiple events

Activities

The integration of Para Taekwondo in the European Poomsae championships was for 2023 the main achievement. Following the 2022 G4 European Championships Kyorugi, the European Poomsae championships were the logical next step to integrate. Throughout the year several para taekwondo events and activities were funded by the WT Development budget.

Result/outcome

- Para taekwondo athletes participated at the European Poomsae championships 2023 in Austria
- Several classifiers participated at multiple events as officials in Europe
- Travel expenses for ETU para officials participating in training

Next steps

With the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games coming up, the expectation is that Para Taekwondo in Europe has not seen its peak in athlete participation yet. More and more countries are identifying para athletes and ETU expects that in the next Paralympic cycle more athletes will participate in Para events. This means that ETU will continue its efforts for Para Taekwondo in Europe, not only in providing events but also in offering training for coaches and athletes, but also on focussing on classifiers, training of referees and so on.