

# REPORT ON SOA ACTIVITIES



## Slovak Olympic Academy in 2022

- Participation in the Congress of the European Olympic Academies
- Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany
- International Olympic Academy in Olympia

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## GYMNÁZIUM PIERRA DE COUBERTINA

In fulfilling its tasks, SOA closely cooperates with Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany, which has born the name of the founder of the modern Olympic Games since 2003. Active cooperation concerns methodical support of teachers and guidance of students in preparation for international youth forums of Pierre de Coubertin schools or in the creation of new partnerships for international cooperation projects. SOA members participate in the

school's international activities with an impact on the development and dissemination of the sport values and the philosophy of Olympism. In 2022, gymnázium initiated cooperation in the field of sports with several foreign schools and partners, such as Estonia, Japan, Ireland, Bulgaria and Malta under the leadership of the director Radim Urban. More information is on the school's website: [www.gypy.sk](http://www.gypy.sk)



## INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN MUNICH

From 1 to 7 November 2022, the Slovak delegation representing Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany took part in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Youth Forum of Pierre de Coubertin schools. The event, which is organized at two-year intervals within the worldwide network of Pierre de Coubertin schools, took place in Munich and Pullach. Sports, cultural and social activities were held in the castle Burg Schwaneck under the professional supervision of teachers and under the auspices of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee. Gymnázium

took part in this event for the first time in 2003 in Genoa, Italy, as an observer country, when it convinced experts of its qualities with its performance. It was subsequently accepted into the prestigious worldwide network of schools bearing the name of Pierre de Coubertin. Since 2005, when the forum was held in Radstadt, Austria, it has regularly sent its best representatives who, under the guidance of experienced educators, present not only their sporting skills, but also culture, traditions and customs.

## 2022 SLOVAK JAPANESE IMPRESSIONS

The photo competition themed the sakura challenge, organized in cooperation with Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany, was one of the SOA's pilot activities in the field of culture and sports last year. It focused primarily on capturing the beauty of sakura trees as a background to sports values such as friendship, respect, tolerance, and joy from hard work.

A year has passed and the enchantment with the blossoming cherry trees, so typical of the Piešťany gymnázium, has not abated. On the contrary, on the occasion of establishing cooperation with Kokushikan High School in Tokyo, it took a completely new direction. The photography competition in 2022 thus acquired a broader context and gave the opportunity to participate in the event to the Japanese side as well as the general Slovak public. It created a space for capturing a joint Slovak Japanese approach to sports values.

More information can be found online via the link provided at the end of the SOA report.







*IOC President Dr Thomas Bach welcomed the delegates via video message and recalled the founder of the Olympic Movement, Pierre De Coubertin, and the crucial task of the NOAs to preserve the Olympic values and ideals “to make the world a better place”.*

### **More than seventy online participants from all over the world in Lithuania**

Fifteen delegates from the Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia and the host Lithuania met in person on the premises of the Klaipeda University hall to discuss the topic "Olympic Movement for International Understanding and Peace", which came to the fore because of the war conflict in Ukraine.

## **EUROPEAN OLYMPIC ACADEMIES**

From November 21 to 24, 2022, more than 50 delegates from all over Europe met in Frankfurt am Main for the four-day EOA Congress. The Congress was held at the headquarters of the German Olympic and Sports Confederation (DOSB) and the German Olympic Academy, as well as at the Deutsche Bank Park and the Eintracht Frankfurt football club stadium. It was the first face-to-face congress after almost three years of the virtual work, so the atmosphere during the opening ceremony at the beautiful Biebrich

castle was even warmer and more welcoming than usual.

The choice of this location was symbolic, as ten years ago the German Olympic Academy brought together the national Olympic academies of Europe for the first time in its inaugural meeting by holding a symposium in close proximity. More information is provided online via the link provided at the end of the SOA report as well as on the EOA website <https://www.eoaolympic.org/>

## **EOA REGIONAL SEMINAR IN KLAIPEDA**

At the end of August 2022, the picturesque Baltic city of Klaipeda became the site of the first regional seminar initiated by the EOA within the framework of its development strategy. A new series of educational events offers NOA a platform to exchange experiences and discuss current topics in the Olympic Movement.

The seminar was held from 24 to 26 August 2022 under the auspices of the Lithuanian Olympic Academy. More information is on the EOA website and the link provided at the end of the SOA report.



# SOA IN A NUTSHELL

SOA is an organisational unit of the SOSC without legal status. The establishment and actions of the SOA result from the Statutes of the SOSC. Activities of the SOA are designed in accordance with the Olympic Charter, the Programme of the IOA, the EOA and the Statutes of the SOSC, its organisational structure and the Organizational Rules and Regulations of the SOA. It has a

nationwide scope, and its seat is the SOSC. The vision of the Slovak Olympic Academy is founded upon the goal of becoming a recognized and respected leader in the field of Olympism, not only in Slovakia, but also internationally. More specifically, the SOA strives to be one of the most prestigious and effective Olympic academies in the world.



# SOA MISSION AND VALUES

The mission of the SOA is two-fold: promote Olympism to achieve the objectives of the Olympic movement and provide Olympic and sports education within the Slovak Republic. The SOA believes that sport and the values of Olympism play a key role in creating opportunities. To this end, it supports education and disseminates the fundamental values of Olympism: friendship, respect, and excellence.

The Academy, through its wide-ranging activities, champions the values of sport, such as respect for others, fair play, joy found in effort, satisfaction derived from hard work, and dedication, tolerance, equal opportunities, team spirit and the like.

The SOA through all of its activities promotes mutual respect, human

rights, and social inclusion through sporting values.

The target group of the SOA are members of the Slovak Olympic and Sport Committee as well as national sports federations inclusive of athletes, sports professionals, officials, educators, pupils and students, and the sporting public.

## OLYMPIC AND SPORTS HERITAGE

In the field of Olympic and sports heritage, SOA promoted the Olympic principles in 2022 as formulated in the Olympic Charter and other documents of the Olympic Movement.

This year, it was mainly about very intensive cooperation with Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany in the preparation of students and teachers representing Slovakia at the 13<sup>th</sup>

International Youth Forum of Pierre de Coubertin schools in Munich, Germany.

Methodical guidance and support in spreading Olympic education and training in school curricula, especially in sports, was illustrated by many face-to-face activities and events, for example, by the visit of school students and teachers to the premises of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Museum in Bratislava.





## DOCUMENTARY INFORMATION AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

SOA spread awareness of Olympic education and training as well as its activities in 2022 mainly through the SOSC website. An overview of the most significant activities with links to web sites is provided at the end of the SOA activity report. The members of the SOA bring to the attention of the general public the initiative of the Center for Olympic Studies in Lausanne, which represents the Olympic World Library. Users can consult its unique collection of more than 36,000 titles online and have

direct access to more than 10,500 documents in digital format. Its collections and some special resources are publicly accessible to the sports professional public. They even can be physically borrowed from Lausanne without having to travel to Switzerland. Based on an online request, they will be delivered to you in Slovakia via any library. Around 1,500-2,000 new titles are added to the collection every year.

More information to be found on <https://library.olympic.org/>

## IOA ACTIVITIES IN OLYMPIA

From July 16 to 21, 2022, the IOA premises in ancient Olympia became the scene of the 15<sup>th</sup> international meeting for NOA and NOC delegates. The meeting took place after a two-and-a-half-year break with the participation of 75 countries and 98 participants. The Slovak Republic was represented by SOA board member Jordana Palovičová, who is responsible for the field of sports and culture in the SOA. During the week-long negotiations, the participants had the opportunity to discuss current digitization trends in

the new post-pandemic era, which forced us to limit our physical meetings and adapt to the new reality. IOA has traditionally ensured general access to the issue with introductory plenary lectures, to which it has invited renowned lecturers from all over the world. The presented contributions provided stimuli and inspiration for further discussions of the delegates during the deliberations of the working groups. More information can be found online via the link provided at the end of the SOA activity report.

***"How do almost half of the 206 National Olympic Committees perceive the importance of the NOA in their countries? What is actually going on with the other NOCs? In what way do they incorporate the philosophical principles of the Olympic movement into their role and mission?"***



# DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION, COMMUNICATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Thanks to joint activities with Gymnázium Pierra de Coubertina in Piešťany, SOA initiated in 2022 cooperation with the Japan Olympic Academy. Educational activities were held with the partner Kokushikan High School in Tokyo under the leadership of SOA board member Eva Corticelli. They aimed at connecting sport, geography, culture and customs. Japanese actors actively participated in them, inclusive His Excellency Makoto Nakagawa, the ambassador of Japan in Slovakia, who visited Piešťany

several times and participated in educational activities as a lecturer. In 2022, SOA also established new contacts and partnerships with several other organizations active in sports, education and culture. SOA members participated in the processing of historical facts related to the official naming of the school after Pierre de Coubertin, which will be published in 2023 on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the granting of the school's honorary name of Pierre de Coubertin.



## SOA ONLINE

You can find more information on SOA activities in 2022 at the following links:

2022 Slovak Japanese impressions

<https://www.olympic.sk/clanok/fotograficke-slovensko-japonske-impresie-opat-ozdobia-piestany>

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FORUM IN MUNICH 2022

<https://gypy.edupage.org/news/?eqa=bmV3c2FyY2hpdmVmPTlwMjltMTE%3D>

EUROPEAN OLYMPIC ACADEMIES

<https://www.olympic.sk/clanok/na-kongrese-europskych-olympijskych-akademii-aj-o-integrite-sportu-prostrednictvom-fair-play>

EOA REGIONAL SEMINAR IN KLAIPEDA

<https://www.olympic.sk/clanok/litovska-olympijska-akademia-uspesne-hostila-prvy-seminar-eoa>

IOA ACTIVITIES IN OLYMPIA 2022

<https://www.olympic.sk/clanok/priestory-medzinarodnej-olympijskej-akademie-v-olympii-otvorili-po-25-roku-svoje-brany>

[soa@olympic.sk](mailto:soa@olympic.sk)

<https://www.olympic.sk/komisia/slovenska-olympijska-akademia>

## SOURCES AND PHOTOS:

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