

FINAL REPORT

13th European Youth Games for the Disabled Emil Open

19. – 23. 6. 2024

Brno, 2024

CONTENTS:

INTRODUCTION

..... pp. 3-6

Presentation of the project and organiser

Emil Open organising committee

Participating countries and organisations

PROGRESS OF EMIL OPEN pp. 7-24

Before we had started

Games program

Sports description

Daily events report

PARTNERS pp. 25-27

Endorsement

Financial support

Cooperation and partners

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS..... p. 28

Dear partners, supporters, fans, and friends,

you are now holding the Final Report of the 13th European Youth Games for the Disabled Emil Open. Everyone who has received this report has either contributed to this year's games or plans to participate in the future. Whether you are current or future partners, you deserve heartfelt thanks for being part of this journey with us or for wanting to join us.

Traditionally, in my introduction, I aim to highlight the "MOST" things of the year, which is why we do the games. This year's "MOST" also brought a dramatic "first-ever" as a significant challenge for the following year.

This year, compared to last year's record numbers, we saw a significant increase of 300 participants. The dramatic "first-ever" was the early date of the games, which resulted in insufficient accommodation capacity, forcing us to limit foreign teams to 25 participants per country. Out of nearly 1 200 registered participants, we could only confirm 829.

The challenge is clear. Next year, we plan to return to the last week of June and prepare to manage such a high level of interest in our games, both from an organisational and financial perspective. We want to grow our games together with you and attract more and more young people to sports each year.

In conclusion, I want to highlight the "MOST" again. Besides this year were the "MOST" partners, led by our main partner Teplárny Brno, a.s., and the "MOST" 250 volunteers, and I must mention our "MOST" organising team. Many of our participants and I have unequivocally rated this year's event as the best yet.

Therefore, I thank everyone who contributed to making this year's Emil Open truly #happy13!

Now, let this Final Report convince you that it really was...



Pavel Zbožínek

Emil Open Organizing Committee President

Introduction

Emil Family



[Emil Family](#) comprises four non-profit organisations that operate in the field of support for people with disabilities. Thanks to these organisations, Emil provides direct financial support, engages in sports, educates, and makes events with his disabled friends.

The Emil Endowment Fund has supported over 8,000 individual athletes and sports clubs. Its primary mission is to help young athletes with disabilities.

Emilova sportovní, z.s. is an association founded to support the development of physical activities for the public and people with disabilities, organise sporting events, and establish sports clubs.

Emilova produkční, z.s. was created to involve our disabled friends in preparing and implementing events. Our production activities generate additional financial resources for our athletes, supporting the Emil Endowment Fund.

Emilova vzdělávací, z.ú. aims to expand opportunities in the education of coaches, athletes, volunteers, and the public, as well as to create educational programmes and build collaborations with universities. The founder and chair of the board of trustees is prof. Hana Válková.

Emil Open 2024



Organizer:	Emilova sportovní, z.s.
Event type:	European
Target Group:	Youth with disabilities aged 10-26 years
Date:	19-23 June 2024

[The European Youth Games for the Disabled Emil Open](#) is an international sports and social gathering for young people with disabilities. Due to the increasing number of participants, the global concept, the range of sports activities, and the accompanying cultural programme, it is a unique event of European significance.

The games are primarily financed by public funds, provided through grants and sponsorships from private companies. The event is a non-profit with the aim of not placing any financial burden on the disabled participants.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

PAVEL ZBOŽÍNEK, ORGANISING COMMITTEE PRESIDENT
VOJTĚCH KOCŮREK, ORGANISING COMMITTEE VICE-PRESIDENT
HANA VÁLKOVÁ, SPORT DIRECTOR OF THE GAMES

SPORT DIRECTORS

PETR KOTYZA JR., ATHLETICS
JAN SOMMER, SWIMMING
ALENA SKOTÁKOVÁ, BOCCE
RADEK PROCHÁZKA, BOCCIA
PAVEL VACENOVSKÝ, TABLE TENNIS
PAVEL JAHODA, CYCLING
ELIŠKA NOVOTNÁ, ARCHERY
JOSEF PROCHÁZKA, OVER NET BALL
MARTINA PERANOVIĆ, PARA TAEKWONDO
VOJTĚCH KOCŮREK, WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

AMBASSADORS

ARNOŠT PETRÁČEK, PARALYMPIC MEDALLIST IN SWIMMING
SAMUEL ANDREJČÍK, PARALYMPIC MEDALLIST IN BOCCIE
TOMÁŠ BÁBEK, WORD VICE-CHAMPION IN TRACK CYCLING
RADEK JAROŠ, HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEER

COORDINATORS

DANA KOČIŠOVÁ, LUCIA RUMLOVÁ, ACCOMMODATION
KAMILA ZOUHAROVÁ, PRODUCTION
ELIŠKA THOMPSONOVÁ, VOLUNTEERS
TIMOFEI TONKIKH, ZUZANA BUROŇOVÁ, TRANSPORT
BARBORA HAVLÍČKOVÁ, BOARD
ANETA TVRDÁ, ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME
ALEXANDRA BALAŠTÍKOVÁ, ELIŠKA FIŠEROVÁ, SOCIAL MEDIA

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS

This year broke records! In the first round, an incredible 1,200 participants registered. Regrettably, due to the lack of accommodation capacity because of the early date of the games, we had to limit foreign participation to 25 participants from each country. Ultimately, we confirmed the involvement of 829 participants from 13 European countries, making up 86 teams! Unfortunately, the team from Albania had to cancel their participation at the last moment.



Adriana Beresova, Anna Jurošková, ARPZPD ČR,z.s., KLUB ROAD, Atletický klub Olomouc, Běru un Jauniešu Para Sporta Apvienība, Bkosi Pulac, Budapesti Bárczi Gusztáv Kindergarten, Primary School and Skill Development School, Center IRIS Ljubljana (Slovenija), Centrum Kaňka, Centrum Kociánka, Csalogány Dse, Dity Soncy, Dominik Čuřík, Domov Raspenava, p.o., DownsyndromCZ, DOZP Všebořice, Drábek Martin, Dům dětí a mládeže Vikýř, Emilova sportovní, z.s., Estonian Mental Handicap People Sport Organization (Virtus Estonia), Eva Konvičková, Faith. Hope. Love., FAPA – BULGARIA, Federatia Sporturilor pentru Persoane cu Dizabilitati Locomotorii, Filip Otta, FUNDACJA AUTENTICON SŁAWA, Ibsenka Brno, ICSS Odlochowice, Jáchym Hamerník, JK Fany Hostěnice, Jõgeva Valla Spordikool, Klub Sportowy "Team ASY", Kučera Kryštof, Lithuania blind sports federation, Makej! z.s., Marcela Kučerová, Martin Januvka, Martin Ludvík, Martin Triš, Mateřská škola, základní škola a praktická škola Brno, Štolcova, p.o., MCT CZ z.s., Mš, zš a prš Znojmo, Mš, Zš a Sš pro sluchově postižené ve Valašském Meziříčí, Mš, ZšS a PRŠ Diakonie ČCE Rolnička Soběslav, NPC SLOVENIA, OLHA ANTONYSHYN, Para Athletics Team SSK-Vítkovice, ParaKids, Primary school Eugena Kumičića Slatina, Public Organisation of Parents of children with Down Syndrome and other developmental disorders, SK Impuls Praha, SK Kaštani Uherské Hradiště, SK KONTAKT BRNO z. s., SK Kontakt Ostrava, SK Mloci Tábor, SK Slnava, SK Sluníčko Tanvald, SK Vodomílek, z. s., Spolek Jonáš, SpZŠ A. Bartoše, Úpice, SŠ, Zš a Mš pro zdravotně znevýhodněné, Brno - střední škola, SŠ, Zš a Mš, Praha 10, Start Bielsko-BiałaStowarzyszenie VeloAktiv, Střední škola F. D. Roosevelta Brno, příspěvková organizace, ŠK Juventa, TUKsport, Učiliště Martin, Vitaz, Základní škola a Praktická škola Chotěboř, Základní škola a Mateřská škola Uherské Hradiště, Šafaříkova, Základní škola Práčská 37, Základní škola Praktická škola, Opava, Slezského odboje 5, p. o., Základní škola pro sluchově postižené a Mateřská škola pro sluchově postižené, Ostrava - Poruba, příspěvková organizace, Základní škola speciální a Praktická škola Jihlava, příspěvková organizace, Zš a Mš Kroměříž, F. Vančury, Zš a Sš Pomněnka o.p.s., Zš Kamenice nad Lipou, Zš Lysá nad Labem, příspěvková organizace, se sídlem Komenského 1534/16, 28922 Lysá nad Labem

Before we had started...

#HAPPY13

Why did we organise this year's Emil Open under the name #happy13?

Aside from the number thirteen might have caused some concern, and we wanted to dispel those fears and our determination to do everything we could to make our athletes feel happy, the number thirteen had another significant meaning.

The 13th year of the games was held during a Paralympic year - the celebration for parasports, athletes qualified for the games and their supporters.

And we want you to cheer them with us! How?

We contacted our supporters and partners to help us make our games #happy13 by capturing their happiness and sending as much good luck as possible to all our Paralympians heading to Paris!



CROATIAN PARA TAEKWONDO

Last year, we were approached by the new Honorary Consul of the Republic of Croatia, Michal Chládek, with an offer of Czech-Croatian cooperation. After several discussions, he subsequently connected us with the Croatian Para taekwondo Federation.

And the result?

In May, we welcomed the Croatian team to Brno to begin preparations for introducing a new sport to the 13th edition of the games in collaboration with the Faculty of Sports Studies at Masaryk University.

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

AUCTION OF GOOD DEEDS

At the beginning of the year, we were approached by [Breakfaststory](#), an organization that, in cooperation with [Výbor dobré vůle - Nadace Olgy Havlové](#) organizes [drazbadobrychskutku.cz](#).

We entered the 13th Emil Open into the auction, and just before the games, the auction was held in the Senate under the auspices of its chairman, Miloš Vystrčil.

[Radek Jaroš](#), the most successful Czech Himalayan mountaineer, became the ambassador of the auction of our project. Our project was auctioned by the company [epet.](#), which became our leading partner.





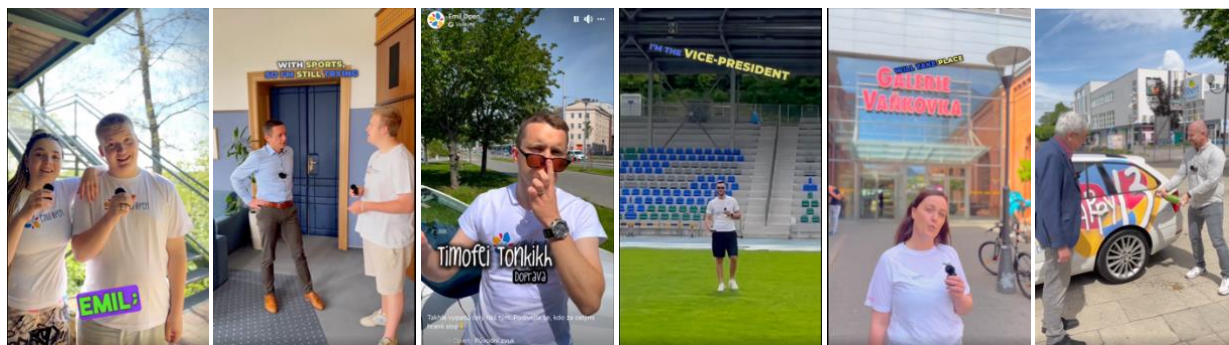
GATHERING with H.E. Ljiljana Pancirov

We appreciate that the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Czech Republic gave us a reception. We are very pleased with her interest in our activities. We were also happy she accepted our invitation to the 13th Emil Open.

We believe that her support will help us further cooperation. The first opportunity will be the participation of Croatian para taekwondo representation at the Emil Open.

WE BECAME INFLUENCERS

This year, we enlisted Týna and Sam, who started filming short videos for us. These videos taught the participants what to expect at this year's event and informed the public about Emil Open. Some interviews, team introductions, sports venues and the accompanying program...



MEDIA INTEREST IN THE GAMES WAS ENJOYED MOSTLY BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF EMIL OPEN



In their show "Dobré ráno", Czech Television, like Czech Radio Brno, reported the news about this year on Wednesday morning. You can watch it [HERE](#).

AND WHAT WAS THE 13TH EMIL OPEN LIKE? – [VIDEO](#)

PROGRAM

THE 13. EUROPEAN YOUTH GAMES for the DISABLED EMIL OPEN
Brno, 19. – 23. 6. 2024

1. DAY | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19TH | OPENING DAY

16:00 – 17:00

Opening ceremony

Location: Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT, Brno.

Program: Ceremonial parade of countries – flag bearers' procession; team presentations; greetings from official guests; athletes', coaches', and referees' oaths; short accompanying programme and official opening of the games.

18:00 – 18:45

Glass of Wine hosted by the mayor of Brno city

Location: Fait Gallery, Ve Vaňkovce 2.

Program: Acknowledgement of partners, supporters, and guests of the 13th year.

The next part of the program was held in collaboration with Vaňkovka Gallery and as part of the Vaňkovka Fest 2024 opening.

19:00 – 20:30

Beneficial show "Face to Face" by Jan Kraus.

Location: outdoor stage – in front of Café Práh, Ve Vaňkovce 1.

Program: Beneficial show featuring Jan Kraus and his guests: Radek Jaroš, the most successful Czech Himalayan professional mountaineer; Paralympians from the project Golden Paris – Agáta Koupilová, Alexandra Borská, Radek Procházka, Arnošt Petráček; and Ben Cristovao, singer.

21:00

Ben Cristov's concert.

2. DAY | THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH | SPORTS DAY

10:00 – 15:00

Support our athletes and watch the qualifying events!

- athletics, bocce, cycling, archery, wheelchair basketball
Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT, Brno
- swimming
Sportovní a rekreační areál Kraví hora, swimming pool Lužánky
- boccia, table tennis, para taekwondo
Masaryk University, Faculty of Sports Studies

Od 17:00

An accompanying programme for participants (pre-arranged, individual)

3. DAY | FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST | SPORTS DAY | MEDAL CEREMONIES | CLOSING CEREMONY

10:00 – 15:00

Support our athletes and watch the final events!

11:00 – 15:00

Medal ceremonies

- athletics, bocce, cycling, archery, para taekwondo, wheelchair basketball
Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT, Brno
- swimming
Sportovní a rekreační areál Kraví hora, swimming pool Lužánky
- boccia, table tennis
Masaryk University, Faculty of Sports Studies

19:00 – 21:00

Closing Ceremony of the 13th Emil Open

Location: Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT, Brno.

Program: Closing ceremony closing with the accompanying programme and disco.

4. DAY | SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD | ENJOY BRNO

10:00 – 15:00

Accompany our athletes and show them Brno!

Program: an accompanying programme for participants (organised and pre-arranged individually).

5. DAY | SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD | DEPARTURES

DAILY EVENTS REPORT

DAY 1- [VIDEO](#)

The opening day is dedicated to arrivals, registrations, accommodation, and, of course, the preparation of individual teams for the opening ceremony and other official programmes. This year, we returned to the athletic track at the Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT. The accompanying program continued at the [Galerie Vaňkovka](#), where we concluded the first day.

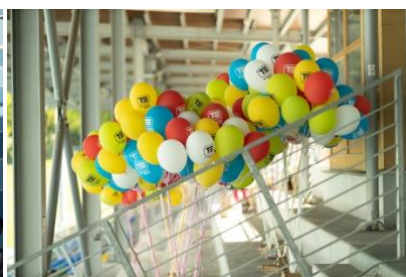
A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE GENERAL PARTNER

Before everything began, we gathered at the invitation of Jiří Herman, Chairman of the Board of [Teplárny Brno, a.s.](#), for a ceremonial lunch. Invited were representatives of the leading partners, members of the [Emil Open Ambassadors Club](#), and the Board of Trustees of the [Emil Endowment Fund](#).



OPENING CEREMONY

The comfort of the shaded stands in the stadium and the proximity of the accommodation were a welcome change for participants on a hot June day. To enhance their comfort, our general partner, [Teplárny Brno a.s.](#), prepared a relaxation zone where participants could rest and even take colourful balloons and small gifts.



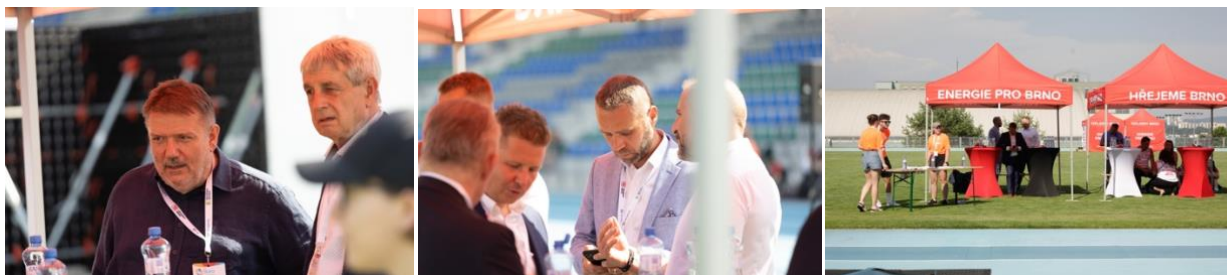
At the stroke of 4 PM, the hosting duo Kateřina Nekolná and Jan Adámek, in the presence of our distinguished guests, commenced the ceremonial parade. Nearly 86 teams from 12 countries were presented. Our partners from the [Ligy vozíčkářů](#) and volunteers from [Kyndryl](#) could not be absent.



The next part of the opening ceremony followed the ceremonial parade. The participants were first welcomed by Tomáš Aberl, a member of the Sports Council, representing the Mayor of Brno, Markéta Vaňková. He was followed by other esteemed guests: Jan Grolich – Governor of the South Moravian Region, which is the second most prominent supporter of the games after the Brno city; H.E. Ljiljana PANCIR - Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in the Czech Republic; Jiří Čerovský - Deputy Governor of the Liberec Region, Jiří Hanuš - Vice-Rector of [Masaryk University](https://www.muni.cz). Jiří Herman, Chairman of the Board of Teplárny Brno, a.s. was representing the general partner of the games; Josef Středula - founder of the Emil Open Ambassadors Club, [Radek Jaroš](https://www.radek-jarosh.cz) - Himalayan mountaineer and ambassador of the 13th edition. From the organising team was Pavel Zbožínek - the President of the Games, and for the ambassadors was [Arnošt Petráček](https://www.arnošt-petracek.cz).



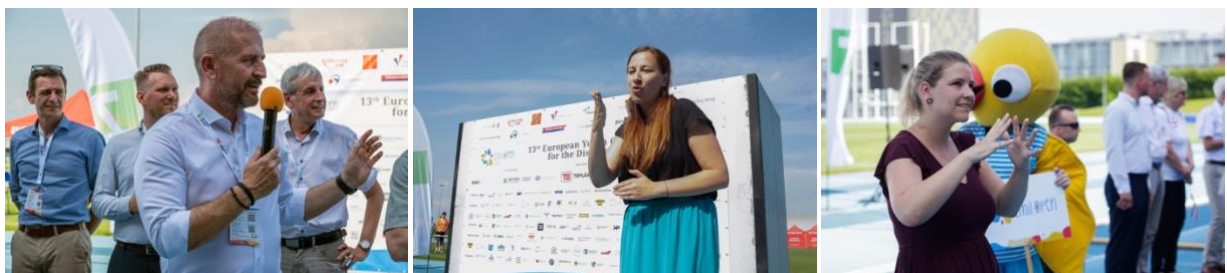
The participants were also supported by the presence of Michal Chládek - Honorary Consul of the Republic of Croatia in the Czech Republic, Roman Šmíd - Sales Director of [epet](#), Tomáš Knop - Director of Galeria Vaňkovka Brno, and Luděk Rychtář - Managing Director of the creative and event agency [Arkadia](#).



After the introductory greetings, the essential requirement followed – taking oaths by representatives of athletes, coaches, and referees.



Then, nothing stood in the way of President Pavel Zbožínek declaring the 13th edition of the European Youth Games for the Disabled Emil Open officially open! Naturally, the national anthem was not to be missed. The interpretation of not only the anthem but also the entire ceremonial opening into sign language was provided by Kristýna Pavlů and Veronika Slámová from the [HANDS DANCE – OUKEJ divadelní spolek](#).



After the official opening, the accompanying program could begin. The first performance was by the dance group "And Why Not?" from the [Střední škola F.D. Roosevelta Brno](#).



The first performance was followed by a para taekwondo demonstration by our Croatian partner [HRVATSKI PARA TAEKWONDO SAVEZ](#), introduced by H.E. Ljiljana Pancirov.



The program concluded with performances by the majorettes KIKI under the direction of Hana Blažková and the cheerleaders KIKINKY under the direction of Kristina Rozumková from [ZŠ Mutěnická](#), who also accompanied us throughout the ceremonial procession.



GLASS OF WINE HOSTED BY THE MAYOR OF BRNO CITY - [REPORTAGE](#)



PRIMÁTORKA STATUTÁRNÍHO MĚSTA BRNA
JUDr. MARKÉTA VAŇKOVÁ

SI VÁS DOVOLUJE POZVAT

NA ČÍŠI VÍNA
U PŘÍLEŽITOSTI KONÁNÍ
„13. EVROPSKÝCH HER HANDICAPOVANÉ MLÁDEŽE EMIL OPEN V BRNĚ“

VE STŘEDU 19. ČERVNA 2024 V 18:00 HODIN FAIT GALLERY
V BRNĚ, VE VAŇKOVCE 2.

POZVÁNKA PLATÍ PRO DVĚ OSOBY
DRESS CODE: SPOLEČENSKÝ ODĚV

R.S.V.P. DO 31. KVĚTNA 2024
E-MAIL: ZOUHAROVA@EMILOPEN.CZ
TELEFON: 775 226 121

The accompanying program continued at the [Fait Gallery](#). The traditional Emil's event - Glass of Wine hosted by Markéta Vaňková, the Mayor of Brno, was represented by her deputy Karin Podivinská. She, together with Emil Open President Pavel Zbožínek, [Tomáš Bábek](#), a member of the Board of Trustees of the Emil Foundation, and [Arnošt Petráček](#), Paralympian and ambassador of the games, thanked the general partner, represented by Jiří Herman, Chairman of the Board of [Teplárny Brno, a.s.](#), and all other Emil Open partners.



This year, some partners took the opportunity to present checks and vouchers to our athletes during this event. The first one who handed over a voucher for a week-long rehabilitation stay was Jana Koysová, General Manager of [HENDI MEDICAL CENTER](#). Maria Falkiewicz-Gancarz, Vice President and Director of the Czech branch of [Kyndryl](#), supported the stories of [Denisky a Patrika](#). Jan Nedělník, Managing Director of [Konecťa Czech](#), traditionally supported the Emil Open event.



Barbora Rydzyk, representative of [YD Capital](#), presented a check to Paralympian [Radek Procházka](#). Roman Šmíd, Sales Director of [epet.](#), then provided the Kubík family with a golden ticket to an [AC Sparta Praha](#) match, and Tomáš Knop, Director of [Galerie Vaňkovka Brno](#), presented a check for the [Zlatá Paříž](#) project.



Musical accompaniment was provided by pianist David Janík, [Vinařství Kopřiva Kyjov](#) traditionally supplied excellent wine, and our wonderful Kateřina Nekolná hosted the entire program.



BENEFICIAL SHOW "FACE TO FACE" BY JAN KRAUS



The benefit show "Face to Face" by Jan Kraus inaugurated the traditional event of our partner [Galerie Vaňkovka](#) - Vaňkovka Fest 2024 for the second time. Jan Kraus welcomed the anticipated guests. The first to introduce was Radek Jaroš, a Himalayan mountaineer, then Paralympic representatives supported by [The Emil Endowment Fund](#) the Emil Foundation in the [Zlatá Paříž](#) project, and the singing star Ben Cristovao.



After the show, a concert by Ben Cristovao followed.



DAY 2

The official sports days started at 10 o'clock at four sports venues in Brno. Thursday was a qualifying day. This year, six sports took place at [the Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT](#) – athletics, bocce, cycling, archery, volleyball, and a wheelchair basketball demonstration. In the hall and gyms of the [Masaryk University, Faculty of Sports Studies](#), the sports were boccia, table tennis, and para taekwondo. Swimming also occurred in two pools this year – [Sportovní a rekreační areál Kraví hora](#) and swimming pool [Lužánky](#). Nearly a hundred referees and 250 volunteers ensured the smooth running of the competitions. As every year, the sports categories were divided into OPEN, which is intended for all individuals from the target group – beginners and advanced athletes without the need for registration in sports clubs or national or international federations, and MIXED, which represents a unique program designed for joint activities of disabled and non-disabled athletes.

[The Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT](#)

The VUT stadium featured traditional sports: athletics, which included 16 field and track events; bocce, which is similar to French pétanque for people with intellectual or combined disabilities; archery, increasingly popular thanks to the use of safe arrows (larp); and cycling, in which mountain bikes from [ENJOY RIDING CYKLOSPORT A SERVIS](#), handbikes from [Černí koně](#), and tricycles competed.



For the second time, we also included a team sport – volleyball, which is gaining more and more interest from athletes, partners, and volunteers. In the afternoon, participants could try wheelchair basketball, presented by [SK HOBIT Brno](#). The athletes were traditionally guided throughout the day by announcer Kateřina Nekolná. Good coffee was provided by [TEAMCAFFE](#).



The sports venues were at total capacity, with over 300 athletes participating! The roles of directors were taken by Petr Kotyza (athletics), Alena Skotáková (bocce), and Pavel Jahoda (cycling)...



... with Eliška Novotná (archery), Josef Procházka (Over net Ball), and Vojtěch Kocůrek (Wheelchair Basketball).



Hall of Ball Sports and Gyms – [Masaryk University, Faculty of Sports Studies](#)

Twenty-three athletes from 5 countries competed in boccia in the BC1, BC2, and BC3 competitive categories. The competition, which is similar to pétanque and adapted for people with severe physical and combined disabilities, was traditionally overseen by Paralympian [Radek Procházka](#), with [Samuel Andrejčík](#), a three-time Paralympic gold medallist, serving as the main referee and ambassador for the first time.



Another sport hosted by the Faculty of Sports Studies was table tennis. The matches took place in the multi-purpose gym under the direction of Pavel Vacenovský. Every year, the OPEN competition was held on Thursday, evaluated on the same day, and medals were awarded to the athletes. A total of 18 athletes from 6 countries competed.



A new addition to this year's event was the introduction of para taekwondo, which took place in the faculty's martial arts gym with rich facilities. Anyone could watch an open training session, try basic combat stances, and learn more about the sport. Next to the gyms was a physio corner provided by our Slovak partners from [HENDI CENTRUM](#), whose professional services were more than welcome!



Sportovní a rekreační areál Kraví hora and swimming pool Lužánky

Two pools are now standard due to the enormous interest from swimmers. This year, for the first time, they visited the newly renovated [Lužánky swimming pool \(STAREZ\)](#), which complemented the traditional one at [Kraví hora \(Brno-Center District\)](#). The experienced Jan Sommer from [SK Kontakt Brno](#) was again the director, who launched the competition at 10 o'clock.



Before the actual races, there was a referees' and volunteers' parade and an exhibition competition. There was also time for warm-ups and consultations with coaches. The races took place in all swimming styles at 25, 50, and 100 meters. Of course, Emil Open ambassador and Paralympian [Arnošt Petráček](#) was present.



DAY 3 - VIDEO

Final Competitions for Medals in MIXED Categories was the second competition day's main program. Same as last year, there was no shortage of tension and emotions! The joy of winning medals was ubiquitous, and athletes again showed their best. As maximum effort is especially valued, we awarded an incredible 151 medals sets.

The Sport Center „Pod Palackého Vrchem“ VUT

Whether they were metal or participant medals, no athlete left without a medal, as every year, the domestic Czech team took the most medals – 59 golds! Among foreign delegations, the most successful were the Hungarians and Croatians. The most medals were awarded in short-distance runs – 50 m and 100 m, and in the field events, specifically the ball throw. The SK Kaštani Uherské Hradiště team dominated the 4x100 m relays in the first run and Pomněnka Šumperk in the second run.



Bocce is the sport most watched annually by Polish and Bulgarian teams. Czech athletes thus have high-quality competition and can measure their strength against foreign friends. This year, participants included Czechs, Poles, Bulgarians, and Ukrainians. In the OPEN pairs, the domestic team dominated, but in the MIXED category, the tables turned this year! The Polish team won in one category, and the Bulgarian athletes won in another.



Cycling has secured its place among the Emil Open sports, and besides domestic athletes, athletes from Poland and Croatia competed for medals. There were mountain bikes, tandem bikes, handbikes, and tricycles

on display. Czech athletes generally dominated mountain bikes, while the best handbike athlete was from neighbouring Poland. Partners from [Enjoy Riding](#) and [Černí koně](#) provided bike service.



Friday's archery, led by Eliška Novotná, was coordinated by volunteers from [YD Capital](#), who ensured perfect player service. Athletes showed great interest in this sport this year, and in Friday's final shoot-offs, nothing was given away for free! Three sets of medals were awarded to 19 Czech Republic and Latvia athletes. Besides the main competition, shooting could also be tried by volunteers and athletes competing in other sports.



Catchball has already had its second year and is slowly becoming a sought-after sport at Emil Open! Interest has grown from a demonstration sport to the participation of three teams this year, with the first trial finals held under the leadership of Josef Procházka, SK Mloci Tábor from [Centrum Kaňka](#). The competition was also open to volunteers, partners, and other athletes.



But it was not just competitive sports. Even on Friday, there was wheelchair basketball with explanations of the basic principles of the game, the loan of sports wheelchairs, and 3-on-3 matches with interested participants.



The last sport to be seen on Friday at the sports complex Pod Palackého vrchem was para taekwondo. Representatives of the [Croatian Para taekwondo Federation](#) did not miss this venue either and demonstrated several showcases with the opportunity to try this sport.



Shortly after noon, Jan Grolich, Governor of the South Moravian Region, visited the stadium. The reason was very gratifying. Besides "decorating" the athletes, he signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with us, giving Emil Open funding security for the next four years. After the signing, it was, of course, appropriate to invite the governor to lunch. :)



Sportovní a rekreační areál Kraví hora

The swimming competitions were held for the second time in two pools. At Kraví Hora, athletes from eight countries competed. Domestic athletes won the most gold, but the competition was intense, and each delegation earned valuable medals. There were also relays composed of athletes and non-disabled companions. In the remaining time, athletes could swim with Emil Open ambassador [Arnošt Petráček](#).



Swimming pool Lužánky

In the second pool at Lužánky, the final heats saw swimmers from seven countries compete. Athletes had the opportunity to test the new pool facilities. A total of 54 sets of medals were awarded in swimming!



Hall of Ball Sports and Gyms – Masaryk University, Faculty of Sports Studies

In Boccia, the finals featured nine athletes from the Czech Republic, Poland, Croatia, Slovakia, and Latvia. The president of the games, Pavel Zbožínek, deservedly awarded gold medallists. The Golden Ball competition also occurred, where player Marie Kučerová won a voucher for a week-long rehabilitation stay at [Hendi Center](#) in neighbouring Slovakia.



Again, this year, athletes took advantage of the opportunity to participate in mixed competitions in table tennis. Supplemented by volunteers, all participants played great matches and were deservedly awarded participant medals.

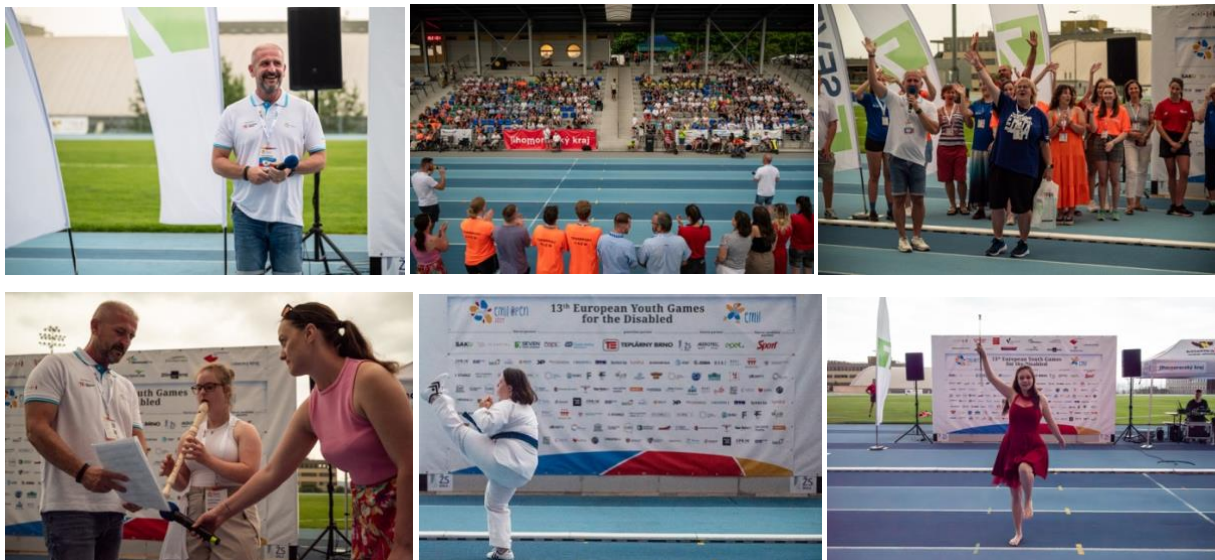


CLOSING CEREMONY

The traditional 7 PM marked the start of the last part of the official Emil Open program, the closing ceremony. Organizers met with participants and volunteers at the VUT stadium for the last time to enjoy time together after two sports days.

As usual, the 13th edition was officially closed by the Czech-English moderator duo, President Pavel Zbožínek and Vice President of the games, Vojtěch Kocůrek. Both thanked the entire team, partners,

volunteers, and, last but not least, all participants. The accompanying program followed, but unfortunately, it was cut short due to a big storm before the anticipated disco.



Of course, a big thank you to all the volunteers could not be missed. This year, 250 volunteers were involved.



Day 4

South Moravia offers countless beautiful places. The selection includes an accompanying program traditionally held on Saturday: organized trips and individual visits.

This year's novelty was the bee trail, built by Zdeněk Sedlák, owner of [EPRIN](#), to help save the bees and entertainingly let the young generation understand their importance.



We sailed on a steamboat on the Brno reservoir, visited exhibitions...



We enjoyed guided tours of Brno and visited the Brno underground and amusement parks...



And once again, we travelled all over South Moravia.



In addition to the organized program, participants and volunteers of the games could also visit many places individually using their accreditation cards throughout the Emil Open. A big thank you to everyone for providing the program!



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WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

In the South Moravian Region, Brno, and Brno-Center district, we feel at home, not only because we are headquartered here but mainly due to the strong support.

Our constant effort is to achieve support from all 14 regions. We thank those who financially contributed to the accommodation and meals of their athletes this year! (as of July 8, 2024).

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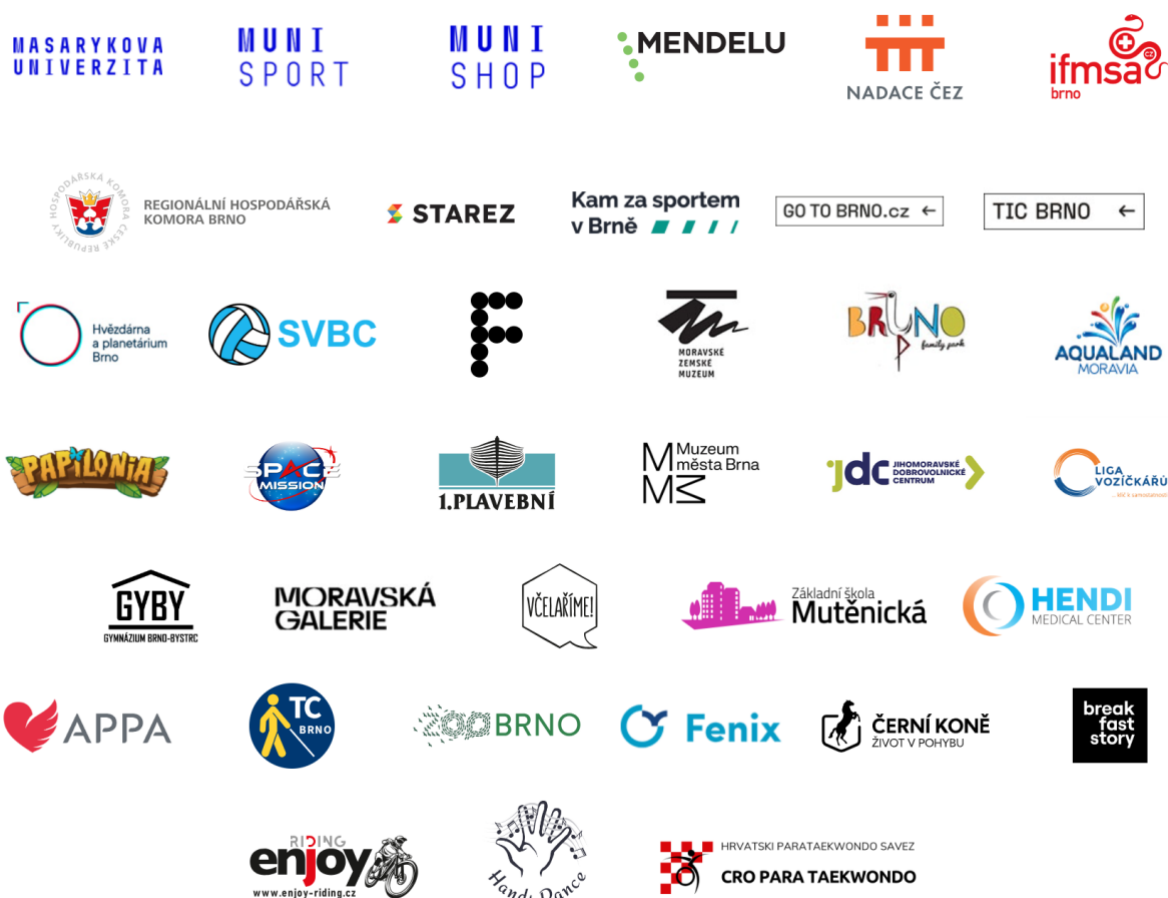
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In conclusion, on behalf of our organization, [Emil family](https://www.emil-family.cz), we would like to thank everyone again and simultaneously ask for your continued valuable support!



Thank you from the organizing team, and we look forward to further joint events and projects.



Pavel Zbožínek

president of the Emil Open
chairman of the association



Vojtěch Kocůrek

vice-president of the Emil Open
member of the executive committee of the association