



## **UNITED WORLD GAMES (UWG) – More than just a sports event!**

2020 will witness the 16th edition of the United World Games – a youth sport festival with a unique success story. From June 25 – 28, more than 10,000 young athletes from all across the globe will gather in Carinthia to celebrate sport as their common and uniting passion. The Games are Europe's biggest multisports event for youth, they are centered in Klagenfurts EURO Stadium, and while they are growing continuously they also offer their participants something new with every year.

The UWG are not only all about sports, they also carry a strong social, economic and touristic relevance with numerous regional and national companies, clubs and federations being embedded and integrated into the fabric of the event. All partners unanimously express their respect and appreciation of the scale of the event and the size to which it has grown over the last years, as well as of the added value this one-of-a-kind festival is creating in Austria's southernmost province.

### **Figures & facts:**

- Date: 25.06. - 28.06.2020
- More than 10,000 participants
- 40 nations
- 800 teams
- 16 sports (In 2020 Softball will be introduced)
- 2.000 games played at 35 different venues
- More than 50,000 meals served at the Food Court
- More than 75,000 visitors
- More than 4.5 million Euros added value

### **History and evolution:**

Since their inaugural edition in 2005 the UNITED WORLD GAMES (UWG) have developed into one of the most extraordinary events in international youth sports. As a festival of sport and cultural exchange, the event attracts large crowds of athletes, fans and sports lovers from all corners of the world every June, taking place in the context of Klagenfurt's „days of sport“. After the premiere of the event saw 700 participants compete in 3 different sports, the Games have since then slowly but surely turned into a renowned occasion of international friendship and togetherness, gaining UNESCO patronage and spotlighting Carinthia as gracious and proud host since the very beginning.



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Additionally, the UWG generate a lot of added value within the business location Carinthia. The ambitious vision of the organizers is to establish the UWG as the world's leading multisports event for youth, aiming to turn Klagenfurt and Carinthia into the „place to be“ for young athletes from all over the world.

The philosophy of the event remains the same as ever: Making it possible for young athletes to experience an Olympic atmosphere firsthand while making new friends and celebrating a global community. Not performance and competition are at the heart of the event, but the intercultural exchange between young people hailing from different geographical, religious, cultural and social backgrounds with sport as the driving and uniting factor. Throughout all of Klagenfurt and Carinthia, thousands of athletes along with their parents and coaches are demonstrating the power of sports to make a positive impact on society, setting an impressive example for tolerance and international understanding.

#### **„Players Town“:**

Countless tournament games and an extensive side programme turn Klagenfurt's EURO Stadium into the so called „Players Town“ during the UWG weekend, where athletes and fans alike can try out numerous activities. From a soccer skill challenge, a climbing wall and video games to giant darts, mini table tennis and the T-Wall – fun and entertainment are guaranteed, while the international food court offers specialties from many different countries. Since the participants come from a variety of different backgrounds and have diverse eating habits, the food on offer reflects this diversity and caters to the needs of participants and visitors from near and far.

#### **Opening Ceremony:**

The grand Opening Ceremony is the annual highlight for all participating athletes and spectators. The parade of nations, the impressive showacts, the cheering crowd inside the stadium and the bordercrossing encounters – it all adds up to once-in-a-lifetime moments, giving the participants goosebumps all over. The oath of friendship – which is presented in numerous languages – and the fireshow inside the stadium mark the official opening of the Games.



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