Dear Colleagues,

With less than 50 days to go till the official launch of the EYOF ‘Baku 2019’, we would like to share some latest updates regarding our preparation for the Festival to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan on 21-27 July 2019. The EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee continues to work hard to organise a high-class event for all the participants of the upcoming summer EYOF.

Since the 1st edition of our Newsletter in February, we have hosted a number of very important events which we would like to focus on in this edition.

We have successfully presented our Mascots – Jirtdan and Babir to the sporting community. Our Mascots represent national and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan.

We have also brought the Flame of Peace to Azerbaijan from Rome where it was lit at the ‘Shine Ceremony’.

We have also held a meeting with Chefs de Mission of 40 European countries, during which we discussed important topics regarding the games and introduced our guests to the stadiums and arenas that will host the Festival, along with the Athletes Village. We also presented the official medals of the EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ during the seminar.

We, at the EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee, are happy to host such a high-level international event which we believe will promote the right values amongst the younger generation, popularising sport, and helping us continue building a strong bondage with international athletes.

Sincerely,

Azad Rahimov
Minister of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan
ALL ABOUT THE GAMES

SCHEDULE

EYOF 'Baku 2019' Competition Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Games period</th>
<th>Training Competition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ceremonies</td>
<td></td>
<td>CRH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Track and field</td>
<td>TBS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Artisitco</td>
<td>MGA</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>Time Trial and Road Race</td>
<td>VEL + ROAD</td>
<td>F TT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
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<td>MGA + SAR + EAS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handball</td>
<td></td>
<td>ABU + BSH</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>GR, FS, WW</td>
<td>HAA</td>
<td>F F F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judo</td>
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<td>HAA</td>
<td>F F F F F F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td></td>
<td>BAC</td>
<td>F F F F F F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Singles and Doubles</td>
<td>BTA</td>
<td>F F F F F F</td>
<td>F/SHD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<td>DAR + MES</td>
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Total 13

VENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Venue code</th>
<th>Venue name</th>
<th>Events / Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CRH</td>
<td>Crystal Hall</td>
<td>Opening / Closing CER</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBS</td>
<td>Tofiq Bahramov Stadium</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MGA</td>
<td>National Gymnastics Arena</td>
<td>Artisitco Gymnastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>VEL</td>
<td>Velopark + City roads</td>
<td>Cycling</td>
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<tr>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>ABU + BSH</td>
<td>ABU Arena + Baku Sports Hall</td>
<td>Handball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>HAA</td>
<td>Heydar Aliyev Arena</td>
<td>Judo / Wrestling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>BTA</td>
<td>Baku Tennis Academy</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>BAC</td>
<td>Baku Aquatics Centre</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>10, 11</td>
<td>DAR + MES</td>
<td>Damagual Arena + MES Sports Arena</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 13</td>
<td>SAR + EAS</td>
<td>Sarhadchi Arena + European Azerbaijan School Arena</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All About the Games

Statistics

- **21 - 27 July 2019**
- 7 Days of competition
- 10 Sports
- 12 Competition Venues
- 13 Medal Events
- 135 Participating NOC’s
- 13 Non-Competition Venues
- 2,500 Volunteers
- 200+ Hours of Live TV / Internet Broadcast Coverage
- 3,600+ Athletes and officials
- 345 Accredited Media
- 48 Non-Competition Venues

Countdown Milestones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 June 2019</td>
<td>50 days to go – Sport Presentation and Ready to Shine Kick off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 June 2019</td>
<td>3rd EOC CoCom Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June 2019</td>
<td>25 days to go – Open Air Fitness Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 July 2019</td>
<td>10 days to go – Ready to Shine Winners Announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July 2019</td>
<td>EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Opening Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 July 2019</td>
<td>EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Closing Ceremony</td>
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</table>
The EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee is proud to present **Jirtdan and Babir** as the official event Mascots.

A little boy Jirtdan, which translates from Azerbaijani as ‘tiny’, is the most popular fairy tale character among the children’s stories in Azerbaijan. He is distinguished by a strong national identity, ingenuity, wit, courage and sympathy for others.

The Caucasian leopard Babir, which translates from Azerbaijani as ‘leopard’, promotes an idea of the richness of the beautiful nature of Azerbaijan. This animal is considered a symbol of natural beauty, strength, fearlessness, and speed. Once widespread throughout the Caucasus, the leopard is now on the brink of extinction and has become a top priority species for conservation in Azerbaijan and the region.

As symbols of Azerbaijan’s nature and cultural heritage, the EYOF Official Mascots Jirtdan and Babir will reflect the glorious history and rich traditions of our beautiful country. They will both be ready to shine during this top multi-sport European youth event.
SHINE CEREMONY MARKS 100 DAYS TO GO

The Flame of Peace for the 'Baku 2019' European Youth Olympic Festival was lit in Rome at an elaborate Shine Ceremony held at the Ara Pacis Museum. Representatives from the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the local organising committee for the EYOF and regional dignitaries were on hand to celebrate the lighting of the torch, held exactly 100 days before the start of the event that will run from 21-27 July. Joining the EOC President Janez Kocijančič were Vice President Niels Nygaard, Secretary General Raffaele Pagnozzi and Executive Committee Members Spyros Capralos, Zlatko Matesa, Djordje Visacki, and Liney Halldorsdottir.

The delegation from Azerbaijan included the country's Youth and Sports Minister Azad Rahimov, who is also Deputy Chair of the 'Baku 2019' Organising Committee; Vice-President of Azerbaijan National Olympic Committee Chingiz Huseynzada; EYOF 'Baku 2019' Chief of Staff Nikki Efendi, and athletes Farid Mansurov, gold medalist at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Greco-Roman wrestling; Karamat Huseynov, gold medalist at the 2016 Junior European Judo Cup; and Raziya Aliyeva, gold medalist at the 2018 Junior Azerbaijan Volleyball Championship and participating athlete at EYOF 'Baku 2019'.

"We have gained a lot of experience from hosting different major international events over the last few years," said Minister Rahimov, referring to the European Games in 2015, the Islamic Solidarity Games in 2017, and, annually since 2016, the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix, among others. "This is a great legacy, as we are now able to host such events using our own experts."

In addition to the flame, the representatives from 'Baku 2019' were presented with The Dea Pax Golden Olive Tree sculpture, a symbol of peace and friendship. Representing the Italian government was Giancarlo Giorgetti, Undersecretary of State to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Secretary General of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) Carlo Mornati was also present and addressed participants. The Flame of Peace was successfully brought to Ateshgah – historic temple in Surakhani town of Baku, Azerbaijan. From there it will be brought to Baku Crystall Hall where the EYOF 'Baku 2019' Opening Ceremony will be held on July, 21.
WHAT’S NEW
TEAM SPORTS DRAW RESULTS

Handball Girls
- Group A: FRANCE, ROMANIA, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN
- Group B: HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND, CZECH R., AZERBAIJAN

Handball Boys
- Group A: DENMARK, GERMANY, SERBIA, AZERBAIJAN
- Group B: ICELAND, CROATIA, FRANCE, SLOVENIA

Volleyball Girls
- Group A: RUSSIA, BULGARIA, ROMANIA, AZERBAIJAN
- Group B: ITALY, TURKEY, BELARUS, GERMANY

Volleyball Boys
- Group A: GERMANY, RUSSIA, BELARUS, AZERBAIJAN
- Group B: CZECH R., ITALY, BULGARIA, BELGIUM

Basketball Girls
- Group A: ITALY, FRANCE, RUSSIA, BELGIUM
- Group B: CZECH R., TURKEY, HUNGARY, POLAND

Basketball Boys
- Group A: CROATIA, FRANCE, SERBIA, AZERBAIJAN
- Group B: SPAIN, TURKEY, GREECE, LITHUANIA
BAKU 2019 XV EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL UNVEILS MEDALS

‘Baku 2019’ European Youth Olympic Festival revealed the design of medals for the event, to be held on 21-27 July this year. Exclusively crafted medal set was presented by the Minister of Youth and Sports Azad Rahimov on a seminar arranged for Chefs de Mission of 40 European countries.

The front of the gold, silver and bronze medals’ reflects the heritage and culture of Baku: ‘fire’ and ‘buta’ (the ancient Azeri paisley pattern), as well as Baku’s spectacular iconic modern architecture – Flame Towers and the Heydar Aliyev Center.

The back of the medals depicts European Olympic Committee’s logo.

Medals were designed by the EYOF ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee team and manufactured by Azersuvenir Ltd.

There will be 135 medal events during the EYOF ‘Baku 2019’.

Speaking about the design of the medals the Minister of Youth and Sports Azad Rahimov said: “Presentation of the medals is a very significant moment with a little time left till the launch of the Festival. The medals reflect three main values of the festival – innovation, quality, and transparency.”

WHAT’S NEW

BAKU 2019 WELCOMES CHEFS DE MISSION AS CITY PREPARES FOR 15TH SUMMER EYOF

On 5-8 May, 2019, Chefs de Mission from over 40 countries met in Baku to receive an update on the preparations for XV European Youth Olympic Festival from the ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee.

The Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan Republic Azad Rahimov, vice president of the National Olympic Committee Chingiz Huseynzade, the head of the Department for Youth Policy and Sport Issues at the Azerbaijani Presidential Administration Yusuf Mamedaliyev, members of the Operations Committee, as well as the head of the European Olympic Committee's Coordination Commission and Secretary General of the Olympic Committee of Serbia Djordje Visacki attended the meeting in order to take a closer look at the organization of the festival.

The Chefs de Mission as well as representatives of the European Olympic Committee and EOC’s Coordination Commission created for ‘Baku 2019’, were familiarized with a wide range of topics including athlete accommodation, accreditation, ceremonies, transport, medical and anti-doping, protocol, ticketing, broadcast and others during the seminar. They also had the opportunity to be introduced to some of the stadiums and arenas that will be used during the Festival, along with the Athletes Village.

“We firmly believe that the athletes participating in the Baku edition of EYOF are the bright future of Europe that will soon be representing their countries at the highest level of success in sport – the Olympics.” said Azad Rahimov, the Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan.

“We are sure that Azerbaijan will once again amaze the sporting community with its organizational capacity, creativity and experience,” he added.
On June 1, ‘Baku 2019’ Operations Committee and National Olympic Committee, with support of Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan held a special event to celebrate 50 days to go till ‘Baku 2019’ XV Summer European Youth Olympic Festival and 125th Anniversary of the modern Olympic movement.

As the event coincided with the International Children’s Day, ‘Baku 2019’ EYOF Operations Committee invited 500 children, participating in one of the most important parts of the festival, Olympic Culture and Education Programme (OCEP), to the Athletes Village.

“The participation of children at this event is very important, because in addition to technical and operational preparations, we also set the goal of promoting the idea of sport among children. We would like to see as many children involved in sport and leading a healthy lifestyle as possible,” said Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan and ‘Baku 2019’ EYOF chief executive.

“Ready to Shine” campaign was launched during the event as well. Campaign welcomes anyone aged 13 – 16 to participate in five kinds of sport – basketball, cycling, athletics, tennis, and swimming. Each federation will announce open doors events to all participants for five weeks. The campaign's goals are to popularise various kinds of sports amongst kids and teenagers, as well as promote a healthy lifestyle and strengthen friendship with athletes.
Young Athlete Ambassadors Programme

The European Young Ambassadors (EYA) programme will be carried out for the third time since 2016 under the auspices of the EOC “Olympic Culture and Legacy” Commission during EYOF ‘Baku 2019’. The main purpose of the EYA is to strengthen the Olympic values among the new generation of athletes participating in European Youth Olympic Festivals.

The program was launched on April, 23 during the 1st webinar. There is also a close cooperation between OCEP and the New Leaders Sport Leadership Programme. Participants from both programs met virtually during the 2nd seminar on May, 15 to define the ways of cooperation and synergy towards the promotion of the Olympic values.

The New Leaders Sport Leadership Programme

The New Leaders Sport Leadership Programme, its three workshops and closing forum educate 30 participants to become game-changers in the period of one year. 30 Game-Changers from 25 countries took part in The New Leaders Sport Leadership Programme workshops held in January and April in Lithuania and Ireland, respectively.

The third and the final workshop will be held in July in Baku and will revolve around such subjects as advancing gender equality within sports, good governance and responsibility through strategic goal setting and leadership, analysis of the current status quo in Europe, conflict management, inclusive organisation culture and diversity in leadership. After the workshop the game-changers are equipped to action on equality, good governance and responsibility.

Olympic Culture and Education Programme

Olympic Culture and Education Programme is aimed at intercultural exchange, education, social responsibility, and cooperation between the schools.

School-lyceum №6 was the first to launch the events between the schools. “King or Parliament in England” was the topic of discussion. As part of OCEP 2019, the first international exchange was organised by school №17. Students participated in a teleconference with North Macedonia during the English class. Azerbaijani students presented national cuisine, dances and traditions of North Macedonia to Macedonians.

One of the activities of the Olympic Culture and Education Programme was the installation of Azerbaijani corner at Baku Boulevard during Formula-1, during which students performed for tourists and represented Azerbaijan at the highest level. To make the project more interactive, “Sport for health, friendship, and unity” drawing competition was held between the schools participating in OCEP 2019.