



St.Gallen, 27. August 2023

European Universities Orienteering Championship (EUOC)

Dear Secretary General, Matjaz Pecovnik (EUSA)

Dear Mister President of the Organizing Committee, Daniel Studer

Dear orienteers, guests and volunteers

Ladies and Gentlemen

On the occasion of the European Universities Orienteering Championship and on behalf of the government of the Canton of St. Gallen I would like to welcome you all here today in our beautiful canton. In my capacity as Minister of Education and Sports and as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of St.Gallen I am very happy and proud that we are hosting this special event - our fourth Universities Championship after 2011 (Tennis), 2015 (Golf) and 2018 (Cross Country). It's a unique experience for me, Ladies and Gentlemen, since orienteers are not part of my usual audience.

I would like to thank you for your interest and commitment to take part in this European Championship, in which 200 students of 15 countries have been pitting their strengths against each other. I would also like to thank the Organizing Committee for the excellent work to make this event a memorable happening.

My special thank goes to:

- President Daniel Studer , Head of University Sports in St.Gallen
- Vice-President, Technical Director and member of the IOF Council: Jürg Hellmüller
- Sports Director Rolf Bollhalder
- EUSA Technical Delegate, Dusan Vistavel (CZE)
- EUSA National Event Adviser, Therese Achermann (SUI)
- the Orienteering groups St.Gallen - Appenzell und Regio Wil



- the city of St.Gallen and the towns of Gais und Appenzell
- the many Volunteers (ca. 240)
- Swiss University Sports

Thank you for your effort and support to make this event a success. Speaking of excellence: As top athletes and students, you are pushing yourselves to your limits and beyond in order to achieve excellent results. It's people like you universities and sports associations are aiming on around the world. Combining University studies and high-level sport is possible, as we see in such competitions. Today's closing ceremony is hold in a place of excellence: At the Square – the latest addition to our University buildings. The University of St.Gallen is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year and gets consistently high scores across various international rankings. In keeping with the motto: small, but beautiful. Or as the Financial Times once stated: «The University of St Gallen, arguably one of the business school world's best kept secrets.»

In the past few days we have seen exciting competitions that you will probably remember for a long time. I hope you were able to enjoy your time in St.Gallen and maybe you can even pay a visit to the famous Abbey, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. Enjoy your dinner and the rest of your stay!

Abkürzungen:

- EUSA = European University Sports Association
- IOF = International Orienteering Federation