

1. Institution name, address and description

Faculty of Sport, University of Ljubljana, Gortanova 22, SI-1000 Ljubljana

University of Ljubljana is the largest and the oldest public university in Slovenia, with 23 faculties and 3 academies, 53,000 students and 6,000 teachers and researchers. It is also the central and largest research institution with as much as 30 % of all registered researchers in Slovenia. The University of Ljubljana implements and promotes basic, applied and developmental research and is pursuing excellence and the highest quality as well as the highest ethical criteria in all scientific fields and art.

2. Proposed dates (must be September – December 2021)

Between 13th and 24th of October 2021

3. Location and description (country, city, venue)

Slovenia, Ljubljana, one of the conference venues in one of the Ljubljana conference centres

4. Description of the bidding institution/organization

Faculty of Sport is the only institution in Slovenia which has been educating specialist physical education teachers since its establishment in 1960. It currently educates over 800 students of three separate study bachelor and M.A. programmes: physical education, kinesiology and sport training. The faculty has a well-developed access to all Slovenian primary and secondary schools and has always been actively involved in the formation of national policies in the area of enhancing physical education curriculum and sport for all. Throughout its existence the faculty has been providing life-long learning courses to its graduates in order to keep professional work of PE teachers in Slovenian school up to date with the latest developments in the fields of PE didactics, pedagogy and other related fields.

The Faculty of Sport has a very rich and highly developed programme of health-oriented physical activities and strongly encourages cross-curricular activities. It operates the Laboratory for Physical and Motor Development of Children and Youth, which manages the largest database of physical and motor development of children in Slovenia, called SLOFit. The laboratory employs experienced researchers who have been developing research tools and successfully carrying out research on physical activity and physical development of children as well as on children's lifestyles.

5. Rationale for hosting the event

In January 2020, Faculty of Sport as coordinator will launch a two-year Erasmus+ project, called FitBack, which is aimed at producing a web platform that will provide on-line graphic feedback, norms and guidance for numerous physical fitness tests, used in different countries. The project involves 9 partners from different European countries, from universities to NGOs in the area of physical activity, sport and physical education. One of the packages of the project is aimed at dissemination of the results and the central activity in this regard is also organising a international scientific conference on monitoring of physical fitness in children and youth in the

autumn of 2021, which would be used as a platform for the launch of the Global Matrix 4.0 as its central part. The idea is to organize these two scientific events back to back. In the time of the planned launch, Slovenia will also be presiding over EU and the Slovenian government already put the topic sport and health on its priority agenda during the presidency, so we can count on additional visibility and impact of the event.

6. Previous experience with similar events, if any

Faculty of Sport has a strong tradition of organising international conferences in the area of children and youth physical activity, sport and physical education. In 2018 it organised its 9th international Youth Sport conference and has a well-established network of different services, required for hosting international events (agreements with hotels, transport providers, catering providers, media, etc.).

7. Program proposal (e.g., separate event, along with other conference, duration, anticipated number of participants, anticipated registration fees, etc.)

The launch of the Global Matrix 4.0 would be the central event of the international scientific conference on monitoring of physical fitness in children and youth. The conference is planned to be a three-day event, which would host over 200 participants. It would be organised in cooperation with our international partners in the FitBack project that involve also international non-governmental institutions such as European Physical Education Association with vast networks of members throughout Europe. We would aim at affordable registration fees with reduced ones for the participants from lower-income countries.

8. Support, including the source of the support (e.g., space, financial support, travel scholarships, support to publish proceedings, etc.)

We will try to get the support for the part of the costs from the Municipality of Ljubljana, Slovenian Olympic Committee, National Institute of Public Health, as well as from the Slovenian government within the framework of its presidency of EU. A part of the costs would be covered from the registration fees. Conference proceedings would be published by the Faculty of Sport and it would be possible to publish all the national papers in the journal Anthropological Notebooks, indexed in SSCI, which would be partially funded from the registration fees and partly from the journal's own resources.

9. How would you promote the event nationally and internationally?

We have an established network of journalists in Slovenia who cover the topic of physical activity and health, and who would assure national promotion of the event. The conference itself would have its own web page in English and the call for participants would be published on international platforms for conference calls. We would use the existing well-established communication channels among various European and international universities to further promote the event among the professional public.

10. Bidding statement (i.e., explain why AHKGA should select you!)

Slovenia is a small and young country but we have rich and old tradition in providing high-quality physical activity to our children and youth. We have developed a number of unique solutions in the area of physical education, extracurricular sports programmes and youth sport, through which we have been able to combat physical inactivity among children and youth with more effectiveness than in most of the countries around the world. The Global Matrix 4.0 would be an excellent opportunity to present our good practices and our failures to the world and encourage people and the policy makers around the world to use our experience. Despite all the advances in our society, the war for physical activity has just only begun and it is essential to compile the best arsenal available to win it.

11. Lead contact person (name, phone, email)

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