

# YearBook 2020



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Gymnastics

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*Azra Jalilova*  
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**European Gymnastics**  
Avenue de la Gare 12  
1003 Lausanne  
Switzerland  
+41.21.613.10.20  
info@europeangymnastics.com

[www.europeangymnastics.com](http://www.europeangymnastics.com)



Luigi\_gymmonkey





# Farid Gayibov

## President

2020 has been a challenging year. Due to COVID-19 global coronavirus pandemic, we managed to hold only 3 competitions out of 8 events originally planned – the European Championships in Rhythmic Gymnastics in Kyiv (UKR) on November 26-29, Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics, both in Mersin (TUR) from December 9-13 and December 17-20 respectively.

Along with the cancellation / postponement of competitions, another reality brought by 2020, was online meetings of our President's Board and Executive Committee. These meetings were mainly devoted to discussions concerning safety of our athletes and maintenance of the most important events in the current year. Consequently, the Guidelines, developed by us for the competitions organised in the

pandemic period, ensured a safe environment for the event participants. The conditions of this document were implemented by the hosts at highest possible level.

On November 18th, the first virtual Extraordinary General Assembly took place. Following the systematic changes in the dates of the major FIG events, FIG Judges' Courses and its Congress, new validity dates of the FIG Code of Points after the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the participating affiliated Federations reasonably voted for the postponement of the 29th Congress until December 2022.

2 more noteworthy events took place in 2020. One of them was the renewal of the Contract between the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and European Gymnastics, covering further 4 years of cooperation (2021-2024). Another one was the change of our name. From April 1, we are called European Gymnastics. We continued our project of educating and spreading knowledge in gymnastics disciplines, but, online, this time. The webinars were organised by us for coaches across gymnastics disciplines and we witnessed great interest shown by the affiliated Federations.

The topic of another webinar we held was on abuse in gymnastics. It was very useful for our specialists, coaches and Federations to deeply understand the essence of the problem that came to light in 2017 and is dealt with by the FIG Gymnastics Ethics Foundation since 2018. We are working on new educational programmes which will facilitate practicing the best sample of sound relations between coaches and athletes.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to the hosts of the European Championships - Ukrainian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation and Turkish Gymnastics Federation. They did a great job and created a safe environment for our gymnasts who missed competitions a lot due to the pandemic. Thanks to all the Federations' representatives who participated in our events never quitting their commitment to gymnastics disciplines' development.

I hope 2021 will bring us together at all the events planned and the spectators will have a chance to watch the performances from the stands.

# Lisa Worthmann

## General Director



The year started like normal in January with a meeting of our Executive Committee in Lausanne and meetings for our President and me with our partners from EBU and the apparatus suppliers Spieth, Gymnova, Janssen-Fritsen and Eurotramp still taking place in person in Geneva and Lausanne. During the January meeting the EC looked at the planning of the 2020 events and discussed the 2020 development programme. While some news about a virus from China was already heard at that time, little did I know that only a few weeks later all our planning for the year was put on hold and the year 2020 would turn the whole international sport world upside down.

In February and March, the situation started to hit European Gymnastics directly with the first meetings in Munich for the Multi-Sport European Championships 2022 and in Athens for our Presidential Board being cancelled and a trip to Baku for the European Gymnastics head of media and other members of the communications and TV event staff being cut short. In March it became clear that home office would be the prevailing work method for the European Gymnastics staff during the times to come and that it would be difficult to run the 2020 event season of European Championships and Gymnastics for All events as planned.

Regular online meetings followed and difficult discussions took place both for the European Gymnastics authorities and staff and for the Organising Committees. I would like to thank everyone for the commitment to keep the 2020 European Gymnastics events, and with them also an international competition experience for the gymnasts and the visibility for our sports in Europe, alive!

The outcome of all these discussions was European Championships in Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics taking place at the unusual time of November / December and the Trampoline and TeamGym European Championships as well as the Golden Age Gym Festival being moved to 2021. EUROGYM & European Gym for Life Challenge unfortunately had to be cancelled.

I would like to thank our RG Organising Committee in Ukraine for their persistence to keep the event alive and for showing that also in difficult times it is possible to run a beautiful event and our MAG/WAG Organising Committee in Turkey for taking over these major events at short notice and running the events on a very high level! A special thanks goes also to the participating federations and their gymnasts for showing with their performances that also in a year which provided difficult training conditions and with fields of competitors which partly were different than usual it is possible to run high-quality competitions which were well worth of taking place and being shown! Last but not least, my thanks go to the European Gymnastics staff for their support and courage in going ahead with the planning and running of the events in these difficult times.

The lock-down situations and their consequences made it impossible for some of our 2020 events to go ahead at the originally planned locations. I would like to thank our initially planned Organising Committees for MAG in Azerbaijan, WAG in France, TRA in Sweden, TeamGym in Denmark and EUROGYM/EGFL in Iceland for all the hard work and commitment invested in the preparation. I hope that we soon can come back with events to these countries!

Thank you to the European Gymnastics authorities and staff for keeping up the work during this unusual year and to our partners SmartScoring, EBU, Spieth, Gymnova, Janssen-Fritsen and Eurotramp for their reliable support, especially in these difficult times.

As it was possible to successfully run the 2020 European Championships under the special "Covid19" conditions and we also learned from these experiences, I am optimistic that all our 2021 events can go ahead. I hope for our member federations that 2021 will soon get easier and will bring back more normal conditions for gymnastics in Europe!

# GYMNOVA

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**26 —  
— 29**

**November  
2020**

**European  
Championships  
Rhythmic Gymnastics**

 **Kyiv - Ukraine**



**European  
Gymnastics**



**After an extremely uncertain year, we finally managed to hold our first Europeans of the year, at the end of November. 111 rhythmic gymnasts from 23 countries travelled to Kyiv (UKR) to battle for continental glory in the junior individual, senior group and senior individual competition.**

**From the first non-Russian senior all-around Champion since 1997 over historic performances by gymnasts from Ukraine, Israel, Estonia, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and many more, to getting used to the new covid-19 standard of organising events, here are our highlights ... in no particular order!**



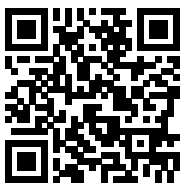
All-around  
glory for

**Linoy  
Ashram!**

Linoy has been writing history for Israel for many years now. In Kyiv, she had a big opportunity to clinch the gold after she came close at last year's European Games. As she stepped onto the competition floor full of energy, showing off her high leaps and dramatic spins, she certainly lived up to the expectations. She needed a fantastic hoop routine to surpass Alina Harnasko's total score and Ashram delivered big time. First ever European all-around Champion from outside of the former 'Eastern bloc'!

**“ After a whole year of uncertainty about what is going to happen, whether there will be an Olympics or not, whether there will be European Championships or not, I am so happy that I have finally returned to the place I missed so much and have been waiting for so long and it is the competition floor. I did not go through this difficult and challenging period alone I received tremendous support from so many people who made sure I could continue to keep myself fit.”**

Watch the video →





# So close for Alina Harnasko

What an absolutely brilliant competition by the Belarussian youngster. She stepped out on the carpet and performed flawlessly, putting the pressure on Ashram's shoulders. Both gymnasts scored a massive 100.900 but the tie was broken according to the rules based on technical deductions. Silver for Harnasko and bronze for her compatriot Anastasia Salos.

Watch the video →



## Turkish delight

The Turkish group delivered an excellent 3 hoops / 2 pairs of clubs routine in the apparatus final. Their score immediately put them in the lead with the guarantee of a medal. None of the other groups could overtake them though, so their first ever European medal ... is gold!

Watch the video →

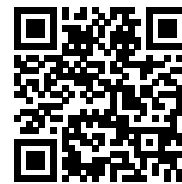




## Estonia grabs bronze

The ladies of the Estonian group delighted the audience with their 5 balls routine that earned them the bronze medal, their first ever medal at a European Championships!

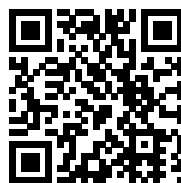
Watch the video →



## Tears of joy for Hungary

Evelin Viktoria Kocsis brought tears to the eyes of the Hungarian delegation as she became their first ever European medallist. Competing in three finals, her clubs routine earned her the historic bronze medal.

Watch the video →



## Host nation crowned most successful gymnasts

Watch the video →



The Ukrainian group earned the title of most successful gymnasts of the event as they earned 2 European titles (team & 5 balls), placed second with 3 hoops and 2 pairs of clubs and clinched the bronze medal in the all-around.

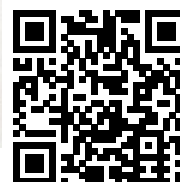


# The future is golden

In the junior apparatus finals, several gymnasts announced their talent to the world. Israel's Daria Atamanov, training with Linoy Ashram and coach Ayelet Zussman, won gold with clubs, silver with the team and with rope and finished her competition with bronze for her ribbon. Ukraine's Polina Karika added the ball title to her team victory while Dina Agisheva (BLR) was victorious with rope. Bulgaria's Stliana Nikolova placed first with ribbon and second with ball, stepping into the footsteps of her mother, Paulina Nikolova, who was part of the Bulgarian group that won the World Championships in 1983 and 1985.



Watch the video →



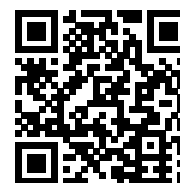
## Back-to-basic leotards rule in Azerbaijan

A refreshing change from all the glitter that has dominated rhythmic fashion for many years now, the group from Azerbaijan made quite a statement when they wore simple black leotards for their 5 balls qualification. The contrast with their red balls was remarkable and shifted the focus back to their composition and choreography. The senior individuals followed suit with Arzu Jalilova dressed in white velvet and Zohra Aghamirova performing in a simple dark blue v-neck and a silver ball.

# Last but certainly not least,

We say **THANK YOU** to the *Ukrainian Rhythmic Gymnastics Federation and the Local Organising Committee of Kyiv 2020* for all the hard work, for making sure the athletes and their entourage were safe and for offering a glimpse of hope in these troubling times. And thank you of course to all the gymnasts too ...  
*You make this world glow!*

Watch the video →



## Participants

NATIONAL  
FEDERATIONS

JUNIOR  
INDIVIDUALS

SENIOR  
GROUPS

SENIOR  
INDIVIDUALS

23

56

6

25

# MEDAL TABLE



GOLD











SILVER



BRONZE

TOTAL

	Israel	3	3	1	7
	Ukraine	3	2	1	6
	Belarus	1	2	2	5
	Bulgaria	1	1	1	3
	Turkey	1	-	-	1
	Azerbaijan	-	1	2	3
	Estonia	-	-	1	1
	Hungary	-	-	1	1

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that one  
moment



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09 —  
— 13

December  
2020

European  
Championships  
Men's Artistic Gymnastics

 Mersin - Turkey



European  
Gymnastics



**Challenging but rewarding, these Men's Europeans truly were a Championships of 'firsts'. First major international artistic competition in the covid-era, for many participants the first opportunity to compete since the lockdown started in March and the first medals for several countries!**

# Mister Mersin 2020 ...Ilia Kovtun!

With 5 gold medals and 1 silver, Ukrainian junior Ilia Kovtun crowned himself the star of Mersin. After winning gold on parallel bars at the 2018 junior Europeans, collecting 4 gold and 1 silver medal at last year's European Youth Olympic Festival and claiming silver with the team and bronze all-around at the inaugural junior World Championships, Kovtun continued his domination of the junior ranks. Turning senior in 2021, he's definitely in the running to make his country's Olympic team.



## Ukrainian team

The entire Ukrainian team did an excellent job in Mersin, taking the team gold both in the junior and senior competition. Igor Radivilov won his first European title on vault, after placing second 4 times. He also earned the bronze on rings while Petro Pakhniuk repeated his silver medal from last year on parallel bars.



## Petrov's comeback

When Russian national team member Matvei Petrov didn't make the Olympic team in 2016, he decided to quit gymnastics. Since then, he moved to Prague building a new life for himself as a coach. And he realised his own gymnastics career was far from over yet too. Putting on the colours of Albania, Petrov started competing again internationally. With his victory on pommel horse in Mersin, Petrov became the talk of the country, putting gymnastics in the spotlight and serving as an example for aspiring gymnasts.

Watch the video →



## Dolgopyat's long-awaited gold

After 4 silver medals on floor, at the 2017 and 2019 World Championships and the two previous Europeans, Israeli star Artem Dolgopyat bagged the gold with a terrific routine. And he stepped out of the shadows on vault as well, earning the bronze medal there.

Watch the video →



## The host nation shines bright

After team silver, the hopes of the nation rested on the shoulders of Ibrahim Colak, Turkey's first World Champion, as he stepped onto the podium for his rings performance. With high difficulty and a stuck dismount, the gold was his. Trailblazing once again and marking the path for the future generations. Turkey's second European Champion was crowned just a bit later as Ferhat Arican claimed victory on parallel bars.



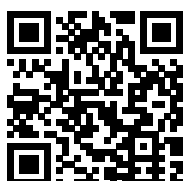
## Austria's first medal

2014 junior European Champion Vinzenz Hoeck wrote history by winning Austria's first ever European medal as he clinched the silver on rings.

## Lithuania on the rise

2019 European Games Champion Robert Tvorogal continued the rise of Lithuania on the international stage. After winning the bronze on parallel bars, he overtook 2017 World Champion Tin Srbic to claim the European high bar gold. And the future of Lithuania looks assured as well with junior Gytis Chasazyrovas taking the gold on floor and the silver on pommel horse.

Watch the video →



# Thank you!

*The Turkish Gymnastics Federation did a wonderful job to organise this event in just two months' time. A huge 'teşekkür ederim' to the organisers and to all the gymnasts that travelled to Mersin in these challenging times.*

## Participants

FEDERATIONS

GYMNASTS

JUNIORS

SENIORS

19

114

57

57












# MEDAL TABLE


  
GOLD


  
SILVER


  
BRONZE

TOTAL

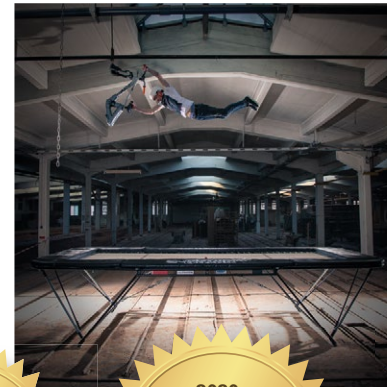
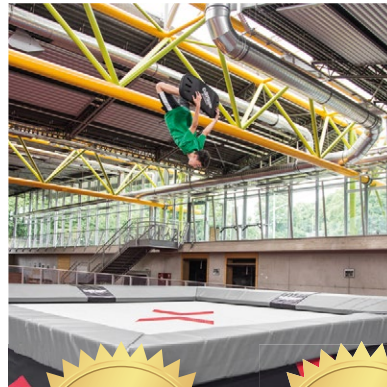
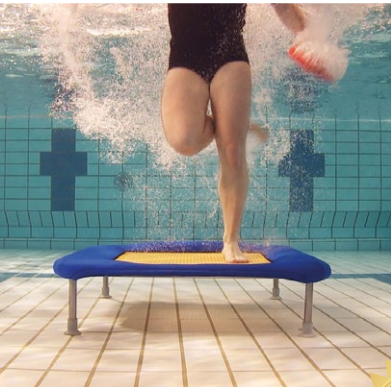
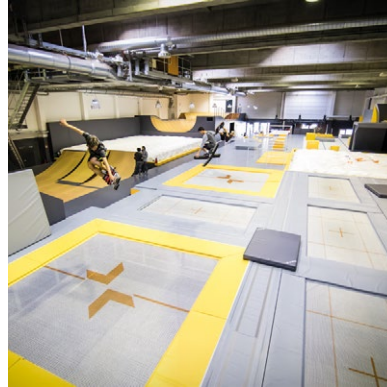
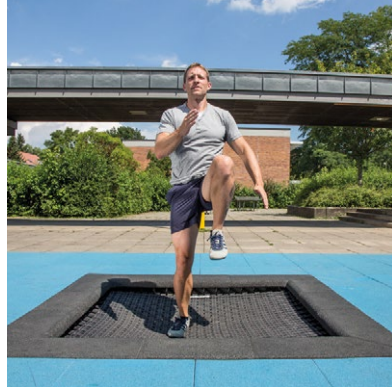
 Ukraine	7	6	2	15
 Turkey	2	2	4	8
 Lithuania	2	1	1	4
 Israel	1	1	2	4
 Hungary	1	1	3	5
 Albania	1	-	-	1
 Romania	1	-	-	1
 Croatia	-	3	-	3
 Belarus	-	1	1	2
 Austria	-	1	-	1
 Bulgaria	-	-	1	1

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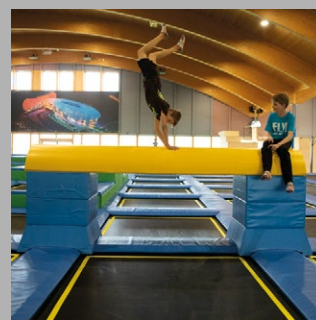
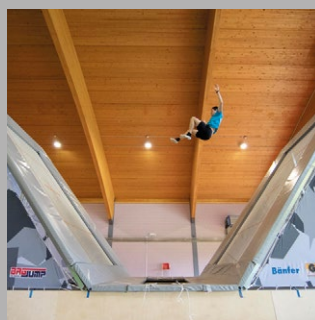


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**17 —  
— 20**


**December  
2020**

**European  
Championships  
Women's Artistic Gymnastics**

 **Mersin - Turkey**



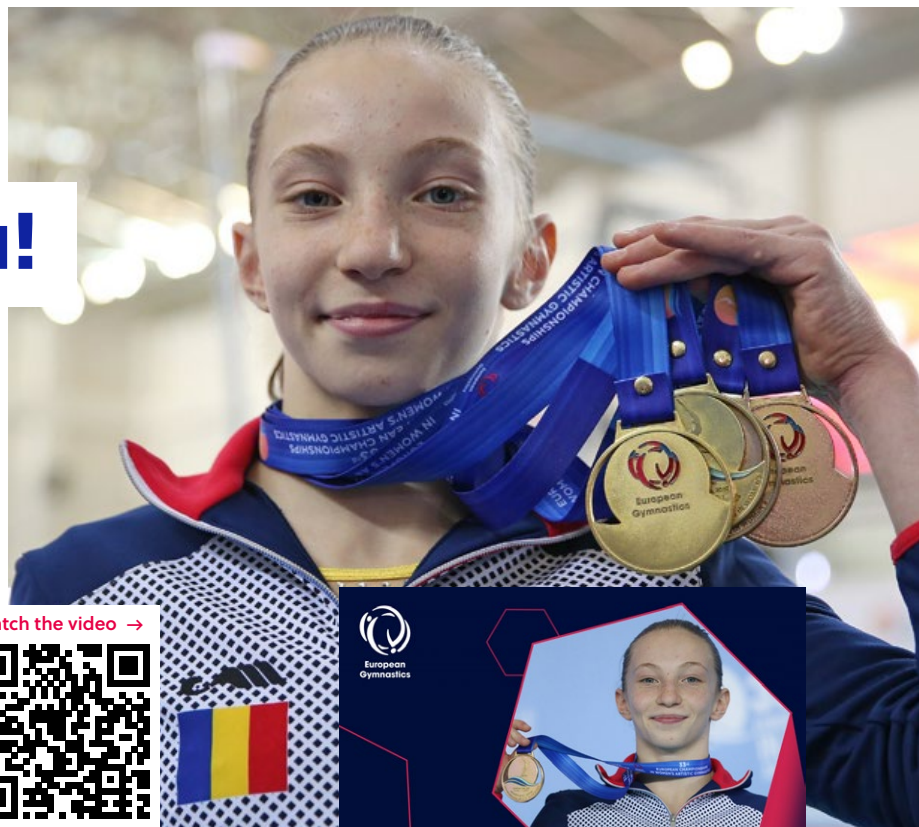
**European  
Gymnastics**



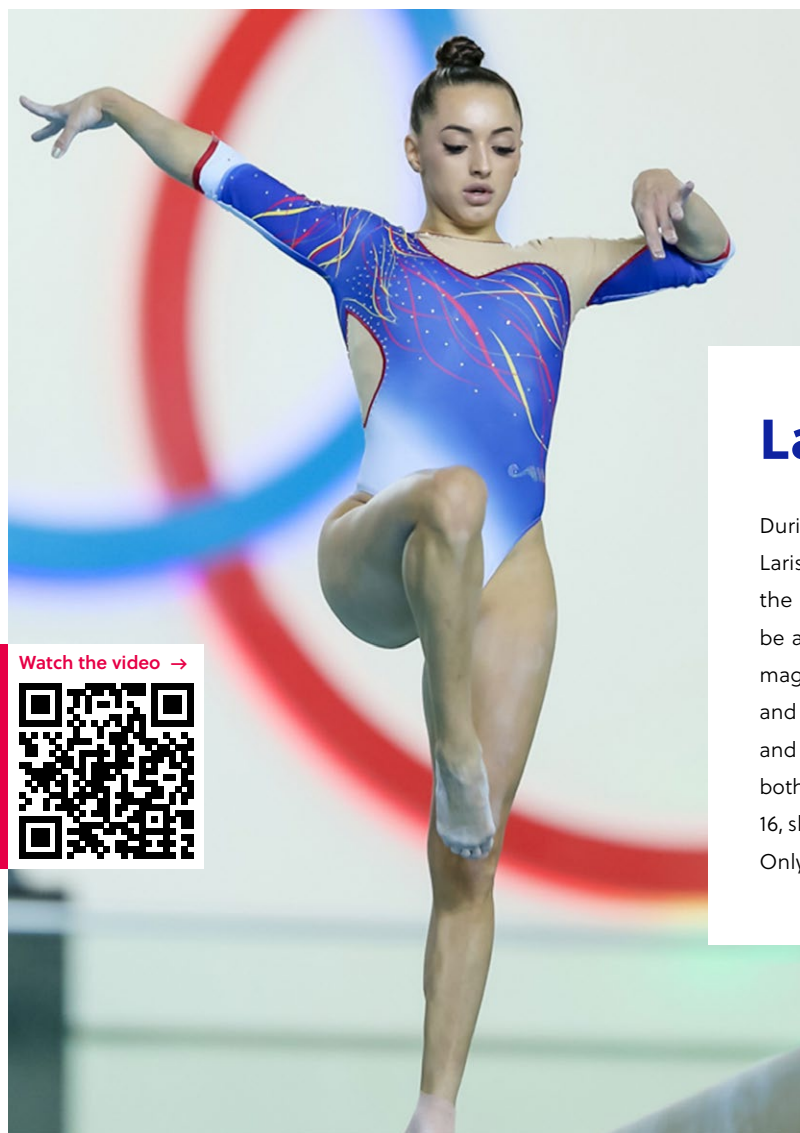
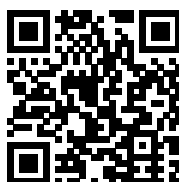
**A week before Christmas, the Mersin Gymnastics Hall witnessed magic on the carpet and a glimpse of a return to a more normal life after the frustrating circumstances in 2020. With less participants and strict covid guidelines, the competition attracted a lot of attention internationally. Full credit goes to the amazing performances by the gymnasts!**

## Miss Mersin 2020 ... Ana Barbosu!

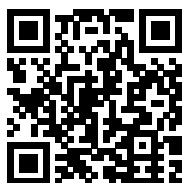
The award of 'star of the competition' certainly goes to Romanian talent Ana Barbosu. The 14-year-old, who turns senior in 2022, won all 6 gold medals, a feat never achieved before. In the all-around, Barbosu built an advantage of more than 4 points over silver medallist and teammate Maria Ceplinschi while her incredible performances lead the way for Romania's convincing victory in the team competition. In the apparatus finals, Barbosu added gold on vault, bars, beam and floor. Simply amazing!



Watch the video →



Watch the video →



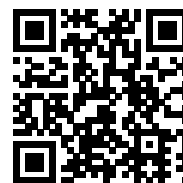
## Larisa's back

During warm-up at the 2017 World Championships, fan favourite Larisa Iordache tore her Achilles tendon. Several operations later, the 24-year-old Romanian announced her comeback would be at these Europeans. Her performance in qualifications was magnificent, qualifying Romania in first place to the team final and earning herself a spot in all 4 apparatus finals. After team and vault silver, Iordache was crowned European Champion on both beam and floor. With a total Europeans medal collection of 16, she becomes the second most decorated European gymnast. Only Svetlana Khorkina, with 20 medals, has done better.



## Trailblazing for Turkey

Watch the video →



Goksu Uctas Sanli continues to lead the way for Turkish gymnastics. In 2012, she became the first Turkish gymnast to compete in the Olympic Games. She then retired, married and gave birth to a daughter. Only eleven months later, she returned to competition, continuing to win medals at World Cup events and the Mediterranean Games. In Mersin she won the silver on floor, Turkey's first European medal!

## Kovacs' delight

2017 Vice-European Champion in the all-around, Zsofia Kovacs, excelled in Mersin, leading her team to the bronze medal and bagging two European titles in the space of half an hour. Her gold medal on vault was the first since Adrienn Varga's victory back in 1998. She also added the gold on bars ahead of teammate Zoja Szekely.



Watch the video →



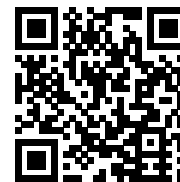
## Hands up for Ukraine

Second in qualifications, the ladies of the Ukrainian team improved their routines and scores to upset Romania for their first ever European title. The delight on the faces of Angelina Radivilova, Anastasia Bachynska, Anastasia Motak, Diana Varinska and Yelyzaveta Hubareva said it all.



8 countries returned home with at least one medal. Congratulations! Barbora Mokosova won Slovakia's first ever medal at a European Championships, by clinching the bronze on bars! Israel's Lihie Raz fulfilled national requirements to secure her spot at the Tokyo Olympics and earned her country's first medal in Women's Artistic Gymnastics.

Watch the video →



**A heartfelt THANK YOU to the Turkish Gymnastics Federation who did a fabulous job in a really short time!**

## Participants

FEDERATIONS

GYMNASTS

JUNIORS

SENIORS

16

86

40

46









# MEDAL TABLE


  
GOLD


  
SILVER


  
BRONZE

TOTAL

 Romania	8	5	1	14
 Hungary	2	2	3	7
 Ukraine	1	1	4	6
 Turkey	-	1	1	2
 Bulgaria	-	1	-	1
 Croatia	-	1	-	1
 Israel	-	-	1	1
 Slovakia	-	-	1	1

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## Official Supplier 2021:

Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

World Championships AER: Baku

European Championships AG: Basel

European Championships RG: Varna

World Cup AG: Cottbus | Baku | Doha | Stuttgart | Tokyo | Koper

World Challenge Cup AG: Varna | Osijek

World Cup RG: Sofia | Tashkent | Baku

World Challenge Cup RG: Minsk | Moscow



**SPIETH**  
Gymnastics

# Calendar 2021

**21 — 25**  
April

European Championships  
in Men's and Women's Artistic Gymnastics

Basel 

**29 — 02**  
April - May

European Championships in Trampoline,  
Tumbling and Double Mini-Trampoline

Sochi 

**09 — 13**  
June

European Championships  
in Rhythmic Gymnastics

Varna 

**24 — 26**  
September

European Championships  
in Aerobic Gymnastics

Pesaro 

**30 — 03**  
Sept. - Oct.

European Age Group Competitions  
in Acrobatic Gymnastics

Pesaro 

**03 — 08**  
October

Golden Age Gym Festival

Rethymno 

**06 — 10**  
October

European Championships in Acrobatic Gymnastics

Pesaro 

**01 — 04**  
December

European Championships in TeamGym

Guimaraes 

# THANK YOU



# THANK YOU

To all gymnasts, coaches, judges, federations, spectators, media, fans ... we owe you a big THANK YOU for getting through this frustrating year. Your motivation and dedication were an inspiration for people all around the globe. Your enthusiasm and skills put gymnastics in the spotlight where it belongs.

Backing European Gymnastics all the way on our path are 6 indispensable partners. The agreements we have built together provide services, in cash or in kind, that are redistributed to the organising committees of our events and to our national federations so we can guarantee a high standard of events and help the continued development of gymnastics in Europe. I seize this opportunity to thank them in the name of our Authorities and of the entire European Gymnastics Community.

Lisa Worthmann

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