

Information EUOC on www.swiss-orienteing.ch/

Dear readers

On www.swiss-orienteing.ch/ a text about the EUOC has been published. We are happy to reproduce it on our channels.

Best regards, OC EUOC2023



European Student Championships in Eastern Switzerland: Swiss Festival just around the corner

Next weekend, Eastern Switzerland will become an international orienteering epicenter. About 200 student orienteers will compete in three competitions at the European Student Championships. The Swiss participants belong to the inner circle of favorites. In parallel, the regional junior squads will compete against each other.

The orienteering spectacle of the European Universities Orienteering Championship, in short EUOC, starts on Thursday with the opening ceremony. On Friday, the sporting action will be about the medals in the sprint competition. The participants from 17 countries and 67 different universities will compete in a qualification in the morning, in the afternoon the final will be even more serious. Both races will take place in the city of St. Gallen and on the two hillsides to the north and south of the long embroidery metropolis in eastern Switzerland. The steepness of the slopes will have a massive impact on the running pace. It is essential to slow down at the right moment in order not to lose contact with the map.

The finish of the final runs is right next to the famous monastery, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The participants will pass the monastery several times, which will result in a spectacle for the spectators. St. Gallen is not a blind spot on the orienteering map, in 2012 the Croesus of orienteering was a guest in the city of Gallen within the framework of the World Cup.



The historic city center of St. Gallen offers a unique backdrop for the sprint competition.



ST. GALLEN 2023
European Universities
Orienteering Championship

EUSA

Orienteering along the Gaiserbahn

The weekend of the European Student Championships 2023 is also a journey along the historic St. Gallen-Gais-Appenzell Railway (SGA), popularly known as the Gaiserbahn. The middle distance race on Saturday will take place on the northern slope of the Hirschberg above the Kurt village of Gais AR. The already often used orienteering area belongs to the absolutely most beautiful pre-alpine forests of Eastern Switzerland and offers ground vegetation in the form of moss and swamps instead of thorns. Glades and a thousand streams give the forest a special character. On Saturday also the traditional Youth Cup starts, where the best orienteering young talents of Switzerland compete with their junior squads. For the junior squad ZH/SH the aim is to defend the title. For all other orienteering enthusiasts, there is a starting opportunity at the Engelburger OL, which will also be held at the same time.



The Hirschberg can boast with a fairytale atmosphere for the middle distance race.



ST. GALLEN 2023
European Universities
Orienteering Championship



Finalissima at the Landsgemeindeplatz



On Sunday, the orienteering team reaches Appenzell and its historic town center, characterized by the wooden buildings that were erected after the devastating fire of 1560. All athletes of the Youth Cup and the EUOC are expected to take part in a sprint relay with a competition center at the sports facility Wühre. Here at the latest it will become clear that the runners of the EUOC are not only competing for their nations but for their universities where they are enrolled. Namely, the athletes in the teams of two must be enrolled at the same university. The Youth Cup Relay will also be held as a sprint relay, but not in mixed teams as usual in the World Cup, but in gender-separated teams according to Youth Cup regulations. Who will be able to crack the secret of the fastest Appenzell route? On Sunday the solution will be known.

St. Gallen is in orienteering fever!

World champion and junior world champion at the start

The Swiss athletes are the clear favorites for the whole weekend. Prominent names like Joey Hadorn, Simona Aebersold or Eline Gemperle can be found on the start list, while the Scandinavian universities either completely refrain from participating or do not send any squad runners to Eastern Switzerland.

The strongest competition therefore comes for once from Hungary or the Czech Republic. A highly interesting name is junior world champion Jakub Chaloupsky from the Czech Agricultural University in Prague, who finished 17th in the sprint at the World Cup in his home country a few weeks ago. Since Simona Aebersold will only compete in the sprint relay, the other races are quite open.

Interesting Swiss names are for example the reigning student world champion Katrin Müller or the local Eliane Deininger. Her parents' house is located at the edge of the sprint running area.

The orienteering weekend is organized by the local OLG St. Gallen/Appenzell as well as the OL Regio Wil, the University of St. Gallen and Swiss University Sports. They receive active support from other orienteering clubs in the region.

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