

To the Attention of the General Assembly

President's Report 2022

1. European Championships

The year 2022 was one of those „in-between ECs" years. With the European Disc Golf Championships in Konopiste in 2021 and the upcoming European Championships in 2023, one focus of our work in the Board of Directors and the Executive Board was on the organizing of the bidding process for the upcoming European Championships in 2023.

Based on the experiences made in Konopiste, the meetings and discussions with many country representatives there and since then, we decided to split the European Championships into

- a) the European Junior Championships and the European Open Championships which will be held in Estonia, right in the center of the capital Tallinn, from the 12th to the 20th of August.
- b) the European Masters Disc Golf Championships will be held from the 19th to the 27th of August in Szarvas Hungary.

With two great venues and two experienced, competent and strong local organizing committees, we are looking forward to see the best European players compete for the medals in 2023.

Meanwhile we are in the middle of the registration process, more about this from Richard, who is in charge of the whole procedure. We want to especially thank him for this huge amount of work and all the thoughts and preparations that were necessary to allow for such great fields of starters from all over Europe.

In addition, we are also in the last steps of negotiating the contracts between the local organizing committees and the EDGF. We are very optimistic that all players will find very good conditions at their respective EC and will have great experiences whether they will be competing, there to support the event, their team or a an individual player, or simply to watch the best European players compete for the titles.

2. General work

Beside all things related to the ECs, the BoD and the EC was very busy over the last year. We met on average at least once a month, usually as full Board. For all those meetings minutes were prepared and published asap and were published on our EDGF website. We tried to prepare those minutes so that, whoever is interested in the details of our work can find all details there.

We had to do quite some organizational work, like setting up our financial structure after we were able to collect sanctioning fees for the ECs 2021. This allows us to present a real financial report for 2022 and a budget for 2023. So things are also getting real for the EDGF in this field. Paul will tell you more about this,

3. Vision/Mission

Besides the classic organizational work that is necessary to get a new association like ours working, we were developing a framework for this work. What is the EDGF standing for, what do we want to achieve, how we want to achieve it?

We therefore discussed and drafted proposals for a Vision statement for the EDGF, for mission statements, goals and values. For an organization like ours, with so many country members from so many cultural backgrounds, it is important to agree on those common points. Based on such statements we would like to develop our organizational structures and hope to include more people into this framework. We will present this work later this evening and hope that we get an approval from the GA on this.

4. Cooperation with EFDF

Nobody is an island. This is also true for the EDGF. We are part of the international organizational structure of our sport. Within the WFDF, we are the continental branch for Europe. Our members are countries with their National Disc Golf Organizations. We are an extraordinary member the EFDF, the European Branch of the WFDF.

In this function, we also assign one member into the Board of the EFDF. Currently I am in charge here. The work within the EFDF is also very effective and many efforts are taken in establishing a normal working routine and already successfully seeking external funding from the EU.

The EFDF is in the same situation as we are. They have a lot of work to do but do not have sufficient funding for this work. They therefore just came up with a proposal for a membership fee of 50€ per year and 50 Cent per player in a medal event. This would be calculated at the beginning of a year, based on the events of the year before. This would imply for the EDGF that we would have to pay 2023 for the ECs already played in 2022. We can discuss this today and we are still in negotiations about this with the EFDF.

The EFDF is establishing an athletic commission and has ask the EDGF to assign two members to this commission. The regulations of the EFDF demand that those two members are elected voted by the GA.

5. Further projects that we want to pursue in 2023

- **Youth program:** cooperation beyond borders could especially be valuable for young players. We are in contact with two countries, which already established a formal youth program. We plan a proposal to the PDGA Europe for financial support for a project where interested youth trainers come together in one of those countries to exchange their experiences and develop further multinational youth programs.
- **Statistics:** Nobody really knows how much people play Disc Golf in Europe. It would be of great help for many associations, clubs, companies and so on, if we could provide better data about this. The EDGF is ideally suited for this task. We are looking for way to collect, edit and present this data.
- **Scheduling:** This year we will have 12 EuroTour events, 8 EuroPro Tour events, 1 PDGA Master (Nokia), one DGPT event (Sula) and the ECs. Without any National Championships and important National Tours (like the Finnish National Tour) this adds up to 23 events on the highest European level. This does not include the majors of the PDGA and the many DGPT events.

From mid of March to the mid of September we have about 27 weeks/weekends. It's obvious that there are too much for too few weekends. Too much for any national organization, that has to organize national events or tours and want their national top players attend at those events. Too much, for players who want to compete on a European level and look to play against the best of the continent.

We already are in constant contact with the PDGA to avoid a collision of the dates for the ECs and the PDGA Majors. We also tried to contact the DGPT in this but did not have any response so far.

We are looking for a way to collect those dates that our member countries want to protect, or will be using for their National Championships or Elite Tour events. At least we want to bring those dates and events to the attention of all other entities in the sport. This could lead to a better structure of the tournament schedule thereby helping organizers, players and sponsors to plan their year in European Disc Golf.

- **WFDF:** The WFDF itself is of course not a project of us. We are simply the continental branch of the WFDF responsible for Disc Golf. Sadly, the relationship between the WFDF and us still needs to be defined.

Up to today, the WFDF has not accepted the role of the EDGF within his own organization. Even so, there is now an EFDF for all flying disc sports and the EDGF for Disc Golf we have the impression that within the WFDF there is still no clear line how to handle this relatively new situation. There are still no clear decisions and guidelines about how the responsibilities are and who is in charge of what when it comes to European Disc Golf within the WFDF.

Most of you know that the WFDF organizes World Team Championships in Disc Golf. For 2023, the WFDF now has announced to organize European Team DG Championships.

We made it absolutely clear that we a.: think that European Disc Golf events should be in the responsibility of the European DGF and b: that we think, that such an European Team event should if organized at all, at least be placed either on the beginning or

the end of the season.

Despite the promise to discuss the date, and the possible format, with us before any decisions will be made by the WFDF, we just had to realize few days ago that the WFDF now has chosen to organize the first ETDGC exactly at the same date as the EDGF European Master Championships.

We as the Board see this as a very disrespectful procedure and decision, directed directly against the EDGF and its role within the WFDF framework. We will discuss this with the WFDF asap after the GA.

You can see that the EDGF is busy, working, in contact with other entities in our sport on different levels and we have ideas, concepts and projects to work on. Please keep in mind that so far all of this is done by a Board with five members and no supporting structure.

It is obvious that we five cannot manage to make great progress on all those topics. We have to focus on the most important ones and try to give our best for the many other things that must be done and that could be done.

To have a slight chance to succeed, we at least rely on the will of close cooperation with all our members and their organizations. Please, take care on your side of this and provide us with actual information about contact data and who is in charge in your respective NDGA. This is the minimum we need, to be able to organize our work as effective as possible. Of course, we would like to see more people joining the EDGF for continuous work in the Board, in committees or just for a limited time in projects. Whoever has an idea for such a project that involves international cooperation is welcomed to ask us for support and to find a place within our structure.

For all those projects and many more ideas we need people, who are willing to help us implement those ideas and procedures, or who come up with own ideas that the EDGF can support.

We are open for many ideas, we are supportive, and we can offer our access to our members, the NDGA, but also to other entities in our sport. Together we can help Disc Golf becoming improved.

January 2023

Frank Hellstern
EDGF President