

CU Annual Report for 2024

EUROPEAN TAEKWONDO UNION

***Aspiring
Olympism
and Peace***



Contents

1. Highlights of 2024
2. List of CU-Promoted Championships
3. List of Major CU Meetings and Outcomes
4. Para Taekwondo Activities
5. Development & Contributions
6. Challenges
7. Major Projects in 2025

1. Highlights of 2024

What an amazing year 2024 was! The Paris Olympics showed again that our beloved sport Taekwondo is a true universal sport! With only the best athletes in Paris, the competition was tough and winning a medal was to say the least not an easy job. France and Hungary got an amazing historic result with the gold medals for Althea Laurin and Viviana Marton. The Grand Palais was the most iconic venue at the Olympics and the atmosphere was thrilling!

Next to the Olympics, the ETU Calendar was also in 2024 full of events hosted by more than 30 Member National Associations of ETU. Athletes visited many European countries and next to the event participation, they could taste the hospitality of the different host countries while enjoying their time abroad. The European Rankings for Cadets and Juniors were fully implemented in the calendar and website of ETU and the feedback from coaches and athletes has been overwhelmingly positive. Also, the announcement of the Grand Prix Finals and the plan of ETU to start with a full Grand Prix Series in 2025 was positively welcomed by the community.

The European Championships G4 for seniors was held in Belgrade and offered our senior athletes an amazing platform as last major competition before the Paris 2024 Olympics. All national teams were present with their best athletes and the matches shown in the arena were of very high quality.

2. List of CU-Promoted Championships

NAME OF EVENT	LOCATION	DATES
Austrian Open Taekwondo 2024	Innsbruck, Austria	3-4 February
11th Turkish Open	Antalya, Turkiye	9-14 February
Slovenia Open 2024	Ljubljana, Slovenia	24-25 February
Bulgaria Open	Sofia, Bulgaria	2-3 March
Bulgaria Open Poomsae	Sofia, Bulgaria	4 March
European Qualification Paralympics	Sofia, Bulgaria	8 March
European Qualification Olympics	Sofia, Bulgaria	9-10 March
Top Tirana Open	Tirana, Albania	9 March
Belgium Open G2	Lommel, Belgium	16-17 March
Ramus Sofia Open	Sofia, Bulgaria	17 March
Skopje Open Ramus 2024	Skopje, North Macedonia	30-31 March
Spanish Open	La Nucia, Spain	5-7 April
21st Galeb Belgrade Trophy	Belgrade, Serbia	12-14 April
Hereya Cup	Sofia, Bulgaria	21 April
European Championships Small States G1	Tallinn, Estonia	23-24 April
Tallinn Open	Tallinn, Estonia	25 April
Presidents Cup Europe G2	Tallinn, Estonia	26-28 April
European Seniors Championships	Belgrade, Serbia	9-12 May
European Para Championships	Belgrade, Serbia	9-12 May
8th Asteriks Cup	Nis, Serbia	18 May
2024 European Multi Games Taekwondo	Ankara, Turkey	24-26 May
LuxOpen 2024	Luxembourg, Luxembourg	8-9 June
2024 European Club Championships Taekwondo	Tirana, Albania	13-16 June
3rd Solidarity's Center Open	Montargis, France	28-30 June
Austrian Open Poomsae	Vienna, Austria	29-30 Jun

Austrian Open Youth E2	Südstadt (Vienna)	31 Aug-1 Sep
EX YU Tournament E2	Belgrade Serbia	7 Sep
Latvia Open	Riga, Latvia	14-15 September
Polish Open Warsaw Cup 2024	Warsaw, Poland	21-22 September
Albanian Open	Tirana, Albania	28-29 September
Montenegro Podgorica Open	Podgorica, Montenegro	5-6 October
10th Croatia Open Poomsae	Zapresic, Croatia	12 October
Belgium Open Poomsae	Lommel, Belgium	19 October
51th Dutch Open Taekwondo Championships 2024	Eindhoven, Netherlands	19-20 October
Dracula Open 2024	Bucharest, Romania	26-27 October
Cyprus Open	Larnaka, Cyprus	1-3 November
European Cadet Championships	Tirana, Albania	7-9 November
European Kids Championships	Tirana, Albania	10 November
Israel Open	Jerusalem, Israel	10-11 November
Croatia Open	Zagreb, Croatia	16-17 November
European U21 Championships	Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina	20-23 November
Bosnia Open G1	Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina	24-25 November
Balkan Championships	Oradea, Romania	28-29 November
Balkan Cup G1	Oradea, Romania	30 November
Balkan Cup E1	Oradea, Romania	1 December
European Grand Prix (Cadets, Juniors)	Bucharest, Romania	13-15 December

3. List of Major CU Meetings and Outcomes

General Assembly and Council meeting – 25 April 2024

ETU held its GA and Council meeting in Tallinn – Estonia on 25 April. The regular items were on the agenda. The Council was exonerated for their work in 2022 and 2023 and the budget for 2025 was approved.

In 2025, ETU has a few policy objectives to realize. First, the events within Europe will continue as before and a new cycle of Grand Prix events for Cadets and Juniors as well as for a number of Poomsae medal events will be implemented in 2025. Already Estonia, Albania, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have agreed to host these events in 2025.

In addition, it was decided that ETU will start to organize coach seminars for the further development of our coaches in Europe. Also, for the International Referees several workshops will be planned. Our aim is to have the best referees at ETU promoted and sanctioned events. Our club certification program will continue in 2025 and also ETU is preparing to organize an educational program for Black Belt promotion examiners. The aim of this program is to guarantee a level of standard within our Members and to support the Members in their Black Belt promotion testing.

4. Para Taekwondo Activities

Paralympic Classifier education and classification

Objective 1:

Training for classifiers and educate them to be recognized classifier

Objective 2:

Athlete Classification for Para Taekwondo athletes will be available in connection with the Europe Qualification Tournament for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria on March 8, 2024.

EDUCATION

DATE: 7 March 2024

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIERS:

Technical: Master Angelo Davali

Medical/ Chief: Dr. Hadwah Moawad

TRAINEES:

- 6 Trainees 3 male & 3 female, all from the European region
- 1 GER, 2 TUR & 3 GBR, their pathway 4 medical & 2 technical
- all passed their practicum 5 and became international classifiers & 1 still remaining another practicum

CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 8 March 2024

ATHLETES:

- 6 athletes all K44 (4 confirmed & 2 Review) UKR, ITA, HUN, RTA, GRE, GRE

Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- We are thrilled to share a significant milestone in our journey towards inclusivity and empowerment in Taekwondo! At the European Qualification Tournament for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, in Sofia Bulgaria, we had 6 dedicated trainee classifiers undertaking their assessment, 5 of whom successfully advanced to become fully qualified International Medical and Technical classifiers in Europe!

- Dr. Said Khelwatty, ETU Para Taekwondo Chair, commented "The role of parataekwondo classifiers is pivotal in ensuring fair competition and providing equal opportunities for para athletes to showcase their skills on a global platform.
- This achievement not only highlights the dedication and hard work of our trainee classifiers but also underscores the growing importance of inclusivity and accessibility in Taekwondo. By expanding the pool of qualified classifiers, we are breaking barriers and opening doors for para athletes to excel and inspire the world with their remarkable talents."
- A total of 6 athletes all K44 (4 confirmed & 2 Review) UKR, ITA, HUN, RTA, GRE, GRE were classified.

Challenges or difficulties encountered

- To find motivated and committed classifiers is hard. ETU is very happy to have a pool of European classifiers in order to work at ETU paralympic events.
- The number of para taekwondo athletes is steadily growing, however not as much as we have hoped. We hope that the Paris Paralympic Games will boost the athlete population in Europe.



5. Development & Social Contributions

Grand Prix Finals

ETU introduced the European Ranking lists in 2023 and started with ranking the European (and also outside Europe located) athletes. Based on their ranking, the athletes are seeded at European events. The best athletes are qualified for participation at the Grand Prix Finals. European Taekwondo Grand Prix Finals was first introduced in 2024 and was used as a pilot to understand how we can use the European Ranking as a tool to select athletes for the Grand Prix Finals event.

Objective 1:

Host a Grand Prix Finals event with athletes selected based on their position on the European Ranking List

Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- The organization of the 1st European Taekwondo Grand Prix Finals, hosted by the Romanian Taekwondo Federation WT in cooperation by ETU and the sponsors KWON, Daedo International, Generations Sport and re-Strike for IVR services.
- The designing of a Look and Feel for the Grand Prix including logos for Grand Prix Qualifier, Grand Prix Series and Grand Prix Finals event.
- Introduction of prize money for Junior medal winners and Value in Kind packages for Cadet medal winners.

Challenges or difficulties encountered

- Time wise, it was hard to translate the European Rankings into quota invitations and registration of the athletes for the Grand Prix Finals
- Gathering all relevant financial data of the prize money winners in order to transfer the prize money by bank
- Venue built up as per the design of the GP Look and Feel was a challenge but managed perfectly at the end (see pictures)
- Budget!

European Rankings for cadets and juniors

- The European Ranking system shall be applied to all ETU approved WT – promoted and recognized championships or to the events determined by ETU, provided that the championships are organized in compliance with WT Competition Rules under supervision of the WT Technical Delegate.
- European Ranking shall be published in one document: ETU European Ranking. ETU European Ranking is the ranking of ten (10) cadet and junior weight categories for both men and women. Each month the European
- Points earned by athletes are allocated to the European Ranking Weight Categories in which he/she competes at the WT recognized event. **ETU** will publish a ranking for each weight category and it is possible for an athlete to be ranked in several categories. Ranking is published on www.europetaekwondo.org

Achievements and Challenges

Achievements

- Each G1 event with Cadets and Juniors divisions is automatically and E1 ranked event
- 3 E1 stand alone events applied for 2024:
 - E2 Top Tirana Open 2024 - Albania
 - E2 Hereya Open 2024 - Bulgaria
 - E2 Asteriks Cup 2024 – Serbia
- Monthly Ranking lists in each medal event
 - 10 Male and Female Cadet rankings – total 20 ranking lists
 - 10 Male and Female Junior rankings – total 20 ranking lists

6. Challenges

ETU faced the following challenges:

Calendar planning:

Due to the high number of events in 2024, ETU faced several problems in managing the event calendar. The team mitigated this difficult by having constant contact with event organizers making sure the organizers were aware of the challenges and involved in the decision making process of assigning event dates.

Grand Prix Finals

Challenges or difficulties encountered

- Time wise, it was hard to translate the European Rankings into quota invitations and registration of the athletes for the Grand Prix Finals
- Gathering all relevant financial data of the prize money winners in order to transfer the prize money by bank
- Venue built up as per the design of the GP Look and Feel was a challenge but managed perfectly at the end (see pictures)
- Budget!

7. Major Projects in 2025

PROJECT 1: PARA TAEKWONDO

Develop para poomsae taekwondo in Europe

- Date: 16-17 April 2025
- Target Audience: para athletes poomsae

Expected outcomes:

- hosting of the European Para Poomsae championships
- Para poomsae participation
- Para poomsae classification
- Possible classification course

PROJECT 2: EUROPEAN RANKINGS

Further implement the European rankings for cadets and juniors and honor the best athletes, referees, MNAs and officials at Gala Awards dinner

Outcomes and target audience:

- Rankings: publication every month 8th
- Gala: 6 December 2025
- Target Audience: athletes, referees, officials, MNAs

PROJECT 3: GRAND PRIX EVENTS

To host Grand Prix events for Kyorugi and poomsae

- Dates: 14-16 Feb, 9-11 Apr, 21-22 Jun, 27-28 Sep, 3-6 Dec, 7 Dec. 2025
- Target Audience: cadet/junior athletes Kyorugi / poomsae athletes
- Expected outcomes: 2 GP events Kyorugi, 1 GP event poomsae and GP final event for both Kyorugi and poomsae

