

President's report 2024 - A calmer year.

Current and past EJC's

It is July 2024, and the EJC in Ovar is nearly there! After nearly half a decade in which the world threw a multitude of challenges at the EJC teams, this year was much calmer.

As planned, a delegation of past and future EJC teams as well as other members of the European Juggling Association met with the current organising team of the **EJC Ovar in 2024** in February this year. We explored the site together, planned out what would go where, considered different scenarios, and made sure that the Ovar team had strong foundations for its final stretch before the EJC. The weekend proved successful in connecting the experience of organisers across many years and countries: 2009 (Vitoria-Gasteiz), 2019 (Newark), 2022 (Tres Cantos), 2024 (Ovar) and 2025 (Arnhem). A huge MUITO OBRIGADO to the EJC Ovar organising team and the city for the hospitality, dedication and hard work around the EJC 2024!

Then, let's take a brief look back at the **45th EJC in Lublin**. If you remember, this was an EJC courageously organised in less than 100 days(!) by the same team who organised the 35th and 40th EJC's. Their superpower really seems to be organising EJC's: Lublin welcomed **over 2.300** jugglers, and the feedback on the event was fantastic! The financial reporting isn't quite completed yet (the team has a lot going on, and we're in good contact) but it looks like a financially healthy event. We will share more details once we have the final numbers. Either way, it's clear that it was an extremely successful EJC in the most unusual circumstance, so once again a huge DZIĘKUJE BARDZO for the amazing efforts of the team and the support of the city.

Future EJC's - Arnhem and EJC bids

When we leave Ovar this year, we will be looking forward to going to the **47th EJC 2025 in Arnhem, Netherlands** from 2 to 10 August 2025. The team is already deep in organising, and has been super dedicated and engaged - from the arrangements after getting elected to the site visit in Ovar to the communication in between. It is an absolute pleasure working with you, dear Dutch team!



For a **48th EJC in 2026**, we had two teams interested initially. One of them decided to postpone their application because they hadn't yet secured a campsite, but the other one moved forward to selection: the Slovenian team from Ptuj, where the EJC was last held in 2008, has presented a great bid to the board, and will make its bid to the General Assembly in Ovar (**TBD based on board meeting on 13.07.**). Good luck!

Next year, if possible, we would like to elect **EJC teams for both 2027 and 2028**, to give organisers a longer planning horizon again. If you are interested in running an EJC, please do get in touch with us at info@eja.net!

Working in the background

The work of the European Juggling Association in the background focused this year on two aspects:

- Firstly, establishing the **annual site visit** which I wrote about above. This is a "new tradition" that we want to hold on to every year: meeting ~6 months before the EJC on site with former, current and future EJC organisers, (a) to help the team with this year's event and (b) to share experience between past, present and future.
- Secondly, establishing and implementing a **safeguarding team and policy** that would ensure that knowledge and processes around safeguarding (meaning the protection of people against harm, be it sexual or otherwise) get passed on and acted on consistently between EJCs. This was something that has long been important to us but that we hadn't managed to properly implement. Thanks in part to the great collaboration between the EJC 2023 and the European Juggling Association on this issue, but mainly due to the fantastic and dedicated safeguarding team that established itself on the back of that experience, we managed to implement a safeguarding policy and practice which you will be able to see in action at this year's EJC.

These were this year's big ticket items. In addition, we:

- Conducted a few Community Big Tops that we had established last year; virtual meetings for everybody to speak about things related to the EJC and/or European Juggling Association
- Communicated more regularly through newsletters and social media
- Streamlined the pre-registration process so that it's both a better experience for jugglers but also easier to administrate by our volunteers



- Strengthened our additional income in addition to the voluntary “EJA contribution” in the preregistration system (thank you to everyone who has contributed!) through a fixed amount per ticket that gets passed on to the Association.

With this, we have maintained a lot of the positive momentum that we have built in the last few years. We may not have quite achieved everything that we set out to do - for example, overhauling our website (mainly due to a lack of volunteers with the relevant skills and time), and overhauling our organisational structure to be more transparent and in line with good governance. As the final year of my term of presidency begins, I hope that we continue with the momentum and make even more progress on these things.

However, for an organisation that relies entirely on the time and work of volunteers, I believe that we have done very well, and that each and everyone involved in the European Juggling Association has made a huge difference! THANK YOU!

If you would like to make a difference and help us make further progress, join this lovely team! Let's work together to build for the future of the European Juggling Association and EJC!

Jonas Fathy
President

Acknowledgments

I am incredibly grateful for having a wonderful executive team - **Alejandro, Bubba, Eileen, Gamze, Linde, Lucil, Sweets**! Our communications team around **Cat** and **Marta** has also done a great job this year, making sure that we communicate regularly and timely - thank you!

And of course, there are all the **board members** who have been active during the year and a source of knowledge, support, and supportive challenge - **Anton, Davide, Lena, Luca, Maria, Melissa, Paul, Philip, Sylvain, Simon, Sonja, Thom, Tina and Tobi** (in addition to some of those already mentioned) and **many more**.

I'm really grateful for all your involvement, and hope that we can keep the momentum or even build a bit more. A big thank you also needs to go, again(!), to **Andi Nitsche** from sixhop.net, who



has been running our IT infrastructure for years, in a largely voluntary capacity. Thank you for your endurance!