Beijing 2008
Paralympic Games

XIII. PARALYMPIC GAMES BEIJING 2008

Paralympic Team Slovenia

PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SLOVENIA









Taking part in the Paralympic Games is a dream for many athletes. Some of them train really hard to be part of this unique event. Many Slovenian athletes are among them as 29 athletes will represent the colors of Slovenia this year in Beijing. This will be the 5th participation on Paralympic Games as independent national sport team.

I wish all athletes good luck in Beijing!

Emil Muri
President



SLOVENIA



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GENERAL



Foto: B. Bajželj

The Republic of Slovenia lies at the heart of Europe where the Alps and the Mediterranean meet the Pannonian plains and the mysterious Karst. It covers an area of 20,273 km^2 (that's half the size of Switzerland) and has borders with Italy (280 km), Austria (330 km), Croatia (670 km) and Hungary (102 km).

Slovenia has a population of 2 million and its capital city is Ljubljana. The official language is Slovene, one of the South Slavic languages.

In Slovenia, the sun shines approximately 2000 hours per year. And yes, there is plenty of snow in winter.

It is a small, beautiful and picturesque country. Mountains, lakes, waterfalls, forests, caves, hills, plains, rivers and the sea as well as many natural and landscape parks make Slovenia a great tourist destination. You can ski in the morning and surrender yourself to the luxury of the Adriatic Sea in the afternoon.

Slovenia has 46.6 km of sea coast – an inch per inhabitant.

The highest mountain is called Triglav – the name meaning »three-heads« – and it is 2864 m high. The mountain is a true national symbol, featured on the national coat of arms and the flag.

Slovenia is also known for its great wines and delicious traditional food.

The currency is Euro.

It is very easy to get here as the country is connected with the rest of the world by a modern highway network, railway system, international airport and ports.


Foto: J. Skok

HISTORY

Slovenia was part of former Yugoslavia until 1991. After short war, Slovenia became independent country. From May 2004 Slovenia is one of 27 countries joined together in European Union.

Relief

Four major European geographic regions meet in Slovenia: the Alps, the Dinaric area, the Pannonian plain and the Mediterranean.


Foto: B. Kladnik

The coastline is only 46.6 km long, but there is 26,000 kilometres of rivers and streams, some 7,500 springs of drinking water, including several hundred of first class therapeutic mineral springs.

The highest peak: Mt. Triglav (2864 m)
Average height above sea level: 556.8 m

Landscape

Forests cover half the territory, as much as 10,124 km^2; Slovenia is the third most forested country in Europe, right after Finland and Sweden. Remnants of primeval forests are still to be found, the largest in the Kočevje area. Bears, which can no longer be found north of this region, still live in these forests and it also is possible to encounter a wolf or a lynx.


Foto: B. Kladnik

Grassland covers 5593 km^2 of the country and fields and gardens 2471 km^2. There are also 363 km^2 of orchards and 216 km^2 of vineyards.

Climate

Most of Slovenia has a continental climate with cold winters and warm summers. The average temperatures are –2 °C in January and 21 °C in July. The average rainfall is 1000 mm for the coast, up to 3500 mm for the Alps, 800 mm for south east and 1400 mm for central Slovenia.

Biodiversity

Slovenia is home to more than 50,000 animal species and 3,000 plant species.

Environmental protection

Approximately 8 % of the Slovenia's territory is specially protected; the largest area with such a regime is the Triglav National Park with a surface area of 848 km^2. The Škocjan caves were entered on the world heritage List at UNESCO in 1986 and the Sečovlje saltpans are included on the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

PEOPLE

Slovenia has a population of 2,030,291 (Statistical office of the Republic of Slovenia).

In Slovenia there are also two national minority communities of Italians and Hungarians. They are considered indigenous minorities and their rights are protected under the Constitution.

Other ethnic groups include Croats, Serbs, Bosnians (Muslims), Yugoslavs, Macedonians, Montenegrins and Albanians. The statuts and special rights of Gypsy communities living in Slovenia are determined by constitution.



Language

The official language of Slovenia is Slovenian. Apart from singular and plural it employs dual number, a very rare phenomenon in linguistics.
In nationally mixed regions Italian and Hungarian are also spoken.

Religion

The majority of Slovenians (almost 60%) are Roman Catholics, although there are around 30 other religious communities, spiritual groups, societies and associations registered in Slovenia.

Slovenians abroad

There are indigenous Slovenian minorities in Italy, Austria and in Hungary. Between 250,000 and 400,000 Slovenians (depending on whether second and subsequent generations are counted) live outside the country, in other continents and in other EU countries.

TOURISM

Tourism is one of the most promising sectors of the economy in Slovenia.

Every year 1.2 million foreign tourists visit Slovenia. The largest number of tourists comes from Germany, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Great Britain, the Netherlands and other European countries. In addition, the number of tourists from the United States is steadily growing.

Visiting Slovenia could provide an interesting mixture of leisure, recreation and exciting excursions.

Slovenia is especially attractive to those who enjoy mountains and lakes, or spending time on the ski slopes. There are more than seven thousand kilometres of marked mountain trails for hiking and climbing. You can also try high-adrenaline sports or spend time on the Mediterranean coast. Last but not least, Slovenia has 15 natural spas, where you can take care of your health with help of thermal mineral waters.

But you could also choose to »travel back through time« in museums, castles, churches and galleries and then go on to enjoy yourself in the evening at one of our casinos as well.

We invite you to come and get to know the country yourself!

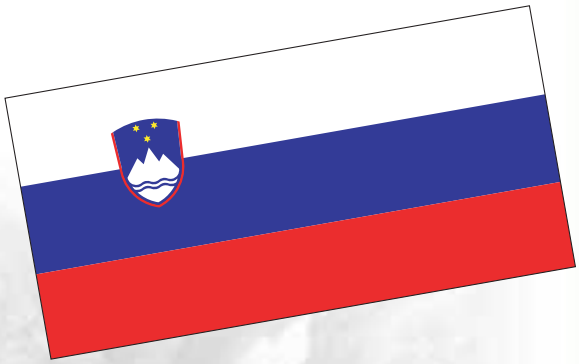




Foto: K. Kunaver





Foto: A. Fevžer

Athletes, good luck at the Paralympics in Beijing!



Surely every athlete who starts taking up sports aims to participate in the Olympic Games. The largest sports event in the world, taking place every 4 years, can turn into a great joy as well as into great sadness. All the above applies also to the disabled athletes.

In the last few years (or in the last decade) disabled sport has developed more than anyone could have imagined. All that matters nowadays are the results. Why the results? Long before one can perform at the Games, high qualification standards are set for the athlete to be even considered as a national team member, and that does not necessarily qualify them for the Paralympic delegation. Their qualification can depend on centimetres or hundredths of a second. Qualification requirements in team sports are clear: the team has to be successful at a qualification tournament or take a required place at an international competition, e.g. at the European or World Championships. But things are much harsher in the so called individual sports.

Long gone are the times when Dr. Ludvik Guttman introduced sports as a »compulsory« health treatment and a substitute for medications. To a certain extend the above still applies, but when the word is about competitive sport, hard work and achievements are what counts. Attention is paid (sadly) only to the medallists. Only those are being awarded, in Slovenia only symbolically, whereas most other countries have developed an awarding system also for the disabled medallists.



30 Slovenia athletes will take part in 7 sport disciplines in Beijing. NPC Slovenia made great effort to even increase this number and give a chance for appearance to all formally qualified athletes, but this administrative decision was in the hands of the IPC (International Paralympic Committee). We are convinced that we ensured optimal preparation for all the participating athletes. Their performance at the Paralympic Games should be an all-Slovenian project, but that is unfortunately not the case. The cooperation between the Olympic Committee and the Sports Federation should definitely be more intense, as success or failure at the most important competition in the world certainly mirror the country and its institutions.

But this is no time to moan. This is the time to wish our national team a safe journey to Beijing and good performances on the spot as well as a lot of enjoyable moments and new discoveries. And may the effort of each individual be awarded with their best achievements ever. The professional analyses carried out after their return will show most of the eventual imperfections and fault decisions made during the preparation period.

Many individuals and organizations have contributed to a successful preparation period, especially Institute for Rehabilitation, Foundation for the Financing of Organisations of the Disabled and Humanitarian Organisations, Ministry of Education and Sports and others. Our special thanks go to individual coaches, who dedicated their time to train the athletes and accompany them to competitions in the preparation period for free.

Dear Paralympic athletes, we are convinced that you will not satisfy yourselves with the average, that you already feel competitive and that you are ready to fight your opponents in the spirit of sports. Be sure that we will be with you at all times, even when not everything goes as you wish.

Chair of the Board for Sports
Jože Okoren





Being Chef de Mission for the third time ...

When we were setting off to Sydney in 2000, I as Chef de Mission did not know what I was getting myself into. I had never imagined how many obligations and responsibilities this function at the time of the Games brings with it.



I was lucky my first games took place in Australia – everyone spoke English and there were many, even too many, volunteers. What is more, the volunteers were mostly of Slovenian origin who really took excellent care of us. The games were very pleasant, there were numerous spectators and the overall experience was very positive. The Slovenian team also had only half as many members as the one now or in Athens. Just to illustrate the situation let me say that we had 3 cars and 10 drivers available which made id difficult for us to allocate them without causing resentment for not using them enough. 3843 athletes from 122 countries participated in the Sydney games. And I could make good use of the experience I got there later ...

Athens 2004 were a completely different story, very difficult to organize and full of surprises for me as the chef, the coaches and the rest of the team. It may be true that everyone was extremely friendly, but there simply were not enough people available. Everyone was willing to help, but when we asked a question or made a request it often happened that we never saw the person again. For example, we were given only two drivers for our three cars, one of which had to go to work in the mornings and the other was a paid driver who was on sickness leave more than half of the days.



One was often forced to improvise at these games and they did not feel as friendly regarding the spectators as the ones in Sydney. Unfortunately even the closing ceremony was cancelled due to an accident that had occurred a day earlier. Had it been my first games, I do not know how I would have made it through ... 3806 athletes from 136 countries participated.

What do I expect this year in Beijing: the first thing I realize is that we are illiterate (I will never get used to their sign system ...), enough staff will be available, it has been promised that the volunteers will receive special training and be able to speak basic English. Our team will be a bit bigger than in Athens, but unfortunately some formally qualified athletes will have to stay at home as we didn't get enough places. The number of athletes has namely been limited since the year of 2000 to 4000. As the results are getting better and better and more and more countries participate every year, not even a medal at the European Championships guarantees a place at the Paralympic competition, even though it fulfils the formal qualification. Around 150 countries are expected to participate in this year's games.



I hope that this year achievements of our disabled athletes will be better recognized in the media. It is our wish that even more disabled athletes join the squad and participate in competitions as well on the national as on the international level. I myself know a number of young disabled athletes who decided to take up sports while following the Paralympic events in Sydney and Athens.

At the end I would like to repeat the statement, similar to the one before Sydney and Athens and which unfortunately still applies: The Paralympic Games will take place right after their more renown »sister«, the Summer Olympic Games, which are recognized by most residents of the Earth as the greatest sports competition in the world. One can often hear about the injustice, casting a shadow of ignorance on the Paralympic mega-event, which is just as emotionally and excitedly expected by the disabled athletes as by any other athlete. As if some would not want the disabled to participate in the luxury of sports joy they are still forced to dwell on the edge of the public interest. Fully undeserved!



Branko Mihorko
Chef de mission

SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED IN THE WORLD

HISTORICAL OUTLINE



Except sports of deaf (1924), organised and professionally managed sports among persons with disability date back to the time after World War II. At the centre for the rehabilitation of disabled British veterans in Stoke Mandeville, as part of the general rehabilitation of those disabled through spinal cord injuries, Dr. Ludwig Guttmann started introducing elements of sports. His idea, that it is not important which part or function of the body is affected, the important thing is to develop the remaining parts and abilities, met with a huge response from such disabled persons in Britain, and then gradually disabled persons from other countries were included in these activities. The first international competition, with the participation of just two countries (Britain and the Netherlands) was held at this centre in 1952. It was attended by 130 athletes with spinal cord injuries. That year is considered to be the beginning of international championships for disabled persons. Official counting begins in 1960, however, when the Olympic Games were held in Rome. At that time, disabled persons competed for the first time at the same arenas as the Olympic competitors. For the first time, these games were called »World Games«, later taking the official title of the »Paralympic Games«.

Beijing 2008 TM©
Paralympic Games

SLOVENIAN ATHLETES AT PARALYMPIC GAMES



SLOVENIAN DISABLED SPORTS PERSONS AT THE PARALYMPIC GAMES

As members of the then Yugoslav team, Slovenian sports persons with disabilities were included for the first time in these activities in 1972 at the 4th Paralympic Games in Heidelberg, Germany. Later, too, they participated in the major international competitions, and throughout this time they made an important contribution in the results achieved. They won a whole series of medals from these games, and held world and Olympic records. Since 1992 our disabled sports persons have competed under the Slovenian flag. In the following pages you can see overview of their achievements.

Participation at the Paralympics has been made possible financially by the Foundation for Financing Disabled and Humanitarian Organisations (previously the Slovenian Lottery), the Ministry of Education and Sport and through the help of a multitude of large and small sponsors and donors.

Note: The data has been gathered from various sources and is incomplete until 1992.

SUMMER GAMES



1972 4th Paralympic Games, Heilderberg, Germany

Slovenian participants: Marja Šerbela (Athletics, Table Tennis),Tatjana Šušteršič (Athletics), Ivanka Kostevc (Athletics), Frančiška Ševarac (Athletics), Heda Ivnik (Table Tennis), Edo Cerkvenik (Athletics), Silvo Čokelj (Athletics), Ivan Čresnik (Athletics), Franc Stajnko (Athletics), Miha Kostevc (Athletics, W. Basketball), Ivan Peršak (Table Tennis, W. Basketball), Martin Gorenc (Athletics, W. Basketball), Zlatko Bernašek (Athletics, W. Basketball), Marjan Peternelj (Athletics, W. Basketball), Brane Rupnik (Athletics, Table Tennis), Pavla Sitar (Athletics), Jože Okoren (Athletics, W. Basketball).

Medals:	Pavla Sitar – Bencek	Track 60 m	1st place and OR
	Jože Okoren	Discus	3rd place



1976 5th Paralympic Games, Toronto, Canada

Yugoslavia did not participate due to the presence of the South-African Republic (apartheid). Pavla Sitar, Jože Okoren, Martin Gorenc and Marjan Peternelj were candidates for the national team.

1980 6th Paralympic Games, Arnheim, The Netherlands

Slovenian participants: Boris Vilfan (Athletics), Franjo Izlakar (Athletics), Marja Šerbela - Rupnik (Athletics), Okoren Jože (Athletics), Marjan Peternelj (Athletics), Ivan Pibernik (Athletics), Martin Gorenc (Athletics), Tatjana Šušteršič (Athletics), Pavle Ribič (Athletics), Janez Potočnik (Athletics), Jože Angeli (Athletics), Igor Dubrovski (Sitting Volleyball), Franc Prelog (Sitting Volleyball), Jože Žgajnar (Sitting Volleyball), Jože Banfi (Sitting Volleyball, Swimming), Franc Šimonič, (Table Tennis).

Medals:	Franjo Izlakar	Shot Put	3rd place
	Okoren Jože	Discus	2nd place



Marjan Peternelj		Javelin	3rd place
Franc Šimonič,		Teams	1st place
		Singles	1st place
Igor Dubrovski, Franc Prelog, Jože Žgajnar, Jože Banfi			3rd place
Jože Banfi	150m	Medley (WR.)	1st place
	100	Breaststroke (WR.)	1st place

1984 7th Paralympic Games, New York, USA

Slovenian participants: Trojer Melita (Swimming), Brigita Galičič (Swimming), Jože Banfi (Swimming), Rajko Kopač (Goalball), Darko Kisovec (Goalball), Šimonič Franc (Table Tennis), Franjo Izlakar (Athletics), Rudolf Kocmut (Athletics)

Medals: Brigita Galičič	100 m	Freestyle	3rd place
Jože Banfi	Relay	4 x 50 m Freestyle	1st place
	Relay	4 x 100 Medley	1st place
	100 m	Backstroke	2nd place
	100 m	Breaststroke	3rd place
	150 m	Medley	2nd place
Rajko Kopač, Darko Kisovec			3rd place
Šimonič Franc		Singles	1st place
		Teams	2nd place
Franjo Izlakar		Shot Put	1st place and WR
Rudolf - Rudi Kocmut		Track 400 m	1st place



1984 7th Paralympic Games, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, UK

Wheelchair athletes only!

Slovenian participants: Marjan Peternelj (Athletics), Draga Lapornik (Athletics), Jože Okoren (Athletics)

Medals: Marjan Peternelj	Javelin	1st place WR and OR
	Shot Put	3rd place
Draga Lapornik	Shot Put	3rd place

1988 8th Paralympic Games, Seoul, South Korea

Slovenian participants: Danijel Pavlinec (Swimming), Marjan Peternelj (Athletics), Rudolf Kocmut (Athletics), Rajko Kopač (Goalball), Davorin Kragelnik (S. Volleyball), Vlado Homan (S. Volleyball), Jože Banfi (S. Volleyball), Draga Lapornik (Athletics).

Medals: Pavlinec Danijel	100 m	Freestyle	2nd place
	200 m	Freestyle	3rd place
Marjan Peternelj	Javelin		3rd place
Rudolf Kocmut	1500 m		2nd place
	800 m		W. R.
Rajko Kopač			1st place.
Davorin Kragelnik, Vlado Homan, Jože Banfi			3rd place

1992 9th Paralympic Games, Barcelona, Spain

Participants (Limited number of participants!): Danijel Pavlinec (Swimming), Ernest Jazbinšek (Shooting), Franc Pinter (Shooting), Rudolf Kocmut (Athletics), Franjo Izlakar (Athletics), Draga Lapornik (Athletics), Janez Hudej (Athletics), Janez Roškar (Athletics)

Medals: Izlakar Franjo	Shot Put	1st place WR in NPR
	Discus	1st place NPR
Lapornik Draga	Shot Put	3rd place

1996 10th Paralympic games, Atlanta, USA

Participants: Danijel Pavlinec (Swimming), Franc Pinter (Shooting), Srečko Majcenovič (Shooting), Ernest Jazbinšek (Shooting), Janez Hudej (Athletics), Draga Lapornik (Athletics), Janez Roškar (Athletics), Franjo Izlakar (Athletics), Erlend More (Goalball), Ivan Vinkler (Goalball), Pavle Ribič (Goalball), Drago Potočnik (Goalball), Miran Nimac (Goalball), Boštjan Vogrinčič (Goalball).

Medals:	Pavlinec Danijel	100 m	Freestyle	3rd place
		200 m	Freestyle	3rd place
	Pinter Franc	R1		2nd place
	Roškar Janez		Javelin	3rd place
	Izlakar Franjo		Shot Put	2nd place



2000 11th Paralympic Games, Sydney, Australia

Participants: Janez Hudej (Athletics), Franjo Izlakar (Athletics), Dragica Lapornik (Athletics), Janez Roškar (Athletics), Marko Sever (Athletics), Zlatko Mihajlovič (Goalball), Erlend More (Goalball), Vojko Štor (Goalball), Ivan Vinkler (Goalball), Boštjan Vogrinčič (Goalball), Igor Žagar (Goalball), Andreja Dolinar (Table Tennis), Sašo Šuligoj (Table Tennis), Danijel Pavlinec (Swimming), Ernest Jazbinšek (Shooting), Franc Pinter (Shooting), Srečko Majcenovič (Shooting).

Medals:	Izlakar Franjo	Shot Put	2nd place
	Lapornik Dragica	Shot Put	3rd place
	Roškar Janez	Javelin	3rd place
	Pinter Franc	R1	2nd place



2004 12th Paralympic Games, Athens, Greece

Participants: Anita Goltnik - Urnaut (S. Volleyball), Emilie Gradišek (S. Volleyball), Boža Kovačič (S. Volleyball), Bogomira Jakin (S. Volleyball), Marinka Cencelj (S. Volleyball), Nadja Ovčjak (S.Volleyball), Alenka Šart (S. Volleyball), Danica Gošnak (S.Volleyball), Štefka Tomič (S.Volleyball), Saša Kotnik (S.Volleyball), Tanja Simonič (S. Volleyball), Andreja Gosak (S. Volleyball), David Kuster (Cycling), Danijel Pavlinec (Swimming), Matej Ledinek (Goalball), Ivan Vinkler (Goalball), Dejan Pirc (Goalball), Gorazd Dolanc (Goalball), Boštjan Vogrinčič (Goalball), Zlatko Mihajlovič (Goalball), Andreja Dolinar (Table Tennis), Mateja Pintar (Table Tennis), Ernest Jazbinšek (Shooting), Franc Pinter (Shooting), Srečko Majcenovič (Shooting), Damjan Pavlin (Shooting), Tatjana Majcen (Athletics), Janez Hudej (Athletics), Marko Sever (Athletics),

Medals:	Tatjana Majcen	Javelin	2nd place
		Shot put	3rd place
	Franc Pinter	R1	2nd place
	Mateja Pintar	Singles	1st place



2008 13th Paralympic Games, Beijing, China

Slovenian athletes will participate in:

Athletics	(3 athletes)
Goalball	(6-member team)
Sitting Volleyball	(11-member team)
Table Tennis	(5 athletes)
Swimming	(1 athlete)
Cycling	(1 athlete)
Shooting	(2 athletes)

NOTE: Data before 1990 were gathered from various sources and is therefore incomplete and possibly incorrect.

WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES

1976 1st PG Örnsköldsvik, Sweden

Participants (First appearance on PG): Franc Čehovin (Alpine Skiing), Ivo Bevc (Alpine Skiing), Drago Koblar (Alpine Skiing), Franc Komar (Alpine Skiing), Štefan Hudolin (Cross Country), Darko Kisovec (Cross Country)
Medals: –



1980 2nd PG Geilo, Norway

Participants: Blaž Ropret (Alpine Skiing), Stržinar Rajko (Alpine Skiing), Koblar Drago (Alpine Skiing), Franc Komar (Alpine Skiing), Franc Goršek (Alpine Skiing), Štefan Hudolin (Cross Country), Janko Rupnik (Cross Country), Pavle Ribič (Cross Country), Nace Kanc (Cross Country).
Medals: –

1984 3rd PG Innsbruck, Austria

Participants: Rajko Stržinar (Alpine Skiing), Ciril Bokal (Alpine Skiing), Franc Komar (Alpine Skiing), Srečko Kos (Alpine Skiing), Štefan Ahačič (Alpine Skiing), Janez Furlan (Alpine Skiing), Štefan Hudolin (Cross Country), Janko Rupnik (Cross Country), Nace Kanc (Cross Country), Franc Vodenik (Cross Country).
Medals: Franc Komar 3rd place

1988 4th PG Innsbruck, Austria

Participants: Srečko Kos (Alpine Skiing), Štefan Ahačič (Alpine Skiing), Jure Rejec (Alpine Skiing).
Medals: –



1992 5th PG Tignes/Albertville, France

Slovenia did not participate.

1994 6th PG Lillehammer, Norway

Slovenia did not participate.

1998 7th PG Nagano, Japan

Participants: Srečko Kos (Alpine Skiing)
Medals: –

2002 8th PG Salt Lake City, USA

Slovenia did not participate.

2006 9th PG Torino, Italy

Participants: Žiga Breznik (Alpine Skiing), Gal Jakič (Alpine Skiing)
Medals: –



MEDALS ON SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES - INDIVIDUAL			
	gold	silver	bronz
1972	1		1
1976			
1980	3	1	2
1984	4	1	4
1988		2	2
1992	2		1
1996		2	3
2000		2	2
2004	1	2	1
	11	10	16
Total: 37			

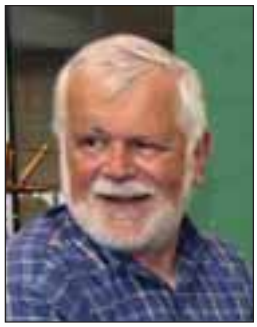
MEDALS ON SUMMER PARALYMPIC GAMES - TEAMS			
	gold	silver	bronz
1976			1
1984	2	1	1
1988	1		1
	3	1	3
Total: 7			

Medals, which was won from Slovenians as part of Yugoslavia team

SPORTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND THE PARALYMPIC GAMES



SPORTS FEDERATION FOR THE DISABLED OF SLOVENIA – PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SLOVENIA (NPC SLOVENIA)



The beginnings of the NPC Slovenia are closely linked to the sports activities of war veterans with disabilities. The Federation of War Veterans with Disabilities (ZVVI) set up a sports committee, which started to manage in an organised way sports for all people with disability and later also competitive forms of sports. At first only for members of the ZVVI, the activities were gradually spread to other persons with disabilities and to their newly emerging organisations. As far back as 1952, the first republic-wide skiing championship was held, followed in 1954 by republic-wide competitions in 9-pins bowling, table tennis, chess and shooting, with the participation of around 200 persons with disabilities. Alongside bocce, these sports make up the core of the most popular sports developed among persons with disabilities in Slovenia. Slovenian sports persons also competed successfully in nationwide competitions within the then Sports Federation for the Disabled of Yugoslavia.



From these beginnings in the disabled war veterans committee, the NPC Slovenia went through many stages of development. While the beginning was dominated by sports of an exclusively recreational nature, during the course of its development, competitive and later also top level sports for persons with disabilities started to predominate. The present organisation of the NPC Slovenia has its roots in the 1990's, when 10 national disabled organisations decided to set up the new NPC. So out of a federation of disabled sports societies, the NPC Slovenia became a federation of national disabled associations. It was entrusted with the implementation of sports activities on the national level, and with all matters relating to scouting, preparing and placing in competition the best Slovenian sports persons with disabilities at official international competitions such as the European and world championships, the world games and the Paralympic Games. The current membership of the NPC Slovenia comprises the following national disabled organisations:



Foto: J. Skok

- FEDERATION OF THE BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED ASSOCIATIONS OF SLOVENIA
- THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CLUB ASSOCIATIONS OF SLOVENIA
- UNION OF THE PARAPLEGICS OF SLOVENIA
- FEDERATION OF THE DISABLED WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS OF SLOVENIA
- SONČEK – CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA
- SOŽITJE – NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HELP TO PEARSONS WITH INTELECTUAL DISABILITY OF SLOVENIA
- MUSCULAR DYSTHROPHY ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA
- MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA
- FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES OF CIVILIAN PERSONS DISABLED FROM WAR OF SLOVENIA
- SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION OF DISABLED STUDENTS
- FEDERATION OF DISABLED WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS OF SLOVENIA
- SLOVENIAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION ILCO
- LARYNGECTOMEES ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA
- ANKYLOSING SPONDILITIS ASSOCIATION OF SLOVENIA
- SLOVENIAN PARALYTICS ASSOCIATION



In this way the NPC Slovenia now manages or enables the holding of around 30 national championships and up to 20 programmes for Slovenian sports persons with disabilities to compete in international championships. The system of state championships sees the participation annually of more than 1,100 competitors, with around 130 competitors taking part each year in different international championships.
The NPC Slovenia is a member of 17 international federations for sports for the disabled on the European and world level. These include the main umbrella organisation for the majority of sports for the disabled – the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The NPC Slovenia is a member of the Slovenian Olympic Committee – Association of Sports Federations.



Igor Malič
Secretary General

PARTICIPANTS OF THE XIII. PARALYMPIC GAMES, BEIJING 2008



ATHLETICS

ATHLETICS



JOŽE FLERE

Date of birth: 27 February 1968
Place of residence: Nazarje
Occupation: pensioner
Hobbies: cars
Injury: quadriplegia
Started as an athlete: 2004
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

CLASS: F51
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: National Best discus 11.60, club 21.64





TATJANA MAJCEN

Nickname: TAJA
Date of birth: 2 January 1978
Place of residence: Dornava
Injury: paraplegia
Hobbies: dancing
Started as an athlete: 2002
Foreign languages: English, German, Croatian
Expectations in Beijing: at least one medal

CLASS: F54
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens – 2nd place and 3rd place, EC – 1st place, WC – 5th place





HENRIK PLANK

Nickname: HENO
Date of birth: 23 August 1974
Place of residence: Pešnica
Injury: quadriplegia
Hobbies: computers, crosswords
Started as an athlete: 2002
Foreign languages: English
Expectations in Beijing: qualifying for at least one final

CLASS: F52
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 6th place (EC), 5th place (WC)
RECORDS: national record: Shot Put, Javelin, Discus (F-52)





TANJA CERKVENIK



Date of birth: 17 May 1976
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Injury: paraplegia
Hobbies: reading
Started as an athlete: 2006
Foreign languages: English, Croatian, Serbian
Expectations in Beijing: finals

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: National record – javelin
1. place Czech Republic, Olomouc, 2007

Coach: **ROMANA KUHAR**
Date of birth: 16. 9. 1970
Place of residence: Logatec



Coach: **SEBASTJAN GROSEK**
Date of birth: 5. 12. 1978
Place of residence: Dramlje



Assistant: **JASNA INKRET**
Date of birth: 10 July 1966
Place of residence: Celje

CYCLING

CYCLING

DAVID KUSTER



Date of birth: 16 December 1972
Place of residence: Vodice
Education: economy technician
Hobbies: gym, cross-country skiing, drawing
Injury: lower leg amputation
Started as an athlete: ski-jumping
Greatest unfulfilled wish: a medal at a top level competition
Expectations in Beijing: similar achievements as in Athens 2004
CLASS: LC-2
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 9th and 12th places at PG

Coach: **ANTON KUNAVER**
Date of birth: 7 November 1946
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Occupation: driver
Started as a coach: 1970
Expectations in Beijing: reaching the top 10



GREATEST COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS: reaching the top 10 at PG

GOALBALL





GORAZD DOLANC

Nickname: Schwarzy
Date of birth: 15 January 1982
Place of residence: Trbovlje
Occupation: salesman
Injury: weak-sighted
Greatest unfulfilled wish: a gold medal at a high level competition, sight
Expectations in Beijing: reaching top 6

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 11th place Athens
EC – 4th place
WC – 3rd place





MATEJ LEDINEK

Nickname: Ledinho
Date of birth: 12 February 1983
Place of residence: Slovenj Gradec
Education: social pedagogic
Injury/illness: weak-sighted
Started as an athlete: 1996
Expectations in Beijing: qualifying for the 2nd round

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 11th place Athens
EC – 4th place
WC – 3rd place





DEJAN PIRC

Date of birth: 26 September 1984
Place of residence: Nova vas
Occupation: cook
Injury/illness: weak-sighted

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 11th place Athens





SIMON PODOBNIKAR



Date of birth: 26. 8. 1983
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Occupation: student

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: B-division EC – 1st place

IVAN VINKLER



Nickname: Viki
Date of birth: 26 September 1969
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Occupation: currier
Injury/illness: weak-sighted
Started as an athlete: 1987
Expectations in Beijing: a medal to end the career

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 5th place Atlanta
EC – 1st place 1997
WC – 1st place 1998

BOŠTJAN VOGRINČIČ



Nickname: Gigi
Date of birth: 2 January 1975
Place of residence: Murska Sobota
Occupation: organization of work
Injury/illness: blindness
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 5th place Atlanta
EC – 1st place 1997
WC – 1st place 1998

Coach: **ANTON MARTON**



Nickname: Toni
Date of birth: 9 May 1972
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Occupation: PE teacher
Started as a coach: 1996
Expectations in Beijing: qualifying for the 2nd round/ a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 6th place Sydney
EC – 1st place 1997
WC – 1st place 1998

SHOOTING



DAMJAN PAVLIN

Nickname: Damo
Date of birth: 7 September 1973
Occupation: telephone receptionist
Hobbies: vineyards
Injury: left arm and right leg amputation
Started as an athlete: 1999
Greatest unfulfilled wish: seeing a football game between Crvena zvezda and Partizan in Belgrade
Expectations in Beijing: at least final events in both disciplines



COMPETITION CLASS: SH2
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG – 4th place Athens 2004
EC – 1st place R4 singles and team
WC – 3rd place



FRANC PINTER

Nickname: Ančo
Date of birth: 24 December 1953
Place of residence: Slovenska Bistrica
Occupation: electrician
Injury: paraplegia
Started as an athlete: 1991
Favourite dish: Beijing duck
Expectations in Beijing: personal best score(s)



COMPETITION CLASS: SH-1
GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 3 silver medals at PG,
3 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals at EC and
1 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals at WC



Coach: **POLONCA SLADIČ**
Date of birth: 14 November 1969
Place of residence: Ljubljana
Occupation: head of the legal sector
Started as a coach: 1992
Expectations in Beijing: »A gold medal with no WR would not mean a lot to me.«



GREATEST COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS: 3 silver medals at PG,
4 gold medals at EC and
1 gold medal at WC





Coach: **ALEŠ KOSMAČ**
Date of birth: 27. 2. 1965
Place of residence: Trzin



SITTING VOLEYBALL

MARINKA CENCELJ



Date of birth: 22 January 1964
Place of residence: Dragomelj
Hobbies: badminton, reading, swimming, travelling
Injury: hip amputation on the left leg
Started as an athlete: 1995
Foreign languages: English
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place

ANITA GOLTNIK URNAUT



Date of birth: 26 November 1964
Place of residence: Kotlje
Hobbies: skiing, swimming, drawing, reading, cooking
Injury: injured knee bands
Started as an athlete: 1970 swimming
Foreign languages: English, German
Unfulfilled wish: Olympic medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place

DANICA GOŠNAK



Date of birth: 14 February 1962
Place of residence: Slovenj Gradec
Started as an athlete: 1974
Favourite dish: veal soup

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place

EMILIE GRADIŠEK



Date of birth: 25 July 1939
Place of residence: Ravne na Koroškem
Hobbies: swimming
Started as an athlete: 1995
Foreign languages: Czech, Russian
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place



BOGOMIRA JAKIN



Nickname: MIRA
Date of birth: 22 October 1957
Place of residence: Nova Gorica
Hobbies: swimming
Foreign languages: English
Favourite food: vegetarian
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place



ANA JUSTIN



Date of birth: 28. 5. 1987
Place of residence: Poljane na Škofjo Loko
Injury/illness: Hemipereza
Occupation: student
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 2005 3rd place

SAŠA KOTNIK



Date of birth: 16 September 1980
Place of residence: Zreče
Started as an athlete: 1998
Injury: amputation of lower leg
Foreign languages: English
Hobbies: table tennis, having fun

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place







BOŽA KOVAČIČ



Date of birth: 03 October 1952
Place of residence: Preserje
Hobbies: cycling, gardening, volunteering
Injury: amputation
Started as an athlete: 1984
Foreign languages: English, Italian
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place

SUZANA OCEPEK



Date of birth: 24. 11. 1985
Place of residence: Vransko
Injury/illness: Amputation
Occupation: economist
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: WC Egypt 2008 – 2nd place

ALENKA ŠART



Date of birth: 31 May 1968
Place of residence: Dobja vas
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place

ŠTEFKA TOMIČ



Date of birth: 12 December 1961
Place of residence: Portorož
Hobbies: sauna, books
Injury: lower leg amputation
Started as an athlete: 1996
Foreign languages: German
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place



Coach: **ADOLF URNAUT**
Nickname: ADI
Date of birth: 26 July 1941
Place of residence: Kotlje
Started as a coach: 1980
Foreign languages: German
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place





Coach: **PETER OZMEC**
Date of birth: 20 January 1937
Place of residence: Prevalje
Started as a coach: 1997
Foreign languages: German
Expectations in Beijing: semi-finals

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens 2004 – 4th place
EC Sarajevo 1999 – 1st place
WC Kamnik 2002 – 2nd place





Coach: **GAŠPER RIBIČ**
Nickname: GAHO
Date of birth: 12 December 1976
Place of residence: Stahovica
Started as a coach: 2006
Foreign languages: English
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: EC Hungary 2007 – 3rd place
WC Netherlands 2006 – 3rd place



SWIMMING

SWIMMING



DEJAN FABČIČ
Nickname: DEJKO
Date of birth: 16 September 1977
Place of residence: Podnanos
Hobbies: movies, books, taking walks in the nature
Injury: born with aplasia of the shinbone
Started as an athlete: 2000
Foreign languages: English, Italian
Expectations in Beijing: qualifying for at least one final

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: WC Durban – 6th place (50m freestyle)
7th place (100m freestyle)

Coach: **BORO ŠTRUMBELJ**



Date of birth: 17 December 1966
Place of residence: Dob
Hobbies: trips in the nature
Foreign languages: English, Italian, Serbo-Croatian
Expectations in Beijing: two finals

GREATEST COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS: WC Durban – 6th place (50m freestyle)
7th place (100m freestyle)

TABLE TENNIS



JOLANDA BELAVIČ



Nickname: Joli
Date of birth: 28 August 1966
Place of residence: Šoštanj
Injury: artificial hip
Occupation: optician
Hobbies: hand work, baking
Expectations in Beijing: passing the preliminary rounds

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 4th place EC

ANDREJA DOLINAR



Date of birth: 10 November 1967
Place of residence: Škofja Loka
Hobbies: table tennis
Injury: paraplegia
Started as an athlete: 1993
Foreign languages: English
Expectations in Beijing: playing well, good result

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Sydney – 4th place
EC Zagreb, Kranjska Gora – 1st place team event
EC Frankfurt – 3rd place (open)

IVAN LISAC



Date of birth: 26. 8. 1966
Place of residence: Kočevje
Occupation: strojni tehnik
Injury: paraplegia
Hobbies: motocyclism
Expectations in Beijing: passing the preliminary rounds

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: 3rd place in Novi Sad



BOJAN LUKEŽIČ

Date of birth: 7 September1960
Place of residence: Malo Mlačevo
Injury: car accident
Music: disco
Expectations in Beijing: playing well





MATEJA PINTAR

Date of birth: 16 July 1985
Place of residence: Selca / Ljubljana
Hobbies: cinema, reading
Injury: paraplegia
Started as an athlete: 1996 handball, 2001 table tennis
Foreign languages: English, German
Favourite dish: ice-cream
Expectations in Beijing: fighting for a medal

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens – 1st place (class 3)
WC Montereux – 3rd place
EC Jesolo – 1st place (single event), 3rd place (teams)
EC Zagreb, Kranjska gora – 1st place team event





Coach: **GORAZD VECKO**

Nickname: COACHY
Date of birth: 9 July 1972
Place of residence: Notranje Gorice
Hobbies: cinema, music, tennis
Started as a coach: 2000
Foreign languages: English, German, Serbo-Croatian, Italian, Russian
Expectations in Beijing: fighting for a medal, good games

GREATEST COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS: PG Athens – 1st place (class 3)
WC Montereux – 3rd place
EC Jesolo – 1st place (single event)
EC Zagreb, Kranjska gora – 1st place
team event





Coache: **GREGOR ŠKAFAR**

Date of birth: 3 May 1974
Place of residence: Vrhnika
Hobbies: tennis, skiing
Started as a coach: 2005
Foreign languages: English, Serbian, Croatian
Expectations in Beijing: a medal

GREATEST COACHING ACHIEVEMENTS: EC Kranjska gora – 1st place team event



Chef de Mission:
BRANKO MIHORKO
Date of birth: 12. 6. 1962
Place of residence: Ljubljana





Team Doctor:
HELENA BURGER
Date of birth: 7. 10. 1961
Place of residence: Piran



Psychologist:
TANJA KAJTNA
Date of birth: 27. 6. 1977
Place of residence: Trbovlje





Physiotherapist:
SLAVICA BAJUK
Date of birth: 10. 3. 1958
Place of residence: Ljubljana



Physiotherapist:
MATEJ KOVAČ
Date of birth: 3. 9. 1976
Place of residence: Kamnik



Paralympic Attaché:
ŠPELA ROZMAN
Date of birth: 3. 7. 1982
Place of residence: Češnjica



Press Attaché:
UROŠ VOLK
Date of birth: 2. 8. 1975
Place of residence: Ilirska Bistrica

TIME TABLE OF SLOVENIAN COMPET

Sport	Athlete/ Team	Class	Discipline	Venue	1. Day Sun. 7. 9.	2. Day Mon. 8. 9.	3. Da Tue. 9
ATLETICS	Tatjana MAJCEN	F54	Shot put, Discus, Javelin	National stadium		Shot Put –PM	Discu
	Jože FLERE	F51	Discus, Club				
	Henrik PLANK	F52	Shot put, Discus, Javelin			Shot Put –AM	
	Tanja CERKVENIK	F55	Javelin				
VOLLEYBALL SITTING	Team 12		Female	China Agricultur University Gymnasium		AM SLO : Japan	AM Ukrai
GOALBALL	Team 6	Group A	Male	Beijing Institute of Technology Gymnasium	19.00 SLO : Finland	12.00 SLO : Denmark	19.00 SLO :
SWIMMING	Dejan FABČIČ	S7, SB6 SM6	100m Breaststr., 100m Backstr., 100m Freestyle, 50 m Freestyle, 200 m Medley	National Aquatic Centre	9.00 200 Medley, heats 17.00 Finals	9.00 100 Freestyle, heats 17.00 Finals	
TABLE TENNIS	Jolanda BELAVIČ	TT9	Single	Beijing University Gymnasium	16.00 1. Round Single	10.00 & 16.00 2. & 3. Round Single	
	Andreja DOLINAR	TT4	Single, Teams 4-5		10.00 & 16.00 1. & 2. Round Single		10.00 3. Ro
	Ivan LISAC	TT3	Single, Teams 3		16.00 1. Round Single	10.00 & 16.00 2. Round Single	10.00 3. R. 1/4 F
	Bojan LUKEŽIČ	TT3	Single, Teams 3		16.00 1. Round Single	10.00 & 16.00 2. Round Single	10.00 3. R. 1/4 F
	Mateja PINTAR	TT3	Single, Teams 4-5		16.00 1. Round Single	16.00 1. & 2. Round Single	16.00 2. & 3 Singl
CYCLING	David KUSTER	LC2	Road Track	Ming Tombs Reservoir Road Laoshan Velodrom		9.30 Persuit	9.30 Time
SHOOTING	Franc PINTER	SH1	R1, R3, R6, R7	Beijing Shooting Range Hall		9.00 R1 Qualifications Finals	
	Damjan PAVLIN	SH2	R4, R5				9.00 Quali Finals

TITORS ON XIII. PARALYMPIC GAMES

y . 9.	4. Day Wen. 10. 9.	5. Day Thu. 11. 9.	6. Day Fri. 12. 9.	7. Day Sat. 13. 9.	8. Day Sun. 14. 9.	9. Day Mon. 15. 9.	10. Day Tue. 16. 9.
s – AM						Javelin – PM	
		Discus – AM				Club – AM	
					Javelin – PM		
						Javelin – PM	
ne : SLO	PM SLO : Nether-lands	AM/PM for 5-8 place	AM/PM Semifinals	AM for 7–8 p. PM for 5-6 p.	PM Finals		
Belgium	9.00 Spain : SLO	12.00 Lithuania : SLO	9.00 - 22.30 Quarter – final and for 9. and 11 place	17.00 for 5-8 place 19.00 Semi – final	11.00 for 7. and 5. place 18.00 – bronze match 20.00 – gold match		
	9.00 100 Back- stroke, heats 17.00 Finals		9.00 100 Breast- stroke, heats 17.00 Finals		9.00 50 m Freestyle, heats 17.00 Finals		
	10.00 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals					
und Single	10.00 & 16.00 1/2 Finals & Finals			16.30 Teams 1/8 Finals	10.00 1/4 Finals	10.00 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals for 1. & 3. p.
& 16.00 & 1/8 & F.	10.00 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals		16.30 Teams 1/4 Finals	10.00 & 16.30 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals for 1. & 3. p.	
& 16.00 & 1/8 & F.	10.00 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals			10.00 & 16.30 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals for 1. & 3. p.	
3. Round e	10.00 & 16.00 1/2 Finals & Finals			16.30 Teams 1/8 Finals	10.00 1/4 Finals	10.00 1/2 Finals	10.00 Finals for 1. & 3. p.
trial			10.00 Kriterij		10.00 Road Race		
	9.00 R7 Qualifications Finals	9.00 R3 Qualifications Finals	9.00 R6 Qualifications Finals				
R5 fications s		R4 Qualifications Finals					

I FEEL
SLOVENIA

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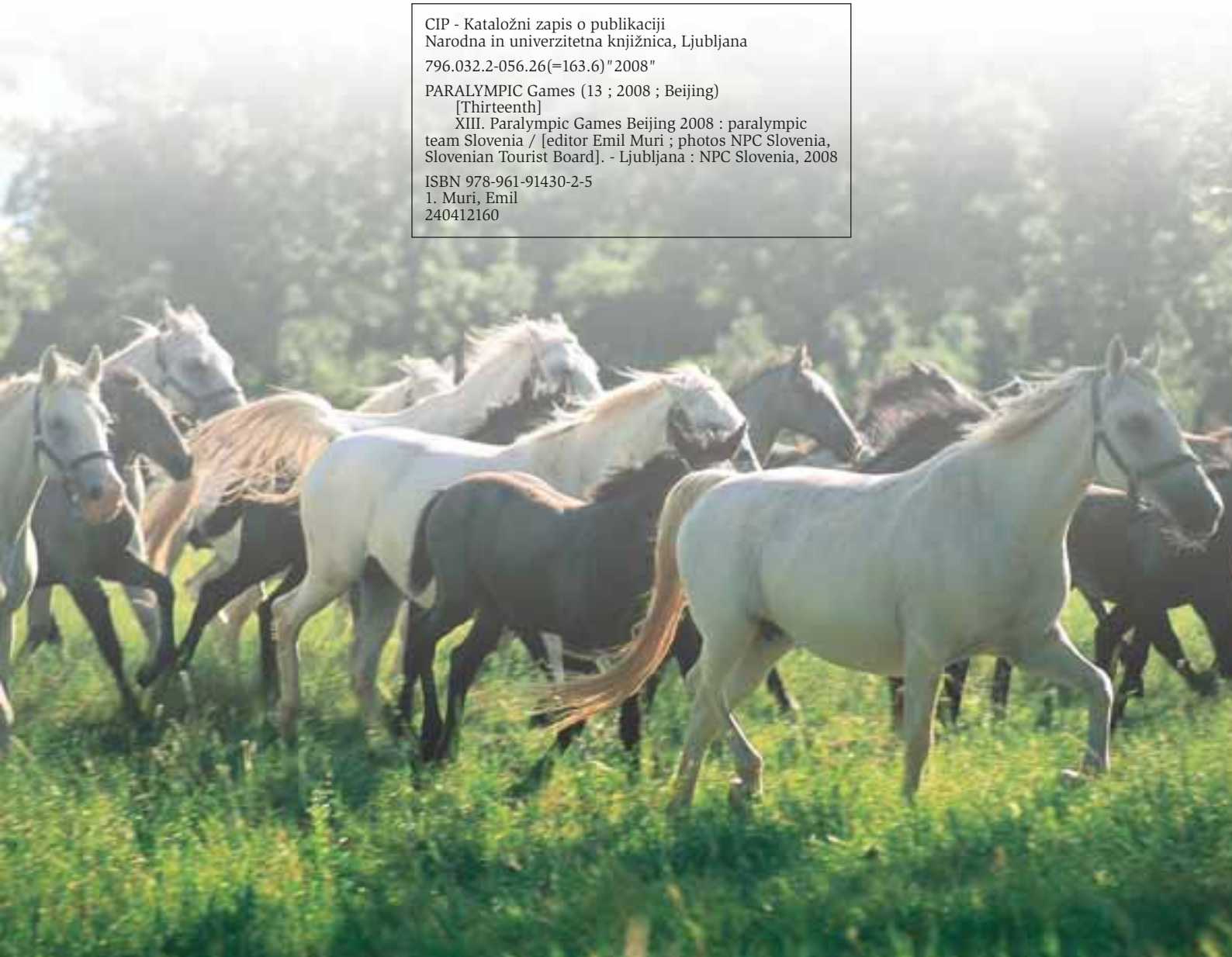
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