



## 19<sup>th</sup> World University Orienteering Championships 2014

### PRESS RELEASE

## World University Orienteering Championships open

**(Olomouc, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014) – In the evening of 11th August, the 19th World University Orienteering Championships 2014 in Olomouc was officially declared open. In the ceremony in the old Theresian Armoury of the Palacký University, 32 participating national university teams were introduced.**

*“Convert the armories into libraries,”* reads the quote of the famous Czech philosopher and educator Jan Amos Komenský mentioned in his speech by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of WUOC Dušan Vystavěl. His words, which are set in the pavement of both gateways of the armory-turned-library, could epitomize the whole idea of the University Championships as an opportunity for a free exchange of opinions and ideas among the university students. *“We should also keep those students in mind who do not have the chance to participate due to military conflicts, injustice or economic problems,”* Member of the FISU Executive Committee Verena Burk added in her speech.

Besides the 32 national teams, numbering more than 320 participants in total, the opening ceremony was also attended by many guests of honor, such as the Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, President of Olomouc Region, Mayors of Statutory Cities of Olomouc and Prostějov, or the Rector of Palacký University in Olomouc.

*“We have found the most beautiful terrains in the area and we hope that all competitions will fully meet your expectations,”* the President of the Organising Committee Dušan Vystavěl said. The Championships will take place until Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of August and the competitors will gradually change five different disciplines and venues: mixed sprint relay are hosted by the historical town of Kroměříž, long distance race will take place in the hills and valleys around Nectava, sprint courses will introduce the pilgrimage site of Svatý Kopeček. For the middle distance event, the athletes will move to the forests of Protivanov, as well as for the final relay race.

A short look at the rosters of the national teams hints at a tough competition: among the athletes, many of the participants of the recent World Orienteering Championships in Italy can be found, with Sweden, Norway and Switzerland considered as the main contenders for the medals.

Please find more information about the Championships at <http://www.wuoc2014.cz>.

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