

## **2023 Report Rear Commodore Central Europe**

Fireball racing in the Central part of Fireball Europe is back on track. We have survived covid and we're racing again. In general, we can see young sailors join the class. Not in high numbers, as there are plenty of options for them (29er, RS classes, etc.), but still, there is some progress. The fleet in SUI is slowly growing, which is a great success. The CZE fleet is keeping its numbers, we can see some seasoned teams leaving the fleet, but they are being replaced by younger enthusiastic guys who keep the FB flag high, there are 37 boats in the CZE Cup ranking.

ITA fleet made a tremendous progress. With a lot of young sailors, they have become much more competitive in the last couple of years. Attending a local event is a great experience, foreign sailors always receive a very warm welcome there.

Slovenian fleet is getting better as well. They have done a great job hosting Europeans this year. What was missing in wind conditions at the beginning, they've made it up with friendly atmosphere and perfect social events for the sailors. Many thanks for the hosting club, JK Pirat, and everybody involved!

What I really do enjoy is the cooperation between individual NCAs in our region. We cooperate in scheduling regattas, there is hardly ever a problem. Shipping two containers to AUS for the Worlds has also been a multi-national teamwork.

Finally, I would like to thank Christina for all she has done for the class. She has been pushing the class forward in difficult times, not only as a Commodore, her relentless presence at events and her friendly attitude whatever the problem was, is something the class needs and we're thankful for that. I guess it will continue, Nick 😊

Jakub Napravnik