

Nine partner nations

Hungary is one of nine eastern European partner nations supporting the Austrian candidature for The Ryder Cup 2022.





PARTNER NATIONS

///

Contribution to the development of golf

The 2022 Ryder Cup is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Austria, and for our partner nations, to showcase golf in the heart of Europe.

BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

Martin Angerer | Perfect Eagle

.....

Located at the very heart of Europe and therefore serving as gateway to Eastern Europe and the Balkans, Austria had the vision of inviting countries from around the region to share in a once in a lifetime opportunity and be part of the bidding process for The 2022 Ryder Cup. In total, nine partner countries, all of which find themselves at various stages in terms of golf development, are part of this exciting adventure. For example, Czech Republic can look back at a rich golfing history, today boasting 102 courses, whereas Macedonia established its golf federation only three years ago and is yet to build its first golf course.

Austria has a long mediatory history and is therefore well suited to paving the way and actively helping the developing East European Countries. A strong emphasis will be placed on the transfer of knowledge. While Austria may be ahead of others in terms of developing creative concepts, which have already been successfully put to the test, the Austrian Golf Federation intends to impart this kind of knowledge to their partner nations by sharing best practices from the recent past, anchoring and securing the growth of golf in the heart of Europe.

photo: Yulia Stepanova

.....

The concept behind the "Hello Juniors" programme has received international recognition and is fully supported by the RGA. Over 100 Austrian golf clubs agreed to allow children under 12 to play golf for free. This initiative will see golf assuming a pioneering role in Austria, as there are no comparable programmes in other sports. "Winning the bid for The Ryder Cup 2022 would allow us to extend this programme, e.g. by increasing the age limit to 14, enabling thousands of youngsters to participate" says Dr. Peter Enzinger, President of the Austrian Golf Association.

.....

new markets and capture hearts and minds across ten nations. This would enable The Ryder Cup to reach another level in terms of new markets and achieve another historic milestone in the history of its development.

Austria is ready to play the role of 'bridge builder' and visionary on this journey. Let's cross this bridge together! ///

.....

The Austrian Golf Association has pledged to welcome their neighbouring countries into the event. Metaphorically speaking, The Ryder Cup 2022 would not just take place in Austria, but would be experienced by all neighbouring central and eastern European countries. The Austrian Golf Association will provide financial support, and do whatever else is required to promote and implement this vision.

.....

"We want the Ryder Cup 2022 to further strengthen golf across Europe, not only in Austria, but in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Russia and Cyprus" informs Fiegl. In this regard, we hold regular meetings and exchange ideas and expertise via "Coach the Coaches" activities, combined tournaments and training camps and joint youth support programmes. Successful nationwide projects like "Hello Juniors" and "School Goes Golf" are set to take off in the partner nations.

Over the next seven years, golf, the European Tour and The Ryder Cup 2022 will thereby have the platform to explore these brand

Participants in the Hungarian Crown Junior Golf Tournament 2015 - part of the World Junior Golf Series



Thanks to the regular exchange of knowledge and experience, golf is progressing well in the partner nations.

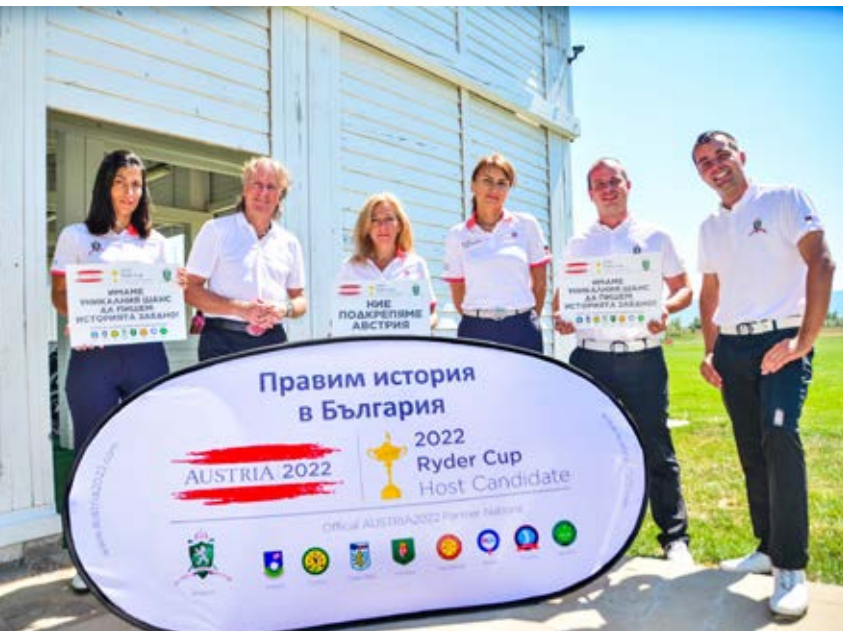
PARTNER NATIONS
///

Youth development

Austria will share 'best practices' gained from years of experience, including the successful "Hello Juniors" programme, which offers under 12s the chance to play golf for free.



photos provided



.....

The nine partner nations find themselves at various stages of their golfing development. For example, Czech Republic can look back at a rich golfing history, today boasting 102 courses, whereas Macedonia established its golf federation only three years ago and is yet to build its first golf course.

.....

Full support for the Austrian Ryder Cup vision from the Bulgarian Golf Association team



“DEVELOPMENT OF GOLF IN THE HEART OF EUROPE”

Interview with Seth Underwood

Seth Underwood is General Secretary of the Bulgarian Golf Association

Mr. Underwood, Austria is hoping to build bridges by involving nine partner countries in its official bid for the Ryder Cup in 2022. To what extent do international relations matter from a golfing perspective?

The answer to this question begins with 'vision'. When Austria decided to bid for the Ryder Cup, they looked outside the box and thought for ways to create an opportunity for golf to benefit from our bid – the idea of the partner nations was born. In the context of international relations, this is a showcase on how geographic regions can come together under the umbrella of golf and develop relationships that will benefit all of us in our future growth.

As general secretary of the Bulgarian Golf Association, you also represent one of the partner nations. What does golf in Bulgaria in particular draw from this fruitful cooperation?

The main benefit is from the developing relationship with the Austrian Golf Association, for example by sharing in the success of their "Hello Juniors" programme. Along with more of their best practice, this is of enormous support for us as a developing golfing nation.

A golf course close to Sofia supports the Macedonian Golf Association by serving as their official home course. What does this mean for the Austrian bid (and vice versa)?

We were very fortunate when establishing our association to be taken under the wing of the Scottish & Welsh Golf Unions. When Macedonia started the process of setting up their federation, we were given the opportunity to give something back to the game, hence the home golf course in Sofia. This highlights the possibilities of large and small

nations assisting each other. Austria choosing Macedonia as a partner nation shows a forward-thinking vision that should be applauded.

“

Looking at Austria on the map, it is ideally situated to achieve this.

”

You have been involved in the whole process. What is your personal impression of what Austria has to offer, and who else, other than those already mentioned, would benefit from a positive result this upcoming autumn?

My first impression was "Wow, you are bidding for the Ryder Cup!" Once I started getting into the whole bid process and the various components that bind it all together, I truly believe the bid is as strong as any other candidate with an angle of building bridges that nobody has considered before. Looking at Austria on the map, it is ideally situated to achieve this. All of us partner nations will benefit, and the seven year run-up to 2022 creates a wonderful opportunity to use the power of the Ryder cup with our Ministry of Sport to further support the development of our game and of course leverage the incredible international media coverage that the Ryder Cup generates.

Austria - the nation of ten

In the coming years, Austria and all of these countries will be committed to working together as a team to rewrite the legacy of golf and The 2022 Ryder Cup.

OFFICIAL AUSTRIA 2022 PARTNER NATIONS



Bulgaria

7 golf courses // 843 registered players

Like many of the Balkan countries, golf is relatively new to Bulgaria. The Association, founded in 2000, promotes the sport to a younger audience and has already been able to send youth teams to a number of European Golf Association events. Bulgaria has formed good relationships with established golfing nations such as Scotland and Wales. These experiences have helped both Macedonia and Albania to form their own Federations and propose them for European Golf Association membership. Offering the course in Sofia as their home club has enabled them to host their countries Amateur Championships.

Bulgarian Golf Association

President	Krassimir Guergov
General Secretary	Seth Underwood
Founding Year	2000
# of golfers - Year 2014	843
# of golfers - estim. Potential Year 2022	1830
# of golf clubs in the country - 2015	7
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country - estim. Potential 2022	+3



Croatia

5 golf courses // 1420 registered players

Golf has not yet gripped Croatia since the disintegration of former Yugoslavia but does date back here to the roaring twenties. With a newly established golf association accepted into the European Golf Association last year and Croatia participating in its first EGA team event this July, the future is bright and there is a desire to grow the game. The country could truly benefit from the partner nation concept over the coming years and has been highlighted as a shining example of golf development in an emerging country.

Croatian Golf Association

President	Ivan Jakovic
General Secretary	Drazen Slamar
Founding Year	1992
# of golfers - Year 2014	1500
# of golfers - estim. Potential Year 2022	5000
# of golf clubs in the country - 2015	34
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country - estim. Potential 2022	+15



Cyprus

9 golf courses // 1303 registered players

Although Cyprus has a fascinating island history, its golfing history only began in 2000. Golf was previously only played on the RAF military bases. With too little water available for maintenance, the construction of golf courses is challenging. Within our partner nations, Cyprus is the furthest away geographically. However, with the enthusiasm of the people and being an island with no neighbouring countries, this initiative is being seen as an opportunity to assist in the development of golf and become involved in the partner nation concept.

Cyprus Golf Federation

President	Dr. Demetris Papapetrou
General Secretary	Nick Rossides
Founding Year	2500
# of golfers - Year 2014	1303
# of golfers - estim. Potential Year 2022	2500
# of golf clubs in the country - 2015	9
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country - estim. Potential 2022	+8

“

*Especially important for us has been the possibility of running a joint junior programme, absorbing **knowledge** from the Austrian Golf Federation, as a developed golf nation, and sharing ideas on how to overcome common boundaries, between the developing partner nations.*

DR. DEMETRIS PAPAPETROU – PRESIDENT, CYPRUS GOLF FEDERATION

”



CZECH GOLF FEDERATION

Czech Republic

102 golf courses //
56,438 registered players

The Czech Republic is the most advanced of the partner nations with a rich history of golf dating back to 1904. Although interrupted after WWII, golf returned, peaking in hosting a European tour event and the Challenge Tour for many years. This rich experience is crucial to the rest of the partner nations and seen as a bench mark for other countries to strive to achieve. The Czech Republic is named senior nation in assisting with our development program over the next 7 years.

Czech Golf Federation

President	Zdenek Kodejs
General Secretary	Martin Bek
Founding Year	1931
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	56,438
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	100,000
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	102
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+38



Hungary

12 golf courses //
1498 registered players

Introduced in 1909, Hungarian golf players achieved significant success and were a viable part of the European golf life between 1926 and 1936. From 1952 to 1970, political discrimination influenced golf in Hungary, calling golf a sport non grata. The Hungarian Golf Association was founded in 1989. Hungary now has the opportunity to benefit from the partner nations relationship, creating an exciting window for development in the coming years.

Hungarian Golf Federation

President	András Sugár
General Secretary	Dr. László Tasi
Founding Year	1989
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	1498
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	2,000
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	12
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+4



Macedonia

0 golf courses // 119 registered players

The Macedonian golf association was only founded in 2011. Without any history of golf, its relationship with Bulgaria and their home club in Sofia is a virtual part of its development. Without any guarantee that a golf course will ever be built or golf to become truly recognized, we decided to take on the challenge. All the partner nations agreed to embrace Macedonia into the heart of Europe and deliver the legacy that we strive to achieve, drawing Macedonia onto the golfing map by 2022.

Macedonian Golf Federation

President	Les Percevski
General Secretary	Milcho Popov
Founding Year	2011
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	119
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	330
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	0
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+2

“

With this opportunity to be involved we can learn from Austria taking their best practice such as the "Hello Juniors" programme and benefit from everything that is connected with the Ryder Cup being one of the largest sporting events in the world and all of the attention that this creates.

KRASSIMIR GUERGOV – PRESIDENT, BULGARIAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

”



Russia

24 golf courses // 1341 registered players

In 1987, the spade for Russia's first, the Moscow Golf Club, was turned by the Swedish hockey player and former world champion Sven Tumba. The same day, Pelé, Tumba, Sean Connery and Alexander Ragulin hit the first shots. The golf association endeavors to popularize the sport, hosting European Tour events. The size of its population means huge potential for a golf market, making Russia a partner nations and benefit for the future.

Russian Golf Association

President	Victor Khristenko
General Secretary	Nikolay Remizov
Founding Year	1992
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	1,341
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	4,000
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	24
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+10



Slovakia

22 golf courses // 7644 registered golfers

Slovakia, too, has never been a golfing nation, landlocked and mountainously set in the heart of Europe. Yet, the popularity of golf has been increasing in the former member country of Czechoslovakia. With Bratislava just 45 minutes from Vienna and neighboring Czech Republic and Hungary, Slovakia is in the heart of the partner nations and ideally situated to embrace the growth earmarked for the region in the next years on the build up to the Ryder Cup.

Slovak Golf Association

President	Ing. Tibor Hubík
General Secretary	Kamil Balga
Founding Year	2003
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	7,644
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	13,000
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	22
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+12



Slovenia

13 golf courses // 8762 registered players

Since Slovenia broke away from Yugoslavia in 1991 they have never looked back, wedged in the heart of Europe between the Alps and the Adriatic Sea. Slovene golf history dates back to the 1930s, being a preserve of the Yugoslav royal family and visiting gentry. Geographically placed next to Austria, Slovenia has had the opportunity and benefit of a close relationship, implementing best practice and being a major player in the region for future development of the sport.

Slovenian Golf Association

President	Marijan Jurenec
General Secretary	Gorazd Kogoj
Founding Year	1992
# of Golf-Players – Year 2014	8,762
# of Golf-Players – estim. Potential Year 2022	14,000
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – 2015	13
# of Golf-Clubs in the Country – estim. Potential 2022	+7