

## **European day of Integrated Sport – Slovakia**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October was a very nice day. Together with invited guests we presented in Piešťany the project European day of integrated sport to students of our local school. Since our first meeting with the director of the school when we presented him the project we participated in he was very enthusiastic about it. Also from this reason we were looking forward to this day and we knew our experiences would be very interesting for the students.

We begun to organize everything necessary needed for the organisation of our event from the morning together with the colleagues from our organisation Progresit so that the course of the event was successful. We have prepared audio-visual materials, presentations, winning cups we have brought from Italy, calendars and photobooks, too. The hall begun to be full of students. And after all students together with their teachers took the seat and quite a big hall was almost full, our event could begin.

The presentation started with the official EDIS video. It suddenly caught the attention of the audience. Manager Andrej Klapica invited the students, teachers and guests. He presented goals of the project EDIS as well as leader partner of the project – organisation CSEN. He explained that Slovakia was one of 13 countries participating in this project, in which more than 320 athletes competed together. He stated: „Education in sport should not be focused on reaching of the results, but on the development of the personality.“ He also mentioned the motto of Pierre de Coubertain: „Sport means in the first place to win above yourself“, because high school in Piešťany is named after this personality. He presented goals of integrated sport activities and also mentioned some moving stories. For example the story of famous Italian cyclist who is without legs, but he managed to rise up the steep slope with climbing of 22 % and he was very proud to manage it not because he was admired by people for his health conditions but because he is passionate cyclist.

Mária Danišková held other part of the presentation. She has prepared for the students object-lesson of individual rules of Integrated sport. She has mentioned 12 types of sports, in which athletes competed and she explained individual rules developed so that integrated sport was more adjusted to common competition of the athletes.

Tomáš Zelenay – participant from Slovak delegation in Aosta talked about outstanding atmosphere among athletes from the opening dinner in Rome till the departure home. The most interesting experience for him was when one sightless athlete only with instructions of his assistant scored unique goal.

After presentations everybody has watched the video from Sassari, with our commentary. But also hearing the beautiful Italian language was very interesting for the students. Videos were very catching and everybody was watching with interest and hearing the experiences from the project in spite of the full crowd in the full hall.

The atmosphere was outstanding, everybody liked it, but the end of the presentation was coming. At the end we expressed our interest to participate in the project in the future and this interest confirmed also management of the school.

Photobooks and calendars as small presents for every participant were nice memory from the presentation and it was also suitable gift for spreading of the idea of European day of Integrated Sport to hundreds of families in Slovakia.