



**Mesto Michalovce**  
Viliam Zahorčák, primátor mesta

ACES EUROPE  
President Gian F. Lupattelli  
Rue de la Science 14B  
1040 Bruxelles  
Belgium

Michalovce, 10 July 2018

Letter of Intention

Dear Mr. President,

It is our honour to inform you that the Town of Michalovce is applying for the title of the European City of Sports for 2019. In this letter I would like to introduce our town of Michalovce - a town in the heart of Zemplín region, in the heart of Europe.

The town of Michalovce is the second largest municipality of the Košice Self-governing Region, second to Košice, which is a one-hour drive from Michalovce.

Michalovce stretches along the banks of the Laborec River under the picturesque Vihorlat Hills and impresses you with its cultural monuments, renovated town centre, as well as famous hospitality of our citizens. Traditional events organized in the town in every season - Spring Markets, Zemplín Fair and Festival, Homage to Town Day, or Christmas Markets help us to preserve the ancestral traditions and look for time and place for relaxation at the roots of folk traditions in today's hectic time.

Our town pays particular attention mainly to sports. Every year a considerable amount of money from our budget is spent to provide sporting activities and improve sports infrastructure. Only one fact, just to give you an example – there are 58 sports clubs and sports associations of 31 different kinds of sport, six of them - women's handball, football, floorball and judo, men's table tennis and football, play in the highest Slovak competitions and leagues. Even now, especially among the sporting public, Michalovce very often associates with a town of sport, which makes us particularly pleased.

We do not just talk about the fact that youth is at the centre of attention, but we also act in this way. We strongly support youth sports in the town, which reflects on working with youth in individual sports clubs in the town.



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The town gains visibility with such important clubs as Iuventa Michalovce, Michalovce Football Club MFK Zemplín, ŠK Zemplín Powerlifting, ŠK Zemplín Judo, Dukla Ice Hockey Club, Ice Hockey Youth Club, Floorball Club, Orca Swimming Club, Basketball Clubs 1st BK (men's club) and 1st BK-D (women's club), as well as clubs practising various martial arts.

Michalovce is known for the sporting competitions with domestic and foreign athletes' participation. These include the Podivorlatský Marathon, the Michalovce Half Marathon, the Michalovce Shield Run, the Michalovce One Hour Run, the Tomáš Jakubčo Memorial Trophy, the Basketball Championship of Juniors and Cadets of the V - 4 countries, the International Junior Football Tournament - Michalovce Cup, the Vladimír Seruga Memorial Trophy in Sailing, the Július Fryk Memorial Trophy in Chess, the International Men's Bridge Tournament, the International Students' Ice Hockey Tournament, and the International Grand Prix in Judo.

In the town, sports facilities have been built at four primary schools in the following housing estates: Housing Estate South - Primary school, Komenského Street - athletic track with tartan surface, Primary School, Okružná Street - two football fields with artificial grass and a beach volleyball court, Housing Estate West - Primary school, Švermu Street as well as Housing Estate East - Primary School, Krymská Street - a multipurpose playing field for basketball, handball, and football built at both schools. These sports facilities have been made available to the public in agreement with the school managements.

In the outskirts of the town, there are football fields that have been used for sporting events for the general public as well as for registered football clubs. Good conditions are provided in Topoliarska Street and Močariarska Street, where changing rooms and sanitary facilities are built. Teen and adult teams are involved in regular football competitions at regional and district level. The football field in Močariarska Street is also used for equestrian competitions which already have their own tradition.

In accordance with the approved Concept of Sport Development in the Town of Michalovce, the municipality continues to organize traditional competitions in basketball, five-a-side football, and handball, as well as newly created one-time and repetitive municipal sports competitions in swimming, multisport, dodgeball, floorball, in-line skating, chess, speed badminton, handball, five-a-side football, gymnastics, table tennis, strength tetrathlon, foot tennis, and volleyball for primary and secondary schools. For the kindergartens, this year the town organized the 8th Annual League of Child Fitness Movement. The annual Olympics are the culmination of these competitions. This year, as part of the "Olympic Week", the 10th Annual Olympics of Seniors, the 17th Annual Olympics of Kindergartens and the 36th Olympiad of Primary Schools organized on the occasion of the International Children's Day took place. In the adult category, municipal competitions with long-term traditions were held in floorball, volleyball, futsal, soft tennis and one-off events in streetball and football in the category of over 50. In organizing these competitions, the municipality cooperated with the management of the relevant schools and sports clubs in Michalovce.





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Kindergartens, primary, secondary schools of the town, as well as town citizens get involved in the competitions. In 2011, an Olympic Club was established in our town in the presence of the Vice-President of the Association of Olympic Clubs of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Anton Švajlen. The Olympic Club Michalovce is part of the Association of Olympic Clubs of the Slovak Republic, which is a member of the Slovak Olympic Committee as well as its legal organizational component. In Michalovce region, the club is the organizer and implementer of sports, educational, cultural and educational, as well as environmental activities that promote the development of Olympism and Olympic values. The voluntary work of the club members is primarily directed towards youth. The club is strongly committed to implementing major projects of the Slovak Olympic Committee such as Olympic Festivals, Olympic Day, Olympic Badge of Versatility, Step Towards Health, as well as knowledge, literary, art, and photography competitions with the theme of sports, Olympics, and environmental activities.

In Michalovce, the Olympic Club is based on cooperation with the Municipality of Michalovce, with kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools. The Seniors' Olympiad is organized by the Retirees Association and the Municipality, Seniors' Day Care Centres (Retirement Clubs), and the Primary School in Komenského Street on the premises of the school. Every year on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Podvihorlatský Marathon is held, with its own tradition attracting the international participation of athletes. Every year in November, to mark the anniversary of the liberation of our town, the Michalovce Shield Run is organized involving runners from the wider region.

The municipality also invests in sports facilities. In 2011, with the reconstruction of the western and northern part of the Municipal Sports Hall, the restoration of the building of this sports hall was completed. We have reconstructed the dressing rooms, social facilities, the background and entrance sections, the panels have been replaced, the perimeter wall modified, the modification of the attic on the elevated part as well as the reconstruction of the roofs have been implemented.

Also, in 2017, the Ice Hockey Stadium was completed and renovated with the total amount of more than 2.4 million Euros. Reconstruction of the roof over the playing area was implemented, as well as reconstruction of the cooling machine room, boiler room, lighting over the playing area, structural changes of the terraces, reconstruction of the dressing rooms and corridors was carried out, as well as exchange of the boards, and the security camera system was installed.

The Football Stadium also underwent a significant restoration. Completing the construction of the spectators stands, reconstructing the playing field with lawn drainage, installing artificial lighting of the main play area, installation of the security camera system, turnstiles, as well as new fencing was also implemented. The artificial grass was installed on the reconstructed training area.



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Michalovce is a town that promotes sport not only morally, but also financially. Every year, the municipality invests hundreds of thousands of Euros in sports. For example, in 2017, the total volume of these funds was almost 3.6 million Euros and we expect to invest roughly the same amount in 2018.

The town strives to promote sport in all its forms and recognizes its responsibility for adopting and enforcing the right policy in this area. There is a Committee for Education, Youth and Sport working at the Municipal Council, as well as a Sports Club Council and a Coordination Committee of Municipal Sports Competitions that are advisory bodies to the Mayor of the Town.

We would like to present to you Michalovce as a town that highly appreciates the achievements of its athletes. In the Town Hall, the Mayor of the town regularly receives those athletes who have successfully represented our town in various sports competitions. Once a year the Municipality has been evaluating the most successful athletes and sports clubs in the youth and adult categories for more than a decade, and awards them during a ceremonial gala in the Town's Ceremonial Hall.

In our campaign we would like to introduce the Town of Michalovce as a town that offers supreme conditions for sport, a town where sports infrastructure is thriving and constantly improving, and where physical activities are part of the lifestyle of most of the citizens.

With our candidacy for the European City of Sport in 2019, the Municipality of Michalovce declares its commitment to promoting sport among individuals, sports clubs, the elderly, disabled, and schools as a means of improving the quality of life, creating social connections and fair-play, and promoting recreational sports for all generations by renewing and building public sports facilities to spread ACES ideas and to inform about municipal sports clubs and sports events.

Yours sincerely,



  
Viliam Zahorčák  
Mayor City of Michalovce