



## **Media Release**

Krasnojarsk, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### **The Winter Universiade is returning to Switzerland**

*The largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games is returning to Switzerland. At today's closing ceremony of the 29<sup>th</sup> Winter Universiade in Krasnojarsk (Russia), the president of Lucerne City Council and member of the board of the OC, Beat Züsli, accepted the flag of the world federation. Switzerland was presented as the venue of the next Winter Universiade with a modern and typically swiss preview show. Roger Schnegg, the director of Swiss Olympic, regards the event – to be held a year after the Youth Olympic Games 2020 in Lausanne – as “a unique opportunity for sport in Switzerland.”*

“I'm already looking forward to welcoming the young athletes and numerous spectators in 2021 to my homeland Central Switzerland. We will do everything possible to make them feel at home in Switzerland.” With these words Beat Züsli, the president of Lucerne City Council, expressed his keen anticipation of the next event to the approximately 7000 spectators assembled at the Platinum Arena in Krasnojarsk, Russia, for the closing ceremony of the Winter Universiade 2019. The flag of the International University Sports Federation FISU had just been presented to the host of the next Winter Universiade: Switzerland. The largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games will be held from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 in Central Switzerland.

Niklaus Bleiker, a former member of the Obwalden cantonal governing council and vice-president of the organising committee Winter Universiade Lucerne-Central Switzerland 2021, witnessed this special moment live on-site as Head of Delegation of the Central Swiss Delegation in Siberia. Niklaus Bleiker was pleased to reach this long awaited milestone: “A historic moment”, he commented. Urs Hunkeler, the managing director of the Winter Universiade 2021, has also been looking forward to this occasion for a long time: “In March 2016 we received approval from the FISU to host the Winter Universiade 2021. Now, three years later, the eyes of the world are upon us. The next Winter Universiade will be held in Switzerland, and the intensive phase of our preparations now begins.”

### **The Winter Universiade 2021 Preview Show**



At the end of his speech, Lucerne City Council president Beat Züsli introduced the preview of the event in Central Switzerland. "A colourful and swiss show" promised the native Lucerner. The spectators at the closing ceremony were not disappointed: from the inspiring imagery of a Winter Universiade 2021 promotional film to a six metre tall Russian Matryoschka doll and a performance by a Trychler (cowbell) troupe, which ended the 10-minute cultural show perfectly in a heart-shaped formation. Musical accompaniment to the show was provided by Miss Helvetia and Enrico Lenzin, whose evocative songs and instruments depicted the unique character and traditions of Switzerland.

Oleg Matytsin, president of the International University Sports Federation (FISU), was enthusiastic about the first official presentation by the Central Switzerland delegation to the university sports community: "The presentation by the Winter Universiade 2021 team has shown what the university sports world can eagerly look forward to in two years' time. The Winter Universiade in Switzerland, where FISU has its headquarters, will be a very special experience for all those taking part." Roger Schnegg, the Swiss Olympic director also present in Krasnoyarsk at the beginning of the Universiade, is looking forward expectantly to 2021: "The Winter Universiade is a unique opportunity for sport in Switzerland. This event – and the Youth Olympic Games 2020 in Lausanne – will showcase Switzerland as a venue for enthralling and ecologically sustainable sports events."

### **The Winter Universiade**

The Winter Universiade is the largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games. In 2021 the 30<sup>th</sup> occasion of this unique event will take place in Central Switzerland. The organisation is a joint project of the six cantons of Central Switzerland Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Zug, and the City of Lucerne. The programme from the 21st to the 31st January 2021 comprises nine sporting disciplines, to be contested at seven event venues. Students aged between 17 and 25 from more than 540 universities in 50 countries are expected to attend. A total of over 2500 individuals will take part.

More information about the Winter Universiade Lucerne-Central Switzerland 2021 may be found at [www.winteruniversiade2021.ch](http://www.winteruniversiade2021.ch)

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Availability by phone: 12<sup>th</sup> March +79 31 187 11 34,  
from 13<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00 (expected time of arrival from Krasnoyarsk)  
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