

## Media Release

Lucerne, 13 April 2021

### Winter Universiade is back on track

*The Winter Universiade 2021 will open on 11 December 2021, around eleven months later than planned due to the coronavirus pandemic. Since the decision to postpone was made, the Organising Committee has worked hard to adapt the plans to the new dates. The most significant changes affect the Alpine Skiing competitions in Stoos and the closing ceremony. The budget for the Winter Universiade 2021 now amounts to CHF 42 million.*

The Winter Universiade is set to take place in Central Switzerland and the Grisons from 11 to 21 December 2021. The world's largest winter multi-sport event for students will see competitors challenge for 60 sets of medals across 10 sports over 11 days of competition. "It is a privilege to have gained a second chance through the postponement and to have been able to give everyone involved something to aim for during this challenging time," says Managing Director Urs Hunkeler. Since the decision to postpone was made at the start of November 2020, the Organising Committee has worked hard to adapt the plans to the new dates. "Our priorities have been developing the new competition programme, checking our concepts, renewing all of our contracts and revising the budget," explains Hunkeler.

### Attractive competition programme

Urs Hunkeler is particularly delighted that despite the postponement, the team has been able to retain all ten sports on the programme. "It was never guaranteed for many reasons, such as the fact that the Olympic Games are scheduled in February 2022. December 2021 was therefore selected as the best option for hosting the event. This was especially challenging for the snow sports due to the differing snow conditions." For this reason, the Super-G, Giant Slalom and Slalom races in the Alpine Skiing discipline will now be held in St. Moritz on the courses used for the Skiing World Championships in 2017. This will enable the Organising Committee to benefit from the infrastructure of the women's World Cup races, which will be held a few days prior. "We can use all of the temporary infrastructure they will have in place for safety, timing and scoring and television broadcasting. That helps us in our preparations and gives us some security in terms of planning," explains Peter Föhn, President of the Local Organising Committee Stoos. Stoos will host the Mixed Team Parallel and the Individual Parallel Slalom. "We can promise both the athletes and the public a wonderful competition atmosphere and a wide-ranging supporting programme for the events in Stoos. The two competitions will be amongst the highlights of the

Winter Universiade,” predicts Föhn. His counterpart in St. Moritz, Martin Berthod, adds: “We look forward to our partnership with the Winter Universiade 2021. I am confident that together with the team in Stoos, we will be able to offer competitors the perfect conditions for the Alpine Skiing races.” Competitions in the following disciplines will be held in Central Switzerland and the Grisons in December 2021:

Discipline(s)	Location	Sports Venues
Alpine Skiing	Stoos SZ / St. Moritz GR	Maggiweid / Salastrains
Biathlon	Lenzerheide GR	Roland Arena
Cross-Country Skiing	Andermatt-Realp UR	Realp Nordic Centre
Curling	Engelberg OW	Sporting Park
Figure Skating	Lucerne LU	Regional Ice Centre
Freestyle & Freeski	Engelberg OW	Jochpass 2222
Ice Hockey	Zug ZG / Sursee LU	Bossard Arena / Sursee Ice Centre
Short Track Speed Skating	Lucerne LU	Regional Ice Centre
Ski Orienteering	Lenzerheide GR	Roland Arena
Snowboard	Engelberg OW	Jochpass 2222

### **Budget increased to CHF 42 million**

The Board of Directors of the Association led by Cantonal Councillor of Lucerne Guido Graf approved the new budget following the revisions made in light of the postponement. The budget for the Winter Universiade 2021 now amounts to CHF 42 million. The fact that the additional costs were kept to around 10 percent of the original budget is down to a number of factors. These include the early decision not to hold the event in January 2021, adaptations to the concept such as a slightly shorter stay for the competitors, and the goodwill of numerous partners such as those renting out the competition venues. The additional costs will be borne particularly by the members of the association, Swiss University Sports and Swiss Olympic.

## Closing ceremony to be held in Zug

The availability of infrastructure was key to planning the postponed Universiade, and individual solutions had to be found for each event. For example, the Round Robin matches in Curling will now take place before the opening ceremony. “Sporting Park Engelberg is due to be used for the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup from mid-December. Bringing the tournament forward meant that we could comfortably align the two big events,” says Hubert Mathis, President of the Local Organising Committee in Engelberg and Competition Director for the FIS Ski Jumping World Cup. For the men’s Ice Hockey preliminary games, a change of location rather than time was needed. Due to the ongoing qualification phase in the National League and possible Champions League action for the local team EVZ, the preliminary games will now be played in the Practice Arena at Bossard Arena Zug. The women’s preliminary games will be played as planned at Sursee Ice Centre. All Ice Hockey semi-finals and finals will be played at the Bossard Arena. As well as the Ice Hockey, visitors in Zug also have another highlight to look forward to. The closing ceremony will now take place straight after the men’s Ice Hockey final at the Bossard Arena. The opening ceremony will be held on Europaplatz in Lucerne.

## The Winter Universiade

The Winter Universiade is the largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games. In 2021 the 30th occasion of this unique event will take place in Central Switzerland and the Grisons. 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 11 to 21 December 2021 comprises ten sporting disciplines, to be contested at eight event venues. Around 1600 Students aged between 17 and 25 from more than 540 universities in 50 countries are expected to attend.

Pictures and more about the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade may be found here:

[www.winteruniversiade2021.ch](http://www.winteruniversiade2021.ch)

## Media Contact

Selina Wyss

Head of Communications

Winter Universiade 2021

[selina.wyss@winteruniversiade2021.ch](mailto:selina.wyss@winteruniversiade2021.ch)

Telephone: +41 (0)41 318 37 75