

Turkey

The 12th edition of the International Eurasian Swimming, Rowing and Sailing Festival gathered 236 swimmers aged between 14 and 76, among them 26 female, from 8 countries; 56 rowers taking part in the eight-man event and 5 teams competing in sailing events. This event is the only one in the world where the participants cross from one continent to another – from Asia to Europe. All the participants started from Kanlıca Sea Port on the Asian side of Istanbul for the 6.5km race and finished at Kuruçesme Park on the European side. Moreover, the NOC of Turkey, in collaboration with the Ayhan Sahenk Foundation, the Urgüp Municipality and the Turkish Cycling Federation, organized the 1st International Cappadocia Mountain Bike Stage Race and Festival in Urgüp and Göreme in central Turkey, famous as one of the

largest open-air museums and national parks. Around 100 riders from Belgium, Denmark, England, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and Turkey took part in this two-day competition. A cycling competition was also organized for 120 local riders aged between 7 and 60.

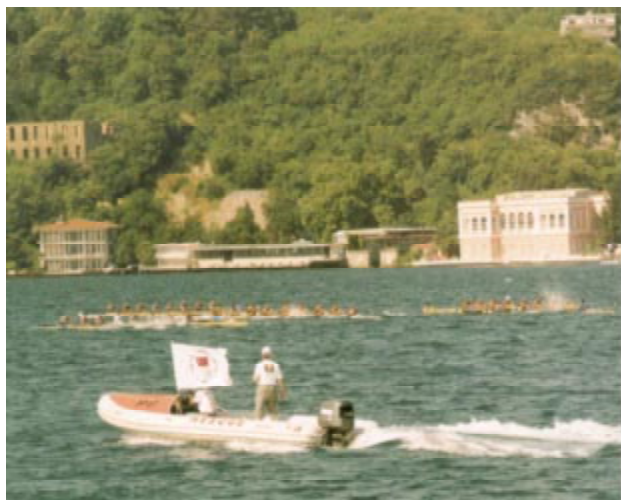
The Women's Committee of the Turkish NOC, in collaboration with the provincial directorates of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of State in charge of Youth and Sports, has organized a project called 'Free of Charge Sport School' and implemented in Istanbul's underprivileged areas since 1996. The NOC has already renovated sports halls in the nine selected neighbourhood schools and provided coaches and sport equipment for the project which runs all year round. This year, 2,500 children aged between 7 and 14 took

part in sports activities through this programme. Furthermore, following the earthquake which hit the northwest of Turkey last year, the Women's Committee has started its 'Free of Charge Sport School's Project' in the five

provinces of the earthquake area. As of July 2000, 1,500 children had participated in this programme which will continue in the coming months and will reach the rest of the children in the earthquake-hit area.



The first race of mountain biking in the Cappadocia national park



Eight oars rowing event during the 12th Eurasian Swimming, Rowing and Sailing Festival.



Rediscovering the pleasure of playing thanks to the 'Free of Charge Sport School' programme.