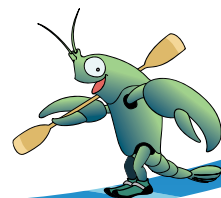


# sloka 2010

2010 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships

Ljubljana

7. – 12.9. 2010



[www.sloka.si](http://www.sloka.si)



DIVJA VODA, ČISTI UŽITEK  
WILD WATER, PURE JOY

POKROVITELJI



[www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info)



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sloka 2010

Svetovno prvenstvo  
v kajak kanu slalomu  
LJUBLJANA 2010

ICF Canoe Slalom  
World Championships  
LJUBLJANA 2010

## ***Dear participants and spectators of the 2010 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships!***

It is an honor to be in the company of the best kayakers and canoeists from around the world. There are no greater masters of the white-water rapids than you. For this reason, the Kayak and Canoe Federation of Slovenia is very proud to be hosting the world's best paddlers for the third time.

The best competitors deserve the best spectators, and in Tacen they are a given. The fan clubs, known for their sporting behavior and friendship, are the pride of Tacen and an unforgettable experience for every competitor.

The best competitors also deserve the best organization. The volunteers, who are always willing to help, are an indispensable part of the organizing team and deserve a great acknowledgement. Unfortunately, the current situation did not allow any major investments to the venue, and this remains our debt, but we sincerely hope things will change in years to come.

Nevertheless, I hope we have organized the World Championships that all the participants will remember for a long time. I hope the Championships will be unforgettable due to the good and relaxed atmosphere, the hospitality and the new friendships that will be made here and will last long after the Championships in Ljubljana have ended.

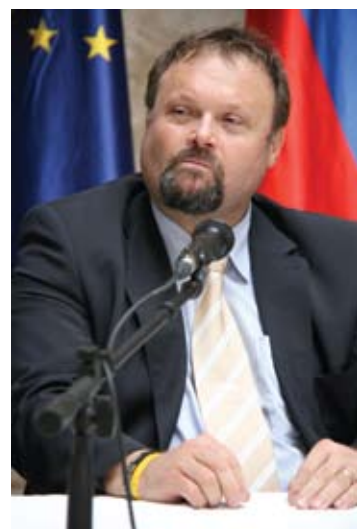
Back in 1955, the best kayakers and canoeists gathered here in Tacen for the first time. It is friendship which has brought a number of them back to Tacen again this year.

A modernized venue in Tacen greeted the competitors in 1991. The competition, which was viewed by thousands of people, was – let me add this as a curiosity – the last competition in the former Yugoslavia. But once again, friendship brought us back to Tacen where, twenty years later, we meet again. Friendship is also the guarantee that these World Championships shall not be the last.

A lot has changed since the first World Championships in Tacen. The boats are different, and so are the paddling techniques and the equipment. The rules of the competition have changed, the host country is not the same anymore and the participants are different.

But ever since the first Championships, the main objective has remained the same – to make friends and select the best sportsmen. Therefore, I would like to wish all the competitors best of luck and a lot of new friends. And may the best ones win.

**Bojan Žmavc**  
**President of the Organizing Committee Sloka 2010**  
**President of Kayak and Canoe Federation of Slovenia**



**sloka 2010**  
Svetovno prvenstvo v kajak kanu slalomu

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# IN SHORT ABOUT SLOKA 2010

## THE LOGO OF THE EVENT



The main motif is a boat with two paddles that make up the letter X, which can also mean the Roman numeral 10, drawing near the year of the event - 2010. On the level of meaning, it draws connection to history - the Roman settlement Emona. The paddles in the middle are deliberately not connected in the same axis, because we are communicating both sports, i.e. both kayaking and canoeing. The main motif is framed by the crest, which is made from two lines - the bottom one, which is a copy of the boat in transverse section, and the upper one, which is a copy of the boat in vertical section. The crest carries the sense of nobleness and emotionally transcends the meaning of the event to a higher level. It is also appropriate from a historical point of view, because in the past kayaking as a sport was mostly connected with townspeople and aristocrats. Furthermore, the shape of the crest represents protection and may be connected to the protection of the environment.

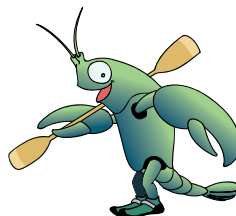
## THE SLOGAN

The slogan Wild water, pure joy describes the essence of

**DIVJA VODA, ČISTI UŽITEK**  
**WILD WATER, PURE JOY**

conquering rapids when it refers to wild water and pleasure simultaneously. It is simple and powerful, yet at the same time universally comprehensible. For this reason, it has an overwhelming meaning and it supports the popularization of the World Championships. The slogan is equally powerful in both English and Slovene language.

## CRAYFISH - THE MASCOT



Protection of the environment and clean water play an integral part in all water sports, including canoeing. Underlining this is also the official mascot of Sloka 2010, the Crayfish, which only inhabits clean and unpolluted rivers and streams. The Crayfish is a self-confident, spirited and vigorous animal and thus perfectly reflects all the qualities of the participants in the World Championships.

## Organizing committee of SLOKA 2010

**Bojan Žmavc** - President of the Organizing Committee  
**Branko Brezigar** - Vice President of the Organizing Committee  
**Ivo Tomc** - Secretary General of the Organizing Committee

Members of the Organizing Committee

**Andrej Jelenc, Jakob Marušič, Milan Črepinšek, Metka Čuk, Marko Kolenc**

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# *World Canoeing Slalom Championships SLOKA 2010 Program*

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7. 9. 2010</b>	<b>16.00</b>	<b>Team Leaders Meeting</b>	
		<b>20.00</b>	<b>Opening ceremony</b>	

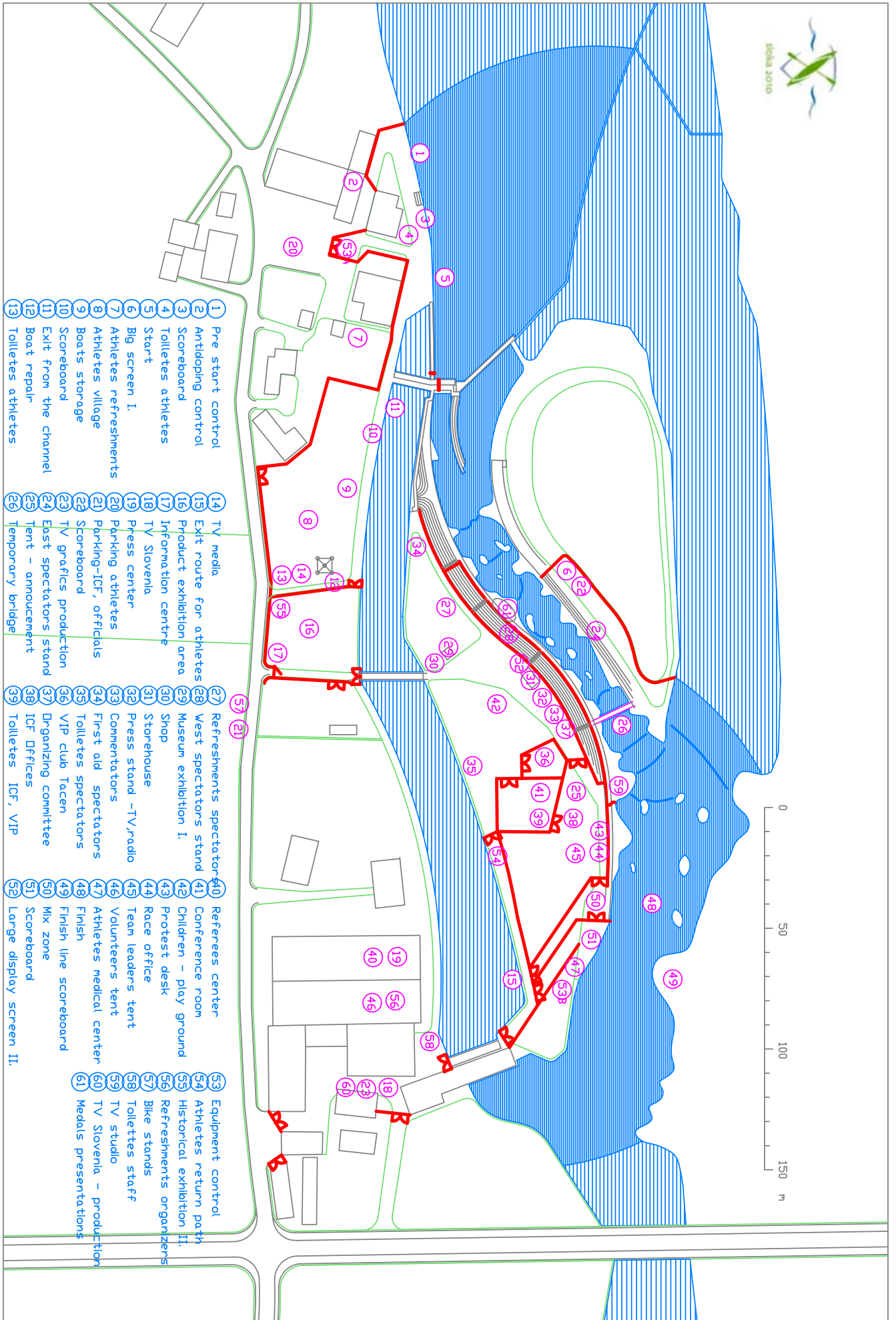
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8. 9. 2010</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Demonstration runs for heats</b>	
		<b>14.30</b>	<b>Heats 1<sup>st</sup> Run</b>	<b>C-2, K-1w</b>
		<b>16.30</b>	<b>Heats 2<sup>nd</sup> Run</b>	<b>C-2, K-1w</b>

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9. 9. 2010</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Heats 1<sup>st</sup> Run</b>	<b>C-1w, C-1m</b>
		<b>11.30</b>	<b>Heats 2<sup>nd</sup> Run</b>	<b>C-1w, C-1m</b>
		<b>14.30</b>	<b>Heats 1<sup>st</sup> Run</b>	<b>K-1m</b>
		<b>16.30</b>	<b>Heats 2<sup>nd</sup> Run</b>	<b>K-1m</b>

<b>Friday</b>	<b>10. 9. 2010</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Teams semi-finals</b>	<b>C-1w, C-2, K-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>14.30</b>	<b>Teams finals</b>	<b>C-1w, C-2, K-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>16.30</b>	<b>Medals presentation</b>	<b>C-1w, C-2, K-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>18.15</b>	<b>Demonstration runs for finals</b>	
		<b>20.00</b>	<b>VIP and Team leaders reception</b>	

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11. 9. 2010</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Semi-finals</b>	<b>C-2, K-1w</b>
		<b>14:30</b>	<b>Finals</b>	<b>C-2, K-1w</b>
		<b>15.30</b>	<b>Medals presentation</b>	<b>C-2, K-1w</b>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12. 9. 2010</b>	<b>9.30</b>	<b>Semi-finals</b>	<b>C-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>14.30</b>	<b>Finals</b>	<b>C-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>16.00</b>	<b>Medals presentation</b>	<b>C-1w, C-1m, K-1m</b>
		<b>16.30</b>	<b>Closing ceremony</b>	



- 1 Pre start control
- 2 Antidoping control
- 3 Scoreboard
- 4 Toiletes athletes
- 5 Start
- 6 Big screen I.
- 7 Athletes refreshments
- 8 Athletes villoge
- 9 Boats storage
- 10 Scoreboard
- 11 Exit from the channel
- 12 Boat repair
- 13 Toiletes athletes
- 14 TV media
- 15 Exit route for athletes
- 16 Product exhibition area
- 17 Information centre
- 18 TV Slovenia
- 19 Press center
- 20 Parking athletes
- 21 Parking-ICF, officials
- 22 Scoreboard
- 23 TV graphics production
- 24 East spectators stand
- 25 Tent - announcement
- 26 Temporary bridge
- 27 Refreshments spectator stand
- 28 West spectators stand
- 29 Museum exhibition I.
- 30 Shop
- 31 Storehouse
- 32 Press stand -TV,radio
- 33 Commentators
- 34 First aid spectators
- 35 Toiletes spectators
- 36 VIP club Tacen
- 37 Organizing committee
- 38 ICF Offices
- 39 Toiletes ICF, VIP
- 40 Referees center
- 41 Conference room
- 42 Children - play ground
- 43 Protest desk
- 44 Race office
- 45 Team leaders tent
- 46 Volunteers tent
- 47 Athletes medical center
- 48 Finish
- 49 Finish line scoreboard
- 50 Mix zone
- 51 Scoreboard
- 52 Large display screen II.
- 53 Equipment control
- 54 Athletes return path
- 55 Historical exhibition II.
- 56 Refreshments organizers
- 57 Bike stands
- 58 Toiletes staff
- 59 TV studio
- 60 TV Slovenia - production
- 61 Medals presentations

# What is Canoe Slalom?

In Canoe Slalom, paddlers must navigate their canoe or kayak through pairs of poles, which are called gates. The course of gates is set up over challenging rapids, waves, eddies and currents on a 300m stretch of whitewater. If the paddler touches a pole or misses a gate altogether then penalty seconds are added to their timed run (2 seconds for touching a pole, 50 seconds for missing a gate). Gates have green and white or red and white poles. When gates are green and white athletes have to pass them in the direction of current, while with red and white gates paddlers have to pass them in the opposite direction to that of the current. The number of gates varies from 18 to 25.

There are Kayak events, for men and women, in single (K1) boats, and Canoe events in single (C1) and for men in double (C2) boats. Traditionally Canoe has been exclusively for Men but there is a growing Women's contingent and Women's C1 is in the World Championship program from 2010.

In the team events, three boats start together and the athletes decide who leads and who follows. The three boats (K1, C1 or C2) follow each other and negotiate the gates in the quickest succession as possible. The time of the run is recorded as the last boat crosses the finish line.

At individual race competitors first compete in heats which consist of two runs and the best run then counts at the end. The best 40 kayakers (K-1m), 30 canoeists (C-1m) and women's kayakers (K-1w), 20 canoe doubles (C-2) and women's canoeists (C-1w) advance to the semifinal. Then top 10 paddlers from each category advance to the grand final. In team race half of the teams that were at the start advance from semifinals to finals. If there are ten or less teams on a start of each category best five teams then start in the final.



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***hse*** *Moč energije*

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# Participating nations

Australia		Greece		Serbia	
Austria		Hungary		Slovakia	
Argentina		Iran		Slovenia	
Belarus		Ireland		South Korea	
Belgium		Italy		Spain	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Japan		Sweden	
Brazil		Kazakhstan		Switzerland	
Canada		Latvia		Taiwan	
China		Lithuania		Thailand	
Cook Islands		Netherlands		Togo	
Croatia		New Zealand		Turkey	
Czech Republic		Nigeria		Ukraine	
Finland		Norway		United States of America	
France		Poland		Uzbekistan	
FYR Macedonia		Portugal		Venezuela	
Germany		Russia			
Great Britain		Senegal			

# Slovenian team

**NAME:** Peter Kauzer  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 8th 1983  
**RESIDENCE:** Hrastnik  
**CLUB:** BD Steklarna Hrastnik  
**COACH:** Peter Kauzer Sr.  
**CATEGORY:** K1m  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.peterkauzer.com>



**RESULTS:**  
2010 EC Bratislava 1st place K1m  
2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 1st place K1m  
2009 WC Overall Standings 1st place K1m  
2009 WC Pau 1st place K1m  
2008 WC Tacen 1st place K1m  
2007 EC Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xK1m

**NAME:** Benjamin Savšek  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** March 24th 1987  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Tacen  
**COACH:** Jože Vidmar  
**CATEGORY:** C1m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
2010 WC Prague 2nd place C1m  
2010 EC U23 Markkleeberg 2nd place 3xC1m  
2009 WC Overall Standings 2nd place C1m  
2009 EC U23 Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xC1m  
2006 EC U23 Nottingham 2nd place C1m



**NAME:** Jure Meglič  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** October 18th 1984  
**RESIDENCE:** Zgornje Duplje  
**CLUB:** KKK Tacen  
**COACH:** Andrej Nolimal  
**CATEGORY:** K1m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
2010 EC Bratislava 2nd place K1m  
2010 EC Bratislava 3rd place 3xK1m  
2007 WC Tacen 1st place K1m  
2007 EC Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xK1m  
2006 EC L'Argentiére la Bessée 1st place 3xK1m



**NAME:** Anže Berčič  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** November 25th 1990  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Tacen  
**COACH:** Andrej Nolimal  
**CATEGORY:** C1m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
2009 EC U23 Liptovsky Mikulaš 7th place C1m  
2009 EC U23 Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xC1m  
2008 JWCh Roudnice 1st place 3xC1m  
2008 JEc Solkan 3rd place C1m  
2008 JEc Solkan 1st place 3xC1m



**NAME:** Dejan Kralj  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 28th 1976  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Ljubljana  
**COACH:** /  
**CATEGORY:** K1m, C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
2010 EC Bratislava 3rd place 3xK1m  
2007 EC Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xK1m  
2005 WCH Penrith 3rd place 3xK1m  
2005 EC Tacen 1st place 3xK1m  
2001 WC Tacen 1st place K1m



**NAME:** Jure Lenarčič  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** April 4th 1990  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Tacen  
**COACH:** Jože Vidmar  
**CATEGORY:** C1m  
**WEBSITE:** <http://jure-lenaric.com>  
**RESULTS:**  
2010 EC U23 Markkleeberg 2nd place 3xC1m  
2009 EC U23 Liptovsky Mikulaš 1st place 3xC1m  
2008 JWCh Roudnice 1st place 3xC1m  
2008 JEc Solkan 5th place C1m  
2008 JEc Solkan 2nd place 3xC1m



**NAME:** Urša Kragelj  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** July 2nd 1988  
**RESIDENCE:** Nova Gorica  
**CLUB:** KK Soške Elektrarne  
**COACH:** Miha Terdič  
**CATEGORY:** K1w  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.socaelite.si>



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 3rd place K1w  
 2010 EC U23 Markkleeberg 1st place 3xK1w  
 2008 EC U23 Solkan 2nd place K1w  
 2007 JEc Krakow 3rd place 3xK1w  
 2006 JWCh Solkan 1st place K1w

**NAME:** Sašo Taljat  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 22nd 1989  
**RESIDENCE:** Most na Soči  
**CLUB:** KK Soške Elektrarne  
**COACH:** Dejan Testen  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.socaelite.si>



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 WCH Sort downriver classic 1st place C2  
 2010 WCH Sort downriver sprint 1st place C2  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 3rd place C2  
 2008 EC U23 Solkan 2nd place C2  
 2006 JEc Nottingham 1st place 3xC2

**NAME:** Nina Mozetič  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 21st 1983  
**RESIDENCE:** Nova Gorica  
**CLUB:** KK Soške Elektrarne  
**COACH:** Miha Terdič  
**CATEGORY:** K1w  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.socaelite.si>



**RESULTS:**  
 2009 WC Overall Standings 3rd place K1w  
 2008 WC Tacen 4th place K1w  
 2001 JWCh Bratislava 3rd place K1w  
 2001 JWCh Bratislava 1st place 3xK1w  
 2000 JEc Solkan 2nd place K1w

**NAME:** Luka Slapšak  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** August 11th 1988  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Ljubljana  
**COACH:** Matej Trampuž  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 21st place C2  
 2008 EC Krakow 4th place 3xC2  
 2008 EC U23 Solkan 3rd place 3xC2  
 2006 JEc Nottingham 9th place C2  
 2006 JEc Nottingham 1st place 3xC2

**NAME:** Eva Terčelj  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** January 21st 1992  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Ljubljana  
**COACH:** Matej Trampuž  
**CATEGORY:** K1w, C1w  
**WEBSITE:** /



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 JEc Markkleeberg 3rd place K1w  
 2010 EC U23 Markkleeberg 1st place 3xK1w  
 2010 JWCh Foix 3rd place K1w  
 2008 JWCh Roudnice 1st place K1w  
 2008 JEc Solkan 2nd place K1w

**NAME:** Urban Jarc  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** May 8th 1985  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KKK Ljubljana  
**COACH:** Matej Trampuž  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 21st place C2  
 2008 EC U23 Solkan 3rd place 3xC2  
 2008 EC Krakow 4th place 3xC2  
 2007 EC U23 Krakow 6th place C2  
 2007 EC Liptovsky Mikulaš 16th place C2

**NAME:** Luka Božič  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** January 9th 1991  
**RESIDENCE:** Most na Soči  
**CLUB:** KK Soške Elektrarne  
**COACH:** Dejan Testen  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.socaelite.si>



**RESULTS:**  
 2010 WCH Sort downriver classic 1st place C2  
 2010 WCH Sort downriver sprint 1st place C2  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 3rd place C2  
 2008 EC U23 Solkan 2nd place C2  
 2006 JEc Nottingham 1st place 3xC2

**NAME:** Simon Hočevar  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** February 27th 1974  
**RESIDENCE:** Ljubljana  
**CLUB:** KK Simon  
**COACH:** /  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /



**RESULTS:**  
 2005 EC Tacen 4th place 3xC1m  
 2003 WC Tacen 3rd place C1m  
 2002 WCH Bourg St. Maurice 3rd place 3xC1m  
 1997 WCH Tres Coroas 3rd place 3xC1m  
 1996 EC Augsburg 1st place C1m

# *“You can not depend on the previous successes”*

Nobody knows exactly how the biggest Slovenian slalom star and, according to many of his predecessors, the biggest talent in Slovenian canoeing history got his humorous nickname, The Rocket from Hrastnik. Perhaps it was born during one of the boisterous debates of his many fans. But it has stuck with him for years, and it has to be said, it suits him well. Kauzer is without a doubt the fastest and technically most perfect kayaker of his time, and in Tacen he will start as the reigning World and European Champion. He will also try to repeat the success of Fabien Lefevre who, in 2002 and 2003, won two consecutive world titles.

## **Three weeks before the World Championships in front of the home crowd you won the European title.**

This is the best way to go to the World Championships, while at the same time I realized my dream of adding a European title to the last year's world title. The European Championships in Bratislava were a kind of a test for everyone. We saw what needed improving. We all wanted to achieve good results and gain confidence, so we would go to the World Championships with positive thoughts. But Tacen will be a different story. The contenders for the top positions are the same; besides the Europeans, I would also add the American Scott Parsons and the Canadian David Ford. You also need to consider surprises, which are always part of the World Championships, while some of the favorites may be disappointed. I sincerely hope I will not be one of them. Basically, you have to look for

the favorites among those who have been consistently fast throughout the season. At the European Championships, only a few of the finalists had not yet won a medal at the biggest competitions.

## **The European Championships in Bratislava have shown that the home team always has a slight advantage, with the Slovaks winning all the individual titles but one in the men's kayak event. Can we expect something similar with the Slovenian team in Tacen?**

The home venue is an advantage, but the Slovaks can certainly repeat their success outside their country; they are that good. A lot of the advantage vanishes at the World Championships. This race is above all others; only the Olympic Games are more important. Slalomists come to the World





Championships with completely different motives. If you talk to the biggest stars, such as Tony Estanguet, Michal Martikan or Fabien Lefevre, you see that the world title is the only thing that counts for them; everything else is just a preparation for it. Peter Hochschorner, the father of Pavol and Peter, who have been unbeatable at the biggest competitions in canoe doubles for many years now, said after the first World Cup race - when the Chinese duo won: "Let the other guys enjoy now, the most important races for us are still to come."

**While presenting the candidature for this year's World Championships, the Kayak and Canoe Federation of Slovenia pointed out that they wanted to reward your generation for your successes. Have you been counting the years to the Championships?**

My timing is a bit different, because it is tied to the Olympic Games. But it is true, after my silver medal at the European Championships here in Tacen in 2005, I have been waiting for another big competition here on the Sava River.

**Your success actually started with the European silver medal in Tacen in 2005. After that you have won three team gold medals, one bronze, another silver medal in the individual competition and then a gold medal this year, you were the Overall winner of the World Cup series in 2009, you became the World Champion ... Was Tacen the reason to start thinking differently?**

Maybe, I have never thought of it this way, but it is true I have progressed constantly since then and I have had a string of successes at the biggest competitions. Competitions at home are different, actually it is much harder than abroad, where you come, do your job and leave. Here you have many other duties. I am returning to the place where I won the first important medal of my career in the senior races. I hope I will make a step forward and win the gold at home, too. My former team colleague, now coach Andrej Nolimal, who won a World Cup race in Tacen, made a valid comment when I said I would try to defend the world title. He advised me I should

rather say I would try to conquer the peak again. You can not depend on the previous successes. I have not and I won the European title.

**You must know the course by heart and could paddle down the canal blindfolded. Do you even know how many times you have paddled here?**

I have no idea, lots of times, so many times actually, that after returning from the European Championships in Bratislava I got bored after two trainings on the course. But this happens to me in every venue after a few days. Obviously I can adapt to the rapids quickly, no matter how difficult they are.

**The pressure in Tacen will be tremendous. Have you thought a lot about how not to be overwhelmed by the high expectations of the roaring crowd, as you wait at the start?**

My formula is very simple. I will have to go to the start and paddle down the river. This is what I said to myself at the Olympics in Beijing, too, but things got to me at the start. I do not want to claim that these things can not happen again. But I know I am different now, more mature, some things are clearer. At this very moment I do not even feel like the World Championships are ahead of me. For me it is more like just another race, although a very important one. I had to live through many disappointing moments before I started to think this way. If I can not cope with the pressure, I do not even deserve to be in the finals.

**Your father Peter Sr., also an excellent kayaker, is an inseparable part of your story and has been guiding you since you were a child ...**

My father is the central figure in my career. I owe him everything, although he knows I am mature enough to do the preparations on my own. He has been my coach since forever and that is why, a few years ago, I insisted I would train on my own and not with the Kayak and Canoe Federation of Slovenia. Besides my mother Anita and girlfriend Janja, he is my greatest supporter.

# »We do not concern ourselves with the result«

Luka Božič and Sašo Taljat already made their mark as juniors, but they really created a stir among the Slovenian fans of the kayak-canoe slalom, when they won a bronze medal at the last year's World Championships. Two gold medals at this year's senior downriver World Championships in Sort only confirmed they are excellent and all-round sportsmen. Luka and Sašo do not concern themselves with the results, but they still wish to be among the best at this year's World Championships.

## **You know the Tacen rapids very well: what is the biggest attraction of this course for you?**

**Luka:** The biggest attraction of this course is without a doubt the so-called 'dam' which is somewhat unusual for the kayak-canoe courses. The whole course is difficult, the water levels change quickly, which makes it very unpredictable. What bothers me the most about this course is that some parts are very slow, because the water stops completely, so the boat does not run as it should. This often results in confusing feelings after the run - you may think the run was not good, but it turns out you have achieved a great result.

**Sašo:** Our biggest advantage is that foreign competitors will have big problems with this course, because they are not used to it.

## **Competing in front of the home fans has to be very appealing. Will you be able to handle the high expectations of the sporting public?**

**Luka:** I try not to worry too much about the spectators, but it is true that we have been preparing for this race for some time now, because we expect many supporters. On the other hand, I can hardly wait to paddle through the dam and hear the noise from the stadium. I hope I will really enjoy the race.

**Sašo:** The spectators will be a great motivation and if you know how to use it, everything is much easier. But of course you have to be satisfied with what you have achieved, and then the others will

be satisfied, too. At the same time you should not think about what other people think of you.

## **Could you specify your goals for the World Championships?**

**Luka:** I do not want to concern myself with the result, but I think we can get among the best paddlers in this discipline. We have had several technically flawless and fast runs already, all we need to do is improve the precision, to avoid penalty seconds. I expect we will compete in the finals and I would be satisfied with this result. Many things can happen in the finals ...

**Sašo:** Our goals are always technical, we never worry about the results. We have seen that we are much faster than in the last season and that we can compete with the best. First we have to get to the semi-finals and then go step by step. We also have a good canoe doubles team this season, so I think there could be a surprise in the team races, too.

## **Who, would you say, are the favorites in your category?**

**Luka:** There are many favorites in our category. Kayak is so unpredictable that anyone with a bit of a feel for the water can win. There are the Slovaks, the French, the Czechs, the Poles, the British, the Russians ... There are many, including us, I think. We will all fight for the top positions and I hope it ends well.

**Sašo:** The Slovaks and the French were the toughest rivals this season.



***“We have to show the foreigners who rules here”***

Slovenian kayaker Urša Kragelj achieved one of the biggest successes in Slovenian slalom history, winning a bronze medal at this year's European Championships in Bratislava. The former junior World Champion has thus proven that she might also be a serious contender for the World Championships.



**You know the Tacen rapids very well: what is the biggest attraction of this course for you?**

I like Tacen because it is a difficult course. It is very specific and gives an advantage to competitors with a better feel for the water, which is something I like a lot. When you manage a great run in Tacen, it feels like flying through the course, which is phenomenal.

**Competing in front of the home fans has to be very appealing. Will you be able to handle the high expectations of the sporting public?**

The World Championships at home is every sportsman's dream and a great honor. I do not let myself worry about the pressures of the sporting public. I am aware fans' expectations are part of every sport, but I will not feel pressured by the public, only by my own expectations.

**Could you specify your goals for the World Championships?**

This year's goals have been clearly set up in the beginning of the season. We need to show the foreigners how to paddle in Tacen and who rules here.

**Who, would you say, are the favorites in your category?**

Without a doubt, the biggest favorites are Jana Dukatova, the reigning European Champion, Corinna Kuhnle, the European Vice-Champion, and also kayakers from Germany, the Czech Republic and Great Britain. The other two Slovenian paddlers, Nina Mozetič and Eva Terčelj, are also capable of great results.

***»This will be the toughest competition yet«***

For the past two seasons, 23-year old Benjamin Savšek from Ljubljana has been the best Slovenian canoeist. This season he won his first World Cup medal since he started paddling at this level of competition. He was second in Prague, finishing just behind the Czech Michal Jane. On his home course in Tacen, which he knows very well, he wants to achieve another great result.

**You know the Tacen rapids very well: what is the biggest attraction of this course for you?**

I think the course in Tacen is one of the few venues where the crowd always creates a special atmosphere. When the whole tribune is filled with spectators, it is really nice to compete here. This year should be even more interesting, with spectators on both sides of the Sava River.

**Competing in front of the home fans has to be very appealing. Will you be able to handle the high expectations of the sporting public?**

Competing at the World Championships is by all means a great honor and opportunity, but I think this will be the toughest competition yet. Everybody has high expectations and the atmosphere at the course will reflect that.



**Could you specify your goals for the World Championships?**

I would like to paddle in the finals and that is my main goal for the World Championships. And then, in the finals, it is always an open fight for highest positions.

**Who, would you say, are the favorites in your category?**

I would say Michal Martikan and Alexander Slafkovsky from Slovakia, and of course the Frenchman Tony Estanguet.

# World Championships Slovenian Slalom Medals Winners 1953-2009

## K-1 (men) - individual:

### 1953 Merano

3. Milan Zadel

### 1955 Tacen

3. Jože Ilija

### 1987 Bourg St. Maurice

2. Jernej Abramič,  
3. Marjan Štrukelj

### 1989 Savage River

3. Jernej Abramič

### 1991 Tacen

2. Marjan Štrukelj

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

2. Miha Terdič

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Peter Kauzer

## K-1 (men) - team:

### 1985 Augsburg

2. Jernej Abramič/Marjan  
Štrukelj/Janez Skok

### 1987 Bourg St. Maurice

2. Jernej Abramič/Marjan  
Štrukelj/Janez Skok

### 1989 Savage River

1. Jernej Abramič/Marjan  
Štrukelj/Albin Čizman

### 1995 Nottingham

2. Marjan Štrukelj /Fedja  
Marušič/Andraž Vehovar

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

2. Andraž Vehovar/Fedja  
Marušič/Miha Štrichelj

### 2005 Penrith

3. Andrej Nolimal/Dejan Kralj/  
Peter Kauzer

## C - 1 (men) - individual:

### 1983 Merano

3. Jože Vidmar

## C - 1 (men) - team:

### 1989 Savage River

3. Boštjan Žitnik/Borut  
Javornik/Jože Vidmar

### 1993 Mezzana

1. Boštjan Žitnik/Simon  
Hočevar/Jože Vidmar

### 1997 Três Coroas

3. Simon Hočevar/Gregor  
Terdič/Sebastjan Linke

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

3. Simon Hočevar/Dejan  
Stevanovič/Jurij Korenjak

## C - 2 (men) - individual:

### 1963 Spittal

2. Natan Bernot in Dare Bernot

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

3. Luka Božič in Sašo Taljat

## C - 2 (men) - team:

### 1965 Spittal

2. Janez Andrejašič-Jože  
Gerkman/Milan Vidmar-Borut  
Justin/Franc Žitnik-Leon Žitnik

## C - 2 (mixte) - individual:

### 1963 Spittal

1. Alenka Bernot in Borut Justin



# World Championships Slalom Medal Winners 1991 – 2009

## K - 1 (men) – individual:

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### 1991 Tacen

1. Shaun Pearce GBR
2. Marjan Štrukelj YUG
3. Martin Hemmer GER

### 1993 Mezzana

1. Richard Fox GBR
2. Richard Weiss USA
3. Melvyn Jones GBR

### 1995 Nottingham

1. Oliver Fix GER
2. Scott Shipley USA
3. Jiří Prskávec CZE

### 1997 Três Coroas

1. Thomas Becker GER
2. Scott Shipley USA
3. Paul Ratcliffe GBR

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. David Ford CAN
2. Scott Shipley USA
3. Paul Ratcliffe GBR

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. Fabien Lefevre FRA
2. Miha Terdič SLO
3. Ivan Pišvejc CZE

### 2003 Augsburg

1. Fabien Lefevre FRA
2. David Ford CAN
3. Helmut Oblinger AUT

### 2005 Penrith

1. Fabian Dörfler GER
2. Fabien Lefevre FRA
3. Peter Cibák SVK

### 2006 Praga

1. Stefano Cipressi ITA
1. Julien Billaut FRA
3. Campbell Walsh GBR

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. Sébastien Combet FRA
2. Fabian Dörfler GER
3. Campbell Walsh GBR

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Peter Kauzer SLO
2. Boris Neveu FRA
3. Carles Juanmarti ESP

## K – 1 (men) team:

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### 1991 Tacen

1. FRA: Manuel Brissaud/Gilles Clouzeau/Jean-Michel Regnier
2. GER: Thomas Becker/Michael Glöckle/Michael Seibert
3. TCH: Luboš Hilgert/Peter Nagy/Pavel Prindiš

### 1993 Mezzana

1. GBR: Richard Fox/Melvyn Jones/Shawn Pearce
2. FRA: Manuel Brissaud/Vincent Fondéviolle/Sylvain Curinier
3. CZE: Vojtěch Bareš/Pavel Prindiš/Luboš Hilgert

### 1995 Nottingham

1. GER: Jochen Lettmann/Thomas Becker/Oliver Fix
2. SLO: Fedja Marušič/Marjan Štrukelj/Andraž Vehovar
3. GBR: Andrew Raspin/Shawn Pearce/Ian Raspin

### 1997 Três Coroas

1. GBR: Paul Ratcliffe/Ian Raspin/Shawn Pearce
2. FRA: Vincent Fondéviolle/Jean-Michel Regnier/Ludovic Boulesteix
3. GER: Thomas Becker/Jochen Lettmann/Holger Häffner

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. GER: Thomas Becker/Ralf Schaberg/Jakobus Stenglein
2. SLO: Andraž Vehovar/Fedja Marušič/Miha Štriclej
3. CZE: Tomáš Kobeš/Jiří Prskávec/Vojtěch Bareš

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. GER: Claus Suchanek/ Thomas Becker/ Thomas Schmidt
2. ITA: Pierpaolo Ferrazzi/ Matteo Pontarollo/Luca Costa
3. FRA: Thomas Monier/ Benoit Peschier/ Fabien Lefevre

### 2003 Augsburg

1. SUI: Michael Kurt/ Mathias Röthenmund/ Thomas Mosimann
2. NED: Davis Backhouse/ Floris Braat/ Sam Oud
3. GER: Thomas Schmidt/ Thilo Schmitt/ Claus Suchanek

### 2005 Penrith

1. FRA: Julien Billaut/ Fabien Lefevre/ Benoit Peschier
2. ITA: Pierpaolo Ferrazzi/ Matteo Pontarollo/ Daniele Molmenti
3. SLO: Andrej Nolimal/ Dejan Kralj/ Peter Kauzer

### 2006 Praga

1. FRA: Fabien Lefevre/ Julien Billaut/ Boris Neveu
2. ITA: Daniele Molmenti/ Stefano Cipressi/ Diego Paolini
3. POL: Grzegorz Polaczyk/ Mateusz Polaczyk/ Dariusz Popiela

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. GER: Fabian Dörfler/ Alexander Grimm/ Erik Pfanmüller
2. FRA: Sébastien Combot/ Pierre Bourliaud/ Julien Billaut
3. CZE: Ivan Pišvejc/ Vavřinec Hradílek/ Luboš Hilgert ml.

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. CZE: Ivan Pišvejc/ Vavřinec Hradílek/ Michal Buchtel
2. GBR: Campbell Walsh/ Richard Hounslow/ Huw Swetnam
3. ESP: Joan Crespo/ Guillermo Diez-Canedo/ Carles Juanmartí

## C - 1 (men) – individual:

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### 1991 Tacen

1. Martin Lang GER
2. Adam Clawson USA
3. Jacky Avril FRA

### 1993 Mezzana

1. Martin Lang GER
2. Hervé Delamarre FRA
3. Sören Kaufmann GER

### 1995 Nottingham

1. David Hearn USA
2. Sören Kaufmann GER
3. Michal Martikán SVK

### 1997 Três Coroas

1. Michal Martikán SVK
2. Lukáš Pollert CZE
3. Gareth Marriott GBR

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Emmanuel Brugvin FRA
2. Robin Bell AUS
3. Michal Martikán SVK

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. Michal Martikán SVK
2. Jan Benzien GER
3. Patrice Estanguet FRA

### 2003 Augsburg

1. Michal Martikán SVK
2. Tony Estanguet FRA
3. Stefan Pfanmüller GER

### 2005 Penrith

1. Robin Bell AUS
2. Tony Estanguet FRA
3. Michal Martikán SVK

### 2006 Praga

1. Tony Estanguet FRA
2. Michal Martikán SVK
3. Stanislav Ježek CZE

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. Michal Martikán SVK
2. Tony Estanguet FRA
3. Robin Bell AUS

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Tony Estanguet FRA
2. Michal Martikán SVK
3. Jan Benzien GER



## C – 1 (men) – team:

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### 1991 Tacen

1. USA: Adam Clawson/ Jon Luginbill/ Jed Prentice
2. FRA: Jacky Avani Ril/ Hervé Delamarre/ Emmanuel Brugvin
3. GBR: Mark Delaney/ Bill Horman/ Gareth Marriott

### 1993 Mezzana

1. SLO: Jože Vidmar/Boštjan Žitnik/Simon Hočevar
2. GBR: Bill Horsman/Gareth Marriott/Mark Delaney
3. ITA: Francesco Stefani/Luca Dalla Libera/Renato de Monti

### 1995 Nottingham

1. GER: Martin Lang/Sören Kaufmann/Vitus Husek
2. CRO: Danko Herceg/Zlatko Sedlar/Stjepan Perestegi
3. SVK: Michal Martikán/Juraj Ontko/Juraj Minčík

### 1997 Trés Coroas

1. SVK: Michal Martikán/Juraj Minčík/Juraj Ontko
2. FRA: Patrice Estanguet/Tony Estanguet/Yves Narduzzi
3. SLO: Simon Hočevar/Gregor Terdič/Sebastijan Linke

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. POL: Krzysztof Bieryt/Mariusz Wieczorek/Sławomir Mordarski
2. GER: Stefan Pfannmöller/Nico Bettge/Martin Lang
3. FRA: Patrice Estanguet/Tony Estanguet/Emmanuel Brugvin

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. CZE: Přemysl Vlk/Jan Mašek/Stanišlav Ježek
2. GER: Sören Kaufmann/Jan Benzien/Stefan Pfannmöller
3. SLO: Simon Hočevar/Dejan Stevanovič/Jurij Korenčak

### 2003 Augsburg

1. SVK: Michal Martikán/Juraj Minčík/Alexander Slafkovsky
2. FRA: Patrice Estanguet/Tony Estanguet/Emmanuel Brugvin
3. CZE: Tomáš Indruch/Jan Mašek/Stanišlav Ježek

### 2005 Penrith

1. FRA: Olivier Lalliet/Pierre Labarelle/Tony Estanguet
2. GER: Nico Bettge/Stefan Pfannmöller/Jan Benzien
3. CZE: Tomáš Indruch/Jan Mašek/Stanišlav Ježek

### 2006 Praga

1. GER: Nico Bettge/Stefan Pfannmöller/Jan Benzien
2. CZE: Tomáš Indruch/Jan Mašek/Stanišlav Ježek
3. GBR: David Florence/Stuart McIntosh/Daniel Goddard

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. FRA: Tony Estanguet/Pierre Labarelle/Nicolas Peschier
2. GER: Nico Bettge/Jan Benzien/Lukas Hoffmann
3. CZE: Stanišlav Ježek/Jan Mašek/Tomáš Indruch

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. SVK: Michal Martikán/Alexander Slafkovsky/Matej Benuš
2. FRA: Tony Estanguet/Nicolas Peschier/Denis Gargaud

Chanut

3. ESP: Jordi Domenjo/Jon Erguin/Ander Elosegui

## K – 1 (women) – individual:

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### 1991 Tacen

1. Elisabeth Micheler-Jones GER
2. Dana Chladek USA
3. Kordula Striepecke GER

### 1993 Mezzana

1. Myriam Jerusalem FRA
2. Anne Boixel FRA
3. Marianne Agulhon FRA

### 1995 Nottingham

1. Lynn Simpson GBR
2. Anne Boixel FRA
3. Kordula Striepecke GER

### 1997 Trés Coroas

1. Brigitte Guibal FRA
2. Štěpánka Hilgertová CZE
3. Cathy Hearn USA

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Štěpánka Hilgertová CZE
2. Beata Grzesik POL
3. Sandra Friedli SUI

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. Rebecca Giddens USA
2. Mandy Planert GER
3. Maria Cristina Giai Pron ITA

### 2003 Augsburg

1. Štěpánka Hilgertová CZE
2. Jennifer Bongardt GER
3. Rebecca Giddens USA

### 2005 Penrith

1. Elena Kaliská SVK
2. Mandy Planert GER
3. Peggy Dickens FRA

### 2006 Praga

1. Jana Dukatova SVK
2. Fiona Pennie GBR
3. Jennifer Bongardt GER

## 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. Jennifer Bongardt GER
2. Elena Kaliská SVK
3. Štěpánka Hilgertová CZE

## 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Jasmin Schornberg GER
2. Maialen Chorrout ESP
3. Elizabeth Neave GBR



## K – 1 (women) – team:

### 1991 Tacen

1. FRA: Myriam Jerusalemi/Anouk Loubie/Marianne Agulhon
2. TCH: Zdenka Grossmanová/Štěpánka Hilgertová/Marcela Sadilová
3. USA: Kirsten Brown-Fleshman/Dana Chladek/Kara Weld

### 1993 Mezzana

1. FRA: Myriam Jerusalemi/Sylvie Lepeltier/Anne Boixel
2. USA: Jana Freeburn/Cathy Hearn/Dana Chladek
3. GBR: Maria Lund/Rachel Crosbee/Lynn Simpson

### 1995 Nottingham

1. FRA: Myriam Jerusalemi/Anne Boixel/Isabelle Despres
2. GBR: Lynn Simpson/Rachel Crosbee/Heather Corrie
3. GER: Evi Huss/Elisabeth Micheler-Jones/Kordula Striepecke

### 1997 Très Coroas

1. GER: Evi Huss/Kordula Striepecke/Mandy Planert
2. FRA: Anouk Loubie/Anne Boixel/Brigitte Guibal
3. GBR: Rachel Crosbee/Lynn Simpson/Heather Corrie

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. GER: Susanne Hirt/Evi Huss/Mandy Planert
2. USA: Mary Seaver/Rebecca Bennet/Sarah Leith
3. GBR: Heather Corrie/Rachel Crosbee/Amy Casson

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. FRA: Aline Tornare/Mathilde Pichery/Anne-Lise Bardet
2. CZE: Marcela Sadilová/Irena Pavelková/Marie Rihošková
3. GBR: Helen Reeves/Laura Blakeman/Heather Corrie

## 2003 Augsburg

1. CZE: Štěpánka Hilgertová/Vanda Semeradová/Irena Pavelková
2. GER: Jennifer Bongardt/Claudia Bär/Mandy Planert
3. GBR: Heather Corrie/Laura Blakeman/Helen Reeves

## 2005 Penrith

1. CZE: Marcela Sadilová/Štěpánka Hilgertová/Irena Pavelková
2. GBR: Heather Corrie/Kimberly Walsh/Laura Blakeman
3. AUT: Violetta Oblinger-Peters/Corinna Kuhnle/Julia Schmid

## 2006 Praga

1. FRA: Mathilde Pichery/Émilie Fer/Marie Gaspard
2. CZE: Štěpánka Hilgertová/Irena Pavelková/Marie Rihošková
3. GER: Jennifer Bongardt/Claudia Bär/Jasmin Schornberg

## 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. GER: Jennifer Bongardt/Mandy Planert/Jasmin Schornberg
2. CZE: Marcela Sadilová/Štěpánka Hilgertová/Irena Pavelková
3. GBR: Fiona Pennie/Laura Blakeman/Elizabeth Neave

## 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. GBR: Elizabeth Neave/Louise Donington/Laura Blakeman
2. SVK: Jana Dukatová/Elena Kaliská/Gabriela Stacherová
3. GER: Jasmin Schornberg/Claudia Bär/Jacqueline Horn

## C – 2 (men) – individual:

### 1991 Tacen

1. Frank Adisson - Wilfrid Forgues FRA
2. Jiří Rohan - Miroslav Šimek TCH
3. Emmanuel del Rey - Thierry Saidi FRA

### 1993 Mezzana

1. Jiří Rohan - Miroslav Šimek CZE
2. Eric Biau - Bertrand Daille FRA
3. Franck Adisson - Wilfrid Forgues FRA

### 1995 Nottingham

1. Krzysztof Kolomanski - Michael Staniszewski POL
2. Franck Adisson - Wilfrid Forgues FRA
3. Eric Biau - Bertrand Daille FRA

### 1997 Très Coroas

1. Franck Adisson - Wilfrid Forgues FRA
2. Michael Senft - Andre Ehrenberg GER
3. Jiří Rohan - Miroslav Šimek CZE

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Marek Jiras - Tomáš Mader CZE
2. Krzysztof Kolomanski - Michael Staniszewski POL
3. Eric Biau - Bertrand Daille FRA

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. Peter Hochschorner - Pavol Hochschorner SVK
2. Pierre Luquet - Christophe Luquet FRA
3. Marek Jiras - Tomáš Mader CZE

### 2003 Augsburg

1. Marcus Becker - Stefan Henze GER
2. Jaroslav Volf - Ondřej Štěpanek CZE
3. Peter Hochschorner - Pavol Hochschorner SVK

### 2005 Penrith

1. Christian Bahmann - Michael Senft GER
2. Milan Kuban - Marian Olejnik SVK
3. Markus Becker - Stefan Henze GER

### 2006 Praga

1. Jaroslav Volf - Ondřej Štěpanek CZE
2. Markus Becker - Stefan Henze GER
3. Peter Hochschorner - Pavol Hochschorner SVK

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. Peter Hochschorner - Pavol Hochschorner SVK
2. Pierre Luquet - Christophe Luquet FRA
3. Andrea Benetti - Erik Masoero ITA

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. Peter Hochschorner - Pavol Hochschorner SVK
2. Peter Škantar - Ladislav Škantar SVK
3. Luka Božič - Sašo Taljat SLO

## C-2 (men) – team:

### 1991 Tacen

1. FRA: Adisson – Forgues/Daille – Lelievre/Del Rey - Saidi
2. TCH: Beneš – Kučera/Rohan – Šimek/Stercl - Stercl
3. GER: Berro – Trummer/Bittner – Nerlich/Hemmer – Loose

### 1993 Mezzana

1. CZE: Jiras – Mader/Stercl – Stercl/Rohan - Šimek
2. FRA: Biau – Daille/Del Rey – Saidi/Adisson – Forges
3. SVK: Beneš – Kučera/Ontko – Cani/Štrba – Vajs

### 1995 Nottingham

1. CZE: Rohan – Šimek/Stercl – Stercl/Pospíšil – Pollert
2. FRA: Adisson – Forgues/Biau – Daille/Del Rey - Saidi
3. GER: Berro – Trummer/Hübbers – Raumann/Senft – Ehrenberg

### 1997 Trés Coroas

1. FRA: Adisson – Forgues/Del Rey – Saidi/Biau - Daille
2. CZE: Rohan – Šimek/Stercl – Stercl/Jiras – Mader
3. GER: Berro – Trummer/Senft – Ehrenberg/Simon – Simon

### 1999 La Seu d'Urgell

1. CZE: Jiras – Mader/Volf – Štěpanek/Pospíšil – Pollert
2. SVK: Štrba – Vajs/Kuban – Olejnik/Hochschorner – Hochschorner
3. FRA: Adisson – Forgues/Biau – Daille/Le Pennec – Quemerais

### 2002 Bourg St. Maurice

1. FRA: Luquet – Luquet/Lauvergne – Fouquet/Le Pennec – Quemerais
2. GER: Simon – Simon/Walter – Henze/Ehrenberg – Senft
3. POL: Wrzosek – Kruczek/Miczek – Sekula/Wojs – Mordarski

### 2003 Augsburg

1. CZE: Volf – Štěpanek/Jiras – Mader/Pospíšil – Pollert
2. GER: Becker – Henze/Ehrenberg – Senft/Simon – Simon
3. POL: Wojs – Mordarski/Miczek – Sekula/Pochwała – Sarna

### 2005 Penrith

1. GER: Bahmann – Senft/Simon – Simon/Becker – Henze
2. CZE: Jiras – Mader/Volf – Štěpanek/Pospíšil – Pollert
3. FRA: Braud – Forgit/Le Pennec – Quemerais/Alonso – Lamy

### 2006 Praga

1. CZE: Jiras – Mader/Volf – Štěpanek/Pospíšil – Pollert
2. GER: Simon – Simon/Michel – Piersig/Becker – Henze
3. SVK: Hochschorner – Hochschorner/Kuban – Olejnik/Šoška – Šoška

### 2007 Foz do Iguaçu

1. CZE: Volf – Štěpanek/Jiras – Mader/Pospíšil – Mružek
2. FRA: Forgit – Braud/Luquet – Luquet/Troquenet – Voyemant
3. SVK: Hochschorner – Hochschorner/Kučera – Batik/Škantar – Škantar

### 2009 La Seu d'Urgell

1. SVK: Hochschorner – Hochschorner/Škantar – Škantar/Kučera – Batik
2. GER: Schroeder – Henze/Becker – Henze/Behling – Becker
3. GBR: Baillie – Stott/Florence – Hounslow/Goddard – Radmore



sloka 2010

Svetovno prvenstvo  
v kajak kanu slalomu  
LJUBLJANA 2010

ICF Canoe Slalom  
World Championships  
LJUBLJANA 2010

## Foreign favourites

**NAME:** Jana Dukatova  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 13th 1983  
**RESIDENCE:** Bratislava  
**COUNTRY:** Slovakia  
**COACH:** Robert Orococky  
**CATEGORY:** K1w, C1w  
**WEBSITE:** www.janadukatova.sk

**RESULTS:**

2010 EC Bratislava 1st place K1w  
2010 EC Bratislava 3rd place 3xK1w  
2010 EC Bratislava 2nd place C1w  
2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 2nd place 3xK1w  
2006 WCH Prague 1st place K1w



**NAME:** Daniele Molmenti  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** August 1st 1984  
**RESIDENCE:** Pordenone  
**COUNTRY:** Italy  
**COACH:** Pierpaolo Ferrazzi  
**CATEGORY:** K1m  
**WEBSITE:** www.danielemolmenti.it

**RESULTS:**

2010 EC Bratislava 8th place K1m  
2009 EC Nottingham 1st place K1m  
2008 EC Krakow 2nd place K1m  
2006 WCH Prague 2nd place 3xK1m  
2005 WCH Penrith 2nd place 3xK1m



**NAME:** Tony Estanguet  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** May 6th 1978  
**RESIDENCE:** Pau  
**COUNTRY:** France  
**COACH:** Patrice Estanguet  
**CATEGORY:** C1m  
**WEBSITE:** www.tonyestanguet.com

**RESULTS:**

2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 1st place C1m  
2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 2nd place 3xC1m  
2006 WCH Prague 1st place c1m  
2004 OG Athens 1st place C1m  
2000 OG Sydney 1st place C1m



**NAME:** Jasmin Schornberg  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** April 7th 1986  
**RESIDENCE:** Augsburg  
**COUNTRY:** Germany  
**COACH:** Jürgen Schubert  
**CATEGORY:** K1w  
**WEBSITE:** www.jasminschornberg.de

**RESULTS:**

2010 EC Bratislava 1st place 3xK1w  
2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 1st place K1w  
2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 3rd place 3xK1w  
2007 WCH Foz do Iguassu 1st place 3xK1w  
2006 WCH Prague 3rd place 3xK1w



**NAME:** Fabien Lefevre  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 18th 1982  
**RESIDENCE:** Pau  
**COUNTRY:** France  
**COACH:** Jean-Yves Cheutin  
**CATEGORY:** K1m, C2m  
**WEBSITE:** www.canoe-kayak-jo-2012.com

**RESULTS:**

2008 OG Beijing 2nd place K1m  
2005 WCH Penrith 2nd place K1m  
2004 OG Athens 3rd place K1m  
2003 WCH Augsburg 1st place K1m  
2002 WCH Bourg St. Maurice 1st place K1m



**NAME:** Michal Martikan  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** May 18th 1979  
**RESIDENCE:** Liptovský Mikuláš  
**COUNTRY:** Slovakia  
**COACH:** Jozef Martikan  
**CATEGORY:** C1m  
**WEBSITE:** www.michalmartikan.sk

**RESULTS:**

2008 OG Beijing 1st place C1m  
2007 WCH Foz do Iguassu 1st place C1m  
2004 OG Athens 2nd place C1m  
2000 OG Sydney 2nd place C1m  
1996 OG Atlanta 1st place C1m



**NAME:** Peter Hochschorner  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 7th 1979  
**RESIDENCE:** Bratislava  
**COUNTRY:** Slovakia  
**COACH:** Peter Hochschorner Sr.  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** www.hochsiteam.sk  
**RESULTS:**  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 1st place C2  
 2008 OG Beijing 1st place C2  
 2007 WCH Foz do Iguassu 1st place C2  
 2004 OG Athens 1st place C2  
 2000 OG Sydney 1st place C2



**NAME:** Jaroslav Volf  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 29th 1979  
**RESIDENCE:** Brandys nad Labem  
**COUNTRY:** Czech Republic  
**COACH:** Ondrej Mohout  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 1st place 3xC2  
 2008 OG Beijing 2nd place C2  
 2006 WCH Prague 1st place C2  
 2005 EC Tacen 1st place C2  
 2004 OG Athens 3rd place C2



**NAME:** Jessica Fox  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** June 11th 1994  
**RESIDENCE:** Penrith  
**COUNTRY:** Australia  
**COACH:** Myriam Fox  
**CATEGORY:** C1w, K1w  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
 2010 YOG Singapore 1st place K1w  
 2010 JWCh Foix 1st place K1w  
 2010 JWCh Foix 1st place C1w  
 2010 WC La Seu d'Urgell 1st place C1w  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 3rd place C1w



**NAME:** Pavol Hochschorner  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** September 7th 1979  
**RESIDENCE:** Bratislava  
**COUNTRY:** Slovakia  
**COACH:** Peter Hochschorner Sr.  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** www.hochsiteam.sk  
**RESULTS:**  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 1st place C2  
 2008 OG Beijing 1st place C2  
 2007 WCH Foz do Iguassu 1st place C2  
 2004 OG Athens 1st place C2  
 2000 OG Sydney 1st place C2



**NAME:** Ondrej Štepanek  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** November 28th 1979  
**RESIDENCE:** Brandys nad Labem  
**COUNTRY:** Czech Republic  
**COACH:** Ondrej Mohout  
**CATEGORY:** C2m  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 1st place 3xC2  
 2008 OG Beijing 2nd place C2  
 2006 WCH Prague 1st place C2  
 2005 EC Tacen 1st place C2  
 2004 OG Athens 3rd place C2



**NAME:** Katarina Macova  
**DATE OF BIRTH:** February 19th 1986  
**RESIDENCE:** Bratislava  
**COUNTRY:** Slovakia  
**COACH:** Juraj Minčík  
**CATEGORY:** C1w  
**WEBSITE:** /  
**RESULTS:**  
 2010 EC Bratislava 1st place C1w  
 2010 WC Augsburg 7th place C1w  
 2010 WC La Seu d'Urgell 5th place C1w  
 2010 WC Prague 3rd place C1w  
 2009 WCH La Seu d'Urgell 5th place C1w



DIVJA VODA, ČISTI UŽITEK  
 WILD WATER, PURE JOY

# »It is like a cauldron here«

**British kayaker Richard Fox (born in 1960) is one of the biggest names of the world canoeing. Current National Performance Director of Australian Canoeing and Vice President of International Canoe Federation (ICF) won an outstanding eleven medals at World Championships, with five gold and one bronze medal in the individual events and five team medals. He finished fourth at the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. During 1979-1993, the only time he did not win a medal was at the 1991 World Championships in Tacen. This was not the only thing we talked about during his stay in Slovenia.**

## **What are your memories of the 1991 World Championships here in Tacen?**

It was ... noisy I think is the word, because it is like a cauldron here, spectators are close to the action and it is very intense from the athlete's side too. The course is quite challenging and competition was always quite tough. For me, the 1991 World Championships was not great.

## **What went wrong?**

I took some risks in the first run and it did not pay off, and in the second run I was very fast until I passed by one gate and that was it. Another British guy won ...

## **How do you see the Tacen course, leaving bad luck from 1991 aside? Do you like it?**

Yes, I had some very good races here in the 1980s, the World Cups and so ... I liked racing in Tacen, because you never knew what to expect. It was always satisfying if you managed a good run. I remember some good races back in the good old days in 1985 and 1989, when the Germans were very strong and the Slovenians – Skok, Čižman, Štrukelj, Abramič – were always very strong, too, but I think the home team is always hard to beat.

## **Nowadays most slalom courses are artificial, but the course in Tacen was one of the first with an artificial canal. How significant was the course in Tacen in those days?**

It was a transition leading into Barcelona. Since then, we have seen a lot of artificial courses and people got used to them pretty quickly. The World Championships in 1993, and also in 1997 and 2002, were held on a natural river. We have seen the sport moving away from the natural rivers a little bit, but there are many advantages with the artificial courses: infrastructure, consistency and control, but we have to keep in touch with our origins, because sooner or later we are going to run out of concrete for the artificial courses (laugh) and go back to the rivers.

## **What do you, as the Vice President of ICF, expect from this year's World Championships?**

Firstly, we expect high level of competition, because we have seen standards improving all the time. The team here is very experienced, so from the technical side I do not expect any problems and I think the venue is good for television. So the expectation will be that it is a good showcase for canoe slalom, racing and good images for the spectators to watch on TV, and of course we expect a good atmosphere. And hopefully, we can get a lot of international media interest.

## **There have been a lot of changes in slalom in all these years you have been part of it ...**

When I started, we used to race for three and a half minutes or four minutes, and now we race for one and a half minute. This sport has become shorter, faster and more dynamic and it is a change, but in a way it is also progress. We have seen a lot of courses develop around the world now. It is still slow, but China probably has more artificial courses than the whole of Europe now, and it makes the sport more accessible. The Olympics in China have been a big progress for us. When I started competing in the 1970s, we were out of the Olympic program until 1992, so coming back to the Olympics was a good thing. There is still a lot of progress than can be made with the presentation of this sport, the media presentation and the consistent look of the sport, so that the World Cup has a high-level image, that the brand of the ICF and the sport become stronger, and we need to position ourselves for global sponsorships. In the last two years we have seen some changes in the competition rules, so we have women's C1 now.

## **Do you see a bright future for women's C1?**

Yes, I think so, but it takes time, it does not happen straight away. But it is normal that it happens; in other sports there is much more equal opportunity. At the Junior World Championships we already saw a huge increase from the last year. It is happening and it will keep developing.

## **More and more often the competitors compete in two disciplines ...**

It is tough for the athletes, but I think it is good, why not. The opportunity has been there for many years now, but it is funny that it has been around only for the last two years. It is good that they have two opportunities to challenge for the result. It is very tough to do everything the way you plan in slalom, but if you have two cards to play then that is good.

## **Can we expect changes also in the Olympic slalom program?**

Probably, we have to go step by step. In 2013, after London, will be the next time to discuss any proposal for changes for 2016, but I think we have to see how things progress. Canoeing is quite well positioned in the Olympic Games with the number of medals. I do not think that will increase. It is difficult to imagine we will get more athletes, but I think that is definitely a target for ICF to get some numbers that we have lost and any additional athlete's number would be a bonus. It is hard to imagine additional events. But ultimately, whether it is in 2016 or 2020,

I think we have to be realistic and say we expect a greater number of women's events in the Olympic program for canoeing. Where and how we adjust it is difficult to say, we have to go carefully and in hand with IOC and their expectations. We have to really imagine the next ten years and position this sport for the long term. It is difficult to imagine at this stage team races at the Olympics.

### **What can ICF do for a stronger presence of the kayak and canoe slalom in the media?**

Not just the international federation, but the host organizer and the national federations, too. What people in media want is a well prepared program, they want to have consistent approach and high quality media service. I think the professionalization of the media service would be a good start. To get a greater impact in the media for slalom or canoeing in general, we have to be creative and use a lot of social media and internet and highlights-type strategies.

### **What can be done in the short term?**

The goal for the next two years will be to raise the standard of organization and promotion of the World Cups, World Championships, so the media will know what to expect and they can rely on it. At the moment, to be honest, it is a difficult product to sell to the media. TV coverage is essential. We have had a situation that the organizers did not have a TV solution they expected to have at the beginning, and then at the last minute it is difficult to put in place. There has to be an expectation and a guarantee that at that high level of competition we have a TV broadcast, because without that we are going backwards, which is not the goal. This year, Szeged was very good for sprint, Prague was ok for slalom, but the other two World Cups were not good for TV at all. So there is a lot to improve for next year, but I am very confident for Tacen.

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## *Championships attracted many spectators*

This year's World Championships will be the third one organized in Ljubljana. The last time best world kayakers and canoeists fought for World titles was in 1991 and before that in 1955. World Championships in 1955 was only second World Championships organized in Yugoslavia (in any sport), thus it attracted many spectators. It is said more than 15 thousand people supported paddlers. This number of spectators was exceeded not earlier than in 1970s. World Championships in 1991 also attracted many spectators, so it is not a surprise that many competitors still have nice memories of it. "I have very nice memories of this World Championships. The atmosphere was incredible, there were many spectators and fans who supported both Slovenian and foreign competitors. The tribunes were full of people and that was excellent. The canal was very difficult before the Championships, but they have repaired it prior to competition, they made it a bit shorter, so it became friendlier for competitors. I was seventh in individual race and I won a silver medal in team race. This was my first medal at World Championships," former Czech kayaker Marcela Sadilova remembers.

The venue itself has not changed a lot since 1991 when competitors were able to paddle at renovated and above all safer course in Tacen. Another novelty were concrete tribunes at the venue. "Paddling on the course nowadays is much easier than it used to be before 1990. It was much more dangerous before renovations. Many competitors broke their paddles here," Olympic Champion from Barcelona Pierpaolo Ferrazzi remembers. He is looking forward to this World Championships although he will be present here only as coach of one of the biggest favorites for gold medal in men's kayak - Daniele Molmenti: "Just imagine the tribunes full of people, all these spectators, the music ... I think it will be very tense and competitors will have to leave the venue, so they will be able to prepare psychically for the race."

The happiest contestant in 1991 was probably British Shaun Pearce, who was better than Marjan Štrukelj in men's kayak event

and won his first medal at World Championships. His medal came as a big surprise. Most of the experts expected more from his team colleague and one of the biggest names in history of canoeing Richard Fox. "It was my first World Championships though I had won a World Cup in USA the year before. I remember the competition very well: hot weather, blue skies ... The crowd in the stadium was huge and making lots of noise, especially for the home team. I can not remember which Slovenian raced before me but it was very loud and scary waiting at the start for my run. I remember some parts of the run extremely well even today and there are parts that I can not remember a thing about. The other thing I remember very well is having to wait a long time for everyone to finish as I started very early on in the race. I think I had to wait for 90 minutes," Shaun Pearce describes this day.

If the Championships in 1955 was only second one to be organized in Yugoslavia we have to mention that also Championships in 1991 was special in a way. It was the last Championships organized in former Yugoslavia as the country fell apart only few days after the Championships ended. "I had no idea that anything was going on. We did not sense anything in the week prior to the event. I also left on the Sunday night after the event and even at the border there was still no sign of any troubles. I think some of the guys who left on the Monday saw some tanks but no troubles," Pearce says about this matter and Sadilova similarly remembers there were no troubles for competitors.

Not only World Championships' were organized in Tacen. In 2005 the best European paddlers competed on European Championships and from 1989 on Tacen is one of the traditional venues for World Cup races. Slovenian competitors always had great results in Tacen and you will be able to see in these competition days three of Slovenian winners from World Cup races in Tacen. Dejan Kralj was the best kayaker in 2001, Jure Meglič in 2007 and Peter Kauzer in 2008.