

9.1. REPORT DEVELOPMENT

1. Development Programmes - *NF's Development Projects Support 2025/2026 - update*

Project coordinator: Maija Savolainen

Customised project of NF Norway is Liatoppen Festival. IBU received totally 10 applications for this project and IBU and NF Norway accepted them all. The approved National Federations are: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Greenland, Kazakhstan and Poland.

2. REGIONAL EVENTS

Project coordinator: Maija Savolainen

All of the 17 Regional Events planned from the 12th of December to the 22nd of February have been arranged as planned.

NF	Event Name	Venue	From	To
Finland	IBU Regional Event - Baltic Biathlon Cup	Imatra	12.12.2025	14.12.2025
Norway	IBU Regional Event - ASKO Cup Beitostoelen	Beitostoelen	12.12.2025	14.12.2025
Slovenia	IBU Regional Event - FESA Biathlon Alpencup	Pokljuka	19.12.2025	21.12.2025
United States	IBU Regional Event - Youth/Junior Nationals and International Team Trials	Lake Placid	27.12.2025	31.12.2025
Czechia	IBU Regional Event - Central European Cup	NMNM	28.12.2025	30.12.2025
France	IBU Regional Event - Biathlon National Tour FFS	Les Tuffes	2.1.2026	4.1.2026
Austria	IBU Regional Event - FESA Biathlon Alpencup	Hochfilzen	15.1.2026	18.1.2026
Sweden	IBU Regional Event - Swe Cup 5-6	Torsby	16.1.2026	18.1.2026
Norway	IBU Regional Event - ASKO Cup/Norwegian Championship youth and junior	Granåsen, Trondheim	22.1.2026	25.1.2026
Latvia	IBU Regional Event - Baltic Biathlon Cup	Madona	23.1.2026	25.1.2026
Canada	IBU Regional Event - Eastern Canadian Championships	La Patrie	30.1.2026	1.2.2026
Slovakia	IBU Regional Event - Central European Cup	Osrbliie	30.1.2026	1.2.2026
Romania	IBU Regional Event - Balkan Cup	Cheile Gradistei	5.2.2026	8.2.2026
Germany	IBU Regional Event - FESA Biathlon Alpencup	Notschrei	6.2.2026	8.2.2026
Bosnia and Herzegovina	IBU Regional Event - Balkan Biathlon Cup	Dvorista Pale	12.2.2026	15.2.2026
Estonia	IBU Regional Event - Baltic Biathlon Cup	Haanja	13.2.2026	15.2.2026
Sweden	IBU Regional Event - Swe Cup 7-8	Borås	20.2.2026	22.2.2026

Maija Savolainen , the Project Coordinator, visited 4 events:

Baltic Cup, Imatra/FIN 12-14.12.2026

Biathlon National Tour FFS, Les Tuffes/FRA 02-04.01.2026

Swe Cup, Torsby/SWE 16-18.01.2026

Balkan Cup, Cheile Gradistei/ROU 05-08.02.2026.

Sport Development Manager Tomasz Bernat visited Central European Cup, NMNM/CZE 28-30.12.2025 and Development Director Dagmara Gerasimuk Alpen Cup, Hochfilzen/AUT 15-18.01.2026. Detailed reports of the visits are available in the Development department. The outcomes from the visits will be used to develop the project.

The Regional Winter Events 2025/2026 started the pilot qualification events project. Qualification points have been calculated from Sprint (SPR) and Individual (IND) competitions in events where the competition circumstances have met the requirements of IBU rules.

3. CLOSING THE COMPETITION GAP

Project coordinator: Dagmara Gerasimuk

The goal of the project for 2026: 8 NFs with medal(s) during the Olympic Games 2026 was achieved, however the performance output is still heavily weighted toward the leading federations.

The 14 National Federations represented the Olympic performances in the top 10 results. France (20 total results) and Norway (18) lead overall output and also dominate podium success with 13 and 11 medals respectively. Sweden (13 total results) follows at performance level but converts to 3 medals, while Germany (12 total results) secures 1 medal. Italy and Finland (8 results each) show consistent competitiveness, though with more limited medal return (2 and 1 respectively). The remaining federations, including Austria, Poland, Switzerland, and USA, record between 2 and 4 overall results, yet only Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Finland translate this into a single medal each.

Competition gap observation:
4 NFs account for ~61% of all results in top 10

4. IBU–IOC DEVELOPMENT CAMPS

Project Coordinator: Ilario Maddalin

2025 Recap

In 2025, three IBU–IOC Development Camps were successfully delivered, supporting 87 unique athletes from 26 National Federations, with a strong focus on coach development alongside athlete progression.

1. [Report Summer camp 2025](#)
2. [Report Youth International camp 2025](#)
3. [Report Winter Camp 2025](#)

Plan for 2026:

1. International Youth Camp, Antholz (ITA), June 2026
2. IBU Camp in Asia, Schuchinsk (KAZ), July 2026
3. Winter IBU Camp, TBC, December 2026

5. BIATHLON 4ALL

Project Coordinator: Maxim Berdnikov

Application call – deadline 17 March 2026

An application call was opened on 27 January 2026 for the National Federations to support the organisation and promotion of the International Biathlon Day (IBD), which will take place on 30 May 2026. The NFs can receive support in the form of promotional support (max. EUR 1,500), event organisation support (max. EUR 2,000), a paid social media campaign (max. EUR 3,000), and a professional photographer / video content creator (max. EUR 1,000). The five (5) NFs will be selected for the social media campaign and will receive the full package with a max. of EUR 7,500. The support of other federations will be based on the quality of applications and available budget. A separate application and a reporting template were prepared on IBU Scope.

Biathlon 4 All at the Olympics

An activation zone with two lanes was set up in the Olympic Family Lounge at the stadium in Antholz. The activation allowed to showcase the development project to the members of the Olympic family and to offer practical experience.

Erasmus+ application call

An Erasmus+ application is being prepared in the Cooperation Partnerships category for a total of EUR 400,000. The goal of the project, titled “Biathlon Youth & Family Connect,” is to develop a mobile app for grassroots biathlon featuring a badge system, challenges, online leaderboards, and educational and motivational materials. The app will build on the Biathlon 4 All programme and address the needs of the programme. Almost 80% of national coordinators have expressed interest in this feature during the feedback survey in November 2025.

Next steps:

1. Selection of applications for the IBD 2026
2. B4A Onsite Project Coordinators Meeting – the dates and the location will be confirmed
3. International Biathlon Day, 30th of May 2026
4. Call for applications Biathlon 4 All 2026/2027 (with the remaining funds)
5. Spring distribution of laser rifles (2nd round) based on the application in October 2025

6. MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

Project Coordinator: Anna Kitzbichler/Maxim Berdnikov

The material distribution 2025 took place from December 10th to 11th, 2025, in Hochfilzen. 39 NFs applied for the project, of which 36 fulfilled the project criteria. GEO did not pick up the material; the material was instead distributed to CAN. A late application was received from CRO. The distribution included more than 1,000 pairs of gloves, over 200 pairs of skis and more than 0.5 million rounds of biathlon ammunition. A total of 37 National Federations benefited from the programme and received material from 28 partners and suppliers. The overall value of the distributed material reached EUR 965,000. Of this total, 53.9% was allocated to B Nations, 38.2% to C Nations and 7.9% to D Nations, ensuring targeted support according to development level.

The complete report can be found here: [Report Material Distribution 2025.pdf](#)

Next steps:

1. Align the process with the new partner management on Scope
2. Open applications for 2026/2027

7. Gender Equality (DEI)

Project Coordinator: Dagmara Gerasimuk/Theresa Jost

Upcoming activities:

1. March 3rd, Mentorship Webinar
2. April, 22nd – 24th Mentorship Final Meeting in Lausanne, SUI (IOC, Olympic Museum)

Agenda includes:

1. Meeting with IOC and OS representatives
2. Political Ecosystem with **Equalcareers – workshops** (Political Astuteness, Governance, Ecosystem and Decision Maker, Stakeholder, Management)
3. Mastering Media Training and Public Visibility with **Equalcareers** in IOC–workshops
4. Visiting IOC and Olympic Museum and board signing by the Olympians present during the meeting

Next steps:

1. Development Info Day, 25th of March, online meeting
2. Best Practises Sharing Webinar, 30th of March
3. Meeting with OS representative in Lausanne regarding IBU project support in 2026
4. Development Commission Meeting in Munich, 27-29 May

9.1.1. Report - IBU Academy

1. COACH EDUCATION

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Anna Kitzbichler

Courses

- Basic and Regional Basic Courses 2025: Certificates of completion have been sent out to all the coaches who have successfully completed all course requirements:
 - Basic Level Course 2025: 19 coaches from 17 NFs
 - Regional Basic Course Japan 2025: 12 (out of 17) coaches from 2 NFs
 - Regional Basic Course Croatia 2025: 10 coaches from 2 NFs
 - Regional Basic Course Poland 2025: 18 (out of 18) coaches from 3 NFs
- For the upcoming Basic Course 2026, which will be held in May 2026, the selection of candidates is finished, and 20 Coaches from 18 NFs were selected (10 female, 10 male).
- For the upcoming First Level Course 2026/27, 20 Coaches from 20 NFs were selected (7 female, 13 male). The first week will be held from 26 May to 01 June 2026 in Obertilliach.
- Applications for the Regional Basic Courses and the Third Level Course are still open until 31 March 2026.

Upcoming:

- **Kids and Youth course:** The working group for this course had already several meetings and agreed on a syllabus and structure for the course. Within the next few weeks, several experts, who will be module leaders and content providers for this online course, will be defined. The next meeting will be held in March to agree on the next milestones.
- **Para Coach Course:** The para course working group has already agreed on experts who will lead the different modules (topics) and on the main content providers who will deliver the content by the end of March. The first course shall be held in June in Antholz (ITA).
- The third and final week of the **First Level Course 2025/26** will be held in Ramsau (AUT) from 23 – 30 March 2026. 21 coaches from 20 different NFs (13 female, 8 male) will be present in Austria.
- The second week of the **Second Level Course 2025/26** will be held in Meraker (NOR) from 8 - 13 April 2026. 19 participants from 17 different NFs (8 female, 11 male coaches) will attend the course in Norway.

Please find more information on the IBU Coach Education [here](#).

2. E-LEARNING PLATFORM: LEARNING SUITE

Project coordinator: Sophie Mayr/Maja Milatovic

- The Public Biathlon Content of the IBU E-Learning Platform was updated with an additional module about Mental Health, closely connected to the newly implemented Mental Health

Content from the BIU. On the Learning Suite, everyone can test their knowledge about the IOC Mental Health in Elite Athletes Toolkit.

- In the future, the Academy will implement a Literature Hub in the Public Content, where the latest scientific research about various topics can be uploaded.
- For the above-mentioned Kids/Youth Course and the Para Coach Course, the structure was set on the Learning Suite. Also, the content implementation has started.

3. WEBINARS/SEMINARS 2026

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker

- The IBU Academy plans a new Webinar series for the upcoming season, starting off with two Coach Webinars on 11 June and 9 July 2026. Followed by an Athletes Webinar in September and a physicians Webinar in November 2026.

4. JOURNAL OF BIATHLON COACHING

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Stefan Sporrer

- The [latest issue of JoBC](#) was published in February 2026. It is packed with valuable insights, updates, and practical tips on training, shooting, mental health, and soft skills. A long interview with Christoph Vassallo provides insights into what has helped the French biathlon team to become one of the strongest in the circuit.

Upcoming:

- Significant progress has been made toward establishing JoBC as a peer-reviewed scientific journal, enhancing its academic credibility. The first peer-reviewed issue is considered to be published in January/February 2027 (Issue 7).

5. RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

Project coordinator: Sophie Mayr

- All Interim Reports of the 2025/26 cycle were sent and reviewed. All interim financial reports are due on 15 February 2026, and the final reports are due on 30 September 2026, which will be presented in October 2026 to the Research Grant Working Group.
- Applications for the next Research Grant Cycle 2026/27 are open until 31 March 2026.

All details about the Research Grant Programme can be found [here](#).

6. DC4Biathletes – Erasmus+ Sport

Project coordinator: Anna Kitzbichler

Two of the project researchers from the University of Ljubljana had the opportunity to conduct research during the Junior Open European Championships in Imatra in January 2026. They carried out focus groups with 33 biathletes from five different NFs to collect further insights about their experiences with dual career. Additionally also interviews with five coaches from five NFs were carried out in Imatra. These conversations will help us better understand how to support young athletes striving to succeed both in sport and in education, and help us bring the DC4B project further. The next in-person meeting is scheduled for May 2026 in Bratislava (SVK).

Stay up to date on the project via our website, dc4biathletes.com, or on Social Media (Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook).

7. University Cooperations

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Dagmara Gerasimuk

The IBU and the Institute of Applied Training Science (IAT) Leipzig have officially entered into a partnership agreement, signed on 9 January in Leipzig. The agreement was signed by IBU President Olle Dahlin and IAT Sport Director Marc-Oliver Löw, marking an important step in strengthening cooperation between the two institutions.

The agreement with the Nord University in Meraker (NOR) will be signed during the second week of the coach education in Meraker in April 2026.

Please find more information on the IBU Cooperations [here](#).

8. ICCE Partnerships

Project coordinator: Dagmara Gerasimuk/Gerold Sattlecker

- Since December, the IBU Academy has been an official member of the International Council of Coaching Excellence (ICCE), a global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to leading and developing sport coaching worldwide. This membership marks an important milestone in reinforcing the IBU Academy's commitment to high-quality, future-oriented coach education within the global coaching community.

9. IBU ACADEMY Promotion during the winter season

Project coordinator: Gerold Sattlecker/Dagmara Gerasimuk

- In the winter season 2025/26, the IBU Academy was present in 1 World Cup (Ruhpolding), 1 IBU-Cup (Obertilliach), 1 IBU-Junior-Cup (Martell), and the Youth and Junior World Championships (Arber) to promote the IBU Academy and its offer for 2026/27.

10. IBU Academy Communication

Project coordinator: Anna Kitzbichler/Maja Milatovic

- Academy website with many updates: [IBU Academy](#)
- E-learning platform with new features: [Learning Suite](#)
- IBU Academy Newsletter:
 - The IBU Academy Newsletter was launched in February 2026 to share updates from the Academy, report on past activities, and inform readers about upcoming events, application deadlines, and other opportunities. To date, 5 issues have been circulated. The last two issues (4th and 5th) were delivered to approximately 2,100 recipients each, achieving an open rate of up to 46%.
 - Upcoming: Next edition will be sent in May 2026. [Subscribe here](#).

11. Academy Assistant recruitment / Maternity Leave replacement

Starting from 1 February 2026, Anna Kitzbichler is on maternity leave and is expected to return in March 2027. For that reason, in December 2025, the IBU Academy announced the position of an Academy Assistant. In total, 3 applicants were chosen for interviews. The assistant should start the work in March 2026.

Next:

1. IBU Academy Expert Group meeting, Arber (GER) 27.02-01.03.2026