

ETTU Development Report 2024

Training Camps			PLAYERS		COACHES	
			B	G	M	W
Eurotalents U13	Izvorani, ROU	28.2-6.3.2024	18	14	13	4
Eurotalents Selection Camp 1	Havírov, CZE	24-31.4.2024	28	20	21	3
Eurotalents Selection Camp 2	Riga, LAT	3-10.8.2024	25	18	15	10
Eurotalents U13 / Hopes	Strasbourg, FRA	15-22.8.2024	21	14	9	7
Eurotalents U13	Nantes, FRA	7-13.12.2024	19	11	9	7

1. Development Camps

Eurotalents U13 Izvorani, ROU



The first Eurotalents Development Camp of the year was held from February 28th to March 6th, 2024, in Izvorani, Bucharest. The event brought together 44 Under 13 athletes, comprising 20 girls and 24 boys from 14 associations, for a week of intensive training. This camp was one day longer than usual Eurotalents Camps allowing one extra day to focus on different aspects of the game. A large group of players travelled directly to Bulgaria for the WTT tournament.

The camp was guided by Head Coach Anamaria Sebe and the ETTU Assigned Coach Zoltan Batorfi, with Assistant Coach Andreea Zanfir and Physical Trainer Andrei Gherase. The Romanian Table Tennis Federation, in collaboration with the ETTU, hosted this gathering at the Romanian Olympic Centre "Sydney 2000," a facility renowned for its world-class amenities.

Eurotalents Selection Camp 1 Havírov, CZE

The Eurotalents Selection Camp, addressed for players born in 2012 and younger, took place at the National Training Center in Havírov from March 24 to March 31. This event gathered twenty-eight male and twenty female players from sixteen European nations. The camp was led by Head Coach Renáta Štrbíková, with assistance from Marek Čihák. Zoltán Batorfi from Hungary also joined as a representative from ETTU, alongside more than twenty other national coaches.

The logistical needs for a camp of such dimensions were considerable, necessitating twenty-four tables. A two-day tournament was played where the champion in each gender was selected to be part of the Eurotalents program in 2025. The full list of selected players is the following:

Girls

Name	Points
Adela BRYHELOVA (CZE)	179
Bianca BACSOVA (SVK)	174,5
Karla IVCIC (CRO)	168
Zsófia FEGYVER (HUN)	162

Boys

Name	Points
Simon ZSIGMOND (HUN)	181
Stephan BONCHEV (IRL)	176

Name	Points
Simon ZSIGMOND (HUN)	181
Dimitar DIMITROV (ENG)	171,5
Pietro CAMPAGNE (ITA)	170



- **Eurotalents Selection Camp 2 Riga, LAT**

The Eurotalents Selection Camp II took place from August 3rd to 10th at the O. Kalpaks Riga Folk-Art Primary School in Riga, utilizing 21 tables for intensive training and competition. The camp brought together 42 players (17 girls and 25 boys) and 27 coaches from 10 associations, including Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Kosovo, Türkiye, Guernsey, and Azerbaijan.

Led by ETTU Coach Silvia Asis de Souza Erdelji from Spain, the coaching team included Vallot Vainula (Local Head Coach, Estonia), Kirils Jahontovs, Viktors Tolkacevs (Assistant Coaches, Latvia), and Tatiana Garnova (Physical Coach, Portugal). The program featured skill development sessions, match play, and physical conditioning to enhance the participants' technical and tactical abilities.

The camp provided a platform for young athletes to gain international experience and develop their skills under the guidance of a highly experienced coaching team.

The full list of selected players is the following:

Girls

Armin Aydin (TUR) - HOPES

Izabell Ivanics (HUN)

Aybige Fedride Ustundag (TUR)

Khadija Babazade (AZE)

Boys

Alexander MALOV (ESP) - HOPES

Motiejus Adamonis (LTU)

Javier Galán (ESP)

Aras Aydin (TUR)

Ahmet Yigit Gulenler (TUR)

• **Eurotalents U13/ ITTF Continental Hopes Strasbourg, FRA**

The Strasbourg Eurotalents and Hopes Selection camp training camp took place from August 15 to 22, 2024, at the CREPS facility in Strasbourg. The camp targeted players from the Eurotalents group, including both those previously selected in earlier years and new participants in the 2024 program.

The camp was led by Head Coaches Zvonimir Korenic and Guillaume Simonin, with support from Assistant Coach Nicolas Métaireau and Physical Coach Rémi Betelu. The program focused on advancing the technical, tactical, and physical development of young players in preparation for upcoming competitions.

Girls

Lisa ZHAO (FRA)

Albane ROCHUT (FRA)

Boys

Alexandru POP (ROU)

Stefan BONCHEV (BUL)

Eurotalents U13 - Nantes, France

The Eurotalents U13 Development Camp in Nantes brought together promising young players from across Europe for an intensive week of training at CREPS des Pays de la Loire. Organised by ETTU and FFTT under the supervision of ETTU assigned coach Zvonimir korenic, the camp focused on technical improvement, tactical awareness, and physical conditioning.

As it took place close to Christmas, with no upcoming competitions, training sessions were longer and more demanding than usual, allowing players to push their limits both physically and mentally. The program included advanced stroke techniques, match-play simulations, strength training, and mental preparation.

2. NAAP

NAAP Skopje, (MKD)

The camp, led by Serbian coach Milos Milenkovic along with two national team coaches (Zoran Jovanoski and Dimitrie Zogovoski), provided intense training sessions focusing on individual skills, tactical preparation, and specific techniques like footwork and service. It took place from April 2nd to 6th, accommodating ten top young players. The camp featured two daily training sessions lasting 2 to 2.5 hours, including multi-ball sessions and individualised tactical preparation. The expert coach at the camp provided individual assessments for each player, highlighting their strengths and areas for improvement, which was communicated to their respective clubs and trainers.

NAAP Valtu, (EST)

From 19–21 October, a training camp for the Estonian Youth Table Tennis Team (U15 & U19) was held in Valtu, attended by 24 (7F 17M) motivated players from across Estonia. Coaches received practical training on advanced coaching techniques from Marcus Gustafson, the Head Coach of the Estonian Table Tennis Team. A lecture on match-fixing prevention by the Estonian Anti-Doping and Sports Ethics Foundation was followed by an E-learning course, with all participants earning certificates.

Umpires training, led by International Umpire Jüri Talp, resulted in 8 (4F 4M) new umpires, while 10 (4F 4M) referees enhanced their skills in an online course led by International Referee Rauno Põru.

NAAP (DEN)

Elite Summer Course 2024: An educational program for young and para table tennis players held at the Amager Table Tennis Club. It aimed to enhance skills and development through training and workshops, organized by Christoffer Petersen.

Career Day for Parents of Young Elite Athletes: Organized with the Danish Judo and Badminton Federations, this event included workshops and presentations, such as one by Helle Kjær Groth, offering guidance to parents on supporting their children in elite sports. A U15-focused Career Day followed, attracting a record number of participants (53 players, parents, and coaches), demonstrating its success.

NAAP Vilnius (LTU)

The Lithuanian Table Tennis Association, supported by the ETTU National Association Assistance Program, organized a training camp for cadet and junior players from July 1 to 7. The camp focused on enhancing game skills, physical conditioning, and equipping coaches with effective strategies for developing young athletes.

The camp hosted 9 players (5 M and 4 F), 2 male coaches, and 4 sparring partners. Activities included multi-ball training, service practice, technique refinement, and physical conditioning. This initiative aimed to prepare athletes for the European Youth Championships and support their pursuit of outstanding results.

NAAP, Agros (CYP)

The Cyprus Table Tennis Association, in partnership with the ETTU National Association Assistance Program, successfully organised a training camp in Agros from June 26 to July 1, 2024. Led by head coach Marc Closset and supported by coaches Adrian Simion, Konstandinos Kostopoulos, Popi Drousiotou, and Penelopi Savva, the camp focused on improving technical skills, footwork, service practice, and physical conditioning.

The camp was attended by 65 young players (53 M 12F), and three sparring partners (Marios Yiagou, Hristos Savva, and Sofia Koni). Through diverse training activities, participants enhanced their skills and prepared for future competitions.

NAAP, Andorra la Vella (AND)

The annual NAAP-supported training camp was held in Andorra from August 12 to 17, focusing on the development of young table tennis players. Organized with the support of the ETTU, the camp included comprehensive training to enhance participants' technical and physical skills.

The event featured 16 talented players, two experienced coaches, and sparring partners, including notable athletes and trainers. Key activities involved multi-ball training, footwork drills, service practice, and physical conditioning. The camp was a resounding success, reflecting ongoing efforts to improve the quality of training each year.

NAAP, Riga (LAT)

A two-day coaching seminar was successfully held in Riga, Latvia (28-29 September), focusing on enhancing coaching methodologies and strategies for table tennis development. Conducted by an expert coach Eva Jeler, the seminar provided valuable insights into modern training techniques, player development, and game analysis.

The event brought together 26 (11F and 14M) local coaches, fostering knowledge exchange and discussions on best practices. Practical sessions included advanced

multi-ball training, service tactics, and game situation analysis, aiming to equip participants with innovative tools to support athlete performance.

NAAP Nantes (FRA)

From May 5 to 10, a joint training camp was held in Nantes, bringing together young players from Turkey and France. The Turkish delegation, led by coach Gökmen Öçal, included boys Görkem Öçal and Kuzey Gündoğdu and girls Ayten Ceren Kahraman and Buse Koçak.

The French team featured players such as Cléa De Stoppeleire, Axel Bossis, Nathan Pilard, Flavio Mourier, Antoine Noirault, and Léana Hochart, under the guidance of national coaches Nicolas Gaudelas, Vivien Sauvage, Perrine Laurent, and Christian Danciu.

This collaborative camp focused on skill development and international exchange.

NAAP Jersey, (JER)

From October 28 to November 1, professional coach Matt Porter led a five-day training camp organized by the Jersey Table Tennis Association. The camp welcomed 32 (9F 23M) juniors of varying skill levels, for daily sessions that focused on diverse exercises, tactical decision-making, and match-play development. Minigames and individual 2-1 sessions were also key features, keeping the participants engaged and motivated. Feedback from juniors highlighted the balance between intense training and enjoyable activities.

Moldova

As part of the European Table Tennis Union's (ETTU) National Association Assistance Program (NAAP), a practical-methodical seminar titled "*The Process of Training Young Players – The Road to the Olympics*" took place in November 2024 at Chisinau Sports University, Moldova.

The seminar gathered 74 participants, focusing on training methodologies for young players and their development towards high-level competition. The agenda included

theoretical sessions and practical demonstrations, covering key aspects of technical, tactical, and physical preparation.

The event also saw participation from representatives of the Institute of Physical Education and the Ministry of Education and Research, reflecting the growing interest in structured table tennis development in Moldova.



Georgia

The Future Stars of Table Tennis Festival took place on December 7-8 in Tbilisi, organized by the Georgian Table Tennis Federation with support from ETTU. The event was open to children born after 2014 who had been playing table tennis for no more than one year, as well as newcomers interested in trying the sport.

The festival was divided into two parts:

- The first part focused on games and activities designed to assess coordination, reaction speed, decision-making, and teamwork. Coaches observed participants to identify promising young talents.
- In the second part, children with basic racket skills played matches, allowing youth team coaches to evaluate their abilities at the table.

A total of 80 children from various regions of Georgia participated. Each received branded T-shirts and certificates, while the most promising players were awarded table tennis accessories. Members of the Georgian youth team also took part as volunteers, assisting in the festival's organization.

Ireland

As part of the ETTU National Association Assistance Program (NAAP), Table Tennis Ireland implemented several initiatives in 2024 aimed at improving event organization, developing officiating pathways, and increasing participation in para table tennis.

Key Activities

1. Junior Umpire Course
 - Developed to introduce young players (under 16) to officiating.
 - Delivered in schools, clubs, and community settings.
 - A pilot course will be completed in early 2025, followed by an invitational tournament where newly trained umpires will gain practical experience.
2. Tournament and League Software
 - New software was introduced to streamline tournament management.
 - Successfully tested at the Ulster Open in November 2024, handling 355 entries and improving administrative efficiency.
 - The Table Tennis Leagues App was integrated for league management, with 458 players currently using it.
3. Para Table Tennis Development
 - Expansion of para categories at provincial and national events.
 - First-ever Inter-Provincial Para Category held in April 2024, with participation from all four provinces.
 - Pilot tournaments were introduced to encourage greater para participation.

These projects align with Table Tennis Ireland's Strategic Plan (2022-2028), aiming to enhance event quality, increase accessibility, and develop future officials. The initiatives will continue into 2025 with further refinements based on pilot project feedback.

4. Umpires Project

- **Young Umpires Project - YUP**
Malmö (SWE)

The 2024 Young Umpires Development Project (YUP) involved 23 (13F 10M) participants from 15 National Associations during the European Youth Championships in Malmö. The program maintained its successful approach, pairing less experienced umpires with senior officials, conducting evening training sessions, and providing educational evaluations. Mentoring was emphasised, with mentors hosting online meetings and attending competitions with their mentees. Recommendations for improvement include better scheduling, more support for mentors, and targeted training to meet the increasing demand for qualified umpires at WTT Youth and other events. Social and learning experiences, such as teamwork and English communication, were highly valued by participants.

- **ETTU Umpires training in theory and practice**
Riga (LAT)
22-23.10.2024 (2 days)

14 umpires from three countries (Latvia, Lithuania and Norway) participated in the ETTU URC Development Activity in the field of Match Officials during the Riga City Council Cup. Wolfgang Wulz as ETTU trainer offered training to discuss together relevant regulations, procedures and information for international events and supported the match officials on their way to the International Umpire career. Candidates participating in the course also had the chance to work as umpire in the event and officiate young European players in action during the *2024 Riga City Council's Youth Cup in Table Tennis*.

