



ITTF DEVELOPMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Director's Letter

Dear Member Association Representatives,
dear Members of the International Table Tennis Family,

ITTF Development is pleased to bring to you the 2023 Development Program Annual Report, showcasing the collective accomplishments and progress achieved over the past year, to which each and every stakeholder contributed in their distinctively valuable way. The efforts and commitment of the global community have truly propelled the Program towards new heights, and with this Report the Team is delighted to share with you a detailed overview of the outcomes, among which we would like to highlight especially the following:

Unprecedented Member Association activation

The activation rate displayed by the Member Associations worldwide was truly overwhelming – an impressive 81.9% of the membership, spanning across all the continents, was actively on board, which not only exceeded the targeted threshold of 80% but also represented a significant improvement from the 76% participation level achieved last year.

Exponential increase in individual participants

We have witnessed a remarkable 32% surge in the number of participants – in 2023, our community has flourished with over 9 thousand individual participants, a substantial increase from the slightly below 7 thousand recorded in 2022, which evidences growth and inclusivity of the global development initiatives and of the sport as such.

Empowering gender equality

For the third consecutive year female cumulative participation has exceeded 40%. This milestone underscores the commitment to cultivating inclusivity and creating a supportive environment for females in various capacities within the sport.

Confidence enhancement and local capacity building through pilot initiatives

Creativity, flexibility, and the commitment to make business intelligence backed informed decisions, guided us in the incremental implementation of several pilot schemes within the Program's framework. Enriching the online services menu, organizing continental para training camps, launching a dedicated data collection questionnaire, introducing remote match official education, and advanced seminars for competition managers are among the tools aimed at fast-tracking professional development, promoting sustainability, diversity, and education and creating additional awareness about their paramount role in accelerating development of the sport.

The progress achieved is a true reflection of the collaborative spirits and shared values, and strategic objectives that characterised our joint journey throughout 2023. It speaks volumes in relation to the continuously expanding reach, a result of the broad and grassroots-oriented scope of the Participation Program, and also due to the very unique and tailored mix of incentives that the stakeholders can benefit from, while accessing various Development Projects in a modular way. Regardless of the focus, be it player development or capacity building, our diverse portfolio covers all aspects. Furthermore, through the enhancement of qualitative performance indicators, we were able to identify key priorities within the international table tennis ecosystem. This allowed us to optimize the resources with the understanding that sustainable development necessitates not only undertaking the right actions but also ensuring their longevity and effectiveness.

As we reflect on the featured accomplishments, we would like to acknowledge the assistance of each individual and of every Association, for which we are sincerely thankful. The constructive dialogue with Continental and Regional Federations also added an important drive, especially to the Program's customisation. Finally, none of this would have happened if it wasn't for the continuous support of the ITTF leadership and last, but not least, the extensive knowledge and rich experience of the many experts that were instrumental in bringing the Program to life – a very special and deep note of thanks to the committed external experts and of course to the devoted Development Team. Development, at the end of the day, is all about nurturing a long-term vision, fostering opportunities and implementing initiatives to upskill, educate, and motivate individuals, who, in turn, are then empowered to play a crucial role in shaping the future of our sport.

Thank you all for your contributions in making table tennis a sport that unites and inspires people from all walks of life.

Sincerely,

Polona Cehovin
ITTF Development Director



Development Projects

As we embark on the journey into 2024, I am delighted to present a brief overview of our endeavors in the past year. Our dedication, in alignment with the 2023 Development plan, has driven us toward efforts and achievements in various areas, reaffirming our commitment to excellence in sports development.

The aim to place players at the heart of our sport is evident throughout the Development Program, commencing with the Hopes which is our talent identification project. The 13 Regional Hopes Week & Challenge activities gave us the qualifiers for the Continental stage that will take place in 2024 around the world.

We remain focused on the growth of aspiring players by providing grants and scholarships to 43 players, supporting their participation in international events and training in an international environment. Additionally, we extended the same support to 12 Para players, fostering inclusivity in our sport's development initiatives. Many of the supported players were able to secure medals at WTT Youth Series events and Continental Youth Championships. In addition, we witnessed two of our PTT Grant holders securing their tickets to Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

We proudly organized 28 various regional and continental activities, with some taking place for the first time ever like the ITTF Africa Youth Training Camp with the presence of Team China, or the ITTF Americas Competition Management Seminar, showcasing our openness to innovative solutions. These initiatives were not only meant to meet the needs of our stakeholders but also demonstrated our willingness to explore new avenues in sports development.

Our capacity-building projects continue to generate significant interest within the table tennis community. One of these is our "My Gender. My Strength." project, which this year enhanced the skills of 15 female coaches through participation in regional youth player development activities and by leading the local coaching seminars. This initiative not only advanced their coaching expertise but also contributed to their managerial and leadership skills.

The Mentorship, guiding 25 coach and match official mentees, played a pivotal role in expanding the participants' competency. The collaboration with top-level experts provided invaluable insights, contributing to the professional growth of our mentees.

Having a forward-thinking perspective, we also implemented projects that aim to empower hosts of significant upcoming events like the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal or the All Africa Games in Ghana, and started preparing match officials for the upcoming IU exam. We aim to build synergies and foster collaboration with all stakeholders for sustainable success.

Throughout the year, we successfully orchestrated a total of 62 on-site activities, predominantly at the continental and regional levels. Additionally, our endeavors extended to the global stage with the execution of four key projects, directly benefiting approximately 100 individuals. Our support was tailored to each recipient, whether through direct assistance or collaboration with their respective Member Associations, reflecting our dedication to individualized and collective advancement of capacity building around the world. Our commitment to integrating sustainability, promoting gender equality, embracing diversity, and fostering inclusion is significant for all our projects.

We remain dedicated to building a strong relationship with our stakeholders and express our gratitude for their collaboration in 2023. Looking forward to 2024, our focus remains on doing our utmost for the advancement of table tennis, striving to elevate the sport globally through effective collaboration and shared dedication.

Katarzyna Kubas-Ziemiańska
ITTF Head of Development Projects



DEVELOPMENT

Development Programs

The ITTF Participation Program marked an excellent activation rate in its third year, which is again more than 80% of the Member Associations that can access the Program through their respective Continent's Development action plan. The program focuses on the empowerment of our Members and they welcome the provided targeted support, new services and the direction to achieve new heights by growing and developing nationally.

We continued with the three main incentives of the Program, which resulted in more than 110 national activities globally with over 40% of female representation.

48 MA Onsite Activities were led by the ITTF international experts in different languages and mainly featured players' and coaches' development during the training camps and coaching courses. While the DMA (Developing Member Associations) Activity has become the most selected activity (nearly 45% MAs benefited in 2023). It gives of a variety of possible project options ensuring MA overall structure support and the post-activity follow-up with the ITTF Participation Officers and helps to sustain the growth on the ground by building new relationships and partnerships to support table tennis development in different corners of the world.

Nearly 70 National Activities were organized by the Member Associations locally and represented various projects that included Hopes and youth training camps, educational sessions, school programs as well as the national events' support as part of the National Project and the Online Services incentives. The overall response to the online services was almost 500 hours of educational interactions that Member Associations are interested to continue consuming especially with new topics presented, such as Competition Management, Event Delivery and Sustainability.

Good progress has been achieved in the implementation of the new ITTF Quick Pathway Program that aims to provide relevant 360° support to the most active Member Associations selected through the application process and contribute to global competitiveness and promotion of our sport.

The 2023 contribution package served to support the needs of the Member Associations of Fiji, South Africa and Tonga based on the selected KPIs and the exit strategy in the form of training camps and a coaching course organization.

The Member Associations of Australia, Brazil, Oman and Tunisia have undergone through the phases of the Good Governance assessment and MA documentation review and are being in the current stage of the activities' finalization that has been slightly extended to ensure a successful implementation of the selected initiatives in the following months.

With the Development focus in mind, the submission of the MA Development or Strategic Plan was put as the activation criterion for all the 2023 Programs and Projects. This showed us that only 33% of the activated associations have their development strategies in place and much work is needed to improve the realities and work together to strengthen the MA structures by creating development pathways, which is work in progress.

2023 was another remarkable year for the Olympic Solidarity programs. We have rolled out a great number of technical courses for coaches held on all continents. Our Member Associations equally implement coaching courses of the first and second levels to contribute to the coach development programs in their countries. Notably, the most funded Development of National Sports Structure programs were implemented in Greece, Israel and New Zealand.

The ITTF Development Programs have been hailed as a bridge for the ITTF and the Member Associations by establishing rapport effectively, which becomes the building block of long-term relationships that we are thrilled to develop towards table tennis growth globally in 2024 and beyond.

Yelena Druzhkova
ITTF Head of Development Programmes



DEVELOPMENT



ITTF DEVELOPMENT



Development Plans

55 Development Plans submitted



Participants

8953 Participants



Gender Balance

59.6% male
40.4% female



Activities

48 MA Activities
70 National Projects
134 Development Projects
496 hrs of Online Services



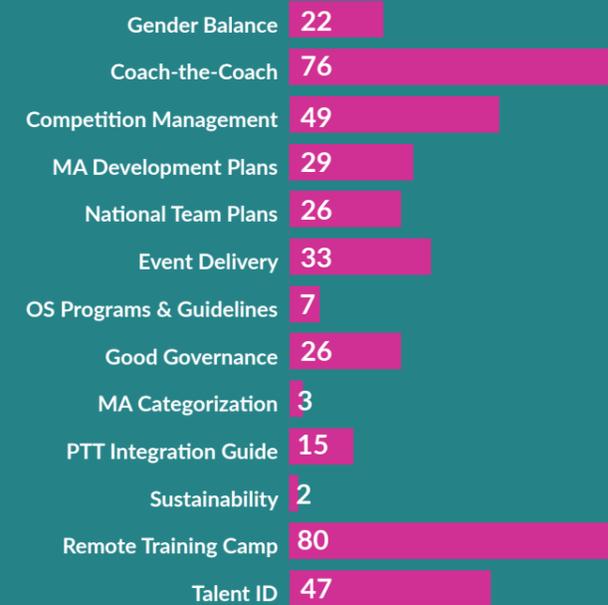
MA Activities



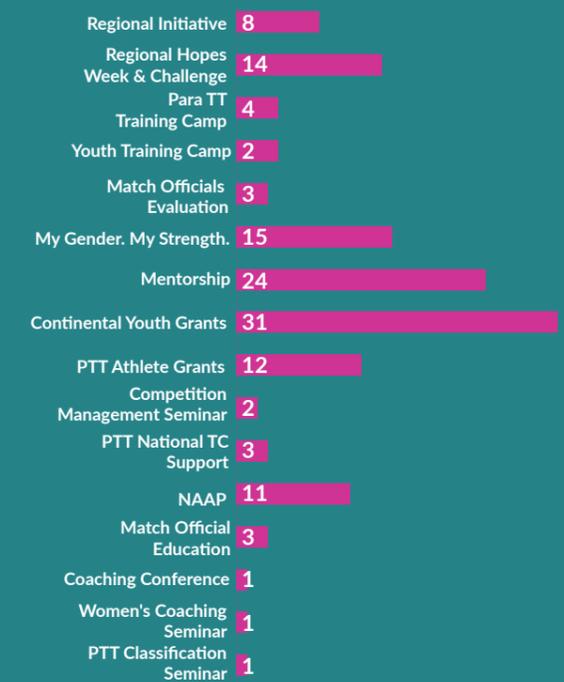
National Projects



Online Services



Development Projects





CONTINENTAL OVERVIEW



Development Plans

18 Development Plans submitted



Participants

2638 Participants



Gender Balance

57.2% male
42.8% female



Activities

13 MA Activities
29 National Projects
38 Development Projects
170 hrs of Online Services

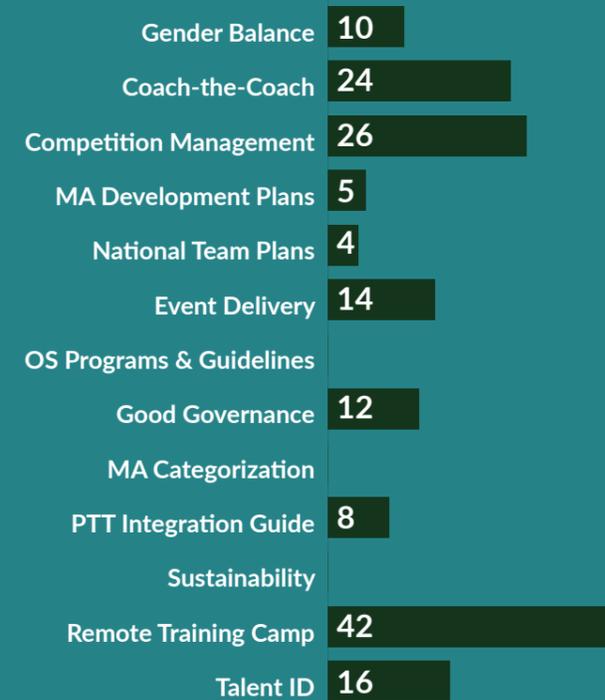
MA Activities



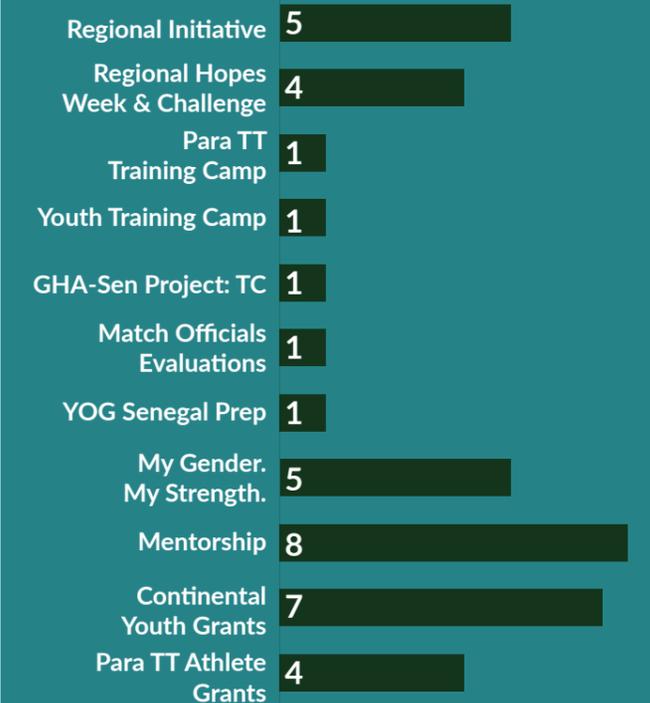
National Projects



Online Services



Development Projects



AFRICA RECORDED GENDER-BALANCED PARTICIPATION ACROSS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2023

ITTF AFRICA REGIONAL HOPES WEEK & CHALLENGE

The 2023 ITTF Africa Regional Hopes Week & Challenge talent identification activities serve to identify the most promising Hopes players within the region born in 2012 or later, and support their coaches, as coach education is one of the elementary aspects of the Program.

It also served as the qualification for the upcoming ITTF Africa Continental Hopes Week & Challenge, that will take place in 2024 at which each Region has a quota of 3 girls and 3 boys.



2023 ITTF Northern Africa Hopes Week & Challenge, Rades (TUN)

Western Africa Hopes Week & Challenge: 10-15 August 2023 in Abidjan (CIV)
13 participants (6 girls and 7 boys) from 4 MAs (BEN, TOG, CIV, GUI)

Northern Africa Hopes Week & Challenge: 13-18 August 2023 in Tunis (TUN)
21 participants (9 girls and 12 boys) from 5 MAs (TUN, EGY, ALG, LIB, MAR)

Eastern Africa Hopes Week & Challenge: 2-7 September 2023 took place in Kigali (RWA)
11 participants (5 girls and 6 boys) participated from 2 MAs (UGA, RWA)

Southern Africa Hopes Week & Challenge: 26 November – 1 December in Windhoek (NAM)
18 participants (8 girls and 10 boys) from 4 MAs (BOT, NAM, ZIM, RSA)

Central Africa National Hopes Support: organizational support provided for two MAs in the Central Africa region that applied to organize National Hopes activities. **CGO** organized a National Hopes activity from 10-15 December with 16 Participants (8 male and 8 female) and 4 coaches. **COD** is planning to organize a National Hopes activity in late January 2024.

ITTF AFRICA YOUTH TRAINING CAMP WITH TEAM CHINA

An energizing seven days in Cairo, Egypt, connecting 59 enthusiastic players from 11 MAs from 14 to 20 October 2023, in conjunction with the 2023 WTT Youth Contender Cairo. This exceptional camp was made possible through a collaborative effort of the ITTF, ATTF, CTTA, and ETTF. Participants went on a transformative journey, benefitting from intensive training, specialized guidance, and exposure to world-class playing styles. An important factor in this initiative's success was Team China, with their depth of experience and knowledge left a lasting impression. For African talents, their involvement in the ITTF Africa Youth Training Camp is revolutionary. With their abundance of expertise and mentorship, Team China has guided, mentored, and motivated young African players, strength-ening their abilities, and fostering their potential.

The ITTF Africa Youth Training Camp was the first Development Continental training camp to be organized with team China. A record-breaking 59 athletes from 11 MAs represented Africa at this event.

“At the time when the third “the Belt and Road” International Cooperation Summit Forum was successfully held in Beijing, the Africa Youth Training Camp with Team China was also successfully concluded in Cairo, Egypt. Although this training camp was not long, through the joint efforts of the International Table Tennis Federation, African Table Tennis Federation, and China Table Tennis Association, the Chinese national table tennis team and coaches from 12 African countries and regions worked hard together, enabling all coaches and athletes at this African Youth Training Camp to improve their level of table tennis while also gaining deep international friendship. Wishing table tennis to spread its branches and become stronger and stronger in Africa.” Coach Zhao Chang (Chinese National Youth Team), Head Coach a the training camp



2023 Africa Youth Training Camp with Team China, Cairo (EGY)

ITTF AFRICA PARA TABLE TENNIS TRAINING CAMP

The first ever Para Table Tennis Training Camp in Africa was held in Giza (EGY) from September 15 to September 19, 2023. Alessandro Arcigli, Head Coach of the Italian Para Team, led the camp. The training camp's goals were multifaceted. For one thing, it was designed to serve as a focal point for African Para Table Tennis athletes aiming to prepare for the upcoming ITTF African Para Table Tennis Championships while also working to improve their skills and performance in general. A total of 21 athletes from 5 Member Associations (MRI, RSA, EGY, CMR, CIV) took part, with 10 women and 11 men, 12 wheelchair athletes and 9 standing, making it a very balanced camp in every way. Four coaches from Egypt and Cameroon attended the camp with their athletes, sharing skills and knowledge with each other and the athletes.



2023 ITTF Africa Para Table Tennis Training Camp, Giza (EGY)

The ITTF Africa PTT Training Camp was the first continental training camp for Para athletes in Africa.

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with such motivated Para Table Tennis athletes under the guidance of a passionate coach like Alessandro, who possesses a global perspective mind-set to PTT training and development. In just one week, it has been an exceptional experience for me as a coach. I am wholeheartedly committed to assisting ITTF in their mission of making table tennis accessible to all, contributing in my own modest way. Together, let's make table tennis a sport for everyone.” Coach Yong Clement (CMR), participant

CONTINENTAL YOUTH GRANTS

The initiative serves to **identify talented athletes and provide them with financial and technical assistance to enhance and advance their development** and improve their level of performance, and to support athletes in gaining international exposure by participating in the WTT Youth Series.

- 36 applications from 13 African MAs were received through an online application process
- 7 players (3 girls and 4 boys) from 5 MAs (NGR, TUN, CMR, EGY, ALG) benefited from this incentive.

Highlights include Amir Essid (TUN) winning silver at the WTT YC Szombathely U13 Boys and was a semifinalist at WTT Youth Contender Tunis, Hana Sadi's (ALG) run to the semi-final at the same event in the U13 Girls category, and Khadija Alhakim (EGY) reaching the semifinal in the WTT YC Senec in the U13 girls category.



Amir Essid (TUN)

PTT ATHLETE GRANTS

ITTF aims to assist Member Associations by **providing dedicated support to promising and talented Para Table Tennis athletes** and this way enhance their training process and/or boost their participation in international PTT-sanctioned events in 2023, having in mind the qualification period for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

- 12 Applications from 5 African MAs were received through an online application process
- 4 beneficiaries (3 female and 1 male) from 2 MAs (EGY, NGR)

Two PTT Athlete Grant holders from Nigeria, Christiana Ikpeoyi and Olatunji Ogunkule, secured their tickets to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games after winning the Africa PTT Championships in their respective classes.

"I am so grateful to the ITTF for the opportunity to participate in the international ITTF sanctioned events. We were lacking international exposure, and the grants supported me to prepare for such big events like the ITTF PTT African Championships" Christiana Ikpeoyi (NGR), PTT Grant holder



Christiana Ikpeoyi (NGR)

SPECIAL ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GHA-SEN

GHA-SEN Training Camp: a total of 16 participants (11 female and 5 male) from GHA and SEN participated in the Training Camp.

ITTF AFRICA REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The goal of the Regional Initiative is to assist the African regions by planning development projects that are specific to their needs and potential growth areas.

Western Africa Regional Initiative: ITTF Level 2 National Referee Course

A four-day course was held in Accra (GHA) in conjunction with the 2024 WTT Western Africa Regional Qualifications from 28 April to 2 May 2023, which was preceded by a one-day practical educational component on the last day of the regional qualifications on 27 April. 10 Applicants from 3 MAs (BEN, GHA, NGR) participated in the course.

Southern Africa Regional Initiative: Regional Training Camp

The camp took place in Gaborone (BOT) from 3-7 July 2023 in conjunction with the 2024 WTT Southern Africa Regional Qualifications. 20 participants (12 female and 8 male) from 7 MAs (BOT, LES, ZIM, ZAM, RSA, ESW, ANG) participated.

Northern, Eastern, and Central Africa Regional Initiatives: International Umpire Examination Preparatory Course

The course was an opportunity for current national umpires to improve their skills and knowledge in anticipation of the International Umpire Examination, which is scheduled for 2024. The course consisted of four online interactive sessions of three hours each, run in each region over two weeks, from December 6 to 20 December. A total of 34 umpires (16 female and 18 male) from 13 MAs took part.

"The camp was a transformative experience. The expert's coaching methods were highly effective, focusing on techniques and tactical play and challenging so it pushed me to a higher level. His constructive feedback elevated my game and refined my skills. I saw an improvement in speed and agility as well as gaining a better knowledge of strategic gameplay." Magdeline Tshepiso Rebatenne (BOT), participant at the SARI



Southern Africa Regional Training Camp, Gaborone (BOT)

MY GENDER. MY STRENGTH.



Women's Coaching Seminar in Botswana as part of MGMS

The 2023 edition of the Project aimed to **enhance and advance women's participation** in table tennis by supporting ambitious and active female coaches in pursuing their coaching career to the next level and thus contributing to table tennis development in their Member Associations. The successfully selected candidates had a chance to gain theoretical knowledge,

practical experience and advance their leadership and management skills by taking part in the three stages of the project.

The selection was run through an online application process. Of the 9 candidates from 9 MAs that applied, five candidates representing 5 MAs (ALG, BOT, COD, ERI, TUN) were selected.

MGMS beneficiaries had the opportunity to attend the Regional Hopes hosted in Tunisia, Rwanda and Namibia and learn from the ITTF Expert/Head Coach onsite, or alternatively went through expanded mentoring sessions with an experienced coach. As a culmination of the project, MGMS beneficiaries were appointed to lead a two-day Women's Coaching Seminar for other female local coaches.

"It's a project that will have a huge impact on the development of women's table tennis in all its aspects. I've had the opportunity to take part in the Regional Hopes Week & Challenge, where I gained experience as a coach and was lucky enough to work alongside a great ITTF Expert, Mr. Massimo Costantini. I could also lead a group of children's club leaders and give table tennis lessons as part of a two-day seminar. These leaders will now be able to introduce table tennis to children, which will enable the FTTT to improve the number of people playing our sport, particularly in a new region where a new club can be created." - Garci Ferial, MGMS beneficiary



Garci feriel (TUN)

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT - DAKAR 2026 AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advanced Umpires Training, Advanced Rules Examination and Blue Badge Evaluation took part prior and during the WTT Youth Contender Cairo from 22 - 29 October 2023. 25 participants (10 female and 15 male) from 6 MAs (EGY, BRN, PLE, LBN, IND, MLD) participated in the activity.

A **Basic Umpires Course** with a practical observation component during the Senegal National Championships took place in Dakar (SEN) from 23 - 26 November with a total of 14 participants (4 female and 10 male) participated in the activity.

ITTF MENTORSHIP

The ITTF Mentorship serves to **support promising and talented coaches and match officials to enhance their knowledge and skills**, significantly contributing to their growth through establishing a mentoring relationship between the mentor and the mentee during an up to four months-long mentoring program. This includes regular online sessions and relevant monthly assignments. It provides an exceptional learning experience for the mentees and serves as a platform to exchange experiences and ideas.



Omoniyi Adedotun at the Southern Africa TC (NGR)

The program offered 4 different mentoring areas, able-bodied coaching, Para table tennis coaching, umpiring and refereeing. A total of 67 applications were received for the selection process of which 5 Match Officials (2 female and 3 male) and 3 Coaches (1 female and 2 male) from 6 MAs (NGR, BOT, BEN, TUN, LES, GHA) were selected.

Omoniyi Adedotun from Nigeria, the national coach for the rising Nigerian star Taiwo Mati, was mentored by ITTF Elite Coach Massimo Costantini. After a historic run, where Adedotun guided Mati to the R32 of the World Table Tennis Championships Finals in Durban he also was appointed as the ITTF Head Coach for the 2023 ITTF Southern Africa Training Camp in Botswana from 3-7 July.

ASISSTANT COMPETITION MANAGERS SUPPORT



Collins Mwenda (ZAM)

This training, held during the 2024 WTTC Africa Regional Qualifications, was offered to the top evaluated participants of the Competition Manager Seminar in 2022. 3 candidates from 3 MAs benefited from this support in 2023 to **attend the regional qualifications as Assistant Competition Managers** and receive training and mentorship from the ITTF Competition Managers during the regional qualification events.

- **Abeba Amare (ETH)** participated as the ACM in the 2024 WTTC Eastern Africa Regional Qualifications in Djibouti (DJI) from 9-12 March 2023
- **Ghazi Ben Hsen (TUN)** participated as the ACM in the 2024 WTTC Western Africa Regional Qualifications in Ghana (GHA) from 24-27 April 2023
- **Collins Mwenda (ZAM)** participated as the ACM in the 2024 WTTC Southern Africa Regional Qualifications in Botswana (BOT) from 28 June-2 July 2023

2023 PARTICIPATION PROGRAM IN AFRICA

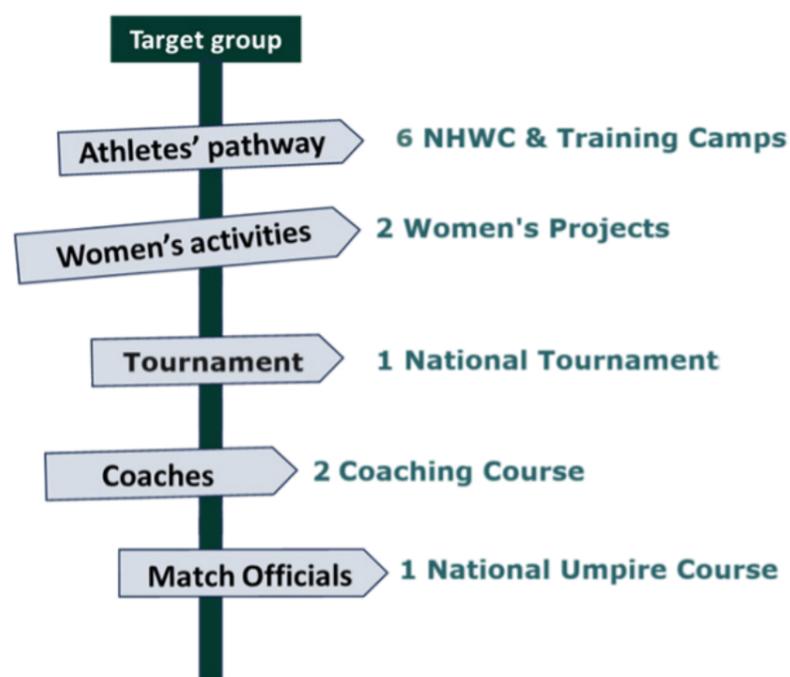
In its second and penultimate year, the ITTF Participation Program was a great success in Africa. We registered very good feedback from the African Member Associations that have benefited from the various incentives, centering on the richness and diversity of its content, the fairness of the offers over 3 years on a rotational basis, MA categorization and pro-activity principles, as well as meeting the needs of the MAs.

“The program has a positive impact because it starts with capacity building through online educational programs and ended with activities based on these online educational programs and we managed to successfully as a collective manage to attract sponsors, organize and managed impactful local monthly competitions moreover hosted the southern Africa world qualifiers with easy despite the challenges,” said Mr Kudzanani Motswagole, President, Botswana MA.

46 African Member Association activated the access to the ITTF Development Program by filling out the MA Form, which represented a rate of over 85%, with 39 MAs having completed and benefited from the various incentives presented in the ITTF Participation Program menu, representing a **loan** increase of 6% compared to 2022. One of the highlights was undeniably getting formerly dormant MAs such as Central Africa and Equatorial Guinea back on board.

NATIONAL PROJECTS

The National Projects implemented in Africa were very meaningful and diversified, with a total of 12 programs organized by the 10 Member Associations who benefited from this incentive, involving 5 targeted groups and focusing in particular on athlete development.



2023 National Projects in Africa

MA ACTIVITIES

Due to the high number of Category 4 African Member Associations (72%), the **DMA Activity** was, by far, the most popular and appealing program, and has attracted the most attendees and participants. Appreciated by Member Associations, the quality and combination of the DMA Program's activities (coach education, player development, competitions, promotional activities and meetings with local authorities) led the **President of Gabon TTA, Mr. Pepin Mouloungui**, to say that

“If the DMA activity didn't exist, it would have been necessary to create it, because this program has improved the quality of training for coaches and players, and has been so supportive of our Member Association that we have already begun to restructure ourselves and see our clear way to the development of Table Tennis in our country”.

Also, we experienced this year a very thrilling and exciting activity in **Ghana** where we organized an **ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course, Training Camp and a Coaching Seminar**, and where **Senegal** joined forces as part of the **MAs Regional Empowerment** to prepare well in the short term for the 2024 ALL Africa Games, but also in the longer term for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.



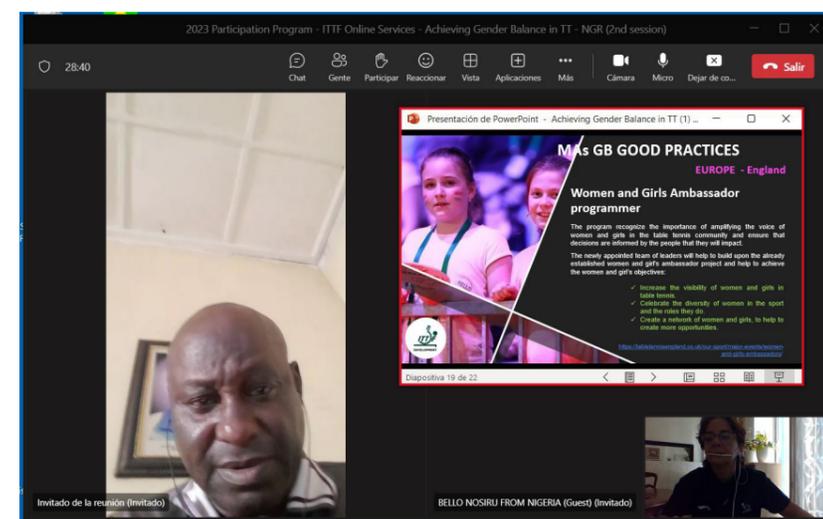
We would like to pay tribute to the experts who brilliantly conducted the various activities on the continent, mainly the ITTF Africa Participation Officers, but, in particular, **Mr. Ahmed Dawlatly (EGY)** and **Mr. Antonio Rato (POR)** who delivered outstanding activities in Tunisia and Guinea-Bissau.

ONLINE SERVICES

The Online Services as part of the ITTF Participation Program have seen a considerable addition, not the least of which was the introduction of up to US\$1,000 of cash support to the most active associations for the implementation of a National Activity linked to one of the booked Online Services, which had a wonderful impact on MAs' responsiveness to this incentive.

Mr Robert Jjagwe, President for Uganda MA had this to say about the program:

"It greatly helped us to give our coaches better training skills for our players' better development. It as well helped us to have a good activity as the competition for our U11 and U12 players. Using the combination of these two value additions to our MA, this year's PP helped us select the best Hopes players who then went ahead to win for Uganda the Regional Hopes Championship held in Rwanda this year as well as helping our Hopes Champion, Joseph Sebatindira, to also eventually win us a Gold Medal in Egypt at the WTT Youth Contender, Cairo 2023 in the same Under 11 Category. This then became the very first World Gold Medal and World Title for Uganda in its entire table tennis history since 1952."



Achieving Gender Balance Online Service for Nigeria

thanks to the wide range services which has been consolidated by new services like Competition Management, Event Delivery, Sustainability. The most popular Online Service was the Remote Training Camp because of its link with the National Activity. The second was the Competition Management service for its utility to train MAs to organize better tournaments, at least on a national scale. In addition, there was also the Talent Identification service, which was very much appreciated by MAs representatives since 2022, the year of its first implementation.

Bello Nosiru (Nigeria TTA Chief Coach) said in his own words:

"The ITTF Online Services were really beneficial to our Member Association. We had experienced this incentive before, in 2021, but this year, it was different and very rich, with competition-oriented services, as well as more structuring ones such as "Achieving Gender Balance in TT" or "Good Governance". The "Talent Identification" service came at just the right time, especially as we are in the midst of reviewing our national talent detection program"

The responsiveness of African Member Associations to the Online Services during the year was a real success, not only given the number of hours planned and delivered (which is more than double that of 2022), but also because of the feedback of the attendees and their enthusiasm. This could be explained by the financial support provided to organize a National Activity, and also

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY



OS ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course (TOG)

The first Olympic Solidarity Technical Course for Coaches was held at the beginning of the year in February in Togo, where we registered back-to-back ITTF-PTT Level 1 and ITTF Level 2 Coaching Courses.

Congo Brazzaville hosted the second course in April with an ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course followed by a Training Camp. At the very end of the year, Eswatini organized the third and last OS supported course with an ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course and Training Camp.

Full articles | [Olympic Solidarity courses in Togo, Congo-Brazzaville](#)

[Olympic Solidarity course in Eswatini](#)



OS ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course (CGO)

QUICK PATHWAY

"Road To Durban"

The Quick Pathway mainly supported the South African Member Association in the organization of the 2023 ITTF World Table Tennis Championships Finals in Durban (RSA) from 2021 to 2023.

In 2023, the South African team took part in a training camp in New Delhi, India to help them improve their game and elevate their performance under the guidance of top-class coaches. In addition, a national training camp in Durban was supported prior to the 2023 ITTF WTTC Finals.



AMERICAS



Development Plans

18 Development Plans submitted



Participants

2613 Participants



Gender Balance

59.8% male
40.2% female



Activities

17 MA Activities
21 National Projects
32 Development Projects
150 hrs of Online Services

MA Activities



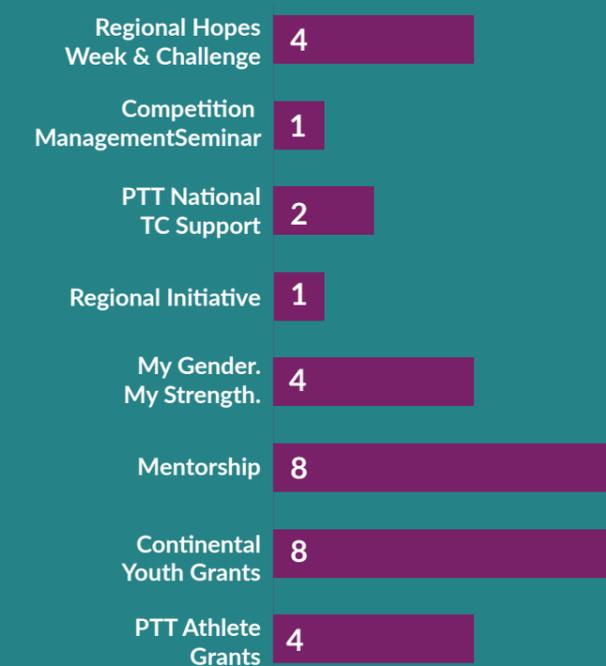
National Projects



Online Services



Development Projects



ITTF AMERICAS REGIONAL HOPES WEEK & CHALLENGE

The 2023 ITTF Americas Regional Hopes Week & Challenge talent identification activities serve to identify the most promising Hopes players within the region born in 2012 or later, and support their coaches, as coach education is one of the elementary aspects of the Program.



Central American Regional Hopes Week, Tegucigalpa (HON)

It also served as the qualification for the upcoming ITTF Americas Continental Hopes Week & Challenge, that will take place in 2024 at which each Region has a quota of 4 girls and 4 boys.

South American Hopes Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 2-7 May, Asuncion (PAR) 17 players (9 male and 8 female) from 4 MAs (ECU, PER, BRA, PAR) participated.

Central America Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 14-19 October Tegucigalpa (HON) 17 players (7 girls and 10 boys) from 5 MAs (GUA, MEX, HON, ESA, NCA) participated.

Caribbean Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 13-18 August, Santo Domingo (DOM) 15 players (7 girls and 8 boys) from 4 MAs (TTO, PUR, DOM, JAM) participated.

North American Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 25-30 July, Charleston (USA) 12 players (6 boys and 6 girls) from 2 MAs (USA, CAN) participated.

"I was very happy and excited when I heard the news. On my first day here, I was a little scared but anxious to learn. As the days went by, I saw my game improving and really enjoyed this pro-gram. I made a lot of friends from the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. I think this was a great experience because I learned a lot not only about tennis and the importance of exercise but also about different cultures." Hidayah Mohamed (TTO), the youngest player of the 2023 Caribbean Hopes Week & Challenge

NATIONAL PARA TABLE TENNIS TRAINING CAMP SUPPORT

Support was provided for 2 MAs (BRA, CRC) to organize a **PTT National Training Camp** in anticipation of the 2023 Para Pan American Games in Chile and ITTF PTT sanctioned events. The initiative supported the organizational costs of the training camps, such as, venue rental, domestic transportation, accommodation, and equipment.



Participants at the National PTT Training Camp in Brazil

National PTT Training Camp in **Brazil** from 5 - 11 November 2023 prior to the 2023 Para Pan American Games, 26 athletes (11 female and 15 male) participated in the activity.

National PTT Training camp in **Costa Rica** from 29 Nov - 3 Dec 2023, 19 athletes (3 female and 16 male) participated in the activity.

CONTINENTAL YOUTH GRANTS

The initiative serves to **identify talented athletes and provide them with financial and technical assistance to enhance and advance their development** and improve their level of performance, and to support athletes in gaining international exposure by participating in the WTT Youth Series.

- The Selection process was run through an online application process in April 2023, 49 applications were received from 21 MAs.
- 8 beneficiaries (4 female and 4 male) from 7 MAs (USA, CAN, VEN, PUR, BRA, MEX, PER) benefited from the ITTF Continental Youth grants in 2023, and used their grants to participate in a total of 3 different WTT Youth Contender series events and 1 Training Camp abroad.

Sally Moyland (USA) leads the list of notable achievements of this year's Youth Grant Holders by winning gold at the WTT YC Charleston, silver at the WTT YC Havirov, and becoming the U19 Youth PanAm Champion. Amongst the boys, Hamilton Yamane(BRA) won the WTT YC in Asuncion, and Nandan Naresh (USA) clinched the win at the WTT YC in Mosquera.



Sally Moyland (USA)

PTT ATHLETE GRANTS

ITTF aims to assist Member Associations by **providing dedicated support to promising and talented Para Table Tennis athletes** and this way enhance their training process and/or boost their participation in international PTT-sanctioned events in 2023, having in mind the qualification period for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

- 25 Applications from 11 MAs were received, and 4 applicants (2 female and 2 male) from 3 MAs (BRA, COL, USA) benefited from the grant in 2023, using the support to participate in a total of 3 ITTF PTT-sanctioned events.

PTT Athlete Grant holders Eduardo Freire (BRA) and Manuela Guzman (COL) obtained a gold and silver medal respectively in their classes in the 2023 ITTF Copa Tango Para Open, and both won Gold medals in the 2023 Youth Parapan American Games.



Eduardo Freire (BRA)

ITTF AMERICAS REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The goal of the Regional Initiative is to assist the regions of the Americas by planning development projects that are specific to their needs and potential growth areas.

South American Regional Initiative: ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course

The course was organized in Paraguay; 10 coaches (8 male and 2 female) participated from 7 MAs (ARG, BOL, PER, CRC, DOM, GUA, PAR), amongst them **two mentees of the ITTF mentorship.**



South American Regional Initiative: ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course - Asuncion, (PAR)

ITTF COMPETITION MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The seminar provided 15 participants from 11 Member Associations from across the Americas with an invaluable opportunity to **gain hands-on experience in the management of international table tennis events**. The seminar attracted a diverse group of participants, all of whom possessed backgrounds in sports management and event coordination within their respective Member Associations.



Participants at the Competition Management Seminar

Over five days, participants delved into the various aspects of managing international table tennis events. They were introduced to essential tools and systems, including ITTF On Site Venue Results (OVR), Online Entry System (OES), and Entries Management System (EMS). In addition, they developed a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities associated with being a Competition Manager (CM). The Seminar was led by Freddy Almendariz, ITTF Continental Events Manager.

“Engaging with individuals from diverse corners of the continent, each bringing their unique experiences from their respective member associations, was a fascinating experience. Despite our different backgrounds, we all shared a common goal – to enhance the development of international competitions with a heightened level of professionalism. I am now brimming with anticipation and a strong desire to continue absorbing and applying this newfound knowledge.” Vlad Farcas (USA), participant

MY GENDER. MY STRENGTH.

The 2023 edition of the Project aimed to **enhance and advance women’s participation** in table tennis by supporting ambitious and active female coaches in pursuing their coaching career to the next level and thus contributing to table tennis development in their Member Associations. The successfully selected candidates had a chance to gain theoretical knowledge, practical experience and advance their leadership and management skills by taking part in the three stages of the project.

The selection was run through an online application process, where 11 candidates from 11 MAs in the Americas applied to the program, and 4 candidates from 4 MAs (ARG, CAN, TTO, MEX) were selected.

MGMS beneficiaries had the opportunity to attend Regional Hopes hosted in USA, Honduras and the Dominican Republic and learn from the ITTF Expert/Head Coach onsite, or went through expanded mentoring sessions with an experienced coach. As a culmination of the project, MGMS beneficiaries were appointed to lead a two-day Women’s Coaching Seminar for the other local female coaches.

“This experience for me was truly one of a lifetime and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to ITTF for giving me this opportunity along with other women in the field of coaching and Table Tennis around the world. I was able to work alongside a very experience Coach Mr. Rafael Armendariz from Ecuador with the HOPES Caribbean junior athletes. I loved the fact that I was given the opportunity to meet daily with my Mentor and contribute significantly to the training sessions. It was also another great opportunity conducting a Women Coaching Seminar where i was able to pass knowledge over to other enthusiastic women in Table Tennis.” Aleena Edwards, MGMS beneficiary

ITTF MENTORSHIP

The ITTF Mentorship serves to **support promising and talented coaches and match officials to enhance their knowledge and skills**, significantly contributing to their growth through establishing a mentoring relationship between the mentor and the mentee during an up to four months-long mentoring program. This includes regular online sessions and relevant monthly assignments. It provides an exceptional learning experience for the mentees and serves as a platform to exchange experiences and ideas.

The program offered 4 different mentoring areas, able-bodied coaching, Para table tennis coaching, umpiring and refereeing. A total of 34 applications were received for the selection process; of these, 8 were selected for the 2023 Mentorship. Among these, 3 MOs (2 female and 1 male) and 5 coaches (2 female and 3 male) were selected from the 7 MAs (GUA, CAN, ECU, BOL, DOM, COL, ARG).

Yasiriz Ortiz (DOM), coach mentee, recently participated in the ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course in Paraguay to progress her coach education. The Mentorship helped her to take the **first step in transitioning from athlete to advanced coach**.

Coach mentee **Eduardo Vargas (BOL)** participated in the ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course in Paraguay, supported by his mentor Pablo Koatz from Argentina. **Byron Martinez (ECU)** was the second mentee for Pablo, and he completed the ITTF Level 2 Coaching Course that was held in Cuenca this year.

Armando Juárez (GUA) was mentored by Alejandra Gabaglio from Argentina. Armando was able to continue his mentorship experience on-site by meeting with Alejandra at two events: the Tango Cup in October and the Parapan American Games in November. The two meetings resulted in many fruitful discussions and learnings.

“It has been an amazing experience to expand my knowledge through an ITTF mentor. In this program, I have gained deep insights into table tennis through my research and by sharing ideas, resources, and engaging in discussions. I appreciate the importance of maintaining regular contact with my mentor and his other mentee, as it kept us both focused and motivated to complete our assignments and the entire program.” Yasiris Ortiz (DOM), Coach Mentee in the 2023 ITTF Mentorship



Coach mentee Byron Martinez (ECU)

2023 PARTICIPATION PROGRAM IN THE AMERICAS

In 2023, the Participation Program once again demonstrated its vital role in fostering growth and development throughout the Americas. With the activation of **40 of the 46 MAs**, the program marked a notable achievement in maintaining a significant level of engagement, mirroring last year's achievement with 37 MAs completing the program's incentives.

The increased focus on **athlete development, coach education, and school programs** further accentuates the dynamic and responsive nature of the program, which ensures a tailored and impactful approach to table tennis development in the region through an annual rotation system. A striking feature of this year's program was the move towards **gender balance**, reaching **40% female participation**, underlining the ITTF's commitment to inclusion and diversity in the sport.



Participants at the National Championships in Jamaica, run under the National Projects initiative

NATIONAL PROJECTS

Despite being the incentive with the fewest MA allocations, the National Projects yielded outstanding results, with 5 out of 6 projects completed. Two **School Programs** were particularly notable, introducing table tennis to young students and generating early interest in the sport. Complementing these, two **training camps** and a **National Championship** provided a valuable platform for developing and showcasing emerging talents, as well as for high-level competition.

"St. Kitts and Nevis is a small independent country in the Caribbean, and table tennis is not the most popular sport, making it quite difficult to find support for our activities. For this reason, the impact of the programme has been transformative, facilitating the execution of crucial promotional activities and identifying talented children, as well as supporting our national team's training camp, marking a year of remarkable progress for us." Troy K. Mills, SKNTTA President

The National Projects achieved significant impact, engaging 446 individuals including players, coaches, technical staff, Member Association members, and other key stakeholders, with a notable 39% female participation, demonstrating a strong commitment to inclusion and gender equity in table tennis.

MA ACTIVITIES

In the Americas, a total of 17 MA Activities were carried out, presenting a significant logistical challenge that culminated in resounding success. These activities were primarily athlete development focused (13 Training Camps in total including a special Women's Activity and a Hopes Program). Coach Education was another key component, with 9 courses conducted. The structure of the MAs was also strengthened through 3 DMA activities (with 13 programs included), marking a significant year for resuming in-person normalcy in the region. The activities, led by Participation Officers and 8 ITTF External Experts, imparted invaluable knowledge and skills at all levels and venues, reaching a total of 961 beneficiaries. This substantial impact on the table tennis landscape in the Americas underscores the effective reach of the Participation Program.

"The ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course really surpassed my expectations. I didn't expect to learn how to teach persons with a disability, and for me, this was a plus. Now I can transfer the attitude of inclusion in my coaching classes." Lenford Mornix, PE Teacher at Clear Valley Primary School, MA Activity held in Trinidad and Tobago

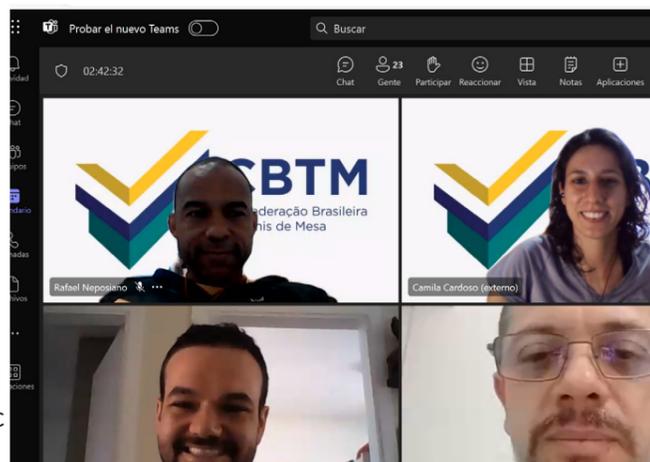
All sessions were a perfect blend of intensive learning, hard work, and fun, facilitating significant personal and sports growth. Players seized the opportunity to enhance their skills, preparing for future competitions. Moreover, coaches demonstrated their extensive theoretical and practical knowledge, seeking ITTF certification to improve the quality and professionalization of table tennis coaching. Notably, at least 10% of participants were involved in working with Para Table Tennis, highlighting the program's inclusive approach.



Coach Education in Ecuador (top left) and Costa Rica (bottom), DMA Activity in Antigua and Barbuda (top right)

ONLINE SERVICES

Our Member Associations' commitment and adaptability shone through in the Online Services segment of the Participation Program. Fifteen MAs, including the welcome addition of Dominica W.I., engaged in 57 virtual sessions and 150 hours of online sessions conducted by the ITTF staff. The favored 'Coach-the-Coach' and 'Remote Training Camp' services underscored a clear preference for practical learning to refine coaching and talent discovery processes. The strategic provision of 1k to 14 MAs, after 10 hours of online engagement, catalyzed hands-on national activities that complemented the theoretical online sessions. This harmonious blend of virtual and experiential learning cemented the skills shared by our specialists, embedding the lessons in a practical context.



Online Service - Coach-the-Coach for Brazil

"The Online Services have been praised by our coaches. Because it's online, it makes it easier for coaches from all over Brazil to take part and gain international knowledge. The topics are also of great value to our coaches, who attend, stay for the session and request the materials to continue their studies. With the knowledge obtained, the coaches can apply it to their athletes, each in their own training reality", Camila Cardoso - CBTM Sports Science Leader

Over half of the activities centred on player training camps, reflecting a concerted focus on competitive readiness. Regional participation was impressively balanced, illustrating the program's success in meeting diverse regional needs and fostering uniform growth throughout the Americas

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY



OS ITTF Level 2 Coaching Course (CHI)

In 2023, the Olympic Solidarity program was pivotal in the training of coaches across the Americas. Four strategic ITTF courses were conducted, highlighting the expertise of Carlos Esnard and Francisco Seijas. These programs educated 91 coaches, demonstrating ITTF's commitment to working in conjunction with the Olympic Solidarity program for the development of table tennis. The Level 1 and Level 2 courses laid a strong foundation for enhancing coaching standards, driving excellence, and the ongoing growth of table tennis in these regions.

Full articles | [OS ITTF-PTT Level 1 in Puerto Rico](#)
[Olympic Solidarity course in Uruguay](#)

QUICK PATHWAY

Brazil has been chosen for the Quick Pathway Program from 2023-2025, with activities and their execution being finalized.



Development Plans

10 Development Plans submitted



Participants

1873 Participants



Gender Balance

61.5% male
38.5% female



Activities

11 MA Activities
15 National Projects
32 Development Projects
146 hrs of Online Services

MA Activities



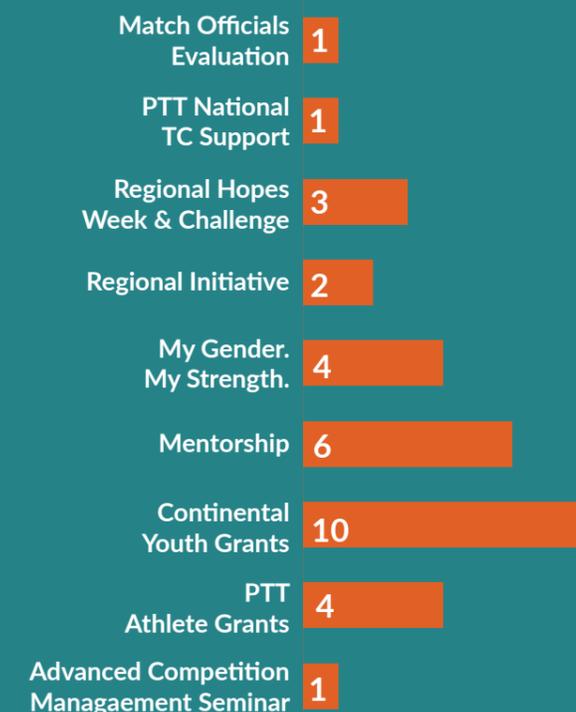
National Projects



Online Services



Development Projects



ITTF ASIA REGIONAL HOPES WEEK & CHALLENGE

The **2023 ITTF Asia Regional Hopes Week & Challenge** talent identification activities serve to identify the most promising Hopes players within the region born in 2012 or later, and support their coaches, as coach education is one of the elementary aspects of the Program.

It also served as the qualification for the upcoming ITTF Americas Continental Hopes Week & Challenge, that will take place in 2024 at which each Region has a quota of 4 girls and 4 boys.

West Asia Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 12-17 October, Jezzine (LBN)
10 players (5 girls and 5 boys) from 3 MAs (LBN, IRQ, SYR) participated.

Central Asia Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 25-30 October, Tashkent (UZB)
25 players (12 girls and 13 boys) from 5 MAs (IRI, KGZ, KAZ, UZB, TKM) participated.

Southeast Asia Regional Hopes Week & Challenge: 5-10 November, Bangkok (THA)
24 players (12 girls and 12 boys) from 6 MAs (SGP, PHI, MAS, LAO, THA, CAM) participated.



Southeast Asia Regional Hopes Week, Bangkok (THA)

ADVANCED COMPETITION MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

An **Advanced Competition Management Seminar** held in Doha (QAT) from 6-9 January 2024.

15 participants from 12 MAs participated in the activity, which is designed to elevate and advance the level of Technical Officials in Asia. The selected candidates had already attended a previous ITTF Competition Management Seminar/Online Service or have proof of local/regional experience in the field. The participants had the opportunity to get **practical knowledge** in the area by attending the WTT Star Contender Doha.

With the aim of creating future competition managers in Asia, the Advanced Competition Management Seminar in Doha was the first event of its kind to improve and expand upon previous Competition Management Seminars and services in the continent.

CONTINENTAL YOUTH GRANTS

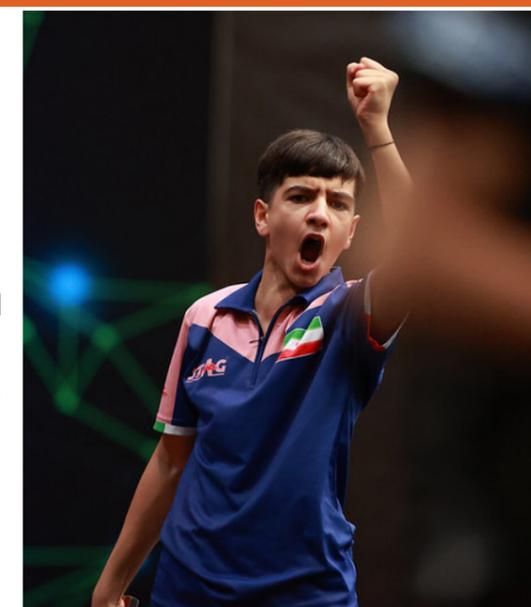
The initiative serves to **identify talented athletes and provide them with financial and technical assistance to enhance and advance their development** and improve their level of performance, and to support athletes in gaining international exposure by participating in the WTT Youth Series.

- 36 applications from 15 MAs were received through an online application process
- 10 beneficiaries (5 female and 5 male) from 7 MAs (IRI, MAS, PHI, LBN, QAT, KSA, IRQ) benefited from this incentive.

different WTT Youth Contender series events and 1 Training Camp abroad.

Youth Grant Holder Benyamin Faraji (IRI) took a sweep of gold medals in several WTT

YC events: the U19 & U17 titles at Batumi and Jezzine, and the U15 crown at Sulaymaniyah, Amman and Almaty. Baran Arjmand (IRI) secured a silver medal at the WTT YC Batumi and Jezzine (U17), while Abdulrahman Altaher (KSA) won the silver medal in the U13 boys category at the WTT YC in Al Ain and Amman.



Benyamin Faraji (IRI)

PTT ATHLETE GRANTS

ITTF aims to assist Member Associations by **providing dedicated support to promising and talented Para Table Tennis athletes** and this way enhance their training process and/or boost their participation in international PTT-sanctioned events in 2023, having in mind the qualification period for Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

24 applications from 7 MAs were received, and 4 applicants (3 female and 1 male) from 3 MAs (IRQ, MAS, KSA) benefited from the grant in 2023, using the support to participate in ITTF PTT-sanctioned events.

"I would like to thank the ITTF for the PTT Grants initiative. I benefited a lot from the grant in my training camp in Egypt, where I was able to advance my performance through several training sessions and exposure to different players. It was a valuable experience for me." Maryam Almyrisl (KSA) PTT Grant holder



Maryam Almyrisl (KSA)

MY GENDER. MY STRENGTH.

The 2023 edition of the Project aimed to **enhance and advance women's participation** in table tennis by supporting ambitious and active female coaches in pursuing their coaching career to the next level and thus contributing to table tennis development in their Member Associations. The successfully selected candidates had a chance to gain theoretical knowledge, practical experience and advance their leadership and management skills by taking part in the three stages of the project.

The selection was run through an online application process, where 9 candidates from 9 MAs in Asia applied to the program, and 4 Candidates from 4 MAs (IND, IRI, LBN, PLE) were selected to benefit from the incentive in 2023.

One MGMS beneficiary had the opportunity to attend the Regional Hopes hosted in Lebanon and learn from the ITTF Expert/Head Coach onsite. One was appointed to lead the Central Asia Hopes Week & Challenge, while the remaining two candidates went through expanded mentoring sessions with an experienced coach. As a culmination of the project, MGMS beneficiaries were appointed to lead a two-day Women's Coaching Seminar for the other local female coaches.



Houri Sadat at the Global Youth Training Camp as part of MGMS

“The ‘My Gender. My Strength.’ project has been an enriching journey that transcends table tennis coaching. It’s a transformative chapter in my sporting career where the focus on empowering women goes beyond the court. Joining this initiative has not only honed my coaching skills but also instilled a sense of purpose and responsibility. The opportunity to learn from a luminary like Eva Jeler has been truly magical, transforming our sessions into a profound journey of self-discovery. As a beneficiary, I’ve gained comprehensive insights into strategic planning, skill development, and creating a supportive coaching environment, especially for female players. This project is more than an honor; it’s a platform for positive change and meaningful contribution within the realm of women’s coaching. Houri Sadat, MGMS Beneficiary

“The ‘My Gender. My Strength.’ project has been an enriching journey that transcends table tennis coaching. It’s a transformative chapter in my sporting career where the focus on empowering women goes beyond the court. Joining this initiative has not only honed my coaching skills but also instilled a sense of purpose and responsibility. The opportunity to learn from a luminary like Eva Jeler has been truly magical, transforming our sessions

ITTF MENTORSHIP

The ITTF Mentorship serves to **support promising and talented coaches and match officials to enhance their knowledge and skills**, significantly contributing to their growth through establishing a mentoring relationship between the mentor and the mentee during an up to four months-long mentoring program. This includes regular online sessions and relevant monthly assignments. It provides an exceptional learning experience for the mentees and serves as a platform to exchange experiences and ideas. The program offered 4 different mentoring areas, able-bodied coaching, Para table tennis coaching, umpiring and refereeing.

A total of 44 applications were received and 6 were selected. Among these, 4 match officials (1 female and 3 male) and 2 coaches (2 male) were selected from 6 MAs (IRI, LBN, CAM, INA, SGP, QAT).



Hassan Alamri (QAT) during the 2023 IR Conference in Beijing (CHN)

Development and the URC for this program. I am looking forward to contributing to upscale the level of refereeing in my region and internationally. Finally, a big thanks to Werner Thury for being my mentor and for his patient guidance. I hope this project will continue to grow in the future for the benefit of our sport”. Hassan Al-Amri (QAT), Referee Mentee. Hassan was recently appointed as the URC Deputy Chair for Umpires.

“As an emerging table tennis referee, this mentorship has allowed me to learn from one of the best referees worldwide. The knowledge gained through the online sessions, the multiple cases discussed, and the number of assignments completed equipped me to be a better referee. I do extend my thanks and appreciation to both ITTF

ITTF ASIA REGIONAL INITIATIVES

The goal of the Regional Initiative is to assist the African regions by planning development projects that are specific to their needs and potential growth areas.

Southeast Asia Regional Initiative: ITTF Level 2 National Umpire Course + Level 1 Basic Referee Course

Organized in Bangkok (THA) from 5-10 November with 12 participants (6 female and 6 male) from 4 MAs (CAM, INA, THA, LAO) taking part. The activity was organized in conjunction with the Southeast Asia Hopes Week & Challenge, so some of the course candidates were appointed as a Referee for the Challenge, and all candidates worked in teams to practice the competition set-up and schedule.

West Asia Regional Initiative: ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course

Organized in conjunction with the Olympic Solidarity Technical Course for Coaches, an ITTF Level 3 Coaching Course took place in Manama (BRN) from 2-9 December, with 16 participants from 6 MAs (BRN, IRQ, YEM, LBN, TUN, EGY) taking part. It was the first time ever that an OS Technical Course for Coaches was organized on a regional level and within the framework of a Regional Initiative.



West Asia Regional Initiative

SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES & PTT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advanced Umpires Training & Advanced Rules Examination in addition to a **Blue Badge Evaluation** took place in conjunction with the 27th Asian Youth Championships in Doha (QAT) from 16-22 July. 11 participants (1 female and 10 male) from 9 MAs (HKG, IND, JOR, QAT, PLE, SGP, SYR, THA, EGY) took part.

Support towards a **National PTT Training Camp** in Iran from 6-18 October 2023 prior to the 2023 Asian Para Games. 12 participants (8 male and 4 female) benefitted from the training camp.

2023 PARTICIPATION PROGRAM IN ASIA

After two successful years of the ITTF Participation Program, the implementation of the 2023 Participation Program has been fruitful and meaningful to the Asia continent. The Member Associations benefited from the three different incentives, offered to them on a rotational basis. This year, three new topics were added to the ITTF Online Services menu: Competition Management, Event Delivery, and Sustainability in order to better meet the need, priorities and expectations of the MAs in different areas. Furthermore, the implementation of the National Projects was a crucial element in the success of the 2023 Participation Program with the involvement of Member Associations in Category 1, which also provided Member Associations with additional financial support in their implementation. Moreover, the MA Activity which is supported by an ITTF Experts is a very important component, normally implemented after consumption of the ITTF Online Services and National Project, this give us the opportunity to finalize and draw the development pathway for the each of the Member Associations.

However, out of 45 Member Associations, 36 have completed their access to the program with an activation rate of 80%, an increase of more than 15% compared to 2022.

"The ITTF Participation Program has been instrumental in cultivating interest and fostering talent. By addressing the areas of Increased Participation, Talent Development, Awareness and Promotions and Coaching Quality for improvement, there is tremendous potential to further elevate the sport's status and develop a stronger table tennis community within the country." Steven Yap Meng Teck, Assistant Secretary General of the Brunei Table Tennis Association



Thailand National Project - National Training Camp

NATIONAL PROJECTS

The implementation of National Projects was one of the highlights of the Participation Program in Asia in 2023, thanks to the interest shown by Member Associations who managed to activate access to this incentive at 67%, with a completion rate of 56% to benefit from cash support up to US\$2,000 offered by the ITTF.

The National Projects were well balanced, including activities aimed at athletes' development, promotional activities, tournaments, school projects, National Team Training Camps and equipment purchases.

MA ACTIVITIES

The MA Activity had a very good response in Asia this year, and all the activities were successfully implemented in different regions. The most popular was the DMA Activity that targets players, coaches, administrators and PTT areas and included various programs, like training camps, coaching courses, promotional activities at schools etc. We managed to focus on the preparation or revision of MA development plans that help associations to set directions for their growth and have more development oriented strategies in place. Besides this, we worked closely with associations on the successful local implementation of youth training camps, courses for match officials and national hopes weeks that we believe will bring positive changes in the future.

Despite of the challenges that Afghanistan is facing, we were able to implement the first ever DMA Activity in the country which included an integrated program for athletes, coaches and umpires. In addition, a school project was carried out in the two provinces of Kabul and Jawzjan, and we supported the association in creating a development plan.

Full Article: [MA Activity- Training Camp in Uzbekistan](#)

Full Article: [MA Activity - DMA Activity in Yemen](#)



DMA Activities in Yemen (top left) and Afghanistan (bottom), match officials education in Indonesia (top right)

ONLINE SERVICES

The responsiveness from Member Associations that were offered ITTF Online Services really lived up to expectations, with a **75% activation** rate (18 MAs out of 24) and 58% completion (14 out of 24), thanks to the benefits that have been put in place in 2023 to reinforce this incentive by adding new services, as well as providing cash support of up to US\$1,000 for those who implement a National Activity linked to one of the booked Online Services.

“Engaging with the various online services delivered by ITTF staff, we received a very comprehensive experience for our association. The Sustainability module effectively underscored the significance of environmental awareness in the sport, offering practical integration methods. Our coaches significantly elevated their coaching skills through innovative methodologies and were also equipped with effective strategies for discerning and nurturing potential in players. We run international events and it was great to get more valuable insights during the event focused service. The focus on achieving gender balance in table tennis was commendable, promoting inclusivity and equality.” Rita Bsaibes, Deputy Secretary General of the Lebanese Table Tennis Federation

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY



OS ITTF Level 2 Coaching Course (PAK)

4 MAs applied and successfully implemented the Olympic Solidarity technical courses for coaches in 2023, reaching a **total of 150 participants**.

It is a big success for the region to hold an advanced National Level 2 courses in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, while the Level 3 course held in Bahrain was catering to participants from the **West Asia Region**, offering a regional activity under the banner of Olympic Solidarity for the first time. It was great to have a lot

of cooperation, creating a bright future for high-level coaches.

[Olympic Solidarity Course in KSA and PAK](#)

[Olympic Solidarity Course in Laos](#)

[Olympic Solidarity course in Bahrain](#)



OS ITTF-PTT Level 1 Coaching Course (LAO)

QUICK PATHWAY

Oman has been chosen for the Quick Pathway Program from 2023-2025, with activities and their execution being finalized.



Participants

876 Participants



Gender Balance

67% male
33% female



Activities

18 Development Projects



DEVELOPMENT CAMPS**Eurotalents Camp U13 I - 12- 19 March, Izvorani (ROU)**

The first Eurotalents Camp of 2023 took place from 12-19 March in Izvorani, Romania. The camp was attended by players and coaches from 13 different associations (AZE, BEL, BUL, CZE, LIT, ESP, ENG, FRA, ITA, IRE, TUR, ROU, UKR) and led by Ana Maria Sebe. One of the highlights of the camp was an educational session conducted by Valeriu Tomescu, the Director of Human Performance Laboratory at the Romanian Olympic Committee, on "Evaluation and Monitoring in Sport," which was well-received by the participants.

Eurotalents Selection Camp U13 - 2-9 April, Havirov (CZE)

The first Eurotalents U13 Selection Camp took place in Havirov (CZE) from 2-9 April. Players and coaches from 14 European MAs attended the camp (CZE, ESP, TUR, AZE, SRB, ROU, CRO, LAT, POR, SVK, FIN, GEO, NED IRL), with Zvonimir Korenic leading the camp as the Head Coach.

**Eurotalents Selection Camp U13 - 4-11 August, Kiskunfélegyháza (HUN)**

46 players (28 boys and 18 girls) from 17 MAs participated in the second Eurotalents Selection Camp. Guided by accomplished coaches, participants displayed their abilities on the table to gain one of the coveted places in the Eurotalents program. The coaching team consisted of ETTU consultant coach Renata Strbikova, leading the way with her wealth of experience. Ferenc Karsai, the Head Coach and organizer, played a key role in making the event a success. Alongside them, Attila Halmai served as the Assistant Coach to the organizer, contributing to the camp's smooth operation. Provas Modal, an accomplished assistant coach, and Nevena Kostova, a dedicated physical coach, completed the team, ensuring holistic guidance for the players. The camp was marked by a competitive spirit as players put their all into rigorous training and tournament matches.

Eurotalents Development Camp - 19-24 August, France

18 boys and 17 girls under the age of 13 from sixteen different countries gathered under the guidance of the Coaches Stephane Hucliez, Nicolas Metaireau, Rémi Betelu. This camp was held in conjunction with the EuroMiniChamps in Schiltigheim, which drew more than 400 players.

DEVELOPMENT CAMPS**ETTU Development Camp U15/U17 - 23-30 August, Luxembourg**

39 players (20 boys and 19 girls). This initiative allowed European young players to train alongside their counterparts from the China Table Tennis College. Under the expert guidance of Heinz Thews, Peter Engel, Cheng Xia, Zhang Yining, Yan Sen, and Zheng Chaoying, this camp provided skill development and a platform for cross-cultural exchange.

Eurotalents Selection Camp U13 - 10-17 December, Havirov (CZE)

The selection camp unfolded at the National Training Centre in Havirov throughout the entire week. A total of 26 boys and girls from 13 European countries participated in the third camp of this year's Eurotalents program. Young players were invited based on their performance at selection camps and the results of certain international tournaments in their respective age category. Marek ČIHÁK served as the head coach for the camp, supported by assistants Marek KLÁSEK and Petr NEDOMA. The players also had the valuable opportunity to benefit from the services of fitness coach Patrik KAIZAR and the expertise of Chinese coach XU Kai. Additionally, other coaches joined the camp with their respective national teams.

ETTU Development Camp U15/U17 - 17-23 December, Hennebont (FRA)

The U15/U17 Development Camp in Hennebont, held from 17 to 23 December was a blend of intensive training and essential education, featuring a key session on cyberbullying prevention focusing on the responsible use of digital tools and strategies to combat cyberbullying, a vital topic for young athletes in the public eye. 13 players from 9 Association trained guided by the expertise of the coaches who led the camp, Adrian Crisan, Jérôme Boyer from Hennebont Ping Center and ETTU Assigned Coach Zvonimir Korenic, who brought a wealth of experience and skill to the training sessions.



*12 scholarships have been granted to 6 girls and 6 boys from 11 Member Associations.

COACHING AND MATCH OFFICIAL EDUCATION**THE YOUNG MATCH OFFICIALS PROJECT**

The Young Match Officials project commenced this year at the European Youth Championships, held in Gliwice (POL) from 13-23 July. Before the event, **online training sessions, mentoring, and interactions** with experienced Blue Badge Umpires were provided, along with **two workshops** for interested candidates. Out of 74 nominations submitted to ETTU URC, 39 spots were available, and 18 female young match officials were chosen, with 19 of them being under 30 years old. Over the course of 10 days, they had the opportunity to officiate numerous matches, gain a comprehensive understanding of international event procedures, and handle various on-field situations. Christian David, Asko Rasinén, and Pol Pierret offered feedback and guidance to help them progress. In the final days of the event, two workshops allowed them to share their experiences and delve into specific scenarios in working groups, guided by Werner Thury, ETTU URC chairperson.

ANNUAL COACHING CONFERENCE

Held during the European Championships in Malmö and organized in conjunction with the Swedish Table Tennis Association, the ETTU Annual Coaching Conference gathered 26 coaches who attended the workshops from 14 to 16 September. The keynotes were delivered by Frida Bylander (Physiology and Psychology impact of Table Tennis), Deepak Malik (STUPA Sport Analytics), Ryan Jenkins (Coaching Philosophy and Associations Challenges), Petra Sörling and Mattias Ekhdal (Leadership), Daniel Ellerman (The Swedish Model).

WOMEN'S COACHING SEMINAR

The city of Granada hosted the ETTU Women's Coaching Seminar from 11 to 13 December. This event, specifically designed to support the development and professional knowledge of female coaches in Europe, was highlighted for its focus on



enriching the game, promoting networking, and fostering the continuous growth of attendees. Participants had the opportunity to actively engage, exchanging ideas and presenting projects, which contributed to a more interactive and committed atmosphere, promoted by the group activities of the speakers. Krisztina Toth, who brought her technical experience and unique perspectives as a bronze medalist in world championships and seven-time European champion; and Mar Rovira Rodríguez, a specialist in sports psychology, offered valuable insight into mental health in coaching from a gender perspective. The event unfolded with sessions spread over three days. The seminar effectively combined theory with practice, resulting in an enriching and educational experience for all attendees.

"In Granada, we came together to learn and share. This seminar showed us how important it is to keep learning and to support each other in coaching, especially among women. It was a great chance to learn from Kristina Toth's experience but also for all of us to grow in our journeys as coaches." Carmen Solichero participant

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**NAAP Activity in Nantes (FRA)**

The National Association Assistance Program activity was held in Nantes, France from 5 to 10 March. The event was hosted by the Pôle France of Nantes of the French Federation, which is identified as an "ETTU Network Training Center." The program involved four U17 players and two coaches from the English Table Tennis Association who trained with the French team of 6 players and 4 training partners for a week. The training sessions aimed to share best practices at a high level between the coaches and players, with both parties learning a lot from each other.

NAAP Activity in Agros (CYP)

The Cyprus Table Tennis Association recently organized a successful training camp in collaboration with the ETTU National Association Assistance program. Led by coach Marc Closset from Belgium, the camp took place in the Agros mountains from 21 to 27 June, providing young table tennis players with a comprehensive training experience. The camp consisted of 37 boys and 5 girls of varying skill levels. The training program included a wide range of activities such as multi-ball training, service practice, technique improvement, footwork exercises, and physical conditioning. The success of the camp can be attributed to the effective collaboration between the coaching staff, which included National Coach Adrian Simion and coaches Penelope Savva and Popi Drousioti.

NAAP Activity in Andorra (AND)

Andorra, a picturesque European nation known for its stunning landscapes, hosted a training camp from 14 to 19 August. Organized as part of the ETTU National Association Assistance Program (NAAP), this project activity is the second of its kind, with the inaugural event taking place in 2019. It provided a unique platform for nurturing young table tennis talents. The ETTU National Association Assistance



Participants at the training camp during the NAAP in Andorra

Program is designed to support and enhance the development of table tennis at the grassroots level across Europe. The Youth Training Camp in Andorra aligns perfectly with this mission, offering young players the opportunity to develop their skills and gain experience under the guidance of an experienced technical team. The esteemed technical team includes Eduard Mayorov (Coach), Svetlana Bakhtina (Coach), Rodrigo Tapia (Sparring) and Gerard Màdico (Sparring).

NAAP Activity in Pristina (KOS)

A youth development camp was held in Pristina, Kosovo, where 14 promising players improved their skills under the guidance of Vesna Ojstersek from 16 to 20 August.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAAP Activity in Prilep (MKD)

The Table Tennis Association of North Macedonia organized a development activity under the NAAP development support program of ETTU from 15 to 19 September. The camp with the selected players has been organized in Prilep, in the sports hall of TTC Mladost and TTC Mladost 96 under the lead of Milos Milenkovic, coach/expert from Serbia and supported by 2 coaches from the National Team (Zoran Jovanovski and Gjoko Jockoski). There were 10 participants and in addition, during this period, a two-day coach training seminar was completed.

NAAP Activity in Latvia

With the assistance of the ETTU National Associations Assistance Program and the Latvian Sport Federation Council, the Table Tennis Federation of Latvia organized a seminar for Latvian coaches. The seminar took place on 25 and 26 September, drawing the participation of 34 coaches from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and Iceland, all eager to enhance their knowledge of the sport, with 18 of them being women. The table tennis sessions were conducted by Jaroslaw Kolodziejczyk, Chair of the ETTU Coaching Committee. The feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, and they expressed a keen interest in participating in similar events in the future. During the course, Kolodziejczyk covered theoretical topics, and an additional session was dedicated to practical exercises. In this practical segment, the coach was assisted by five young Latvian players who contributed to the learning experience.

NAAP Activity in Scotland

The European Para Championships Legacy Programme 2023, hosted by Table Tennis Scotland in partnership with British Para Table Tennis and supported by ETTU and UK Sport, organized a training camp and coaches conference in Scotland. Participants from Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Belgium, Greece, and Hong Kong, including over 30 young players and a total of 120 attendees, benefited from the accessible facilities. The training led by Gorazd Vecko and an educational workshops on para table tennis rules, classification, and integrated play were the highlights of this activity.



Training camp as part of the NAAP in Scotland

NAAP Activity in Jersey

A highly successful five-day table tennis camp held from 23 to 27 October, led by professional coach Chris Doran. The camp saw 20 juniors participating, including 7 girls, with players of various skill levels, from beginners to those who have represented Jersey. Chris Doran, supported by local coaches, provided a wide variety of training exercises and mini-games, focusing on different shots, footwork, and playing under pressure. The camp maintained positive energy, with participants enjoying the exercises and mini-games. Feedback from juniors was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting Chris's inspiring attitude, useful advice, and the enjoyable, varied nature of the training sessions.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NAAP Activity in Pajulahti (FIN)

The 2023 ETTU National Associations Assistance Program in Finland was a successful coaching seminar at the Pajulahti Sports Institute, conducted by the Finnish Table Tennis Association. This event, held on 11 and 12 November, focused on advanced table tennis techniques and physical training, benefiting 16 coaches and 2 instructors. The seminar utilized guidebooks published by the association and received positive feedback, with participants valuing the new insights into the physical aspects of table tennis and expressing interest in attending similar future seminars.

NAAP Activity in Denmark

On 18 November, the Danish Table Tennis Federation hosted its fourth Career Day for junior players, aimed at guiding them towards a professional table tennis career. The event, part of a series since spring 2022, was attended by 25 young players along with



25 parents and coaches. The day included a career planning workshop with national head coach Linus Mernsten and Magnus Mallander, focusing on five-year individual career plans. Participants also heard from national team player Martin Buch about his journey and from former French national player Marie Migot about her professional life. Additionally, Paralympic champion Peter Rosenmeier

conducted a workshop on branding, social media, and working with sponsors. The event was well-received, with plans to expand the Career Day concept, including sessions specifically for parents of elite athletes.

"Career Days is about opening doors for young talents, showing them the path to achieving their dreams in table tennis. It's incredible to see the enthusiasm and commitment from players, parents, and coaches alike. Together, we're building a future where every aspiring athlete has the guidance and support to reach their full potential." Magnus Mallander (DEN), Career days organizer and speaker

NAAP Activity in Czechia

The Czech Table Tennis Union successfully hosted the seminar "Other Perspectives for New Generations" from 15 to 17 December 2023 in Vlašim. German expert Lara Broich led the event, which built upon the previous year's seminar, focusing more on practical coaching techniques. Targeted at coaches of all levels from across the Czechia, it included special sessions for young Czech talents aged 10-13. The seminar emphasized innovative coaching strategies and interactive learning experiences.

NAAP Activity in Ireland

Table Tennis Ireland successfully executed the "Para Player Development Pathway" project, focusing on creating a structured pathway for players with disabilities to reach high-performance levels. The project involved setting up provincial training camps and developing provincial para squads, enhancing inclusivity within the sport. A notable emphasis was placed on recruitment and awareness, with 'Come Try' open days and collaboration with organizations aiding people with disabilities. The project significantly increased participation and awareness in para table tennis, with prospects for future growth and development in the sport.



OCEANIA



Development Plans

9 Development Plans submitted



Participants

953 Participants



Gender Balance

55.9% male
44.1% female



Activities

7 MA Activities
5 National Projects
14 Development Projects
30 hrs of Online Services

MA Activities



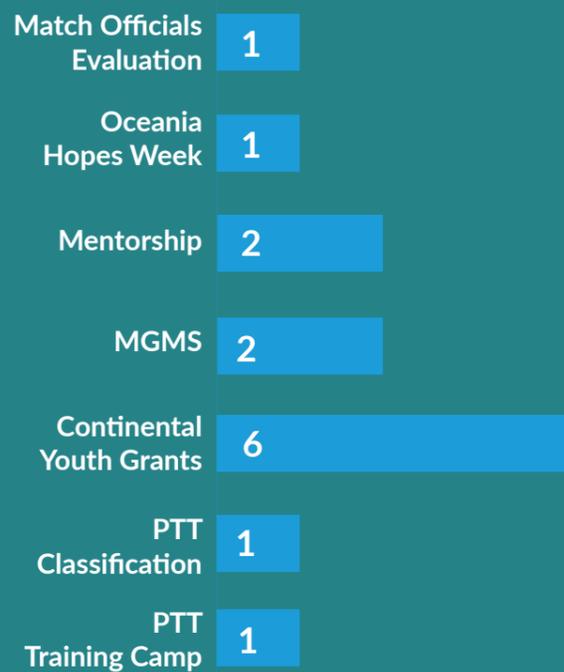
National Projects



Online Services



Development Projects



ITTF OCEANIA HOPES WEEK

A six-day training camp for players born in 2012 and later. The training camp also featured an educational component for the coaches that accompanied the 11 participating players from 2 Member Associations. The camp was led by Coach Massimo Costantini (ITA) and served as a precursor to the Oceania Hopes Week & Challenge, which is scheduled to take place in 2024.



Oceania Hopes Week - Darwin (AUS)

DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES & PTT NATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Advanced Umpires Training & Advanced Rules Examination, Darwin (AUS)

Advanced Umpires Training & Advanced Rules Examination in addition to Blue Badge Evaluation took place in conjunction with the WTT Youth Contender Darwin (AUS) from 25-29 September, with a total of 14 participants (3 female and 11 male) from 3 MAs (AUS, IND, KOR) taking part.

PARA TABLE TENNIS SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

An ITTF PTT Level 1 Classification Seminar was organized in New Zealand from 13-17 January 2024 to provide technical officials with the necessary tools and education to carry on the process of the national classification and to design suitable training systems for their athletes. 15 Participants (8 male and 7 female) from 4 MAs (NZL, TGA, TAH, NCL) took part, out of which, 4 are medical classifiers and 11 technical classifiers. The activity was held in conjunction with a national PTT training camp for Table Tennis New Zealand, where candidates had the opportunity to observe the national classification process and athlete training during the first 2 days of the training camp as part of the practical observation component of the seminar.

Support towards organizing a National Para Table Tennis Training Camp in New Zealand, which is taking place from 16-20 January 2024. 18 athletes (16 male & 2 female) and 8 coaches are taking part in the training camp.

The ITTF PTT Level 1 Classification Seminar is the first of its kind in New Zealand, and the activity will host participants from 3 MAs of the Pacific region.

CONTINENTAL YOUTH GRANTS

The initiative serves to **identify talented athletes and provide them with financial and technical assistance to enhance and advance their development** and improve their level of performance, and to support athletes in gaining international exposure by participating in the WTT Youth Series.

- Six beneficiaries (2 female and 4 male) from 2 MAs (AUS, NZL) benefited.

Youth Grant holder **Won Bae (AUS)** claimed the title at the **2023 Oceania Youth Championships**, while his compatriot **Finn Luu** reached the final of the **2023 ITTF Oceania Cup** and the **ITTF Oceania Championships** respectively.



Youth Grant Holder Won Bae (AUS) (second from right)

MY GENDER. MY STRENGTH.

The 2023 edition of the Project aimed to **enhance and advance women's participation** in table tennis by supporting ambitious and active female coaches in pursuing their coaching career to the next level and thus contributing to table tennis development in their Member Associations. The successfully selected candidates had a chance to gain theoretical knowledge, practical experience and advance their leadership and management skills by taking part in the three stages of the project.

Two female coaches from 2 MAs (AUS, NZL) were selected to benefit from the incentive in 2023.

One MGMS beneficiary in had a chance to attend ITTF Oceania Hopes Week Hopes hosted in Darwin (AUS) and learn from the ITTF Expert/Head Coach onsite, while a coach from New Zealand had the chance to attend the ITTF Global Youth Training Camp in Chengdu as one of the Continental Coaches of the Oceania Team.

"Being a beneficiary of the MGMS program signified a once in a lifetime, steep learning curve for me. This experience, in which I was exposed to the best junior talent and the professionalism of an ITTF Elite Coach, was not only memorable, motivating, inspiring and enjoyable, but also provided me with immediate upskilling and was a boost to my own development. My sincere thanks to everyone who made this experience possible for me" Christa Foulis, MGMS Beneficiary

ITTF MENTORSHIP

The ITTF Mentorship serves to **support promising and talented coaches and match officials to enhance their knowledge and skills**, significantly contributing to their growth through establishing a mentoring relationship between the mentor and the mentee during an up to four months-long mentoring program. This includes regular online sessions and relevant monthly assignments. It provides an exceptional learning experience for the mentees and serves as a platform to exchange experiences and ideas.

The program offered 4 different mentoring areas, able-bodied coaching, Para table tennis coaching, umpiring and refereeing. A total of 5 applications were received for the selection process and 2 were selected for the 2023 Mentorship. Among these, one match official (male) and one coach (1 male) were selected from 2 MAs (AUS, NZL).



Jaafar Mousa (NZL), coach mentee (r)

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to partake in the mentorship course. The structure of the course is amazing and gives us the opportunity to learn about subjects that interest us. I feel as though this has been a highlight of my coaching career so far and feel as though I have grown so much as a coach since beginning it. I really enjoyed the one-on-one experience with such a knowledgeable mentor, Eva Jeler. Eva was available to support me whenever I needed." Jaafar Mouse (NZL), Coach Mentee

2023 PARTICIPATION PROGRAM IN OCEANIA

The Participation Program has grown so much in Oceania in 2023, with 12 out of 24 MA's completing activities this year, doubling the effort compared to 2022.

It's very encouraging that 3 MAs from the Micronesia sub-region took part for the first time, overcoming logistical challenges to hold successful activities. Some of the success can be measured by **100% retention** of the 6 MAs that completed an activity in 2022, who completed activities in 2023 as well, creating a great level of communication with participation officers and ITTF.

With Oceania containing many MAs of Category 4, the **focus on grass roots development** was critical to build momentum in the region. These activities become quite diverse with encouraging female participation numbers as well as great inclusion of PTT athletes.



DMA Activity in Guam

MA ACTIVITIES

7 out of 7 MAs completed the MA Activity, with the most popular, the DMA Activity, involving much needed development and promotion of table tennis. Time was spent during the DMA activities to also create a development plan, thus ensuring a good connection with ITTF with ongoing dialogue going forward.

"This DMA activity is the beginning for us to grow table tennis as a major competitive sport. I believe with the challenges of our country with a small land mass, table tennis not needing much space to play makes it the ideal sport to promote in our communities" Kevin Harkey, Sports Development Officer, Marshall Islands

Highlights include:

Cook Islands establishing a new training club, making table tennis accessible for the first time since the pandemic.



MA ACTIVITIES - HIGHLIGHTS

Guam creating a working relationship with Special Olympics Guam to begin working in schools, and being able to recover after severe typhoon weather.



Tahiti conducting a National Hopes Week & Challenge, catering to outer island areas which also began development in 2022 through the Participation Program.



MA Activity - National Hopes Week & Challenge in Tahiti

Full Articles: [Participation Program shines spotlight on Oceania](#)
[Participation Program continues drive of activities in Oceania](#)

NATIONAL PROJECTS

Both **Fiji** and **Samoa** completed National Projects out of the allocated 6 MAs for 2023.

Fiji held an all **inclusive National Championships**, as well as an **Olympic Inclusion day** promoting table tennis. Overall, the activities combined reached over 500 participants!

Samoa held a **training camp** in preparation for the Pacific Games. Focusing on 4 female and 4 male participants plus one PTT Athlete.



Inclusive National Championships in Fiji

ONLINE SERVICES

New Caledonia included a **Remote PTT Training Camp** for the squad, including preparing athletes and coaches for the Oceania Para Championships. They would also go on to hold a **National Activity with PTT Training Camp** preparing the athletes run by the local coaches who learnt from the remote training camp.

“Due to the guidance of the ITTF Participation Program, we have been able to build the foundations of a Para Table Tennis National Team. Our newly formed PTT Committee will continue to strive for more resources to help build success!” Cathy Gauthier, New Caledonia PTT National Coach



Online Service - Remote PTT Training Camp for New Caledonia

New Zealand chose most of the online services to be directed to their developing coaches, who would also be preparing for the Oceania Senior & Youth Championship. 2 female and 1 male coach benefited from **Coach The Coach** sessions tailored to their needs of coaching youth groups aiming for national team squad. For the National Activity, there was a **national training camp** held just before the Oceania Championships



Team New Zealand at the training camp preparing for the ITTF Oceania Championships

Papua New Guinea was able to complete a development plan and hopes to complete their National Activity in January aimed at developing some provincial areas.

QUICK PATHWAY

Three MAs in Oceania were selected for the Quick Pathway.

Fiji is focusing on **MA Administration** and **Coach Development**, targeting its MA's staff and coaches.

Tonga is improving its **MA Administration** and **Player Development**, targeting its MA's staff and players.

Australia is finalizing its QP activities and their execution.