



In January 2023, Kazan will welcome more than 2,000 athletes from over 100 nations as the host city of the Special Olympics World Winter Games. The Games had to be postponed by one year due to the pandemic. Athletes with intellectual disabilities will compete in seven sports: alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, floorball, short track speed skating, snowboarding and snowshoeing.

The Special Olympics World Winter Games will seek to transform attitudes about intellectual disabilities in Russia, as well as create new opportunities for social integration for the estimated three million people with intellectual disabilities living in the country.

With 3,000 volunteers, 1,000 media representatives, and an expected television and digital audience of 1.5 billion impressions, the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2022 will be one of the biggest—and most visible—humanitarian events in the world. Founded in 1968, Special Olympics is a global movement to end discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities. With more than six million athletes and Unified Sports partners in over 190 countries and territories and more than one million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers over 100,000 games and competitions globally every year. Special Olympics has been active in Russia for more than two decades and has 128,000 athletes who participate in nearly 5,000 sports competitions across the country every year.

The Special Olympics World Winter Games are among the world's most prestigious sporting events, uniquely focused on advancing a truly inclusive world for people with intellectual disabilities. Kazan is largely considered the sports capital of Russia, having hosted a number of premiere international sporting events.



Special Olympics Russia President
Olga Slutsker

We are thrilled to host the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2022. Hosting this prestigious and deeply significant event gives us the opportunity to show Russia and the world that people with intellectual disabilities are capable of competing at the highest levels of sport. It will demonstrate the power of our movement not only as a sports organization but also as a leader in the drive towards a truly inclusive world.

21-27 January 2023

2000 Athletes

100 Countries

1,5 billion Media Impressions

80000 Spectators



1000 Media Representatives

4000 Family Members & Dignitaries

3000 Volunteers



Alpine skiing



Cross-country Skiing



Figure Skating



Snowboarding



Short-track Speed Skating



Florboll



Snowshoeing

