

## Report from JKA European Championships 2019 in Stavanger, Norway.



In 2017, JKA Norway was awarded the JKA European Championships 2019 for seniors and juniors. It was quickly decided that the championship should be held in the Stavanger region and the work on the “the greatest European Championships of all time“ could begin.

In addition to being known for its beautiful fjords and spectacular rock formations, with the Pulpit Rock the most famous one, the Stavanger region is also home to Larsen Sensei, chief instructor of JKA Norway and Lura Karateklubb.

Centrally located in Stavanger is Stavanger Sports Hall, the region's largest sports hall, with Clarion Hotel Energy, the region's largest conference hotel, a short walk away. The location simply could not be better.

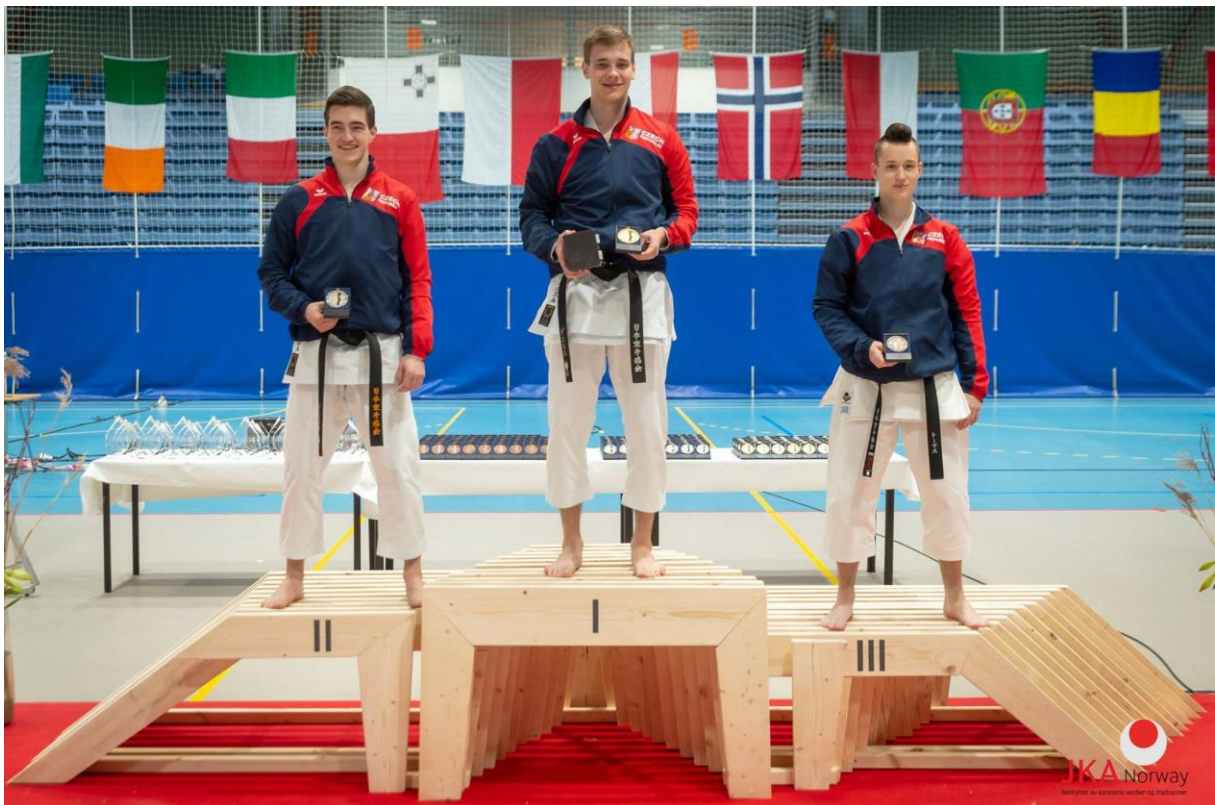
Based on the beautiful nature of the Stavanger region and the Pulpit Rock's strong position in the region, we prepared the JKA European Championships 2019 logo with the monument as a supporting element. The logo was developed in collaboration with Civil Architect René de Groot, who also trains JKA karate in Lura Karateklubb - JKA Norway's Honbu Dojo.

We quickly established a website and a Facebook page for the event and presented ourselves to the General Assembly in JKA Europe in connection with JKA EC in Nis, Serbia, in April 2018. We set the bar high, but we also had to implement and deliver.



On Friday 5 April, the day before the championship, we held a kata and kumite seminar at Clarion Hotel Energy for all judges and head coaches who would take part in the championship. During the seminar, we focused on JKA kata standardisation and other focus areas.

On 6 April 2019, the JKA European Championships 2019 were held in Stavanger Sports Hall with a total of 6 tatamis, all of which were placed one after the other in the



large hall. Behind each tatami, large canvases were placed where JKA Norway's proprietary event management software guided the audience and judges safely through the preliminary rounds and finals.

In addition to the entire management of JKA Europe, with Bura Sensei in the lead, we were visited by several high-ranking VIPs and officials who all witnessed an exciting, fast-paced and different championship.

A total of 267 individual participants in kata and kumite were registered, in addition to 49 teams, from a total of 23 nations. 55 judges from 19 nations made sure that the event went according to plan, beginning at 9 am and with the last medal handed out at 6.45 pm.

Russia was the most successful nation with 6 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals, with the host nation Norway in a historically good 2nd place with 5 gold medals, 2 silver and 1 bronze.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
<b>Russia</b>	6	3	3	12
<b>Norway</b>	5	2	1	8
<b>England</b>	2	3	3	8
<b>Czech Republic</b>	2	2	2	6
<b>Germany</b>	1	1	5	7
<b>Sweden</b>		2		2
<b>Switzerland</b>		1	3	4
<b>Belgium</b>		1	2	3
<b>France</b>		1		1
<b>Denmark</b>			2	2
<b>Poland</b>			1	1
<b>Italy</b>			1	1

The crowd, with around 800 spectators, was in awe of the great performances shown during the championship, and the atmosphere in the hall was impeccable.



In the time leading up to the championship, we worked very hard to get the finances in place to produce the championship for live TV, a cost that we had to bear ourselves. In the end, we presented a budget of 160,000 euros, and the



championship was produced and broadcast live on TV 2 in Norway and streamed for free to our friends in the rest of Europe.

We had never been able to carry out such a great championship without all the help and financial support from the Stavanger Municipality, Sandnes Municipality, Rogaland County Council, Rogaland Idrettskrets, member clubs of JKA Norway, JKA Europe and private sponsors.



Stavanger showed itself from its best side, and the weather was brilliant all weekend. Several of our participants took the opportunity to stay in the region for several days after the event to explore the beautiful fjords and mountains of Norway's west coast.

We are very pleased that JKA Europe trusted us and gave us this wonderful opportunity to organise the JKA European Championships 2019 in our beautiful city Stavanger.

Best regards,  
**JKA European Championships 2019**

Arild Kolstad  
Event leader

Geir Arild Larsen  
Chief Instructor JKA Norway