

Press release,  
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## Valmiera is ready to host European BMX championship

**At a media event, held in Valmiera representation in Riga the vast public was informed about upcoming UEC European BMX championship in Valmiera this summer (July 11 – 14<sup>th</sup>.) The team Latvia head coach introduced about their athletic goals but for society's eyes presented for the first time was the identity of the championship.**

Last year European Cycling Union (UEC) officially decided to assign Latvia the rights to organize the 2019 UEC European BMX Championship. So far in our country the European Championship stages have taken place but one competition in which the European champions will be found out will take place for the first time in history.

Mayor of the municipal council of Valmiera, Jānis Baiks: “The first BMX competition in Valmiera took place in a far 1988. Thanks to our BMX racers investments and success in the development and promotion of BMX sports we have reached both - for international standards suitable BMX track and the most significant BMX sport event in Latvia - the European Championship for BMX Cycling. Valmiera citizen BMX cyclist Maris Strombergs is recorded in the history of BMX Sport as the first and later also double Olympic champion, good success for our young BMX cyclists as well!”

It is scheduled that more than 800 athletes from at least 25 countries will participate in the competition. Organizers are expecting more than 3500 fans, as from Latvia and other European countries as well. The European BMX Championship in Valmiera is as a major challenge for all sports in Latvia also highlighted by Latvian Cycling Federation council member **Edgars Dupats**:

“The basis for organising the European BMX Championship is the successful cooperation of the Latvian Cycling Federation and the municipality of Valmiera from the start of development the idea of organizing. Taking place in Valmiera this championship is an appraisal of the success of our best BMX athletes.”

These will be one of the most important competitions for the Tokyo olympic qualifying cycle for elite and junior leading BMX athletes. National BMX team head coach **Ivo Lakucs** revealed that very strong cyclists are expected in the competition:

“In Valmiera, we will see all the best BMX cyclists in Europe who are looking forward to go to Latvia. Speaking about the goals of our leading cyclists, we hope to get into the big finals. We are happy that the season has been successfully started by Junior Edvards Glazers who like Vanesa Buldinska and Vineta Petersone will be among our main favourites. The chance for Latvian racers to compete in front of their fans will be a great honour! ”

The European BMX Championship in Latvia is organised by the Latvian Cycling Federation in cooperation with the municipality of Valmiera City and the UCE. The

competition is financially supported by the municipality of Valmiera city and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia. All the information about European BMX championship can be found on webpage - [www.eurobmx2019.eu](http://www.eurobmx2019.eu) as well as in social networks on Facebook and Instagram accounts.

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