



- The largest municipality in Slovenia: 555.4 km²
- Population: 16,558
- 86 settlements
- Region: South
- Situated between the Loška valley and the Ribnica valley to the north, Bela Krajina region to the east, and the Kolpa and Čabranka river to the south.





- Natural treasures & wildlife
- 85% covered with wood
- 6 primeval forests (UNESCO)
- German cultural island for more than 600 years
- Closed areas in the past
- Today: the fastest developing municipality



- Mutual co-operation and re-establishing friendship ties among nations
- One of a few examples of a long established friendship between the two nations and especially among the youth



The first transitional cup for »Pioneer Sports Games«. Donated by The Slovenian Association for Physical Activity.



- The first Sports Games: 9 June 1963 in Kočevje. Called the »Pioneer Sports Games”.
- More than 400 young people from the municipality of Kočevje and the municipality of Delnice participated





- Since 1963 the Sports Games have been following the same programme: Athletics – 60 m run, the long jump, the high jump, the shot put, handball, football, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, chess and shooting.





- In 1974, the Municipality of Ribnica started to be an active participant in the Games.
- Under the name of The “Pioneer Sports Games” sports competitions took place from 1963 until 1990.



Delnica in 1964.



- A long 25 year pause followed.
- In 2015, on the initiative of the Mayor of the Municipality of Kočevje Vladimir Prebilič, PhD the Sports Games were reinstated.





- Bringing the Sports Games into light again, the international sports connections among youth and municipalities on the both river banks of the Kolpa River were re-established and revived.





- Since 2015 the Games are held under the name of **»Sports Day Meetings of Primary School Children from Delnice, Ribnica and Kočevje «**.
- The competition guidelines and rules prepared in 1962 are still followed today.





In the last organized Sports Games participated more than 400 children and their companions.

The records show that this is already the third generation (parents, grandparents) of young people involved in the Games.





The most important message of the Sports Games from 1963 to 2018:

Get together, socialising and friendship ties for a lifetime



- Nourishing traditions & values among the youth
- Learning how to co-operate and be stronger together
- Overcoming language barriers
- Building friendship and trust among nations
- Life lasting experiences





- Expanding co-operation among municipalities (example: Prokuplje)
- Including all generations (example: Europe for citizens)
- Adding new fields – cultural & art co-operation