"Because that's how we live”

I asked József Hári, head of the Sports Office of the UP, about programs, plans and things to do.

How does the Sports Office of the UP compare with other similar organizations in the country, what are we specialized in, and what could be adopted from others?
The results of our various competitions in recreational, competitive and mass sports show that we are on the right track. In fact, we are one of the best sports agencies in the country in terms of organization. I do not say this out of arrogance, but on the basis of national data. The number of our events and the performance behind them can be followed on social media platforms, and the feedback is good. I am proud to say that leaders from various sports organisations, including sports professionals from other major universities in the country, follow our activities and consider us as a model. Our websites have also become more popular, with more and more people registering for various events there.

However, there is one area where we need to strengthen. There are 35-37 sports in Hungary today, which is a measure of the sporting activity of universities. The UP is generally present in more than 25 university sports, so there are still some latent sports that we would like to pay more attention to in the future and provide competition opportunities for students playing them.

Can you give some examples?

In floorball, we have not been able to organize a cup due to the pandemic. In the meantime, our equipment purchases - jerseys, racquets, helmets, goalkeeping equipment, etc. - which were blocked by the pandemic, have arrived, which will allow us to put together a serious floorball team with modern equipment and organize a championship at national level.
Another example is dragon boating. Team members regularly reported on their preparations, trips, competitions and successes on social media. I think this has also fuelled the fire within them that has kept the momentum going and they can make it to the World Championships in the US. We had a meeting before we left and I saw a team with a strength as a buffalo! And their results in the USA speak for themselves.

What would you highlight from the spring semester of the last school year?

Among our flagship events, charity runs are at the forefront, and we organised two themed events last term to celebrate this. We took over the organization of the Run for Cancer Cure from the sports organizers of the Hungarian Post Office in Pécs, who asked for our help due to a lack of funds. A few years ago we organised it together, but since then it has been largely run by the Sports Office of the UP alone. This is a good example of cooperation, as the students and staff are helping the work of the foundation, which is also linked to the university's buildings and has a noble mission.