



SO Estonia 4 February – 7 February 2018

Our trip began early morning Sunday Feb 4, at 04.00 from Lugano to the Milan airport and after 12 hours we arrived at the hotel and received a warm reception from the Estonian delegation. Everything was organized to perfection from the arrival at the Tallinn airport where we met our guide and other delegations. There were 11 countries and 150 athletes participating.

The hotel Pèhjärve Spa & Holiday Resort was in a beautiful location in the Estonian countryside at Oepää where there is the world cup Tehvandi Sport Center. On Monday morning it was chilling -8 degrees but this didn't stop our athletes as well as the athletes from the other delegations for the qualification runs.

The qualifications finished in the early afternoon and after a wonderful lunch we were back to the hotel for numerous extra curriculum events, be it handcrafts or relaxing in the wellness center. After dinner there was a disco club until 9.30 after which everyone went to bed to rest before the races of the next day. During the night it snowed about 20 cm and the weather was just perfect for the races with beautiful sunshine and a pleasant temperature.

Competition was tough, the northern country delegations are well trained and appeared to us immediately to be in a very SO competition.

Our athletes performed to their best and were able to bring home in the 3 km cross country competition: Lisa silver medal, Alfio bronze medal, and Samuel 4 place runner up.

In the relay with the help of Laudi, an Estonian athlete, we were a 4th place runner up just behind the Danish delegation right up to the finish line.

The awards celebration took place in the town hall and there was a lot of enthusiasm among all the Delegations. We had arranged to stay another evening and leave for home so once again we had the opportunity to enjoy the wellness center of the hotel.

Our athletes enjoyed their stay in the extreme north of the European continent and this experience will for sure be remembered in our hearts and minds for the many years to come.

Thank you SO Estonia for the wonderful times together.

Moresi Joseph