29 October 1977 - 29 October 2017

Forty Year of Ju-Jitsu Evolution in Europe

When the Ju-Jitsu Representatives of Italy, Germany and Sweden signed the constitutional document of the European Ju-Jitsu Federation on October 29, 1977, they were opening a process, whose evolution was difficult to predict.

They were having in common the desire of promoting the Martial Art t of Ju-Jitsu with its technical and ethical values.

However each country was coming from a different background of teaching systems, different styles of application, different interpretations of Ju-Jitsu basic principles into local practice.

Very soon other European Countries joined this European Organization, with similar enthusiasm, but also with similar difficulties .

We have today to admire the sense of responsibility demonstrated by the European Members who were able to translate all these differences into a mutual enrichment, harmonising the different inputs into a common process of evolution, interpreting and adapting the ancient traditions of a Martial Art to into a modern way of practicing Ju-Jitsu over three main fields of application:

- Self Defence

- Sport Competition

- Ethical Behaviour.

Most of us remember how interesting were the meetings where the National Representatives and their Technical Delegates were debating and making proposals to harmonize and define:

- the criteria for evaluating the efficiency of the techniques;

- the rules for competitions;

- the parameters for giving a score to the contestants;

- a “minimum common technical programme” to be adopted by each Member Country, etc.

But the EJJF went further.

The activity and the results achieved by EJJF stimulated interest also from countries outside Europe, which applied for Membership.

As a consequence in 1987 the International Ju-Jitsu Federation (later renamed Ju-Jitsu International Federation - JJIF) was established. EJJF became the first Continental Union of JJIF and was renamed JJEU.

But this was not enough.

The Ju-Jitsu European Union recognized the need to focus on the ethical principles of Ju-Jitsu , thus forming not only good athletes, but also good citizens.

In the year 2000 the document “Ethics in Ju-Jitsu” was published, as a tool to support the teachers in this social commitment.

This is what we are celebrating today.

Forty years of dedication and success for the benefit of new generations of Jutsukas and forty years of successful leadership of European Union in driving the evolution of Ju-Jitsu worldwide.

Rinaldo Orlandi

JJIF Honorary Founding President