



In the autumn of 1978, Tony Wise had a great idea: **“To set up a big association, on the basis of the experience of what had already happened with Euroloppet and Alpentris in Europe. A great world association including all the main and most prestigious long-distance cross country popular races”.**

This was a great intuition, and the history widely reflects it: the 9 starting races have now become 14, the 40.000 competitors have become nearly 100.000, the passport holders are over 12.000 and the Masters are 2.500! Moreover, other races will be added in a short time.

The statutory aims of the WORLDLOPPET association are: “To promote the popularity of cross-country skiing by organising quality long-distance popular races throughout the world and to recognise dedicated long distance cross-country skiers who have completed the required number of races during their

lifetime and have gained the prestigious title of Worldloppet Masters”; these purposes converge in large part with those of the International Ski Federation, that I have the honour to represent. The same aims were immediately appreciated by Marc Hodler, who was President at that time, and by the whole Council, which ever since considered these big events with great admiration and approval, recognising their extraordinary faculty and method in promoting cross country skiing all over the world.

Throughout these 30 years, the Worldloppet association developed in an exponential way, both in terms of quantity and of quality, becoming synonymous with excellent organisation and epic days during which amateur skiers compete with the most famous and important world champions.

Worldloppet is an association recognised and appreciated by the FIS, with which it is developing some interesting synergies, both direct and indirect: the most important and prestigious one is the FIS Marathon Cup, which gained its own, precise space and identity in the crowded programme of the world ski events.

This book tells the story of this colossal association, starting from its birth, with precise data, statistics, curiosities, striking events and information which were patiently collected by two big devotees of cross country skiing, Epp Paal and Angelo Corradini, the current Secretary General.

The FIS expresses its gratitude to them, for the great effort they made to create this work, which will remain forever an outstanding document, proof of the passion and the devotion to the cross country skiing of many great organisers, assisted in their praiseworthy commitment by thousands of irreplaceable volunteers.

Gian Franco Kasper
F.I.S. President

