



2024 Ordinary Congress – Annual report 2023

European Rowing Confederation (ERC)

European Rowing is the confederation of national rowing federations of Europe affiliated to World Rowing. It comprises 46 member federations, including Israel and Gibraltar and also has the capacity to add Member Groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board (ERB) comprising seven elected members, three of whom are nominated by World Rowing.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting delivery of World Rowing's strategic objectives; to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport, by supporting its member federations to work together for the sustainable future of our sport.

Key activities and achievements in 2023

The European Rowing General Assembly, 2023 was held at the Rikli Balance Hotel, Bled during the European Championships. Following the discussions at the 2023 Presidents Meeting, held in April and hosted generously by the Danish Rowing Federation, it was proposed that the rules of European Rowing regarding the Event Programme should be changed to allow for increased flexibility and a more innovative approach to new events. This proposal was approved by the General Assembly and in addition the age groups for Masters' events at the European Indoor Rowing Championships were brought more closely in line with those of the revised World Rowing Indoor age groups. The ERC Constitution was amended to allow Members Federations to review decisions made by the European Rowing Board during the year, at the following General Assembly.

There was one election to the Board in line with the Constitution and Eva Szanto (HUN) was re-elected unanimously. Neville Tanzer, the President of the Swiss Rowing Federation, who had been elected at the 2022 General Assembly in Munich, formally joined the ERB from 1 January 2023. Nebjosa Jevremovic (SRB) having served on the ERB since its inception in 2007, was appointed an Honorary Vice President of European Rowing.

In line with the constitution the ERB appointed an inaugural Umpires Commission to support its events and provide experience for future senior umpires.

Our flagship event, the European Rowing Championships were hosted by the Slovenian Rowing Federation. Lake Bled provided the perfect backdrop for great racing and excellent media coverage including a stunning photo finish in the men's eight final. 34 Member Federations and 228 crews competed for European Championship titles, including a record 11 nations in the 5 para-rowing events, and athletes from 17 member federations took home medals.

The European Rowing Indoor Championships were the first of three events hosted by the French Organising Committees in 2023. The ERICH in January, held in conjunction with the French Federation's National Championships, and live streamed over two days, were sanctioned by World Rowing as a qualification event for the World Rowing Indoor

Championships in Toronto, Canada in February. The home team were very strong in numbers and in results in both open, lightweight, and Para-rowing events.

The European Rowing U19 Championships was held in May 2023 on the Lac du Causse, Brive-la-Gaillard, Correze. This small, natural lake which has been coined "le petit Lucerne" also held the 2009 World Rowing Junior Championships. Athlete numbers were slightly higher than last year but still significantly down from the high of Trakai in 2016. The much-improved gender representation, compared with 2022, appears to be largely due to an increase in JW 4+ entries.

Later in the year the second European Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships were hosted in La Seyne-sur-Mer. This compact coastal city near Toulon on the French Riviera was a perfect venue and the Organising Committee made sure that the town's people and visitors to the beach were engaged and able to watch the racing. A temporary retail village near the beach provided food and drinks during the day, promoting sustainability and the EU funded, Water Wardens by Rowing Programme. In the evening crowds were entertained by local music bands. The event was all well-attended in all boat classes with 27 MFs represented in the Coastal boat classes and 22 in Beach sprints. Perhaps not surprisingly, the largest number of entries were from the home nation France, with 40 entries, followed closely by Spain on 38 entries. In all crews from across 28 nations took part, the largest entry yet.

The European Rowing U23 Championships were held on the Elfrather See, Krefeld, the home of Crefelder Rowing Club, who were celebrating their 140th Anniversary. Crews from 27 nations competed at Krefeld, with 18 nations taking home medals. Romania finished as the top nation on the medal table for the third year running. The standard of racing was very high with medallists from the 2023 World Rowing U23 Championships competing alongside others going on to the Senior World Championships to try and qualify for Paris.

In general, total entries at our age group events have fallen and the ERB are tracking this carefully to ensure we adjust our programme and provide appropriate competition opportunities for the future. Few gains were made in gender representation overall during 2023, except at U19 where 56%/44% men/women was the second most equal balance since the event began [the most balanced was Trakai in 2016]. Female athlete representation at ERCH Bled dropped to 42% [from 47% 2022] and at U23 the entries returned to similar historic levels with only 38% of crew entries in the women's events.

Coastal endurance championships again provided equal number of gender representation in the Federation event for solos. Including the European Rowing Club Championships the endurance entries were 55% /45% men/women and the Beach Sprints for Member Federations only were 53% 47% men/women.

Focus for 2024

In an Olympic and Paralympic year and with the Games on our continent the ER focus for 2024 is very much on Paris and our European Championships, for the first time combined with the European Olympic & Paralympic Qualification Regatta.

Delivering competitive and relevant events for our Members Federations to support their success at World, Olympic and Paralympic competition continues to be a priority. We are committed to consulting with and listening to our members, so that we can work together to build a strong European Rowing community that is sustainable in every sense of the word and to ensure the long-term success of rowing across the continent. Using members' feedback from the 2024 President's Meeting the ERB will revise and update the ERC Strategic Priorities for the next four years, review our events programme, help our members to access funding for development programmes for community and participation projects, and encourage collaborative working. As always European Rowing will continue to work with World Rowing to support rowing to thrive globally.

Summary

The ERB would like to thank all our Member Federations for their open engagement and commitment to European events this year; our members and Organising Committees who have hosted events have been exceptional, providing excellent opportunities for our athletes and teams to compete, and for families and fans who travelled to spectate. We also thank Jean-Christophe Rolland, Vincent Gaillard and the Executive Committee for their continued support, the staff at World Rowing and especially Jodie Cameron for helping coordinate our communications and administration.

As President I would like to thank each member of the ERB for their immense contribution, their time, energy, and commitment to building a stronger rowing community.

Annamarie Phelps (GBR) President

Asuncion Lorient (ESP)

Patrick Rombaut (BEL) Vice President

Neville Tanzer (SUI)

Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary

Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)

Dušan Macháček (CZE)