

European Rowing Board Report 2024

General Assembly, Plovdiv, BUL, 31 May 2025

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 has the capacity to add member groupings. European Rowing is managed by the European Rowing Board of seven members.

European Rowing's stated mission is to be a leading continental confederation, adding value to rowing globally and supporting the delivery of World Rowing's and European Rowing's strategic priorities; to make rowing a successful and sustainable sport.

During 2024, the European Rowing Board met formally on 13 occasions, both in person and on-line to discuss preparation of the five European Championship events, governance issues and matters relating to stakeholders and partner organisations. The principle in-person meeting was held in the framework of the **European Rowing Annual Presidents' Meeting**, Basel, SUI, 1-3 March 2024. Our thanks are due to the Swiss Federation for their generosity in hosting the event and to Sabine Horvath in particular, for her logistical support.

The key priorities and themes that emerged from the discussions were the development of Beach Sprints, particularly for those MFs with no, or limited coastlines; a desire to develop indoor rowing as a key new audience for federations; balancing high performance targets with the growth of participation; recruitment and retention of youth rowers and loss of funding for lightweight disciplines. In addition, federations noted a reliance on government funding for operational and event funding and the need for a new approach to attract commercial partners and review advertising rules to support investment. An updated Strategic Priorities document was drafted with input from the federations' proposed actions.

EUROPEAN ROWING EVENTS

The 2024 European Rowing Indoor Championships (ERICH) took place alongside the WRICH at the O2 universum hall in Prague, CZE, 24-26 February. In total 1451 athletes competed in person across 44 medal events in 2000m, 500m and relays. The most popular distance was the 2000m, with 875 athletes completing the race; 428 raced the 500m sprint and 148 took part in relay races. The largest entry was the men's U17 category with over 100 entries, the categories in the most senior, 70—74 years, age group attracted entries from 13 competitors.

Competitors travelled from across the continent and European titles were won by athletes from 15 different nations – the home country Czechia taking the top medal slot with 10 golds followed closely by Great Britain with 9, albeit generally in the older age categories. Germany and Ireland shared third slot with three each. Many thanks to the Czech Rowing Federation and World Rowing for their support in ensuring a ERICH was possible in the context of the World event.

The 2024 European Rowing Championships (ERCH) were held in late April in Szeged, HUN, and incorporated the European Olympic and Paralympic Qualification Regatta (EOPQR) within the programme for the first time, offering successful crews a golden ticket to the Paris 2024 Games. It was the first international rowing event at this venue since 1989 and proved a great success. The organising committee had the support of the Hungarian Rowing Federation, the Secretary of

State and the Hungarian Olympic and Paralympic Committees. On Saturday the event celebrated university rowing with an exhibition race between local academic institutions.

30 Member Federations competed in 185 crews, including three Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN) crews, across the 22 Classic rowing events, of which 5 were para-rowing events. With an additional 48 crews entered in the EOPQR it was a full programme across 4 days of racing. In the ERCH events a total of 21 different federations shared the medals, with gold medals being taken home by 9 nations and 1 gold being won by an AIN athlete. Those with the larger teams dominated the Medal Table: Great Britain taking the top spot with Romania and Italy finishing 2nd and 3rd overall. The Norwegian W2x won their nation's first European medal - gold - in a non-para rowing women's event and Switzerland earned their first para-rowing entry to the Paralympic Games in the PR1 W1x.

The 17 Para-Rowing Mixed crews made up 10% of entries with Women's entries at 36% and Men's crews at 54% indicating that there is still opportunity for the European nations to improve the continental gender balance.

At the General Assembly the Rules, regulations and Bye-Laws of European Rowing were updated, including new categories for Masters in Indoor and Coastal events. Asuncion Lorient was re-elected to the Board.

The 2024 European Rowing U19 Championships (ERU19CH) returned to Kruszwica, POL, where the event made its debut in 2011. The natural and protected lake of Gopło dominated by the historic Mouse Tower, has hosted European Rowing age category championships on three occasions and has an experienced organising committee at Gopło Kruszwica Rowing Club. Both days of racing were livestreamed. 25 Member Federations participated in 14 events with 123 crews, of which 41% were women's crews and 59% men's. 13 nations shared the medal podium although the Championship titles were dominated by Romania, with Italy and Greece also taking home gold. Many thanks to the Polish Rowing Federation for their support of two events in this busy Olympic and Paralympic year.

The 2024 European Rowing Coastal and Beach Sprints Championships (ERCBSC) 20-24 June, also took place in Poland, in the historic maritime city of Gdansk, at an earlier date than usual, which ensured the continental event took place before the World event which is a goal for the future. It was European Rowing's most northerly coastal event to date, and the first on the Baltic Sea. The four days of racing at Brzezno Beach proved a success with a 136m long pier alongside the course that allowed for excellent viewing, with livestreaming of all finals.

34 National team crews entered the endurance events of which 32% were mixed crews, 41% men's crews and 27% women's crews. The club entries were excellent with 90 crews competing across 7 events.

The newly announced Olympic discipline of Beach Sprints was offered in 6 events; three senior and three Junior/U19. The 24 crews entered in junior events were exactly 50/50 in gender balance. In the senior events the 56 crews included 32% mixed crews with the balance 41% men's crews to 27% women's crews. In the junior events Italy topped the table winning two of the three gold medals plus a bronze in CJW1x. In the senior events the field was much more open with 7 federations taking home medals, Spain, Lithuania and Austria each with one gold.

The last continental event of the season in Europe was the **2024 European Rowing U23 Championships** (ERU23CH). On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Rowing Federation European Rowing made its debut in Türkiye, on the recently inaugurated course on the Meritsa River, in the former Ottoman capital of Edirne, 7-8 September 2024. 25 Member Federations competed in 19 events across the Championship, although a number had low entries, with 4 women's events having three or fewer entries.

Romania dominated the medal table, taking home 9 gold medals, and the host federation of Türkiye finished the event in second place in front of a large and prestigious audience including representatives of the state government and local region. Türkiye won an impressive 7 medals in total. Following closely after the World Rowing U23 Championships enabled three crews to become both World and European Champions in close succession: Poland in the M2x, Romania in W2x and the Hellenic Rowing Federation's LW2x. 14 nations and one AIN athlete returned home with gold medals.

THANKS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to the European Rowing Umpiring Commission, ably led by Vladimir Meglič, for their oversight and coordination at events.

We work closely with World Rowing throughout the year and special thanks go to President Jean-Christophe Rolland, the Executive Director, Vincent Gaillard and all the team in Lausanne, especially Jodie Cameron who is a key part of the team.

Above all we would like to thank the European Federations for their continued support and engagement throughout the season and particularly those Federations who regularly bid and host events, without them events would not happen. Federations' participation at our Championships is essential to provide competitive and compelling racing at all age groups, to give athletes great racing experience and for the broadcast coverage that we all need to continue to promote the sport. The European Rowing Board will continue to monitor entry data and trends and adapt to changing needs and your feedback is important.

EUROPEAN ROWING BOARD 2024:

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