2026

# european rowing championships

# SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The European Rowing Championships Varese 2026, scheduled from 31 July to 2 August at the Schiranna rowing course on Lake Varese, represents one of the most prestigious events on the international rowing calendar. The Championships will bring together more than 40 nations and over 2.000 athletes, coaches and national team staff, as well as representatives of international federations, technical officials, volunteers, media representatives and spectators from Italy and abroad.

The event is organised by the Organising Committee of the International Rowing Championships Varese, which includes the Varese Municipality, the Varese Province, the Italian Rowing Federation and the Varese Rowing Club. Thanks to the unique characteristics of Lake Varese and the experience gained through hosting numerous international competitions, the area is now recognised as one of the world's leading destinations for rowing.

Events of this scale generate significant sport, social and economic benefits for the host territory, contributing to the promotion of local culture, the development of tourism and the encouragement of sport participation. At the same time, the presence of thousands of participants and spectators inevitably leads to a range of environmental and social impacts that must be carefully managed. These include energy and water consumption, waste generation, transport-related emissions, the use of materials and resources, as well as the effects on local communities and the natural environment hosting the event.

Aware of the responsibilities associated with organising an international event of this scale, the Organising Committee has developed this Sustainability Plan to integrate sustainable principles and practices into every stage of the event's planning, organisation and delivery. The Plan sets out the objectives, actions and tools through which the Organising Committee intends to minimise the event's negative impacts while maximising its positive outcomes, contributing to environmental protection, people's wellbeing and the creation of shared value for the local community and the wider territory.

The Sustainability Plan is also intended to serve as a reference framework for the organisation of future international rowing events and as a best practice example for future sport events hosted in Varese, promoting an increasingly responsible and conscious approach to sports event management.

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## 1.1 Our Sustainable Identity

The sustainable identity of the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese has been developed with reference to some of the leading international standards and conceptual frameworks on sustainability and social responsibility.

In particular, the Organising Committee recognises the definition of **sustainable development** set out in the **Brundtland Report**, published by the United Nations' World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

> *Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

The Organising Committee also draws inspiration from the definition of a **sustainable event** proposed by the **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP):

> *A sustainable event is an event designed, organised and implemented in a way that minimises potential negative impacts and leaves a positive legacy for the host community and all involved.*

Another important reference is the definition of **social responsibility**,provided by the international standard **ISO 26000**:

> *Social responsibility is the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions and activities on society and the environment, through ethical and transparent behaviour that: contributes to sustainable development, including the health and the welfare of society; takes into account the expectations of stakeholders; complies with applicable law and is consistent with international norms of behaviour; and is integrated throughout the organisation and practised in its relationships.*

In light of these references, the Organising Committee has defined its Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values with the objective of guiding the planning and management of the event towards creating shared value for the local area, the host community and the international rowing community.

**OUR PURPOSE**
To promote rowing as a driver of sustainable development, creating lasting value for people, the local area and future generations.

**OUR VISION**
To establish the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese as a benchmark for sustainability within the international rowing community.

**OUR MISSION**
To integrate sustainability into the organisation of the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese by actively engaging stakeholders to maximise positive impacts, minimise negative ones and create a lasting legacy for the local area, the community and future generations.

**OUR VALUES**
- Sport: we believe in the power of sport to bring people together, inspire positive behaviours and contribute to the development of communities.
- Excellence: we pursue the highest sport and organisational standards, promoting quality, professionalism and continuous improvement.
- Wellbeing: we place people at the centre of everything we do, promoting health, safety and inclusion for all participants.
- Respect: we act with respect towards people, communities, cultures, rules and the environment.
- Collaboration: we value dialogue, participation and teamwork.
- Sustainability: we guide our decisions towards creating lasting environmental, social and economic benefits while respecting the needs of present and future generations.

## 1.2 Methodology

This Sustainability Plan has been developed with reference to a range of national and international frameworks, standards and guidelines relating to sustainability, social responsibility and the sustainable management of sport events. These references have provided the methodological framework for identifying the event's sustainability priorities, defining its objectives and developing the actions set out in this document.

**United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
The primary international reference for this Sustainability Plan is the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global action plan adopted in 2015 by the 193 Member States of the United Nations to promote more equi-

table, inclusive and sustainable development. The Agenda identifies **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) and 169 targets addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges.

Although sport is not included as a standalone Sustainable Development Goal, the United Nations recognises it as a fundamental enabler of sustainable development. Paragraph 37 of the 2030 Agenda states:

> *Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities, as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives.*

The 2030 Agenda represents the first global policy framework to explicitly recognise the role of sport as a driver of sustainable development. This commitment has since been reaffirmed through numerous United Nations General Assembly resolutions, most recently in November 2024, further confirming the increasingly important role of sport in contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**World Rowing Sustainability Strategy**
A second key reference is the World Rowing Sustainability Strategy, which identifies six fundamental principles:

- Healthy Waters;
- Biodiversity;
- Sustainable Sourcing;
- Climate action;
- Gender equality, equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI);
- Collaboration & Education.

These principles have guided the definition of the objectives and actions set out in this Sustainability Plan, with particular attention given to the protection of aquatic ecosystems, which provide the natural setting for the event.
Particular importance has also been given to the resources developed through the **Healthy Waters Alliance**, the strategic partnership between World Rowing and the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**, aimed at protecting and restoring freshwater and coastal ecosystems.

WWF | world rowing

TOGETHER FOR

HEALTHY WATERS

**ISO 20121:2024 Event Sustainability Management Systems**
This Sustainability Plan has also been developed with reference to the principles set out in ISO 20121:2024, the leading international standard for sustainable event management. In particular, the Organising Committee has adopted the **Plan–Do–Check–Act** (PDCA) continuous improvement model as the methodological framework for planning, implementing, monitoring and continuously improving the sustainability initiatives associated with the event.

**Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM)**
At the national level, the Sustainability Plan has been developed with reference to Italian Ministerial Decree No. 459 of 19 October 2022, which introduces the Minimum Environmental Criteria (CAM) for event organisation services. Although primarily intended for public authorities, the CAM now represent one of Italy's most advanced frameworks for integrating sustainability into event management and have provided an important reference for defining measures relating to sustainable procurement, resource management and the operational organisation of the Championships.

**Green Card for Amateur Sports Events**
Finally, the Sustainability Plan has taken into account the principles set out in the Green Charter for Amateur Sports Events, developed as part of the LIME - Inclusive Laboratories for Movement and Ecology project. Although primarily aimed at the amateur sports sector, the Charter provides guidance and best practices that are also applicable to international sport events, particularly in relation to environmental responsibility, social inclusion and the enhancement of host communities and local territories.

## 1.3 Sustainability Goals

The Organising Committee of the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese is aware of the wide range of environmental, social and economic impacts that may arise from hosting a major international sport event. At the same time, the Committee recognises the importance of focusing its resources, time and expertise on those areas where it can create the greatest value and achieve tangible, measurable results. For this reason, the Sustainability Plan adopts an approach based on the principle of **doing less to achieve more**, prioritising a limited number of actions that are realistic, measurable and capable of generating meaningful and lasting positive impacts.

The sustainability goals have been selected by considering their relevance to the identity of the event, their alignment with the reference frameworks described in the previous section, their potential impact on the local area, and the Organising Committee's ability to take effective action.

The four goals that will guide the implementation of the sustainability strategy for the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese are:

- **Integrate sustainability into the governance of the event**: promote a culture of sustainability throughout the organisation by embedding sustainable principles, responsibilities and decision-making processes into the planning and delivery of the Championships.
- **Reduce the environmental impacts of the event**: prevent, reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts associated with the organisation of the Championships, with particular attention to the protection of marine ecosystems, resource management, waste and event-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Promote inclusion, accessibility and wellbeing**: ensure that the event is accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all participants by promoting equal opportunities, wellbeing, safety and respect for diversity.
- **Engage and raise awareness among stakeholders through communication**: use the Championships as a platform to promote sustainability by communicating objectives, initiatives and results transparently, while encouraging responsible behaviour among athletes, volunteers, spectators, partners and local communities..

# 2. OUR SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

## 2.1 Integrating sustainability into the governance of the event

Governance is defined as **"the system by which an organisation makes and implements decisions in pursuit of its objectives"** (ISO 26000). It establishes how decisions are made, responsibilities are assigned and results are evaluated. For an event that aims to embed sustainability into its organisation, governance represents the starting point of the entire sustainability journey.

The effectiveness of environmental and social initiatives depends on the ability to integrate sustainability principles into decision-making processes, organisational procedures and day-to-day operations. Embedding sustainability within the governance of the Championships therefore means creating the conditions necessary to ensure that the goals set out in this Sustainability Plan are translated into concrete actions and measurable results.

| Area | Planned actions | SDGs | CAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Governance | Appointment of a **Sustainability Manager** within the Organising Committee, with overall responsibility for developing and implementing the Championships' Sustainability Plan, monitoring the planned initiatives and reporting on the results achieved.<br><br>Allocation of a **dedicated sustainability budget**, to be managed at the discretion of the Sustainability Manager, subject to the approval of the Championships' General Manager..<br><br>Development of this **Sustainability Plan**, prepared through dialogue with stakeholders and designed to be updated over time in response to new information, organisational needs and opportunities for continuous improvement.<br><br>Definition of the **Championships' sustainable identity** (Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values), developed through a top-down approach to ensure consistency between the Organising Committee's strategic direction and all aspects of the event's planning and delivery. | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION<br><br>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS<br><br>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | 4.1.1<br>4.1.21<br>4.1.22 |

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| | **Identification and engagement of key internal and external stakeholders** to foster continuous dialogue, understand expectations and needs, and strengthen the event's decision-making process.<br><br>**Online sustainability training** for all staff members and volunteers to ensure a shared understanding of the event's sustainability objectives, commitments and practices.<br><br>Continuous monitoring of sustainability performance through on-site audits, data collection, assessment of progress against the established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and the publication of a Sustainability Report within two months of the conclusion of the Championships. | | |

## 2.2 Reducing the environmental impacts of the event

Sport events can generate significant environmental impacts through the consumption of resources, the generation of waste, the movement of people, and the use of the goods and services required to deliver the competition. In the case of the Championships, the close connection between rowing and **Lake Varese** makes the protection of the natural environment and the area's resources even more important.
The Organising Committee fully recognises that there is no such thing as a zero-impact event and that hosting an international sport competition inevitably has environmental consequences. The objective of the Championships is therefore not to eliminate these impacts entirely, but rather to adopt concrete measures to prevent, reduce and manage them responsibly.

| Area | Planned actions | SDGs | CAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Biodiversity | The protection of **Lake Varese**, a natural ecosystem of outstanding environmental and ecological value, is a non-negotiable priority for the Organising Committee. For this reason, we will collaborate with several organisations committed to ecosystem conservation, including **piublu ETS, ASD Varese SUB** (involved through the WWF S.U.B. network) and **5R Zero Sprechi**.<br><br>These organisations will be present throughout the Championships with dedicated exhibition stands and will support the Organising Committee in implementing the sustainability initiatives set out in this Sustainability Plan. Among these initiatives is the organisation of at least one **cleanup activity**, open to staff, volunteers, athletes and spectators, to leave the venue and surrounding area in better condition than it was before the event.. | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER<br>15 LIFE ON LAND<br>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | 4.1.10 |

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| | In addition, the Organising Committee will seek to raise participants' awareness of **invasive alien species** through dedicated digital communications and on-site signage. Athletes will be encouraged to clean their boats both before and after racing to help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species within the lake ecosystem. | | |
| Waste management | Sport events generate different types of waste which, if not properly managed, can have significant environmental impacts. To reduce the amount of waste generated during the Championships, the Organising Committee will implement the following measures:<br>▪ **prioritise digitalisation** by providing documents, communications and information (such as start lists, race schedules and official documentation) in digital format wherever possible, limiting printing to essential cases and using double-sided printing whenever required;<br>▪ **install 3 water refill stations**, complementing the existing drinking fountains at the venue, to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic bottles;<br>▪ **encourage all participants to bring and refill their own reusable water bottles**, supported by dedicated communications through the event website, social media channels and official documents such as the Team Manual;<br>▪ **store and reuse purchased materials** wherever possible for future events, giving preference to signage and other materials designed without event-specific dates so that they can be reused over time;<br>▪ **implement a comprehensive waste separation system** throughout the Championships, providing an appropriate number of waste collection bins based on the expected attendance. Bins will be located in high-traffic areas and clearly identified through multilingual signage and pictograms to facilitate correct waste disposal.<br><br>The Sustainability Manager, supported by volunteers and working in close cooperation with the local waste management provider, will monitor the effectiveness of the waste management system on a daily basis in order to identify and promptly address any operational issues.<br><br>The Sustainability Report will publicly disclose the total amount of waste generated during the Championships, its final destination, and the percentage of waste that was separately collected for recycling or recovery, comparing these results with those of previous editions wherever data are available. | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>13 CLIMATE ACTION | 4.1.4<br>4.1.18<br>4.1.19 |

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| Sustainable procurement | The procurement of goods and services will follow a four-stage process:<br>1. a preliminary needs assessment will be carried out to identify only those goods and services that are essential for the delivery of the Championships;<br>2. the list of requirements will be progressively refined, eliminating non-essential purchases, improving operational efficiency and prioritising digital solutions wherever feasible;<br>3. an inventory of existing resources available within the Organising Committee, or provided by partners and sponsors, will be prepared to avoid unnecessary purchases;<br>4. any remaining procurement will be entrusted to suppliers selected on the basis of economic, quality and sustainability criteria, including geographical proximity, the possession of recognised environmental certifications, the use of low-impact materials and respect for workers' rights.<br><br>The Sustainability Report will include an analysis of the event's supply chain including the average distance between suppliers and the event venue. | 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH<br>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>13 CLIMATE ACTION | 4.1.6<br>4.1.7<br>4.1.8 |
| Catering | Food and catering services will be organised with the aim of minimising food waste and, wherever possible, promoting locally sourced products.<br><br>As the majority of meals will be served at the official hotels and the Athletes' Restaurant will be hosted by Giulietta al Lago, located within the event venue, the following measures will be implemented:<br>▪ meal quantities will be planned according to the actual number of participants and the different categories of users making use of the catering services;<br>▪ the Organising Committee will work with the official hotels and Giulietta al Lago to prioritise the use of locally sourced and seasonal products wherever possible;<br>▪ **vegetarian meal options** will be available at the Championships;<br>▪ the Organising Committee will seek to partner with a local organisation to recover and donate surplus food, helping to reduce food waste while supporting the local community. | 2 ZERO HUNGER<br>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING<br>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 4.1.16<br>4.1.18 |
| Transportation | Transport is generally the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions associated with an international sport event. To reduce the environmental impact of travel, the Organising Committee will implement the following measures:<br>▪ meetings and coordination activities will be conducted primarily online, reducing unnecessary travel;<br>▪ training sessions for staff and volunteers will be delivered predominantly through online platforms;<br>▪ members of the Organising Committee will be encouraged to use **public transport** whenever possible and, for longer journeys, to travel by train rather than by air; | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 4.1.2<br>4.1.12<br>4.1.20 |

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| | ▪ transport for participating delegations will be planned to optimise routes and maximise vehicle occupancy, reducing the overall number of journeys required.;<br>▪ through the partnership with Toyota, the event's Mobility Partner, **4 of the vehicles** used by the Organising Committee **will be hybrid or fully electric**;<br>▪ the event website and social media channels will provide dedicated information on how to reach the venue using public transport and active mobility options.<br><br>During the Championships, a survey will be conducted to understand the modes of transport used by spectators. The data collected will be used to estimate the event's indirect carbon emissions associated with spectator travel. | | |
| Accommodation | Accommodation is another important aspect of event planning, both for the comfort of participating delegations and for reducing the environmental impacts associated with travel. The following measures will be implemented:<br>▪ priority will be given to accommodation located close to the competition venue, reducing the need for daily travel by participating delegations;<br>▪ where hotels are equally well located, preference will be given to those that have adopted sustainability policies or initiatives;<br>▪ room allocations will be planned to optimise occupancy, minimising the overall number of rooms required across the official accommodation portfolio.<br><br>The Sustainability Report will include an analysis of the accommodation used during the Championships, reporting, among other indicators, the average distance between delegation hotels and the competition venue. | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 4.1.3<br>4.1.10 |
| Carbon footprint | An international sport event is inevitably associated with the generation of a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions, arising primarily from delegation travel, accommodation, energy consumption and event operations. These emissions contribute to climate change, one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time, whose effects are already evident worldwide through rising temperatures, increasingly frequent extreme weather events, and the progressive degradation of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.<br><br>Climate change also represents a major challenge for the world of sport, as its impacts are increasingly affecting athletes' ability to train and compete under safe and optimal conditions, with consequences for both performance and health. | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 4.2.10 |

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| | Aware of this responsibility, the Organising Committee will carry out an **initial estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Championships**, focusing in particular on international travel by participating delegations and accommodation-related emissions. Although this will not constitute a comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory for the event, the analysis will provide a valuable baseline against which future progress can be measured and will help guide emission reduction strategies for future editions of the Championships.<br><br>The results of the analysis will be published in the event's Sustainability Report<br><br>A portion of the emissions generated by the Championships will be offset through the purchase of **certified carbon credits**, selected from projects verified under internationally recognised standards and implemented within Italy. | | |

## 2.3 Promoting inclusion, accessibility and wellbeing

Sport is a powerful tool capable of bringing people together, encouraging participation and creating social value. For this reason, the Organising Committee is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible event where everyone can feel an integral part of the Championships.

| Area | Planned actions | SDGs | CAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Inclusion | The Organising Committee condemns all forms of discrimination, harassment, intimidation or offensive behaviour based on gender identity, sexual orientation, age, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, personal beliefs, disability or any other individual characteristic. Such behaviours will not be tolerated under any circumstances.<br><br>To this end, an **anti-discrimination policy** will be implemented based on the following principles: | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES<br><br>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 4.1.20 |

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| | ▪ **respect**, ensuring that every person is treated with dignity, fairness and impartiality;<br>▪ **inclusion**, promoting an open, accessible and welcoming environment for everyone;<br>▪ **collaboration**, encouraging dialogue, active listening and mutual support among all individuals involved in the Championships;<br>▪ **accountability**, recognising the responsibility of every person to help maintain a respectful environment, as well as the Organising Committee's commitment to address every report, manage it impartially and transparently, and take responsibility for the decisions adopted.<br><br>Any incident involving discrimination, harassment or inappropriate behaviour must be promptly reported to the Organising Committee by sending a communication to the following email address: safeguarding@canottierivarese.com.<br>Each report will be carefully reviewed by the Safeguarding Officer, which will collect the necessary information and listen to the individuals involved, while ensuring the principles of impartiality, confidentiality and transparency. If a report is found to be substantiated, the Committee will adopt the most appropriate measures depending on the seriousness of the incident, such as:<br>▪ formal warning;<br>▪ temporary or permanent removal from the event;<br>▪ reporting to the competent authorities, if the behaviour constitutes a violation of the law.<br><br>If the behaviour is committed by an athlete or a member of an international delegation, the Team Leader of the relevant federation will be immediately informed and involved in the management of the case, without prejudice to the Organising Committee's right to adopt any measures deemed necessary to ensure the safety and respect of all individuals present at the event. | | |
| Accessibility | To ensure that everyone can experience the Championships under the best possible conditions, the following actions will be implemented:<br>▪ all information regarding venue accessibility and available services will be communicated through the official event website and social media channels;<br>▪ participants will have the opportunity to report specific needs or request assistance by contacting the Sustainability Manager at the following email address: esp.michele01@gmail.com; | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES<br>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 4.1.23 |

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| | ▪ all key information related to the Championships, including details about sustainability initiatives, will be made available in both Italian and English;<br>▪ at the end of the Championships, an accessibility survey will be conducted to collect participants' feedback, identify any potential issues and guide improvement actions for future editions.<br><br>Before the event, the Organising Committee will verify that the areas dedicated to athletes, staff and spectators are fully accessible and compliant with applicable accessibility requirements. Any potential issues identified will be addressed promptly through appropriate corrective actions. | | |

## 2.4 Engaging and raising awareness among stakeholders through communication

Communication represents a fundamental tool for the success of the Championships' sustainability strategy. On the one hand, it enables the achievement of the established goals by encouraging athletes, spectators, volunteers and all other stakeholders to adopt more responsible behaviours. On the other hand, it allows the Organising Committee to showcase the work carried out by transparently sharing its commitments, the initiatives implemented and the results achieved, thereby strengthening the credibility of the event and creating shared value.

| Area | Planned actions | SDGs | CAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| Communication | Sustainability will be integrated into the communication strategy of the Championships before, during and after the event. In particular, the following actions will be implemented:<br>▪ a dedicated sustainability section will be created on the event website, containing the Sustainability Plan, the Sustainability Report and all major updates regarding the initiatives undertaken;<br>▪ the Sustainability Plan of the Championships will be presented during an official press conference;<br>▪ content will be developed and published on the event's social media channels to communicate the sustainability initiatives implemented and promote more responsible behaviours among all participants; | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION<br>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION<br>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | 4.1.20<br>4.1.21 |

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| | ▪ the Organising Committee will collaborate with the Italian Rowing Federation and World Rowing to increase the dissemination of content and reach the widest possible audience;<br>▪ sustainability will be integrated into the main official communications of the event, including the Team Manual and other documents intended for delegations;<br>▪ two digital sustainability guides will be developed, one dedicated to athletes and one to spectators, accessible through the website and via QR codes placed within the venue, containing practical guidance on how to experience the Championships in a more sustainable way;<br>▪ sustainability-related signage will be installed throughout the venue, aimed at indicating separate waste collection points, water dispensers and drinking fountains, as well as QR codes to access the sustainability guides;<br>▪ dedicated sustainability messages will be prepared and shared during the event through speakers, commentators and large screens during breaks, in order to raise public awareness and promote the initiatives adopted by the Organising Committee.<br><br>Within two months of the conclusion of the Championships, the Sustainability Report will be published, containing the results achieved, the indicators monitored, the main challenges identified and opportunities for improvement for future editions. | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS | |

# 3. OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rather than being viewed as a destination to be reached, sustainability is understood in this document as a journey that is progressively built through effective planning, concrete actions, measurable results and the willingness to continuously reflect, learn and improve upon what has already been achieved.

Sustainability requires a balanced approach. Every decision made by the Organising Committee generates impacts that simultaneously affect the environment, people, the economy and sport competition. Our responsibility is to maintain a balance between these dimensions, ensuring that each one contributes to strengthening the event and creating lasting value for the local area and for the national and international rowing community.

The same principle guides our relationship with stakeholders, as working together is the only way to organise a truly sustainable event. Collaboration with institutions, federations, sponsors, suppliers, associations and volunteers allows us to achieve results that the Organising Committee could not reach through its own efforts alone, by sharing knowledge, expertise and responsibilities.

It is no coincidence that the **United Nations 2030 Agenda** dedicates a specific Sustainable Development Goal to partnerships (**SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**). According to the United Nations, the SDGs can only be achieved through a strong commitment to partnership and global cooperation, ensuring that no one is left behind on the path towards sustainable development.

The Organising Committee wishes all athletes, volunteers, technical officials, partners, spectators and everyone involved an unforgettable experience at the **2026 European Rowing Championships Varese**. We look forward to welcoming you at the Championships and working together to make this event a model of sustainability.

***Rowing together for sport, people and the planet.***

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## CREDITS

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