AQUATICS
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SWIM SAFE EUROPE CONFERENCE

28-29 NOVEMBER 2025

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SWITZERLAND
Tel.+41 22 552 99 99
Fax+41 22 552 99 89

ANTÓNIO JOSÉ SILVA

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN AQUATICS

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Information Bulletin for the 2025 Swim Safe Europe Annual Conference, which will take place in the Badamdar Hotel and Residence, Baku, Azerbaijan, from 28–29 November.

This annual gathering is the most important event in our calendar for advancing knowledge, sharing experiences, and building partnerships in the field of Learn to Swim and drowning prevention across Europe. With a hybrid format, the conference will once again bring together national federations, academics, practitioners, and stakeholders both onsite and online, ensuring wide participation and dialogue.

I would like to warmly thank our Azerbaijani hosts for welcoming us to Baku, a city that combines history, culture, and modern infrastructure, offering participants an inspiring setting for our discussions. I am confident that both the in-person and online attendees will benefit from the exchange of ideas, the sharing of innovative practices, and the opportunities to strengthen collaboration.

Many thanks to Azerbaijan Swimming Federation President, Zaur Aliyev and Rector of Azerbaijan Sports Academy, Fuad Hajiyev, extended to youth and Sports Minister Farid Gayibov.

This year's programme reflects our ambition to address pressing challenges and seize new opportunities: from capacity building and storytelling on the first day to scientific dialogue, partnerships, and practical initiatives on the second. Key topics include the future of Learn to Swim in Europe, drowning prevention, retaining young people in aquatics, and integrating innovation into teaching and practice. I would like to especially highlight the Ambassadors' Panel and the AquaSafe Kids Project roundtable, which promise to be particularly inspiring.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the many experts, speakers, and contributors who will enrich our sessions, as well as to the organisers and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the success of this event. Their dedication underpins the strength of Swim Safe Europe as a community committed to making aquatics safer, more inclusive, and accessible for all.

You will find in this bulletin all the practical information you need to plan your participation, whether you are joining us in Baku or connecting online. I look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a productive and inspiring conference, and to working together in shaping the future of swimming education and water safety across Europe.

ZAUR ALIYEV
PRESIDENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN SWIMMING FEDERATION

Dear Participants,

It is a great honor for me, on behalf of the Azerbaijan Swimming Federation, to welcome you to Baku for the Swim Safe Conference. Azerbaijan is proud to host this important international event, which reflects our commitment to promoting swimming both as a sport and as a vital life skill.

We are determined to become one of the most active members of the wider European Aquatics family and we believe that Azerbaijan can serve as a bridge for regional cooperation in swimming and water safety. This conference is not only a platform for exchanging ideas, but also an opportunity to build lasting partnerships that will benefit future generations.

In recent years, our country has made significant efforts to expand swimming infrastructure, nurture young talent, and raise public awareness about water safety. Hosting the SSC in Baku gives us a valuable opportunity to showcase these achievements while also learning from the experiences of our international partners. We hope that one of the lasting legacies of this event will be the launch of a new generation of young, talented coaches for the Learn to Swim project.

I warmly thank all participants for joining us in Baku, and I wish you productive discussions, innovative insights, and a memorable stay in our capital!

With sincere regards,

President of the ASF
Zaur Aliyev

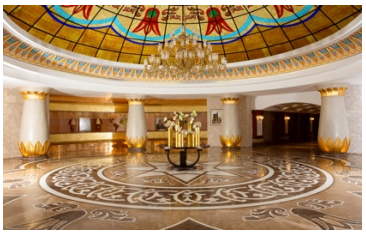
ABOUT BAKU

THE CAPITAL OF AZERBAJAN

Baku is a vibrant city where tradition and modernity intertwine. Situated on the shores of the Caspian Sea, it offers a striking contrast of medieval walls and cutting-edge architecture. From the historic Maiden Tower and the Palace of the Shirvanshahs to the futuristic Flame Towers and Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku's skyline tells the story of a city rooted in history yet driven by innovation.

Renowned for its warm hospitality, rich cuisine, and lively cultural scene, Baku welcomes visitors to explore its charming Old City, bustling boulevards, and seaside promenade. Delegates will discover not only a dynamic setting for the Congress but also the unique spirit and elegance that make Baku truly unforgettable.

DATE AND VENUE



- 28–29 November 2025
  (arrival from 27 November, departure 29/ 30 November)
- Badamdar Hotel and Residence, Baku, Azerbaijan
  (1 Mikayıl Müşfiq 1, Baku AZ1004)
- Format: Hybrid (in-person + online).
  All main sessions will be streamed live via the **European Aquatics Education Digital Platform** if minimum online participation is reached (35).

REGISTRATION

Mandatory Registration:
All participants must register via the **European Aquatics - Official Learning Center**

Swim Safe Europe Annual Conference 2025 | Baku Azerbaijan
https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/swim-safe-europe-annual-conference-2025-baku-azerbaijan

Registration Deadline: 20 November 2025

Registration Fees:

- Participants **staying at the official hotel.** Includes full participation (Friday and Saturday) and gala dinner on Friday.

Two-day rate	€145
Friday only rate	€95 (incl. dinner)
Saturday only rate	€95

- Participants **not staying at the official hotel**

Two-day rate	€195
Friday only rate	€145
Saturday only rate	€145

- Online participation

Flat rate	€165

ACCOMMODATION AND RATES

Official Hotel

★ ★ ★ ★ Badamdar Hotel and Residence | https://badamdarhotelandresidences.az/en

Bookings

Participants must complete their booking directly through the platform during registration.

Room Rates

Single Room	€165 per night
Double Room	€125 per person per night

Accommodation Package Includes

Full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner), use of conference facilities (including coffee breaks), and airport transfers.

TICKET OPTIONS

Participants staying at the official hotel

Two-day Ticket + Single Room (2 nights)	
Registration	€145
Accommodation	2 × €165 = €330
Total	**€475**
Includes: full participation (Friday + Saturday), gala dinner (Friday), full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Two-day Ticket + Double Room (2 nights, per person)	
Registration	€145
Accommodation	2 × €125 = €250
Total	**€395**
Includes: full participation (Friday + Saturday), gala dinner (Friday), full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Friday Only + Single Room (1 night)	
Registration	€95 (incl. gala dinner)
Accommodation	€165
Total	**€260**
Includes: Friday participation, gala dinner (Friday), full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Friday Only + Double Room (1 night, per person)	
Registration	€95 (incl. gala dinner)
Accommodation	€125
Total	**€220**
Includes: Friday participation, gala dinner (Friday), full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Saturday Only + Single Room (1 night)	
Registration	€95
Accommodation	€165
Total	**€260**
Includes: Saturday participation, full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Saturday Only + Double Room (1 night, per person)	
Registration	€95
Accommodation	€125
Total	**€220**
Includes: Saturday participation, full board, coffee breaks, airport transfers	

Participants not staying at the official hotel

Two-day Ticket (Includes: full participation (Friday + Saturday), no accommodation)	€195
Friday Only (Includes: Friday participation, no accommodation)	€145
Saturday Only (Includes: Saturday participation, no accommodation)	€145

Online participation

Online Ticket (Includes Friday and Saturday online participation)	€165

Online Participation - The hybrid format requires a minimum of 35 online participants; if this number is met, professional streaming will be provided, otherwise the conference will be held onsite only

SPEAKERS

List of confirmed keynote and session speakers, affiliations, and topics to be confirmed and updated later, subject to confirmations:

António Silva	European Aquatics President. World Aquatics Vice President, Full Professor of sports science in UTAD, Vila Real, Portugal
Boro Strumbelj	Professor at University of Ljubljana
Rókur í Jákupsstovu	President of Faroe Islands Aquatics. AQUA Certified Level 3 Coach. 2
Aisling McKeever	Head of Clubs and Education at Swim Ireland
Aldo Costa	Professor at University of Beira Interior; President of Portuguese Swimming Coaches Association & Vice-President of Coaching Confederation of Portugal
Laurent Ciubini	General Director, French Swimming Federation
Harald Vervaecke	Secretary General at International Life Saving Federation
Sharon van Rouwendaal	Most Decorated Open Water Swimmer of All Time | 3-time Olympic Medalist | Founder & CEO SvR Swim Academy | Mentor Bavarian Swimming Federation
Roberto Vezzani	Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi

TENTATIVE PROGRAM	
Day 1 – 28 November 2025 | Capacity Building, Storytelling & Knowledge Sharing	
13:00 – 14:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee (in-person)
14:00 – 14:30	Opening Ceremony
14:30 – 15:00	Keynote Address – Day Inspiration
15:00 – 15:45	Swim Safe Europe Program – The Future of Learn to Swim in Europe
15:45 – 16:15	Storytelling & Learning
16:15 – 16:45	Coffee Break, Poster Exhibition & Networking
16:45 – 17:15	Expanding the Ecosystem
17:15 – 18:00	Ambassadors' Panel – Stories that Inspire
19:30	Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Day 2 – 29 November 2025 | Scientific Dialogue, Federations & Partnerships	
09:00 – 10:00	Registration & Coffee
10:00 – 11:30	National Federations & Research Joint Session
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 12:45	Roundtable
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:15	Sponsors & Innovation Session
14:30 – 15:30	Round Table: AquaSafe Kids Project
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break & Networking

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – SWIM SAFE EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

The Swim Safe Europe Annual Conference will host a scientific and practice-oriented program featuring contributions from federations, academics, practitioners, and researchers. Submissions presenting either scientific research or applied practice are welcome. Applied practice may include national Learn to Swim structures, educational initiatives, or other projects with demonstrated impact. Authors are encouraged to highlight how their work contributes to advancing knowledge and practice in their field.

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- Pre-school swimming
- School swimming
- National Federations Learn to Swim Programs
- Teaching 5–12-year-olds to swim
- Teaching adults to swim
- Retaining teenagers in swimming
- Drowning prevention
- Integrating/supporting people with disabilities
- Use of learning aids
- Aquatic literacy
- Medical considerations
- Perceived and real aquatic competence
- Innovation in learning to swim
- Use of technology to support learning to swim
- Learn to Swim as a compulsory curriculum subject

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Abstracts in English, maximum 500–750 words (depending on practice/research focus)
- Submitted in *.docx format using the official template
- Indicate preferred presentation type: oral, poster, or video
- Email submissions to: silviacosta@europeanaquatics.org
- Deadline for submission: 7 November 2025

PEER REVIEW:

All abstracts will undergo peer review by the Scientific Committee. Antonio Silva will chair the committee. The committee members are Boro Štrumbelj, Aldo Costa, Nuno Garrido, Daniel Marinho, Tiago Barbosa and Silvia Costa. Authors will be notified of acceptance, requests for revisions, or rejection by 27 October 2025.

PRESENTATION DETAILS:

- ORAL PRESENTATIONS: 15 minutes + discussion (slides must follow SSE template). Presentations may be delivered onsite or online.

- POSTER PRESENTATIONS: A0 format, in English, readable from 1.5 m, printed (no handwritten posters). Materials for display will be provided onsite.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

- Accepted authors (oral or poster) must register to confirm their participation.
- A **50% discount** on the registration fee will be granted to presenting authors for the day of their poster/oral presentation.
- Registered conference participants may present their communications at no additional cost.
- Authors who fail to register will be excluded from the final program and the book of abstracts.

EXHIBITORS

We invite companies, startups, and organizations to showcase their products, services, or research during the SSE Annual Conference.

Exhibitor Pass Includes:

- Booth up to 5 m^2 (table provided, other materials by exhibitor)
- Access for 2 persons to the conference
- Networking with participants
- Opportunity to include promotional material in participant welcome bags

Interested in Exhibiting? Contact *kirillgoncharov@europeanaquatics.org*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Official Updates: Published on the official website and bulletin.
https://europeanaquatics.org/development/aquatics-social-responsibility/swim-safe-europe-conference/

Contact: For inquiries, please contact **Sílvia Costa** - Aquatic Social Responsibility
silviacosta@europeanaquatics.org