



EUROPEAN AQUATICS®

Annual Activity Report 2026

Covering the period 01.10.2025 to 01.09.2026

2026/09/02



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INTRODUCTION

Dear friends and colleagues,

Looking back over the past year, I feel a great sense of pride - not only because of what European Aquatics has achieved, but how we have achieved it together.

Our athletes must always come first, and once again they inspired us with extraordinary performances. From the record-breaking short course championships in Lublin, including elite and masters competition, to the European Water Polo Championships in Belgrade and Funchal, our club competitions and extensive junior and youth programme, European Aquatics demonstrated remarkable strength and depth. The year culminated with the unforgettable European Aquatics Championships in Paris and our first standalone European Masters Championships.

Paris was a particularly powerful moment. 1,268 athletes, including para swimmers, from 49 national federations competed during the championships. The Olympic Aquatics Centre hosted magnificent diving, artistic swimming and swimming, while open water and high diving transformed the Seine into a spectacular sporting stage, creating iconic images against the Eiffel Tower that travelled around the world.

For the first time, athletes with disabilities were fully integrated into our first inclusive European Aquatics Championships. This was an important milestone, but only the beginning. Our ambition is for aquatic sport for athletes with disabilities ultimately to become part of the governance and sporting structures of all 52 national federations. Fifteen already have fully integrated programmes, and we must help as many more as possible to follow.

European Aquatics today must be much more than a championship organizer. We must serve our member federations and athletes by educating coaches and officials, protecting athlete welfare, promoting integrity and good governance, advancing inclusion and equality, and using aquatics to contribute positively to European society.

During 2026, we continued turning these ambitions into action. The European Aquatics Academy expanded education and certification, combining online learning with practical activities alongside our competitions. Our Aquatics Social Responsibility programmes also moved increasingly from policy to delivery through Swim Safe Europe, Aqua safe kids, sustainability, athlete welfare and inclusion.

Our commitment to integrity continued to grow. In Paris, 50 representatives from national federations, together with European and World Aquatics integrity experts, discussed ethics, safeguarding and how we can move from awareness to action.

Sporting excellence remains at our heart, but our responsibility does not end at the edge of the pool.

We also strengthened our digital and broadcast activities, expanded athlete-centric storytelling, explored new technologies and developed new ways to support federations and clubs. Our standalone masters' championships reinforced our commitment to lifelong participation, community and inclusion.

Transformation, however, is never complete. Our strategic plan provides direction while allowing us to adapt when challenges or new opportunities emerge. We must measure progress honestly, learn from experience and be prepared to change when this produces better outcomes for our sport and member federations.

And now we look towards a very special moment: the centenary of European Aquatics, a journey we officially launched in Paris.

For almost 100 years, generations of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators and leaders have built the organization we proudly represent. We must honour that history while looking firmly towards the future.

Our centenary will celebrate our heritage while strengthening participation, safety and inclusion, embracing digital innovation and fan engagement, and creating a legacy. European aquatics is not just an organizer of outstanding championships. We are educators, innovators and partners in public health, and, above all, a community united by a shared belief in the power of water to shape lives.

None of these achievements would have been possible without an enormous collective effort. I thank my bureau colleagues, First Vice-president Josip Varvodić, General Secretary Noam Zwi, Treasurer Andida Bouma, our committees and commissions, our dedicated staff and 52 national federations, together with the organisers, officials, coaches, volunteers and partners who contribute so much.

Most importantly, I thank our athletes, who inspire everything we do.

As we approach our second century, we can be proud of our progress while remaining ambitious for the future. Together, we will honour the past, celebrate the present and build an even stronger, more inclusive and innovative European Aquatics.

Yours sincerely,

ANTÓNIO SILVA
PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN AQUATICS

SPORT SUMMARY

October 2025 to September 2026

A packed competition year combined senior, youth, junior and Masters events across Europe, with record-breaking swimming, expanding participation and new approaches to inclusion, event presentation and athlete development.

European Aquatics Competition summary

Event	Athlete participation	Federations / teams	Key message
Short Course Swimming Lublin, Dec 2025	533 athletes	45 countries	1 WR, 6 WJRs, 8 ERs, 11 Junior ERs, 29 Championship Records and 150 National Records.
Short Course Masters Lublin, Dec 2025	1,414 athletes	European Masters community	Participation +50% vs 2023.
Men's European WP Belgrade, Jan 2026	16 teams	16 federations	Serbia won an 8th European title; centenary year of the European Water Polo Championships.
Women's European WP Funchal, Jan–Feb 2026	16 teams	16 federations	Netherlands retained the title; 7th European crown.
Youth Artistic Swimming Luxembourg, Jun 2026	229 athletes 216 women / 13 men	33 federations across AS in 2026	First major age-group championship of the 2026 summer programme.
Junior Diving Budapest, Jun 2026	205 athletes 97 women / 108 men	30 federations across Diving in 2026	Russia won the Team Trophy with 9 golds, 6 silvers and 2 bronzes.
Junior Artistic Swimming Munich, Jun–Jul 2026	224 athletes 212 women / 12 men	31 member federations	11 medal events; Spain reached the podium in every event.
Junior Swimming Munich, Jul 2026	722 athletes 347 women / 375 men	47 member federations	17 nations reached the podium; World Junior and Championship records.
Junior Open Water Swimming Sukoró, Jul 2026	245 athletes 105 women / 140 men	35 federations across OWS in 2026	Included 18 registered Special Olympics athletes.
European Aquatics Championships Paris, Jul–Aug 2026	1,268 athletes (including athletes with disabilities)	49 federations	Five sports plus para swimming; flagship event and Centenary launch platform.
European Aquatics Masters Championships, Samorin, Bratislava and Graz, Aug 18–30 2026.	4,055 athletes (including athletes with disabilities)	European Masters community	Record entries for a competition that combined tourism, family participation and athlete services. Para events included for the first time.

Outstanding stories

Paris provided the defining image of 2026. The flagship Championships involved 1,268 athletes, including athletes with disabilities, from 49 federations. Para swimming was integrated for the first time. The Olympic Aquatics Centre showcased the Paris 2024 legacy, while open water and high diving on the Seine, against the Eiffel Tower, created a spectacular global image and highlighted the long-term work to restore the river for sport and public use.

Lublin set a benchmark. The Short Course Championships brought 533 athletes from 45 countries and an exceptional record haul. The Masters edition followed with 1,414 athletes: 50% more than in 2023 — underlining the rapid growth of lifelong competitive aquatics.

A strong development pathway

The 2026 youth and junior programme brought together more than 1,600 registered athletes across artistic swimming, diving, swimming and open water. Munich's double junior programme returned European junior swimming to Germany for the first time in 40 years at the iconic 1972 Olympic venue, while Budapest, Luxembourg and Sukoró provided high-quality stages for the next generation.

Season-wide competitions

Water Polo Clubs: The 2025/26 season delivered 554 matches across five European club competitions, involving clubs from 27 countries. The programme covered the men's and women's Champions League, Euro Cup, Challenger Cup and the new Conference Cup, alongside the Super Cups, with record participation and a stronger women's club pathway.

Open Water Swimming Cup: A season-long European series linking elite racing with junior development, Masters activity and inclusion, including Special Olympics opportunities and the new Masters Open Water Swimming Tour.

Masters Championships 2026 – a new concept

The first standalone, cross-border European Aquatics Masters Championships (18–30 August) introduced a new model under the “United by Water” concept: five aquatic sports across Šamorín, Bratislava and Graz in two countries. Swimming, open water, artistic swimming, diving and water polo were brought together in a dedicated Masters event rather than as an extension of the senior Championships.

The concept combined competition with tourism, family participation and athlete services. For the first time, Masters athletes with visual, hearing, physical and intellectual impairments were included through a Full Inclusion Model, positioning Masters as a major European Aquatics product built around lifelong participation, health and inclusion.

PARIS 2026 – A CHAMPIONSHIPS TO REMEMBER

For 17 unforgettable days, Paris became the centre of European aquatics. The Championships brought together Europe's leading athletes across swimming, diving, artistic swimming, open water swimming and high diving, with athletes with disabilities integrated into the programme for the first time. The Olympic Aquatics Centre brought the legacy of Paris 2024 back to life, while open water and high diving on the Seine – against the Eiffel Tower – created some of the most memorable images in European Aquatics history. In swimming alone, 33 records were set and one equalled, including three world records, alongside European, World Junior and Championship records.

Paris 2026 at a glance

SPORT	BEYOND THE COMPETITION
1,268 athletes from 49 federations	100,000+ tickets sold
Five sports + integrated swimming events for athletes with disabilities	Swim Safe Europe Conference
Athletes with disabilities integrated for the first time	50 representatives joined the dedicated Integrity meeting
Chiara Pellacani: unprecedented 5 diving golds	Para Swimming Workshop: 40 of 52 NFs responded to EA's review; 15 already fully integrated
Ranjoo Tomblin: 4 artistic swimming golds	Academy clinics delivered alongside elite competition
Sara Curtis: two 50m backstroke world records	EA Bureau met during the Championships
Johannes Liebmann: 1500m freestyle world record – 14:26.79	2027 Centenary celebrations formally launched on the Champs-Élysées
Kristóf Milák: 100m butterfly European record – 49.48	French authorities and partners celebrated for the Olympic legacy and transformation of the Seine
Swimming: 33 records set and one equalled, including 3 world records	615 volunteers supported delivery of the Championships

Athletes in the spotlight

Paris delivered outstanding performances across every sport. Chiara Pellacani became the first diver to win five European titles at one Championships, while Ranjoo Tomblin collected four artistic swimming golds. Swimming produced extraordinary performances from Sara Curtis, Kristóf Milák and Johannes Liebmann, while Léon Marchand's return electrified the home crowd. On the Seine, Florian Wellbrock and Ginevra Taddeucci completed open water 5km/10km doubles, while high diving's combination of elite sport, the river and Eiffel Tower created an extraordinary international showcase.

More than a Championships

Paris also demonstrated how European Aquatics is increasingly using its major events as a meeting point for the wider development of the sport. Alongside competition came the Swim Safe Europe Conference, Academy education, an Integrity meeting, the Para Swimming Workshop and the EA Bureau meeting. The Championships culminated in the launch of European Aquatics' Centenary celebrations at a special Gala Dinner on the Champs-Élysées – connecting the federation's history with its ambitions for the future.

Paris - and the world was watching

The first available television figures underline the event's impact. France 2 averaged 2.2 million viewers and a 20.8% audience share, leading its time slot. Audiences reached 3.5 million for Marchand's 200m butterfly victory and 4.4 million for his 400m freestyle gold. The full EBU pan-European audience report is still to come.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND SPORT DIPLOMACY

Governance highlights

European Aquatics continued to strengthen its governance and institutional structures during 2025–26, with implementation of the Strategic Plan 2024–2030 and 2026 Action Plan at the centre of Bureau activity. Major developments included progress towards relocating the headquarters from Nyon to Belgrade, including signature of a framework agreement with the Serbian Government; approval of the overarching 2027 Centenary concept; strengthened integrity structures and on-site integrity representation; expansion of para-aquatics and Special Olympics integration; and new initiatives supporting diversity and female representation. The Bureau also addressed the participation framework for Russian and Belarusian athletes, while Paris 2026 provided a platform for direct engagement with Member Federations on integrity, safeguarding, para inclusion and future development.

Sport Diplomacy

President António Silva and European Aquatics officers maintained an active programme of sport diplomacy, engaging governments, European institutions, the Olympic Movement, World Aquatics, Special Olympics and Member Federations. Key missions included Budapest for the World Aquatics headquarters groundbreaking; Vienna and Slovakia for the innovative cross-border Masters Championships; Larnaca for Special Olympics; Istanbul for the 2027 European Games; Belgrade for the EA headquarters agreement; and Paris for the 2026 European Aquatics Championships. First Vice President Josip Varvodić led key engagements including Malta and Paris, while Secretary General Noam

Zwi and Treasurer Andida Bouma supported federation relations, governance, education, finance and implementation of the Strategic Plan throughout the period.

Key governance and diplomatic milestones

7 OCT 2025 BUDAPEST	António Silva & EA Bureau members Joined World Aquatics President Husain Al-Musallam for the groundbreaking of the new World Aquatics headquarters. Reinforced EA–World Aquatics cooperation and Budapest’s role as a major international aquatics hub.
16 OCT 2025 VIENNA	António Silva; Austrian & Slovak partners Engagement on the 2026 European Aquatics Masters Championships. Announced the innovative cross-border Masters concept, subsequently developed as the first standalone edition.
23 OCT 2025 LARNACA	António Silva Represented EA at the Special Olympics European Sports Conference. Reinforced implementation of the EA–Special Olympics Europe Eurasia partnership and inclusion of athletes with intellectual disabilities.
17 NOV 2025 MALTA	Josip Varvodić; Clifton Grima; Karl Izzo Signed the hosting agreement for the 2026 Champions League Final Fours. Confirmed the historic joint staging of the Men’s and Women’s Final Fours.
26–27 NOV 2025 ŠAMORÍN / BRATISLAVA	António Silva; Richard Raši; Slovak & Austrian federation leaders High-level meetings on the 2026 Masters Championships. Advanced the all-discipline, cross-border concept and inclusion of athletes with disabilities; wider cooperation including Swim Safe Europe discussed.
14–16 JAN 2026 ISTANBUL	António Silva Participated in the first EOC Coordination Commission visit for the 2027 European Games. Reviewed budget, venues, masterplan and sports programme, including the pathway towards LA28.
19 JAN 2026 PARIS / SAINT-DENIS	António Silva; FFN & French public authorities Paris 2026 D-200 milestone. Reinforced institutional support for Paris 2026, its Olympic legacy and wider social objectives.
27 JAN 2026 BELGRADE	António Silva; Vanja Udovičić; Serbian Government representatives Framework agreement signed on the relocation of the EA headquarters. Major step towards moving from Nyon to Belgrade; legal and constitutional next steps initiated.
26–30 MAR 2026 ANTALYA	President, First VP, Secretary General, Treasurer, Bureau & staff Major strategic review of the 2026 Action Plan. Advanced the HQ project; approved the overarching 2027 Centenary concept; strengthened integrity structures; supported Women in Aquatics; advanced commercial and technology partnerships.
16 APR 2026 PARIS	Josip Varvodić; FFN & French public partners Paris 2026 D-100 milestone and medal unveiling. Highlighted inclusion, sustainability, para swimming and Learn to Swim legacy.
30 APR 2026 BUREAU DECISION	European Aquatics Bureau Considered implementation of the new World Aquatics bylaw on Russian and Belarusian participation. Requested delayed European implementation until 1 September 2026; approved athletes continued as Individual Neutral Athletes in the interim.



SPRING 2026 BARCELONA	European Aquatics & INEFC Four-year sports science and research cooperation. Included the Artistic Swimming Apnea Project, education and knowledge transfer.
2026 PAPHOS	António Silva Represented EA at the EU Sport Forum and in dialogue with European institutions. Promoted aquatics' contribution to public health, inclusion and lifelong wellbeing; strengthened European institutional cooperation.
4 JUN 2026 LUXEMBOURG	Noam Zwi; Claude Waltzing Engagement during the Youth Artistic Swimming Championships. Strengthened relations with the host federation and recognised Luxembourg's contribution to the European youth programme.
JUN 2026 MALTA	EA leadership, including Josip Varvodic Combined Men's and Women's Champions League Final Fours. Delivered the new joint Final Four model, strengthening the profile of women's water polo and event presentation.
JULY 2026 MUNICH	Renewed collaboration with the German Swimming Federation to reintroduce continental swimming events at the iconic 1972 Olympic venue.
9 AUG 2026 PARIS	Silva, Zwi, Bouma, Varvodic & Bureau Bureau meeting during Paris 2026. Approved the 2025 accounts; reviewed Paris, Masters and upcoming activity; advanced preparations for Baku, the HQ transition and Member Federation support.
9 AUG 2026 PARIS	António Silva & EA leadership Formal launch of the European Aquatics Centenary programme. Connected heritage with social impact, inclusion, innovation, fan engagement and future development.
12 AUG 2026 PARIS	António Silva; 50 NF/EA/World Aquatics integrity representatives Dedicated Integrity meeting. Strengthened cooperation on ethics, safeguarding, reporting and education, with an emphasis on moving from awareness to action.
15 AUG 2026 PARIS	António Silva; Member Federation representatives Para Swimming Workshop. Set the objective of integrating para-aquatics across all 52 NFs; confirmed a two-year pathway and ambition for a first EA short-course para swimming competition in 2027.

KEY MANAGEMENT MEETING DATES

NUMBER OF BUREAU MEETINGS WITH DATES AND LOCATIONS (OR ONLINE)	
5.12.2025	(Lublin POL)
28.3.2026	(Antalya TUR)
29.4.2026	(online)
30.6.2026	(online)
9.8.2026	(Paris FRA)
5 in total	



NUMBER OF EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETINGS	
27.10.2025	27.10.2025 (online)
29.1.2026	29.1.2026 (online)
26.2.2026	26.2.2026 (online)
8.6.2026	8.6.2026 (online)
4 in total	

NUMBER OF OFFICER MEETINGS
Approximately 43, usually online unless members were together at an event

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

TECHNICAL SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Meetings

26–27 February 2026 – Sofia (BUL)

Officials Clinics & Workshops

28 February–1 March 2026 – Sofia (BUL)

Held in conjunction with EAA, in a hybrid format (in person and online).

Participants:

In person – 71

Online – 170

Topics included:

- Philosophy of officiating.
- World Aquatics Competition Regulations updates.
- Officiating requirements for Masters, Ice Swimming, Para and Special Olympics competitions.
- Improving skills as a Referee, Starter and Control Room Supervisor.
- Video Judging .
- Participants' questions and analysis of scenarios.

6 July 2026 – European Aquatics Junior Swimming Championships, Munich (GER).

9 August 2026 – European Aquatics Championships, Paris (FRA).

18 August 2026 – European Aquatics Masters Swimming Championships, Samorin (SVK).

Key Decisions & Actions

- Preparation of new education and development programmes for international technical officials in conjunction with the European Aquatics Academy
- Ongoing discussions and input into the EA development plan
- Ongoing event reviews to explore improvements to event presentation
- Updates to EA Championships Conditions
- Provision of ongoing development and mentoring opportunities for TSC members and ITOs

TECHNICAL OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Meetings

27.10.2025	Online
13.11.2025	Online
15.12.2025	Online
11.02.2026	Online
2.03.2026	Online
29.06.2026	Online
2.03.2026	In EAC 2026 - Paris

Clinics

27.10.2025	Refreshment Clinic for OWS Officials - Level 2
Since February 2026	OWS Level 1 for Officials
22.07.2026	Coaches' Clinic by Anna Olasz
1-02.08.2026	OWS Level 3 for Officials
05.08.2026	Coaches' clinic by Bernd Berkhahn

KEY DECISIONS AND ACTIONS:

- **Effective Event Management:**
 - TOWSC and event delegates held regular online preparatory meetings in coordination with Office and Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) to ensure seamless execution of the 2026 Open Water Swimming (OWS) events.
- **Rule Updates & Innovations:**
 - The Bureau approved key updates to the European Aquatics OWS Rules, aligning them with World Aquatics standards.
 - Notably, a new regulatory framework was established for 3km Knockout events.
 - The Junior 3km Knockout categories were split into two age groups (14–16 and 17–19) instead of the standard 14–19 format. This strategic shift substantially boosted participation from youth swimmers and national federations.

- **OWS officials' Training & Development:**

- A new Officials Sub-Committee is established to handle professional pathways, design assessments, and review rosters for OWS events.
- Rule changes are presented to certified officials at a refreshment clinic which was held on October 27th, 2025.
- New module and on-demand Level 1 clinic on the Education Platform is introduced, urging federations to maximize their certified officials.
- New module – OWS Officials Level 3 is created and implemented prior to the 2026 EAC-OWS with 24 officials' participation. This Level has highest level of OWS officiating and covers the significant roles as Chief Referees and Safety Officers.

- **Coaching Education:**

- The 2026 JOWSC in Sukoró (HUN) and the 2026 EAC-OWS in Paris (FRA) featured exclusive educational clinics for coaches. These clinics were presented by prominent figures Anna Olasz (former OWS-Olympian) and Bernd Berkhahn (one of the most successful and influential OWS coaches in the world).

- **Community Integration & Growth**

- Aligned with the 2024–2028 OWS Strategic Plan, TOWSC partnered with the master's Committee to integrate Masters tournaments into elite/junior competition schedules.

- **Commercial & Digital Development**

- Digital and marketing growth initiatives, and digital branding projects were discussed/shared during a collaborative session with European Aquatics Marketing Director, Kirill Goncharov.

TECHNICAL HIGH DIVING COMMITTEE

Meetings

30 April 2026 – Virtual

5 August 2026 – European Aquatics Championships, Paris (FRA)

Key Decisions & Actions

- Appointment of Wessel Zimmerman as Special Advisor to the THDC following the resignation of Marco Troll
- Preparation and delivery of a strategic plan identifying opportunities to develop the sport. The Strategic Plan will be led by Wessel Zimmerman in collaboration with the THDC
- Preparation of a three-year budget plan covering key activities for competition partners and education for coaches and athletes, together with a match-funding Athlete Development Fund to assist National Federations with attendance at events
- Agreement for EA to fund the first European Age Group Competition in Budapest, which was subsequently cancelled due to low entries
- Agreement for EA to work with National Federations to support High Diving events

ATHLETES COMMITTEE

Meetings

- 21 February 2026: Online
- 26 March 2026: Online (EA Sub-group with World Aquatics Chair)
- July 2026: Various
- August 2026: Various
- September 2026: Online



Key Decisions & Actions

- Ensured active athlete representation across all European Aquatics Technical Committees.
- Supported the European Aquatics Media team on athlete-focused PR initiatives, educational content, and webinar series.
- Formulated recommendations for the Bureau regarding Artistic Swimming Apnoea rules and regulations.
- Opened ongoing strategic discussions with the World Aquatics Athletes Committee Chair.
- Contributed key athlete input on all operational aspects of the European Aquatics Open Water Championships, including event scheduling, start times, and contingency planning.
- Provided comprehensive athlete feedback on medal ceremonies, presentations, and award protocols for the Paris 2026 European Championships, with a primary focus on Open Water and High Diving.
- Appointed athlete representatives to the DEI Committee and actively participated in the development of the Women in Aquatics Network.
- Engaged athlete representatives to assist in shaping the direction and planning of the European Aquatics Centenary Celebrations.

EUROPEAN AQUATICS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Key developments

Aquatics Social Responsibility (ASR) is an increasingly important part of the European Aquatics Strategic Plan 2024–2030, extending the organisation’s role beyond competition into water safety, sustainability, inclusion, equality, athlete welfare and community legacy.

During 2025–26, the emphasis moved from policy to delivery: ASR was embedded into events, Swim Safe Europe expanded certification and education, and new initiatives strengthened safeguarding, female leadership, inclusion and environmental responsibility.

Key facts and figures

- **Swim Safe Europe:** Water safety and drowning prevention remained a flagship priority. The programme promotes common Learn to Swim standards for children aged 3–12. A new Coach Training Course launched in October 2025, combining Academy online learning with practical training in Iceland for Icelandic and Faroese participants.
- **National Federation certification:** By April 2026, 19 National Federations had completed Swim Safe Europe certification against common European Learn to Swim standards, with recognition planned during the European Aquatics Championships in Paris.
- **Swim Safe Europe Conference:** Paris hosted the two-day Annual Conference on 7–8 August alongside the European Championships, bringing together National Federations, researchers, academics and practitioners to share science, experience and best practice in water safety.
- **Aqua Safe Kids:** The 36-month Erasmus+ Sport project launched in Malta in February 2026 with an overall €400,000 budget. European Aquatics works with partners including federations from Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary and Bulgaria, the Aquatic Sports Association of Malta, SportMalta and the University of Zagreb on water safety, drowning prevention, aquatic skills, healthy lifestyles and inclusion for children.
- **Paris 2026 legacy:** French organisers announced swimming opportunities for 560 children during the Championships and 800 lesson places annually at the Olympic Aquatics Centre. A further new pool is planned in Clichy, extending the Learn to Swim legacy.
- **Sustainable events:** In December 2025, 13 Local Organising Committees became the first to receive certification under the European Aquatics Sustainability and Legacy Programme. In 2026, the Women’s European Water Polo Championships in Funchal applied five priority areas aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including

eliminating single-use plastic bottles, refill points, local sourcing, youth volunteering and community access.

- Junior events also embedded sustainability. The Junior Swimming and Junior Artistic Swimming Championships in Munich addressed mobility, water and energy efficiency, waste, single-use plastics, responsible food and beverage practices, monitoring and reporting.
- Special Olympics and inclusion: Following the 2025 Barcelona pilot involving almost 30 swimmers from nine countries, the 2026 programme expanded Special Olympics open water opportunities to Protaras, Sukoró and Barcelona. Cooperation under the MoU runs through 2028.
- The 800m Special Olympics open water format brings athletes with intellectual disabilities directly into the European Aquatics competition environment and accommodates different ability levels.
- Athlete welfare and safeguarding: The “Protecting our Athletes” conference in Dublin on 8 May 2026, organised with Swim Ireland and supported by Sport Ireland, addressed reporting, investigations, safeguarding leadership, athletes’ rights and safe competition environments.
- Women and leadership: The Women in European Aquatics Network launched on International Women’s Day, 8 March 2026, to support women seeking leadership roles and create opportunities for knowledge sharing and professional development. A first webinar was held in June and a first physical gathering in August, during the Paris 2026 European Aquatic Championships.

The Sustainability Charter, Sustainable Event Certification and Sustainable Event Quick Guide now give organisers practical tools for implementation. European Aquatics is also a signatory to the Sports for Nature and Sports for Climate Action frameworks.

Swim Safe Europe is developing into a structured system of standards, coach education, National Federation certification, research and community delivery. Aqua Safe Kids adds a European-funded development dimension, while Paris 2026 demonstrates how major events can create a lasting Learn to Swim legacy.

Inclusion is also becoming practical: Special Olympics cooperation creates competition opportunities, the Dublin conference strengthened athlete welfare, and the Women in European Aquatics Network supports greater female participation in leadership.

During 2025–26, ASR moved further from a policy framework to practical action across events, Member Federations and communities.

Key outcomes included 19 National Federations fully certified through Swim Safe Europe by the Paris conference; 13 event organisers recognised for environmental action; the €400,000,

36-month Aqua Safe Kids project; three Special Olympics open water opportunities following a pilot with almost 30 athletes from nine countries; and a Paris legacy offering swimming opportunity to 560 children during the Championships and 800 lesson places each year thereafter.

European Aquatics is increasingly using its influence beyond elite competition to advance drowning prevention, sustainability, inclusion, athlete welfare, equality and lasting community impact.

ASR is becoming an integral part of how European Aquatics delivers its role in European society.

EUROPEAN AQUATICS ACADEMY & EDUCATION

European Aquatics Academy & Education

Key Activities: October 2025 – 1 September 2026

Education remained a central pillar of the European Aquatics Strategic Plan 2024–2030. During 2025–26, the European Aquatics Academy expanded structured education, certification and professional development across all aquatic disciplines, combining in-person clinics, online learning and education delivered alongside major competitions.

Key facts and figures

Artistic Swimming: The Tbilisi Clinic (17–19 October 2025) attracted 165 on-site participants from 42 countries, including 38 European nations, and supported 2026 officials' certification. An online Masters Judges Training programme followed in April 2026.

Swimming: The Officials Clinic in Sofia (28 February–1 March 2026) combined physical and online participation and covered World Aquatics regulations, para swimming, Masters, Special Olympics and ice swimming.

Open Water Swimming: A 2025 online officials' clinic was followed by Level 1 online education and a Level 3 course in Larnaca (21–22 March 2026). Level 3 became mandatory for chief referees and safety officers at European Aquatics open water events.

Water Polo: The Basic–Intermediate–Advanced pathway continued for referees, delegates and jury table officials. Nineteen new Basic Certified Referees from nine countries qualified in Istanbul in June. The 2026–27 Intermediate Certification Clinic for

Jury Table Officials attracted more than 300 online participants, with further participation available OnDemand.

Competition-linked coach education

With support from World Aquatics (AQUA), European Aquatics embedded coach clinics into senior and junior championships. Fourteen clinics across water polo, artistic swimming, diving, swimming and open water attracted 611 participants. Highlights included 90 participants at the Junior Open Water clinic in Sukoró, 89 at the Junior Artistic Swimming clinic in Munich and 88 at the Paris European Championships swimming clinic.

Discipline / event	Location	Participants	Focus / facilitator
WP – European Championships Men	Belgrade	25	Gym work/new rules – Pero Kuterovac
WP – European Championships Women	Funchal	25	Women’s WP gym work/new rules – Michel Verkade
AS – Youth Championships	Luxembourg	51	Barracudas & flexibility – Sylvia Hernández
DIV – Junior Championships	Budapest	41	Support equipment & skills – Chobanov / Yevonin
SW – Junior Championships	Munich	60	European coaching partnership – Vitense / Janssen
OWS – Junior Championships	Sukoró	90	Youth-to-elite – Anna Olasz
AS – Junior Championships	Munich	89	Asymmetrical sculling – Virginie Dedieu
WP – U20 Women EWPC	Oeiras	24	Game intelligence – Kostantinos Fistanakis
WP – EWPC Division 1 Men	Oeiras	30	Individual preparation – Neven Kovačević
WP – U20 Men Elite EWPC	Varna	12	Faster water polo – Marc Prat
OWS – European Championships	Paris	21	Junior-to-elite – Bernd Berkhahn

DIV – European Championships	Paris	41	Arm-stand dives – Alexei Evangulov
SW – European Championships	Paris	88	Elite training philosophy – Massimo Meloni
AS – European Championships	Paris	42	Athlete voice on apnea – Emma Garcia

Coach education and Member Federation support

By 30 June 2026, courses from 25 national bodies had been certified or recognised by European Aquatics: Malta, Austria, Croatia (water polo), Czechia, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Israel (swimming and water polo), Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Romania (water polo), Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, Scotland, Sweden, Wales and Hungary (water polo) as well as Switzerland.

Tailor-made Level 1 courses were delivered in Kosovo (Swimming, April) and Malta (Swimming, June), with Artistic Swimming Level 1 scheduled in Šamorín for November 2026. Water Polo and Diving Level 1 courses are under development, while a Swimming Level 2 course in Malta is planned for Q1–Q2 2027.

Country/NF	Discipline / Level	Country/NF	Discipline / Level
Malta	SW/L1-L2-L3	Luxembourg	SW/L1-L2-L3
Austria	SW/L1-L2-L3	Norway	SW/L1-L2-L3
			AS/L1
			WP/L1
			Div/L1-L2
Czechia	SW/L1-L2-L3	Portugal	SW/L1-L2-L3
	AS/L1-L2-L3		WP/L1-L2-L3
	Div/L1-L2-L3		AS/L1-L2-L3
Denmark	SW/L1-L2-L3	Romania – WP	WP/L1-L2-L3
England	SW/L1-L2-L3	Belgium	SW/L1-L2-L3
	WP/L1-L2-L3		WP/L1-L2-L3
	AS/L1-L2-L3		AS/L1-L2-L3
	Div/L1-L2-L3		



Estonia	SW/L1-L2-L3	Netherlands	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3
France	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3	Spain	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3
Germany	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3	Scotland	SW/L2
Greece	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3	Sweden	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3
Iceland	SW/L1	Wales	SW/L1-L2
Israel - SW	SW/L1-L2-L3	Hungary - WP	WP / L3
Israel - WP	WP/L2-L3	Croatia - WP	WP/L1-L2-L3
Latvia	SW/L1-L2-L3	Switzerland	SW/L1-L2-L3 WP/L1-L2-L3 AS/L1-L2-L3 Div/L1-L2-L3

Education beyond coaches and officials

The Academy broadened its audience through Athlete Media Training and a webinar on social media and Personal Branding of Athletes. Elite coach development continued through the 2026 Swimming Elite Coach Conference, building on the 2025 Warsaw conference, while the platform also hosted an International Swimming Coaches Clinic from Brazil.

From education platform to knowledge hub

The Academy also strengthened research, innovation and high-performance support. The 2026 Research, Development & Innovation and Products & Processes grant calls supported two Research, Development & Innovation projects and one Products & Processes grant. European Aquatics presented its Transformative Research Award at the Symposium on Biomechanics and Medicine in Swimming and accredited six Training Centres and three Sport Science Labs.

Nine project applications were submitted to Erasmus+ Sport as funding source.

Grant	Organisation	Topic	Amount (eur)
2026 Products and Processes in Sports Technology Grant	EPAM	Water Polo Digital Transformation using Data and Sensors	25,000
2026 Aquatics Research Grants	EPAM	Water Polo Digital Transformation using Data and Sensors	10,000
2026 Aquatics Research Grants	INEFC	Monitoring Cardiac Responses and Adaptations to Apnea in Artistic Swimming	14,000

Title of the project submitted	Budget (eur)	Objective
Sport Transparency Index 2.0	36,765	Strengthen transparency, integrity and governance across European sport organisations.
Gender Equity in Sport Index (GES Index)	40,770	Develop a benchmarking system to assess gender equality in sport governance.
Trusted Athlete App (TAA)	49,517	Develop a mobile application helping athletes verify medication compliance and reduce the risk of unintentional doping.
Mixed Ability Water Polo (INPACT-WP)	18,000	Implement an inclusive mixed-ability water polo model integrating athletes with and without disabilities.
Smmart Sensing for Aquatic Active Living (Aqua-Sense)	54,600	Evaluate and validate technology solutions and tools supporting swimming training and participation.



MindHealthSports	20,000	Strengthen mental-health awareness and support structures in grassroots sport.
SafeSports	12,000	Promote safe environments, safeguarding and inclusion in sport.
Athlete2Career	40,000	Provide holistic support for athletes managing dual careers and career transitions.
MGMSports	0	Promote modern governance models and digital transformation in grassroots sports organisations.

Swim Safe Europe coach education further connected the Academy with European Aquatics' social responsibility work, supporting common Learn to Swim standards and essential water-safety skills for children aged 3–12.

Overall impact

The Academy is evolving from a provider of individual clinics into a common European education and knowledge system. Structured certification, online access, competition-based learning, tailored support for Member Federations, athlete education and research are raising standards across swimming, diving, artistic swimming, open water swimming and water polo while strengthening Member Federation capacity.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Paris 2026: the communications showcase

Paris 2026 was the communications highlight of the year and demonstrated the impact of European Aquatics' integrated event model. Multidisciplinary teams combined editorial, social media, photography, video and media liaison, with athlete-led short-form content and distinctive visual storytelling. Underwater cameras enriched coverage from the Olympic Aquatic Centre, while open water and high diving on the Seine produced striking international imagery with the Eiffel Tower as backdrop.

The Championships involved 1,268 athletes and 615 volunteers, with more than 100,000 tickets sold and evening sessions at the Olympic Aquatic Centre sold out. International coverage extended well beyond specialist aquatics media, while world-class performances – including major records in swimming, Léon Marchand's return to Paris and the spectacular Seine competitions – generated strong global storylines.



Paris 2026: media monitoring performance

Independent monitoring for 20 July–19 August recorded a dramatic rise in visibility compared with the preceding 31-day period. The data below measures the wider online and media conversation around Paris 2026, not only European Aquatics’ owned channels.

Indicator	Paris 2026 result	Change vs preceding 31-day period
Total mentions	3,143	+917%
Total estimated reach	42 million	+2,478%
Positive mentions	767	+2,031%
Negative mentions	41	Low
Advertising value equivalent	USD 5.7 million	+2,540%
Social-media reach	12 million	+7,139%
Non-social media reach	30 million	+1,934%
User-generated content	1,558	+2,541%
Social-media mentions	1,439	+3,590%
Social-media interactions	136,000	+4,932%
Reactions / likes	130,000	+4,817%
Comments	1,752	+5,740%
Shares	4,602	+12,683%

News accounted for 47.5% of monitored mentions, followed by X (13.9%) and Instagram (9.9%). Coverage was genuinely international: the largest monitored reach came from the United States (7m), Great Britain (5m) and Italy (4m), followed by Ireland (3m). Peaks were driven by major sporting moments, including high diving and world-record swimming performances.

Record performance on European Aquatics social platforms

European Aquatics’ own post-event analysis also confirmed record digital performance. The organisation reported that Paris 2026 social-media views were 252% higher than for the 2024 European Championships, underlining the rapid growth of EA’s direct digital audience. This complements the independent monitoring above: one measures EA-owned platform performance, while the other captures the wider media and social conversation.

Year-round digital development

The Paris results built on a wider shift towards athlete-centred, year-round storytelling. By July, 24 athlete and community features had been published and 15 more prepared, covering 16 countries and all



disciplines through series including Return to Paris and New Wave. The EPAM Digital Asset Management platform was also developed further, providing AI-assisted metadata, real-time uploads and searchable photo/video access for EA, National Federations and clubs.

Water polo: sustained digital growth

Water polo remained an important year-round communications success. All 558 matches in the 2025/26 club season received coverage with host-club support, and EA media teams attended every competition final. Champions League content generated 40.6 million views from qualification to the Final Four and contributed to 13,700 additional followers across EA’s Meta platforms.

EWPC 2026 indicator	Belgrade + Funchal result	Comparison
Monitored media mentions	8,600+	—
Estimated media reach	169.8 million	—
Advertising value equivalent	USD 17.7 million	—
Positive sentiment, excluding neutral	92%	—
EA-channel impressions/post views	92.62 million	6.4× 2024; 31×+ 2022
EA-channel video views	28.16 million	5.1× 2024; 14× 2022
Accredited media	367	—

The table highlights the strongest available year-on-year comparisons for EA-owned channel performance.

Conclusion

The 2026 results demonstrate a clear progression: stronger event teams, closer cooperation with athletes and National Federations, more visual storytelling and rapidly expanding direct digital audiences. Paris 2026 brought these elements together on EA’s biggest stage, combining outstanding sport, iconic locations and record social-media growth.

EUROPEAN AQUATICS TV

Broadcast and OTT channel update

Overview

European Aquatics strengthened broadcast production and distribution across linear television and EA TV, while integrating TV planning more closely with event operations, marketing and communications. The new EA TV platform operated by Sportway launched on 8 October 2025, with flexible day and water polo subscription passes, while a multi-year agreement with Overnight extended water polo club coverage across the Americas, Oceania, the Caribbean and South Africa. Paris 2026 subsequently provided the year’s major multi-discipline broadcast showcase.



EA TV and OTT development

EA TV developed as both a distribution and direct-to-consumer revenue platform, generating more than EUR 60,000 in sales in its first five months. The Youth Artistic Swimming Championships in Luxembourg became EA’s first artistic swimming pay-per-view event, selling 330 event passes and about 400 daily passes for EUR 3,500. Consolidated unique-viewer data for EA TV were not available at the reporting cut-off, so commercial sales and pass data are reported separately from audience figures.

Broadcast production and innovation

New graphics packages were developed for swimming, diving, artistic swimming, open water and high diving for Paris 2026; the artistic swimming package debuted in Luxembourg.

EA supported both legs of the men’s Euro Cup Final, including EUR 5,000 to enhance the Marseille production and support signal access for Croatian television.

Paris 2026 delivered coordinated host-broadcast operations across the Olympic Aquatic Centre and Seine venues, including rights-holder servicing, mixed zones, technical coordination and a coherent EA broadcast identity.

An EA pilot, supported by EPAM and xxxx, exploring sensors in water polo balls and caps to generate real-time data for broadcast, analysis and future fan engagement is launched in Q3 2026.

Paris 2026: exceptional host-market audiences

The complete EBU pan-European television report for Paris 2026 was still being finalised at the reporting cut-off. *France Télévisions* reported that its aquatics coverage across linear channels and digital platforms surpassed 35 million total viewers, providing a strong first indication of host-market impact. Detailed pan-European reach and watch-hours will be added when the EBU consolidation is complete.

France Télévisions also reported strong individual-event audiences, including 4.4 million viewers for Léon Marchand’s 400m freestyle gold and 3.5 million for his 200m butterfly victory. The *francetv* sport channel reached 5 million people during the wider European Championships period, with 105 hours of live digital coverage, including 40 hours exclusively online.

KNOWN TELEVISION AUDIENCE PERFORMANCE

Competition	Broadcast distribution	Audience performance	Comparison
Lublin 2025 Short Course Championships	21 broadcasters 465 hours	9.75m watch hours 9m reported reach	Watch hours: 8.45m (2023) → 9.75m (2025)
Belgrade 2026 Men’s EWPC	18 broadcasters 481 hours	21.9m watch hours 9.9m reported reach	Watch hours: 10.52m (2024) → 21.9m (2026)



Funchal 2026 Women’s EWPC	15 broadcasters 201 hours	4.20m watch hours 7.3m reported reach	Avg live audience: 200k (2024) → 450k (2026)
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Audience highlights

The strongest available comparisons are incorporated directly into the table above. Lublin recorded a peak audience of 1.17 million, while the Serbia–Hungary final in Belgrade averaged more than 2 million live viewers and reached more than 4 million.

Streaming and global reach

Eurovision Sport recorded about 30,000 unique users for Lublin and 38,000 for Belgrade; 60% of Lublin users were aged 17–34. For Paris 2026, as mentioned previously, *France Télévisions* reported a reach of 5 million for its *francetv* sport channel across the wider European Championships period and 105 hours of live digital coverage, including 40 hours exclusively online. The Sportway and Overnight agreements further expanded access beyond traditional linear markets.

Assessment

European Aquatics’ television and streaming activities delivered broader distribution, strong linear-TV consumption and early direct-to-consumer revenue. Belgrade more than doubled 2024 watch hours, Lublin improved on 2023, and artistic swimming’s first pay-per-view event demonstrated demand beyond conventional broadcast schedules. Paris 2026 added strong host-market performance, while the complete EBU report will provide the final pan-European assessment.

Note: Broadcast reach is the number of people exposed to coverage; watch hours measure the cumulative time audiences spent viewing; OTT users are unique users of an online streaming service; and digital video views count video plays on digital platforms. These measures are not directly interchangeable and are therefore reported separately. Paris figures currently available are from *France Télévisions*; the complete EBU pan-European audience report was still being finalised as this Activity Report went to press.

MARKETING

Partnerships, sponsorship and commercial development

Overview

European Aquatics broadened its commercial and strategic partnership portfolio during 2025/26, linking sponsorship more closely to flagship events, technology, sustainability, event delivery and long-term development. Paris 2026 provided the year’s principal commercial showcase, supported by strong ticket demand, premium hospitality and extensive partner visibility.



Paris 2026 as a commercial platform

At the D-200 milestone in January, French energy giant EDF renewed as Official Competition Partner of the European Aquatics Championships. Paris subsequently sold more than 100,000 tickets, with evening sessions at the Olympic Aquatic Centre sold out, creating a high-profile environment for partner activation. Premium hospitality packages were marketed for the pool disciplines, while open water ticketing extended the spectator offer to the Seine.

NEW AND EXTENDED PARTNERSHIPS

Partner / initiative	2025/26 development	Strategic value
EDF	FFN partnership renewed for five years; activated prominently around Paris 2026	Host-market sponsorship and event visibility
Wiz-Team (supplier)	Three-year Event-Works service agreement for event management and accreditation	Integrated registration, accreditation, guest and event operations
X-Bionic® Sphere	Strategic cooperation agreement signed 17 March 2026	Hosting, education, athlete development, accessibility and participation
Swiss Timing	Arrangement extended through 2028	Continuity in event technology and service delivery
Sony	New collaboration agreed for 2026	New technology/commercial cooperation
EPAM	Existing strategic partnership activated further in 2025/26	Digital media hub/DAM, cross-organisation asset sharing and pilot sensor technology for water polo
Lokang	Landmark partnership launched in Malta in June 2026	First EA official partner dedicated specifically to sustainability, social responsibility and drowning prevention
Microplus	Service relationship renewed for competition data processing and timing support	Continuity of competition technology and results services

Water polo commercial development

Total club prize money for 2025/26 was set at EUR 435,000, including EUR 125,000 for the men's Champions League winner. The season also highlighted commercial risk: Wood Nest Sport, selected to support the competition, did not honour its financial commitments. European Aquatics therefore began work on a replacement partnership for the following season. Unfortunately the chosen partner to support the competition, Wood Nest Sport, did not honour its financial commitments. A new partnership for the next season is under development.



Commercial growth was supported by record participation: the 2025/26 club season featured 130 teams from 27 countries and more than 2,100 athletes. Women's participation reached a record 56 clubs from 17 nations, strengthening the value of the competition portfolio for current and future partners.

Technology and partner integration

Technology partnerships increasingly supported operations, commercial value and fan engagement. EPAM remained a key strategic partner, with its next-generation digital asset management/media hub developed as a cross-collaboration tool for European Aquatics, National Federations and clubs. EPAM also supported data- and sensor-based water polo innovation with potential applications in broadcast, analysis and fan engagement. The EURO AQUA app continued to provide fans with schedules, live results, news and event information, while digital fan-engagement concepts – including the Seyu platform, which allows supporters' photos and messages to appear on venue screens – provided additional ways to connect audiences and athletes. Wiz-Team's Event-Works platform supported event operations, while X-Bionic® Sphere created a broader framework for hosting, education, athlete development, accessibility and participation. The implementation of

Sustainability partnership

In June 2026, European Aquatics launched a landmark partnership with Lokang during the Men's and Women's Champions League Final Fours in Malta. Lokang became EA's first official partner dedicated specifically to sustainability, social responsibility and drowning prevention, supporting environmental responsibility, water safety and practical initiatives designed to create positive social impact across Europe.

Event merchandising and fan experience

Merchandising also became a more visible part of the event and fan-experience offer. Official merchandise was produced for the 2026 European Aquatics Championships in Paris, the Men's European Water Polo Championship in Belgrade, while the Champions League Final Four in Malta included official merchandise outlets within its Fan Zone. Funchal's Women's European Water Polo Championship also incorporated sustainable solutions into event operations and merchandising, showing how retail activity can support both commercial and environmental objectives.

Commercial standards and event presentation

Marketing activity is increasingly focused on consistent partner exposure and stronger event presentation. Updated 2026 Advertising Regulations defined sponsor inventory across competition equipment and athlete presentation, including designated European Aquatics and competition-partner positions. Water polo planning also continued to emphasise venue branding and specialist marketing support for organising clubs.



Conclusion

The 2025/26 season showed a broader commercial model emerging around European Aquatics: long-term event sponsorship, sport-specific partnerships, technology and sustainability agreements, merchandising and stronger use of flagship competitions as commercial platforms. Paris 2026 demonstrated the visibility available around EA's premier multi-discipline event; water polo showed how targeted sponsorship, partner activation and merchandise can strengthen the fan experience and directly support competitions. The next priority is to convert this platform into further multi-year partnerships and measurable activation across the full EA calendar.

STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2026 ACTION PLAN IN NUMBERS

The 2026 Action Plan translated the European Aquatics Strategic Plan 2024–2030 into 52 identifiable actions and deliverables across three horizontal priorities and four strategic pillars. The current mapping assesses delivery against the original commitments only, ensuring a consistent and transparent denominator.

Status	Definition	Actions	Share
GREEN	Completed / substantially delivered	18	35%
AMBER	In progress / partially delivered	29	56%
RED	Postponed / cancelled / not delivered	5	9%
TOTAL	Original 2026 Action Plan	52	100%

91% of 2026 Action Plan commitments are either delivered or actively in progress.

Summary of key actions

Implementation of the 2026 Action Plan remains firmly on track. Of the 52 actions identified across the Strategic Plan's three horizontal priorities and four strategic pillars, 18 (35%) have been successfully delivered or substantially completed, 29 (56%) are actively in progress, and five (9%) have been postponed, cancelled or not delivered. This means that 91% of the actions identified for 2026 have either been delivered or are actively progressing.

The annual monitoring process provides Member Federations with a clear and transparent assessment of progress while enabling European Aquatics to identify areas requiring further attention. The figures should be refreshed at the 1 September reporting cut-off before final publication, as several activities currently classified as Amber are scheduled for completion during August and September.

Horizontal Priority 1 – Knowledge Sharing (7 actions)

Strong progress includes implementation of the Innovation Hub, activation of research and knowledge-sharing initiatives, and continued development of the European Aquatics Academy. Several longer-term items, including Academy platform development and Centenary-related work, remain in progress.

Horizontal Priority 2 – Data Hub (5 actions)

Event Works has been introduced for junior events, and the Digital Asset Management project has advanced substantially. Refbook has been used for the appointment of referees in delegates for the Water Polo Club Competition. Broader integration of data systems, federation interfaces and additional Data Hub modules remains in progress.

Horizontal Priority 3 – Aquatics Social Responsibility (8 actions)

Progress includes Aqua Safe Kids, European project applications and expansion of Swim Safe Europe certification. Sustainability certification, Carbon Footprint work, mental-health, medical/research and inclusion initiatives remain active.

Pillar 1 – Develop, Promote and Coordinate the Disciplines (8 actions)

Water polo and other discipline-development activity has been delivered or advanced, while Masters and Artistic Swimming programmes have progressed. The planned Diving development camp was cancelled because of insufficient participation and is recorded transparently as Red.

Pillar 2 – Making Aquatics accessible for All (6 action groups)

Officials' certification and clinics have been delivered across several disciplines. European Aquatics Academy development, coach certification, alignment with World Aquatics education and programmes for federation managers and athletes remain in progress.

Pillar 3 – Making European Aquatics Fit for the Future (10 actions)

New graphics, event presentation and partner-content work have advanced strongly. Consumer research, commercial partnerships, studio programming and several fan-engagement and activation projects remain under development.

Pillar 4 – Integrity, Transparency & Inclusion and Good Governance (8 actions)

Athlete welfare activity, transparency measures and women/diversity initiatives have recorded clear progress. Governance compliance, integrity education, the Integrity Charter and further Para/inclusion implementation remain active, while one governance-transfer element did not progress as originally envisaged. Mention the renewal of the Bronze certificate.

IN MEMORIAM



Walter Baer – Austria

European Aquatics was deeply saddened by the unexpected passing of Walter Baer, Sport Director of the Austrian Swimming Federation, on 17 March 2026. A respected member of the European aquatics' family, Walter was remembered with a minute of silence by the European Aquatics Bureau at its meeting in Antalya.

European Aquatics extends its sincere condolences to Walter's family, friends and colleagues, and remembers all members of the European aquatics community whom we have lost during the past year.
