



***Annual
Activity Report
2022***

OPENING MESSAGE

Since the last annual LEN Congress was held in Budapest (HUN) on September 25 2021 LEN has rarely been busier or seen so much dramatic change.

We held all our top events in succession – each being an outstanding success – and LEN Member Federations elected a new leadership which gave the green light for an Action Plan to bring fundamental changes in LEN’s governance, structure, and development.

In addition, a new, bright chapter of FINA-LEN relations has begun with the new LEN President António Silva and the Bureau are enjoying the full support of FINA President Husain al-Musallam.

While it is important to have a full and detailed written summary for the historical record, we have also designed a printed brochure and video, which will bring to life the achievements to date of the LEN Action Plan and 4 pillars, summarise the key meetings and trips made by the LEN Executive in the interest of European aquatics and celebrate the wonderful achievement of European athletes, in all disciplines, since September 2021.



LEN President António Silva on behalf of the LEN Bureau

Antalya (TUR) October 22 2022

1. A NEW ERA BEGINS FOR LEN

At the Budapest Congress, 25 member federations filed, demanding an Extraordinary Congress and a vote-of-confidence on the ruling Bureau, the Extraordinary Elective Congress took place on 5 February 2022 in Frankfurt (GER), and the member federations elected a new leadership, headed by President Antonio Silva, General Secretary Andida Bouma, Treasurer Tomas Kucinskas – while a second Extraordinary Congress held in Cascais (POR) in May elected Josip Varvodic as LEN First Vice-President and also enlarged the Bureau with additional vice presidents and Bureau members (see more details below).

The new leadership immediately began to transform LEN to meet their campaign promises. European Aquatics were shepherded towards this new path by applying new and fresh approaches in several areas, and by important decisions taken at Bureau Meetings, with the aid of high-profile consultants and ultimately the FINA leadership.

Important milestones of the transformation were approved by the second Extraordinary Congress in May. The four pillars of reform and change, the present and the future success of European Aquatics rely upon, were all established, and the corresponding programmes are now up and running.

2. LEN EVENTS GIVE PLATFORM FOR EUROPEAN ATHLETES TO EXCEL

Throughout this period, the pools offered the very best of aquatic action across all our disciplines.

In a span of ten months, every one of LEN's top events took place. Starting European Short-Course Swimming Championships (in Kazan) in November 2021, 2022 saw the two major championships - the European Aquatic Championships in Rome and the European Water Polo Championships in Split - as well as Euro Cup Finals in water polo in Palermo and Sabadell, the Euro League women final 4 in Piraeus and the Champions League Final 8 in Belgrade. There were open water swimming cups in Eliat, Piombino, Alghero, Belgrade, Kiel and Barcelona. LEN also organised Junior swimming and diving championships in Bucharest, artistic swimming champs in Alicante and European Junior open water champs in Setubal. The Women's U19 European water polo champs was held in Netanya and the Men's U19 event in Podgorica.

With the global pandemic playing havoc with existing competition calendars in the previous two years, the events seemed to run back to back.

First in line was the short-course Europeans in Kazan – which had been moved to November 2021 on FINA’s request to make space for the short-course Worlds in December (which had been postponed from 2020). Kazan proved to be a highly competent host once again.

This was the last occasion when strict Covid-protocols were in place and no spectators were on site to cheer for the athletes. As the grip of the pandemic loosened – and vaccines became available throughout Europe – European Aquatics started edging back to normality.

Fans returned to the stands first at water polo club matches, under the usual competition formats. The teams could play in their respective home pools with no more need for bubble tournaments.

But sadly, another unexpected event then hit hard – Russia’s invasion of Ukraine had major repercussions on society and sport was not exempt. The LEN Bureau acted swiftly to suspend Russia and Belarus. The women’s LEN Trophy water polo finals were immediately affected. Since two clubs were expelled in the quarter-final phase, the LEN Trophy was decided in a home-and-away final, instead of the usual Final Four.

On a strongly positive note, the LEN Family showed great solidarity by giving helping hands to all Ukrainian athletes in need. Several national federations welcomed dozens of aquatic athletes from the war-ridden country, seniors, and younger age-groups alike, and offered safe shelter for them, providing accommodation and training opportunities from March till the start of the summer meets.

LEN also reacted with flexibility when FINA appointed Budapest to organise a World Championships to replace Fukuoka (still suffering severe local restrictions to Covid, the Japanese city opted to move the event with further one year to 2023). The proposed new dates in June required quick action to amend the water polo club competition calendar and the Bureau, LEN Office and the TWPC found the right solution. Despite the new dates, the climax of the season brought tremendous excitements and outstanding finals in all competitions, including a thrilling Champions League Final Eight, in Belgrade.

An extremely busy summer was to follow – the World Championships and the European Championships had never been held just two months apart. But despite this tremendous workload, European athletes excelled in both majors – some even in three as there was also a Commonwealth Games in July. LEN’s top two events delivered outstanding success.

The European Aquatics Championships in Rome offered everything one would expect of the Eternal City. Enthusiastic crowds filled the stands in all final sessions in all disciplines, creating an unforgettable, electrifying atmosphere across all venues in the magnificent Foro Italico and on the seaside in Ostia, where the open water swimming events took place.

A couple of historical milestones, the first-ever high diving continental championship were held, as well as the male solo event made its debut in artistic swimming. Host Italy produced a never-seen medal tally much to the joy of the tens of thousands attending – the roof wasn't brought down for one single reason: for the first time since 2010, the entire championships were held outdoors.

On contrary, for the first time ever, the summer edition of the European Water Polo Championships was moved indoors. The magnificent Spaladium Arena in Split were transformed into a giant water polo venue, amazing the players and fans alike. Whenever the host team played, not a single seat remained unoccupied, and in an evening hardly anyone present ever forget, Croatia edged out Hungary in front of 9,000 spectators.

LEN decided to organise all the usual competitions for our age-group athletes, as it did in 2021. The traditional junior championships were held in all five disciplines, and Bucharest (swimming and diving), Setubal (open water swimming), Alicante (artistic swimming), Netanya and Podgorica (women and men water polo) which all proved to be fantastic hosts for the respective events.

Let us now go into more detail about key areas of activity.

3. LEN CORPORATE NEWS SUMMARY

LEN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESSES

Frankfurt, 5 February

When 25 member federations filed a successful vote-of-confidence in the ruling Bureau at the LEN Congress in Budapest, the result was a LEN Extraordinary Congress in Frankfurt, where Antonio Silva was elected as the new LEN President with a landslide majority of 96%. For the first time, LEN has a female General Secretary, former artistic swimmer Andida Bouma, while Tomas Kucinkas is the new LEN Treasurer. At the end of the meeting, FINA President Husain al-Musallam joined from remote and welcomed the successful conclusion of the Congress and said it was time “to work together as one family.”

Antonio Silva of Portugal is the new LEN President after receiving the vast majority of the votes at the LEN Extraordinary Congress in Frankfurt. His candidacy enjoyed a 96% support among the 47 federations present and three more attending the event online. The Congress voted 92 to 8 to dismiss the previous Bureau.

The Congress then elected a new Bureau – for the first time in the history European Aquatics, LEN has a female General Secretary, Andida Bouma of the Netherlands. Tomas Kucinskas of Lithuania is the new LEN Treasurer, while Kyriakos Giannopoulos (**GRE**), Christer Magnusson (**SWE**), Gilles Sezionale (**FRA**), Marco Troll (**GER**) and Josip Varvodic (**CRO**) are the new Vice-Presidents.

In his first speech as President, Mr Silva said “We had the courage to stand up and fight for a better future for all federations and all the aquatic disciplines. We stood up and fought for the principles of Unity, for openness and transparency for the sacred principles of democracy. We spoke out and demanded that LEN worked with FINA for the good of the sport worldwide. We can no longer exist in isolation, together we are stronger.”

The new LEN President underlined that the real hard work was still ahead. Among the first items on his new team’s agenda is the restructuring of the LEN Office and the Bureau and to shape and agree on a new Constitution and to review LEN’s competition structure and calendar.

“There are no fewer than 8 goals for integrity, transparency and governance, 7 regarding inclusion and access to our sport, 6 for collaboration between aquatic disciplines and 8 for sustainability so we have a lot to do” Mr Silva said who insisted his goal was to reach out for each National Federation as he wanted to achieve real unity in Europe.

He also added, that after the new Constitution is approved – this is anticipated in May, at a next Congress –, his team plans to enlarge the LEN Bureau to include more members and there is a hope that two more European members can join the FINA Bureau in the near future.

Newly elected Vice-President Josip Varvodic also thanked the trust of the national federations and emphasised that there would be no division in the LEN Family any longer as everyone’s opinion shall be heard and welcomed.

FINA President Husain al-Musallam joined the event via video link to address the LEN Congress.



I would like to congratulate the LEN Family for the successful conclusion of this important Congress – it is important for the future of LEN and all the aquatics around the world” the FINA President said. “I believe it’s time to work as one family. Our goal should be to support the aquatic movement and our athlete with every single step we take. Everybody may have a different opinion, but we should be united to support the development of aquatics.”

The FINA President concluded: *“Europe is very important for the world – and the world needs the help of Europe. With the new president and his team, FINA count on Europe in supporting the development of aquatic sports.”*

The new LEN Bureau

President: Antonio Silva (POR)

General Secretary: Andida Bouma (NED)

Treasurer: Tomas Kucinkas (LTU)

Vice-Presidents: Kyriakos Giannopoulos (GRE), Christer Magnusson (SWE), Gilles Sezionale (FRA), Marco Troll (GER), Josip Varvodic (CRO)

Members: Jack Buckner (GBR), Ewen A Cameron (SUI), Fernando Carpena (ESP), Rokur i Jakupsstovu (FAR), Pia Johansen (DEN), Milos Mracevic (MNE), Petr Ryska (CZE), Erkan Yalcin (TUR), Noam Zwi (ISR)

FINA Bureau Members: Kyriakos Giannopoulos (GRE), Otylia Jedzrejczak (POL), Josip Varvodic (CRO), Sami Wahlman (FIN).

Cascais, 14 May

The first three months of hectic activity by the recently elected LEN Bureau was shared with national member federations of the European Aquatics association at the LEN Extraordinary Congress in Cascais.

In his welcome speech, LEN President Antonio Silva recalled that before the February election a manifesto featuring four pillars had been presented. These were: **integrity, transparency, and governance** – a sport accessible for all – to learn and work together for the benefit of aquatic disciplines – **sustainability**, to make LEN fit for the future.

//

In my manifesto, there was an agenda for each of the four pillars” the President said. “We outlined what we wanted LEN to achieve in the first 100 days in office. Significant progress has already been made to achieve these ambitions, and progress will continue to be made and will be ongoing.” He announced that five objectives had already been achieved, 16 are in progress and 3 will start after the Congress.

The detailed presentations revealed that SIGA, the Sport Integrity Global Alliance had conducted its Phase One audit and shared its findings with LEN to improve its governance. As General Secretary Andida Bouma said, an independent integrity unit is to set up, an integrity hotline has already been launched and new ethics, integrity and anti-doping violation policies are on the table. As for transparency, new Bureau liaisons have been appointed and an increased communication on Bureau decisions and activities are already in place. New measures to improve support and accessibility of information for members, as well as developing and executing a new LEN corporate strategy are also set in motion.

The Congress have approved several changes to the Constitution including not only shaping the new Athletes Committee but also to give even more voice to the athletes by granting them voting rights at the Congress. Also, LEN will continue to identify ways to support athletes to progress through aquatic disciplines.

Bureau member Rokur Jakupsstovu announced that LEN had also established sub-committees for Education and Coaching, the Learn-to-Swim programme and in talks with the International Paralympic Committee on the governance transfer of para-swimming to LEN. A new LEN website as well as a new media strategy is in the making.

Treasurer Tomas Kucinkas shared some findings on the internal audit and the changes made to the annual budget approved by the previous Bureau. While LEN’s financial situation is still healthy and sound, a new investment strategy shall be implemented soon. The leadership will consider the resourcing structure of LEN Office to strengthen the organisation with a commercially orientated focus. The Treasurer added that new or extension tenders would be launched for the existing key partners, the discussions with EBU (Eurovision) already started as well as the defining of new bidding procedures for LEN Events up until 2028.

“We propose creating a comprehensive commercial strategy that assesses the potential for LEN to increase its revenues” Mr Kucinskis said. “This will include a specific focus on generating significant revenues through host city relationships, sponsorship and broadcast rights sales.”

LEN has launched a **Solidarity Programme for Ukraine**, to support its athletes and aquatic federations to prepare for this year’s LEN and FINA events. LEN contributed € 100,000 already, similarly to FINA and the International Olympic Committee, but more aid is needed, and all federations, institution and individuals are invited to support Ukrainian aquatics (details, the dedicated bank account number will be available on the LEN website soon).

The Congress approved Josip Varvodic as LEN First Vice-President, elected Erkan Yalcin and Noam Zwi as Vice-Presidents and confirmed the Bureau Membership of Sandor Wladar (HUN) and Arno Pajek (AUT), as well as Liam Tancock (GBR) as Chair of the Athletes’ Committee.

The delegates elected new members for the Audit Committee, Paloma Mendoza Olea (ESP) and Simon Renno (EST), and also for the Disciplinary Panel, Pedro Manuel Alves Meireles (POR), Rok Vehovec (SLO) and Stefanos Avgouleas (GRE).

The Congress concluded with presentations by LEN Partners EBU and Fluidra. Eurovision plans to cooperate with LEN on delivering unique solutions which offer even higher standards in broadcasting to grow the audience. EBU and the member federations should work closer to expand the number of countries where live broadcasting of the major LEN Events are available. Also, LEN TV aimed to become a Netflix-like platform for aquatics content, with live streaming of LEN Events and other athlete-centric features.

Historic moment as LEN creates Athletes Committee, Coach Education Committee and Learn to Swim Committee.

Liam Tancock was confirmed as Chair of a new LEN Athletes’ Committee, and attended the LEN Bureau and Congress in Cascais, where arrangements for the first meeting of the committee were finalised. Greater involvement of athletes in LEN decision making is one of the key priorities of the “new LEN”.

Otylia Jędrzejczak, Bureau liaison Athletes Committee, said:

“After two rounds of requests to the Federations we have received a total of 22 nominations from 16 federations and we are delighted that we have started the process of giving our athletes a real voice in decision making so they can actively contribute to the future of our sport.”

Liam Tancock said: *“It's a privilege to be the first chair of the LEN Athletes Committee. I am really looking forward to working alongside fellow athletes who all have valuable experience and insight from across the aquatic disciplines to help guide the group. I am excited to help form a strong foundation for this committee and ensure that the voice of the athletes is represented in the decision-making processes at a very exciting time for LEN European aquatics.”*

The LEN Bureau has appointed 7 athletes to form the initial Athlete Committee with representatives from all disciplines and with respect for the principle of gender equity. This group will now work on the procedure to select/enlarge the Committee in the future to ensure that the athletes also have a voice in the selection process.

The chair of the Athletes' Committee is a member of the LEN Bureau with full voting rights and, as part of the LEN Constitutional reform proposals, the Athletes' Committee will be given two votes at Congress (as if the committee was a country).

The Learning2Swim Commission is another important development. It will be chaired by Boro Strumbelj and I personally will serve as Bureau Liaison together with Fernando Carpena and Rokur Jakupsstovu.

Another key priority is coaching and education and LEN approved the creation of a new commission headed by the renowned coach Jon Rudd, President of the World Swimming Coaches organisation, supported as Bureau Liaison by Gilles Sezionale.

LEN Athletes' Committee

Chair: Liam Tancock (GBR), Swimming

Vice Chair: Milouschka Smit (NED), Water Polo

Secretary: Oliver Dingley (IRL), Diving

Members (all active athletes):

Emma Garcia (ESP), Artistic Swimming

Caroline Jousse (FRA), Open Water

Andrii Govorov (UKR), Swimming

Norbert Hosnyanszky (HUN), Water Polo

LEN Coaching and Education Commission

Chair: Jon Rudd (IRL)

Vice Chair: Marek Reiman (POL)

Secretary: Tiago Barbosa (POR)

Members:

Russ Barber (GBR)

Patrick Pearson (NED)

Zilvinas Ovsiukas (LIT)

Kuba Karpinski (POL)

Julien Issoulien (FRA)

Walter Bolognani ITA (WSCA rep)

Learning2Swim Commission

Chair: Boro Strumbelj (SLO)

Co-chair: Mary McMorrow (IRL)

Secretary: Aldo Costa (POR)

Members:

Laurent Ciubini (FRA)

José Luis Hidalgo (ESP)

Marek Rejman (POL)

Cato Bratbakk (NOR)

4. LEN BUREAU MEETINGS

The LEN Bureau has been extremely active since the elections on February 5 and keen to ensure frequent and open debate. In addition – since the new Bureau was elected – a key priority was to improve internal communications with Federations, with all decisions shared with the National Federations via a new Federation Newsletter.

LEN BUREAU MEETING DATES AND VENUES

2021		2022	
3 October	Zoom	5 February	Frankfurt
20 October	Zoom	16 February	Zoom
31 October	Zoom	2 March	Zoom
1 November	Zoom	23 March	Zoom
6 November	Kazan	6 April	Zoom
24 November	Zoom	27 April	Zoom
		13 May	Cascais
		21 July	Zoom
		16 August	Rome

LEN EXECUTIVE MEETING DATES AND VENUES

2022	
10 June	Zoom
7 July	Zoom
4 August	Zoom
15 August	Rome
18 August	Rome
19 August	Rome
9 September	Split

LEN OFFICERS MEETING DATES AND VENUES

Since February 2022, every Wednesday evening via Zoom.

LEN TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

With all Committees fully occupied at events during this extremely busy summer, we will include the usual reports from each in the printed version of this report, available on site at the Congress.

5. LEN ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Following the election of the new LEN Bureau an Action Plan was set up with clear objectives across the 4 pillars identified as crucial for the future development of LEN. Within the first 100 days, concrete achievements included:

- Prioritising good governance and integrity through constitutional reform proposals, which were voted through at the congress in Cascais.
- Performing an audit of the LEN office structure, finances, and operations, focusing on events, marketing, and communications.
- Building more alignment with FINA which included a Europe wide tour by the LEN President and 1st Vice President with the FINA President.
- Focusing on financial sustainability by redefining the event calendar and the marketing and media approach.
- Identifying new Corporate Social Responsibility programmes to target social inequality through conversations with the International Paralympic Committee and the creation of a Specialised Projects Commission and three sub-commissions.

Since then, the Action Plan has continued to evolve with key priorities identified. Work is ongoing in the following areas, with more details to come in Antalya.

Pillar 1: Integrity, Transparency and Governance

Governance

Review and create new rules, regulations and policies and make proposals for further constitutional changes.
Improve Athlete representation with the Athlete Committee.

Integrity

Set up an independent integrity unit.
Create drafts of new ethics, integrity and anti-doping violation policies.
Review SIGA Audit Phase 1 and identify ways that LEN could quickly improve its rating.

Transparency

Improve support and accessibility of information for Members.
Develop and activate a LEN Corporate media strategy.

Pillar 2: Our Sport – Accessible for all

Corporate Social Responsibility programmes

Work with Members and use the feedback from the Member Federation survey to create a European Swimming Standard.

Discuss with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to progress the discussion about the governance transfer of Para Swimming to LEN.

Member Federation engagement

Create ways (conferences, learning platforms etc.) to share knowledge between Member Federations to help them to develop.

Coaching and Officiating

Define the reference terms of the Coach Education process in Europe and the creation of National Swimming Coach Associations.

Pillar 3: Aquatic Disciplines

Development of the sport

Work with Member Federations to help raise awareness of aquatic disciplines.

Document the competition and progression pathway for an athlete in each aquatic discipline.

Competitions and Events

Work with FINA and Reform Commissions of each of the aquatic disciplines to further develop the competitions and the future event calendar.

Define new bidding procedures for all the events up until 2028.

Athletes

Continue to identify ways to support athletes to progress through aquatic disciplines (e.g. setting up more events for youth categories, providing other event development opportunities)

Pillar 4

Financial practices

Review the organisational structure of the LEN Office and its central business areas.

Commercials

Continue discussions with EBU broadcasting.

Review and decide on our property in Rome and our office rental contract in Nyon.

Re-design LEN's website to make it more appealing and useful for its users.

Build a commercial strategy to consider broadcast, sponsorship, and hosting rights.

Environmental Sustainability

Understand environmental best practices to implement across LEN's event portfolio.

Executive trips to promote European Aquatics

In addition to LEN events and internal meetings, LEN executives work hard to promote the sport of aquatics with other activities. Here are some of the highlights ...

LEN FINA leaders European tour

In April, President António Silva and Vice-President Josip Varvodic took part in a European tour with FINA President, Husain Al Musallam. The FINA-LEN European Tour was a historic two weeks for Aquatics with over 10K miles travelled across 13 countries, where the delegation had fruitful discussions with many National Federation representatives and other representatives of the aquatics' family including the Olympic legend, Anthony Ervin.

His Holiness Pope Francis welcomes LEN Representatives to the Vatican

Representatives of the LEN Bureau, led by President Antonio Silva, visited the Vatican on 4 July to meet His Holiness Pope Francis, where they discussed preparations for the upcoming European Championships in Rome and were given a personal message to share with the athletes.

The LEN Bureau was honoured to be received in the magnificent Apostolic Place in the Vatican City and to affirm the strong bond uniting sport and wider society, as well as the role of sport as a way to foster peaceful relations and solidarity between people of all races and creeds.

His Holiness Pope Francis said: *"You have come in preparation for the European Aquatics Championships, which will be held in Rome next month. I am happy that our city once more hosts this impressive sporting event. These days we need sports more than ever – real sports! – as a counterbalance to the conflict and hostility weighing down on our world and, sadly, also our continent of Europe."*

LEN works with SIGA to enhance integrity

On 1 March, LEN decided to implement the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) Universal Standards on Sport Integrity and go through the SIGA Independent Rating and Verification System (SIRVS).

The decision came just weeks after the election of the new LEN Bureau and showed that good governance and integrity were at the very top of the organisation's priorities list.

SIRVS is an integral part of SIGA's ecosystem to usher Sport into a new era of enhanced governance, integrity, transparency, and accountability.

The purpose of SIRVS is to assess and rate the sports organisation's level of implementation of and compliance with the SIGA Universal Standards on Good Governance in Sport, Sports Betting Integrity, Financial Integrity in Sport, and Youth Development and Child Protection in Sport

LEN President joins Panel at SIGA Sport Integrity week

On September 15, the LEN President was invited to present at the SIGA Sport Integrity week a brief report about integrity, good governance, accountability and scrutiny in sport together with Alison Giordano Vice President, Global Sponsorships, Mastercard; Frank Lee Director, UK & Ireland, Product Certification, BSI ; David Butler General Manager, European Rugby League; Densign White CEO.

LEN President fosters close links with European Olympic Committee

On the 2nd April, LEN President Antonio Silva, accompanied by LEN Vice President Kyriakos Giannopoulos, met the President of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) Spyros Capralos in Athens.

The two Presidents discussed the possible inclusion of aquatics at the European Games in 2023 (with the LEN Bureau later agreeing that artistic swimming and diving could be part of the event.)

On the 25 July, LEN President Antonio Silva travelled to Banska Bystrica in Slovakia to attend the 16th edition of the Summer European Youth Olympic Festival, where the first medals of the week were awarded in swimming.

6. LEN EVENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 2021

European Short-Course Swimming Championships, Kazan (RUS)

2-7 November 2021

The 21st edition of the European Short-Course Swimming Championships marked the 25th anniversary of the event, started back in 1996. To highlight this special occasion, LEN's top season-ending showcase was extended to six days which opened the way to a more athlete-friendly format by eliminating the same-day semis and finals in the 50m events. Two events were added too – men's 800m free and women's 1500m free. All in all, more than 400 athletes representing 40 nations went for the 42 titles on offer in the 25m pool.

The prize-money pot was also increased: in the previous decade the top 12 performers were recognised and 220,000 Euros were distributed among them. In this last edition the top 15 individual efforts (one per athlete, based on FINA points) were rewarded, the sum totalled 300,000 Euros, the best male and female received 25,000 Euros respectively.

Here are the most important facts and figures from Kazan:

TOP 15 PERFORMERS

MEN				
	Prize	Points	Name	Style
1	25 000€	1000	tied: Szebasztian Szabo (HUN) Ilya Shymanovich (BLR)	50m FL 50m BR
3	15 000€	993	Florian Wellbrock (GER)	1500m FR
4	13 000€	985	Nicolo Martinenghi (ITA)	50m BR SF
5	12 000€	984	Emre Sakci (TUR)	50m BR SF
6	11 000€	982	Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA)	1500m FR
7	10 000€	975	Arno Kamminga (NED)	100m BR
8	9 000€	966	Kliment Kolesnikov (RUS)	50m BK
9	8 000€	953	Mikhail Dorinov (RUS)	200m BR
10	7 000€	951	Erik Persson (SWE)	200m BR
11	6 000€	950	Ilya Borodin (RUS)	400m IM
12	5 000€	948	Matteo Rivolta (ITA)	50m FL
13	4 000€	947	Fabio Scozzoli (ITA)	100m BR
14	3 000€	946	Alberto Razzetti (ITA)	200m FL
15	2 000€	945	Andreas Vazaios (GRE)	200m IM

WOMEN				
	Prize	Points	Name	Style
1	25 000€	999	Anastasia Kirpichnikova (RUS)	1500m FR
2	20 000€	985	Sarah Sjostrom (SWE)	50m FL
3	15 000€	978	Kira Toussaint (NED)	50m BK
4	13 000€	950	Evgeniia Chikunova (RUS)	200m BR
5	12 000€	949	tied: Analia Pigree (FRA) Simona Quadarella (ITA)	50m BK SF 1500m FR
7	10 000€	948	Maike de Waard	100m BK
8	9 000€	939	tied: Martina Caramignoli (ITA) Marrit Steenbergen (NED)	1500m FR 200m FR
10	7 000€	938	Katarzyna Wasick (POL)	50m FR SF
11	6 000€	934	Silvia Scala (ITA)	50m BK
12	5 000€	933	tied: Maria Kameneva (RUS) Alicja Tchorz (POL)	100m IM 100m IM
14	3 000€	932	Isabel Gose (GER)	800m FR
15	2 000€	925	Elena di Liddo (ITA)	50m BK SF

Medal table

There was little change at the top.

In 2019 it looked like:

- RUS 13-5-4 **22**
- ITA 6-7-7 **20**
- NED 5-1-4 **10**

In Kazan it was:

- RUS 11-5-8 **24**
- NED 8-5-5 **18**
- ITA 7-18-10 **35**

However, in Kazan the top three were much more dominant than ever before. While the top three took 40% of the total medals in 2017 (48, rest claimed 73), that jumped to more than 50% in Glasgow 2019 (62, rest 60) and now it reached 60% (77, rest 51).

The number of nations winning medals and winning titles are stable:

2017 – 21 and 11

2019 – 20 and 11

2021 – 20 and 12

All-time medal chart

Germany still tops this list, though the difference is getting smaller and smaller, edition by edition. Russia got closer to its 100th gold, earned its 75th silver in Kazan. Italy is just three medals shy of Russia in total (245-242), also claimed its 75th gold medal, just like the Netherlands. The Dutch kept their third place in these ranks.

Hungary and Sweden continued their duel for the fifth place, though Katinka Hosszu was not present, Szebasztian Szabo dealt with the challenge coming from Sarah Sjostrom so the gap narrowed by one gold, Hungary leads 68-65.

France added a silver and a bronze – they are yet to win their 50th gold in history.

All-time – Top 10					
1	GER	115	115	94	324
2	RUS	93	75	77	245
3	NED	81	46	49	176
4	ITA	75	84	84	242
5	HUN	68	40	31	139
6	SWE	65	54	41	160
7	FRA	49	46	46	141
8	GBR	42	66	75	183
9	UKR	38	31	28	97
10	POL	34	30	27	91

Records broken

Kazan 2021 saw a great number of new marks.

- World Records: 4 (two tied + two new relay records)
- European Records: 5
- Championship Records: 16
- Junior World Records: 2
- Junior European Records: 3

Multiple individual title-winners

4 golds: Sarah Sjostrom (SWE) – 50m free, 100m free, 50m fly, 100m fly

3 golds: Kliment Kolesnikov (RUS) – 100m free, 50m back, 100m back

Szebasztian Szabo (HUN) – 50m free, 50m fly, 100m fly

Anastasia Kirpichnikova (RUS) – 400m free, 800m free, 1500m free

Kira Toussaint (NED) – 50m back, 100m back, 200m back

Sweeps

This is the first time ever that two swimmers were able to do a kind of sweep in the same stroke at one edition. Toussaint completed the backstroke treble while Kirpichnikova did in the middle/long-distances in freestyle.

Since 1996, it can be considered a rare feat, though Katinka Hosszu achieved five times in her heydays, including double-trebles in 2015 and 2017.

Here are the previous 'sweepers':

- Marcel Wouda (NED) 100-200-400m free in 1996
- Massimiliano Rosolino (ITA) 200-400-1500m free in 2000 (800m was not in the programme)
- Yulia Efimova (RUS) 50-100-200m breast in 2007
- Stanislav Donets (RUS) 50-100-200m back in 2008, then in 2009
- Katinka Hosszu (HUN) 100-200-400m IM in 2015, 2017 and 2019 – 50-100-200m back in 2015 and 2017

Winning streaks

Poland Radoslaw Kawecki extended his medal winning streak in the 200m backstroke to 9 editions (2009-2021) – he won 7 golds and 2 silvers en route. Though the absolute record held by Peter Mankoc (SLO) in the 100m IM is still far away: the Slovenian medalled in 14 straight edition (1999-2012) and his streak included 9 consecutive wins (2000-2008). Obviously, back then the championships were held annually.

Five ties in Kazan!

There were an unprecedented number of ties in the hunt for the medals. No less than 5 times were the medals shared, a significant jump compared to the previous editions.

2017 – 1: M 50m FL (bronze)

2019 – 3: M 50m BR (bronze) – W 50m FL (bronze) – W 4x50m FR (gold)

2021 – 5: M 50m FR (bronze) – W 100m BR (silver) – W 50m FL (bronze) – W 100m FL (silver) – W 400m IM (silver)

(a sixth tie was annulled when Russia was DSQd from the 4x50m mixed free where they had originally shared the silver with Italy)

Queen of ties

Greece's Anna Ntountounaki is the queen of ties – she claimed three medals this year at the European Championships, a gold, a silver and a bronze – and all came after a tie!

- In Budapest, she came first in 100m fly – shared the gold with France's Marie Wattel.
- In Kazan, she had silver in 100m fly – shared with Belorussia's Anastasia Shkur dai.
- Then, she had bronze in the 50m fly – shared with Italy's Silvia di Pietro.

As mentioned in the introduction, LEN hosted numerous events in 2022 which were all reported on by LEN digital channels and website. For the sake of brevity we have focused on the top tier events.

European Aquatics Championships

11-21 August, Rome (ITA)

The magnificent Foro Italico complex has long been a favourite for athletes. The historic surroundings, the sport-loving local fans, the athlete-friendly environment, and the experience of the organisers have all contributed to the tremendous success of the Europeans in 1983 and the World Championships in 1994 and 2009. Roma 2022 allowed the Eternal City to shine again.

Although this time our championships were not part of the multisport European Championships running parallel in Munich, the schedule of our competitions did fit into a timeframe defined by our Broadcast partner Eurovision. Our top event enjoyed outstanding exposure thanks to the co-ordinated broadcasts.

The swimming competitions produced the usual thrills with David Popivici's world record swim in the 100m free final as the absolute highlight. The Romanian wonderkid brought down Cesar Cielo's seemingly untouchable global mark of 46.91sec, clocked in this very same pool back in 2009 in a shiny suit. Popovici set the tone with a new European Record in the semis (46.98) and went on beating the WR in the final to stop the clock at 46.86 – for a check of €10,000 (with an additional 5,000 for the ER).

While we witnessed some outstanding performances and medal tallies, including Marrit Steenbergen of the Netherlands (7 medals in total), Britain's Freya Anderson (6), Italy's Thomas Ceccon (6), when only individual races are considered, only three swimmers were able to grab three medals including two titles (Steenbergen, Ceccon and Kristof Milak of Hungary).

As for historical feats, Sarah Sjostrom collected five medals (3-1-1) to top the all-time individual medal-charts of the Europeans – the Swedish sprinting queen has now 28 medals (17 gold, 7 silver, 4 bronze), pushing Russian legend Alexander Popov into second place.

The Italian team was dominant during the seven days of racing, setting new records for the number of titles and medals in total. (See more interesting facts and figures below).

In a temporary pool built in the neighbouring Niccolo Pietrangeli tennis arena, the artistic swimming competitions were also instant success. Ukraine topped the medal chart with 8 gold medals (out of 8 events), while Italy grabbed 12 (4-6-2) as the hosts also had a strong presence in the male and mixed events and that also landed them the Team Trophy. Giorgio Minisini came up with four European crowns, two of them were historical ones as he won the male solo events, both the technical and the free routines, held for the first time. In terms of individual totals, Linda Cerruti amassed the largest tally with 8 medals, six silvers and two bronzes.

The diving event also offered some fantastic finals, many times only a fraction of a point separated the winners from the runners-up. The Brits topped the medal ranks with 6 titles and 12 medals overall, Italy also had 12 podium finishes – and the GB team sailed away with the Team Trophy as well, bagging five more points than the Italians. The hosts could be very proud of Chiara Pellacani who managed to claim five medals – the first female diver ever to achieve this feat at the Europeans.

Ukrainian divers performed exceptionally well, clinching 5 silver medals in succession – and never trailed by more than five points to the eventual winners. Then, on the closing day, in the very last event, 16 years old Oleksii Sereda gave it all and finished atop with a magnificent performance in the men's platform final, prompting the judges to push the perfect 10 on their scoring devices for the first time in the diving meet.

Some 100m away, in another temporary set-up, the first-ever high diving European Championship was held. And the name Popovici entered the history books twice in the Foro Italico – after David Popovici, who had that world record in the 100m free in swimming, Constantin Popovici also made history by claiming the first-ever men’s high diving European title. The women’s gold went to Iris Schmidbauer.

The open water swimming races were squeezed into two days as stormy winds and high waves made it almost impossible to stage them safely in the sea at Ostia. Despite the best efforts from the organisers, the 25km event had to be halted after 18km without declaring the final rankings, but our great aquatic warriors managed to stage memorable races in the 5km, 10km and relay events.

Among the men, Italy doubled down the two individual races held, indeed only Italians and French stood on the podium (gained 3 medals apiece), while the women’s races offered a more colourful landscape with five nations sharing the medals. Mirroring the bravery and the stamina of these greats, almost all swimmers taking part in the relay held on the last day in the afternoon, also covered the 10km just hours earlier in the morning.

The men’s 10km champion Domenico Acerenza anchored the Italians to a third gold, Hungary came second, and the French also crowned their fine performance, grabbing their fourth medal – so three happy quartets posed with Gastone, the giant black live mascot (and rescue dog in his day job) for the medal photos, followed by a memorable celebration of the Italian team which claimed the Team Trophy. The athletes then walked down to the shore to sing and dance with the ensembled crowd in the sand – a fitting end to the Ostia spectacle.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES FROM ROME

Overall medals

- Italy tops the overall medal table for the first time ever. Since 1926, Russia was first 8 times (+ Soviet Union 3 times), East Germany 8, Germany 7, Hungary 3, France 2, Great Britain 2, Netherlands 1, Ukraine 1.
- Just like in swimming, Italy set new medal winning records while finishing atop in the chart. Never before a country claimed 67 medals in total (in Rome, the next three ranked countries got 59 combined). And the number of gold medals is also a new record, 24 – Russia had 23 in London 2018, there they earned 47 altogether, that was also a record till this edition. Italy’s best tally previously was 44 medals in Budapest 2021. (Note, that Rome 2022 featured a record number of events, 75, though 73 were staged, since there was no classification in the halted 25km open water races – back in 2014, 66 were in the programme.)

- With the addition of high diving for the first time, athletes could earn medals in five disciplines. Italy was the only NF to clinch medals in all five. Ukraine and Germany won medals in four (the Germans won gold in all four).

- Here is the medal breakdown of the Top 8 countries by discipline.

	SW	DV	AS	OWS	HD	TOTAL		
Italy	13-13-9	4-3-5		-6-2	3-2-1	0-0-2	24-24-19	67
Great Britain	4-5-6	6-3-3		–	–	–	10-8-9	27
Ukraine	1-0-0	1-5-1		8-0-0	–	0-1-0	10-6-1	17
Germany	2-2-4	2-0-3		–	1-0-0	1-0-0	6-2-7	15
Hungary	5-7-3	–		–	0-1-0	–	5-8-3	16
Netherlands	4-1-6	–		–	1-0-0	–	5-1-6	12
Sweden	4-1-1	0-1-1		–	–	–	4-2-2	8
France	3-7-3	–		0-0-4	0-1-3	–	3-8-10	21

Best individual tallies per discipline

- Marrit Steenbergen of the Netherlands remained the top medal collector in Rome with 7 podiums in the swimming meet.
- Three Ukrainian artistic swimmers, Marta Fiedina, Maryna and Vladyslava Aelksiiva claimed the most titles in Rome, 6 apiece.
- For the first time in history, a female diver, Chiara Pellacani claimed five medals.

Swimming

- M: Thomas Ceccon (ITA) 4-2-0 – 6
- W: M. Steenbergen (NED) 4-1-2 – 7

Diving

- M: Kyle Kothari (GBR) 2-0-0 – 2
- M: Jack Laughher (GBR) 2-0-0 – 2
- W: Chiara Pellacani (ITA) 2-1-2 – 5

(Note: among the men, Lorenzo Marsiglia has the best total, 3 – 1-2-0)

Artistic Swimming

- M: Giorgio Minisini (ITA) 4-0-0 – 4
- W: Marta Fiedina (UKR) 6-0-0 – 6
- W: Maryna Aelksiiva (UKR) 6-0-0 – 6
- W: Vlad. Aelksiiva (UKR) 6-0-0 – 6

Open water swimming

- M: Domenico Acerenza (ITA) 2-1-0 – 3
- W: Ginevra Taddeucci (ITA) 1-1-0 – 2

More facts from the swimming event:

Top nations, medal chart

- Italy set new records both for the number of titles (13) and the number of total medals (35 – 13-13-9). Previous records were set in Budapest 2021, by Great Britain (11) and Italy (27) respectively.
- Italy amassed more medals (35), then the second and third ranked national teams combined (Hungary 15, 5-7-3 – Great Britain 15, 4-5-6)
- The number of nations earning at least one medal is one less, 20, compared to Budapest (the record is 24, from London 2016).
- Though there is a new record for the number of nations earning at least one title: 14.
- Data from the previous editions (medal winning NFs/title winning NFs): Budapest 2021: 21/13. Glasgow 2018: 20/9. London 2016: 24/12. Berlin 2014: 20/13. Debrecen 2012: 23/13. Budapest 2010: 19/12.

All-time medal chart, milestones

- Germany tied Russia in the number of all-time total medals – now they also got 350 (including FRG medals but excluding GDR tally – Russian tally includes URS)
- Italy passed France to take the 5th place.
- This chart does not feature GDR (132-101-56, 289)

Top 5, all-time medal ranks (swimming)				
RUS	140	113	97	350
GER	128	112	110	350
HUN	104	89	63	259
GBR	73	91	112	276
ITA	76	91	106	273

- Great Britain earned its 275th medal (Ben Proud's gold in the men's 50m free).
- Hungary claimed its 100th gold medal in swimming (by the men's 4x200m free relay) and its 250th medal overall.
- Italy won its 75th gold medal (by Thomas Ceccon in the 100m back) and also the 250th overall.
- Sweden clinched its 175th medal.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina won a historical first ever medal by Lana Pudar in the 100m fly (a bronze), followed by a first ever gold also by Pudar in the 200m fly.

All-time ranks, individual

- Sarah Sjostrom now tops the individual all-time medal ranks with 28 podiums – by claiming 5 medals in Rome, she overtook Alexander Popov (RUS).
- Sjostrom now has 17G, 7S, 4B.
- Popov had 21G, 3S, 2B (the number of gold medals is still a record).
- Next record to beat for Sjostrom: 16 individual gold medals by Laszlo Cseh (HUN) – Sjostrom has 15.

Records broken in Rome

World Record

- David Popovici (ROU), 100m free, 46.86 (also ER, WJR, CR)

European Record

- David Popovici (ROU), 100m free, semi-final, 46.98 (also WJR, CR)

Junior World Records

- David Popovici (ROU), 200m free, 1:42.97 (also CR)
- Lorenzo Galossi (ITA), 800m free, 7:43.37

Championship Records

- David Popovici (ROU), 100m free, heats, 47.20
- Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA), 800m free, 7:40.86
- Luka Maertens (GER), 400m free, 3:42.50
- Italy, men's 4x100m medley relay, 3:28.46

Best performers (FINA points)

Men Top 3

- 1003 – David Popovici (ROU), 100m free, 46.86
- 982 – Mykhailo Romanchuk (UKR), 1500m free, 14:36.10
- 979 – Thomas Ceccon (ITA), 100m back, 52.21

Women Top 3

- 985 – Ruta Meilutyte (LTU), 100m breast SF, 29.44
- 970 – Sarah Sjostron (SWE), 50m free, 23.91
- 968 – Analia Pigree (FRA), 50m back, 27.27

Winning streaks

In Rome, the following swimmers expanded their winning streaks to 3 (these are the longest ones in the current field)

- Simona Quadarella (ITA) 800m free, 1500m free
- Margherita Panziera (ITA) 200m back
- Kristof Milak (HUN) 200m fly

Retaining titles (2nd time, individual)

- Anastasia Gorbenko (ISR) 200m IM
- Mykhaylo Romanchuk (UKR) 1500m free
- Kristof Milak (HUN) 100m fly

Kings and Queens of the summer

For the first time since 1991, a World Championships and a European Championships were held in the same year – this time in a span of two months. Here is the list of those winners who managed to clinch the world and the European title in the same event in June, then in August.

MEN	WOMEN
David Popovici (ROU) 100m free & 200m free	Sarah Sjöström (SWE) 50m free & 50m fly
Kristof Milak (HUN) 100m fly & 200m fly	Ruta Meilutytė (LTU) 50m breast
Benjamin Proud (GBR) 50m free	Benedetta Pilato (ITA) 100m breast
Thomas Ceccon (ITA) 100m back	
Nicolo Martinenghi (ITA) 100m breast	
Italy – 4x100m medley relay	

Participation record

Two HUN swimmers, Katinka Hosszu and Zsuzsanna Jakabos tied compatriot Laszlo Cseh's participation record of 10 long-course European Championships. Both ladies swam at the 2006 edition for the first time and competed in all editions ever since. And while enjoying their eternal careers, both left the Eternal City with medals: Jakabos a silver (400m IM) and a bronze (4x200m free), Hosszu with a bronze (4x200m free).

European Water Polo Championships, Split (CRO)

27 August-10 September 2022

Since the stand-alone European Water Polo Championships were staged for the first time in 1999, only the three 'winter editions' (Eindhoven 2012, Belgrade 2016, Budapest 2020) have been held indoors. Split had the honour of being the first summer championships staged indoors with new fewer than 92 matches taking place consecutively in the Spaladium Arena – a multifunctional, indoor sports facility constructed in 2008. The venue has played host to a variety of concerts and sporting events – most notably the 2009 Handball World Championships. It has a full capacity of 12,000, although this time – due to the depth of the pool – the stands could accommodate approximately 9,000 spectators.

The atmosphere was outstanding, with a full house for the host Croatian men's team whenever they played – and they managed to go all the way this time. Just as in 2010, the Croats won again at the home Europeans – beating world silver medallists Italy in a giant battle in the semis, then then another thriller against title-holder Hungary, which had ousted world champion Spain in the other semi-final.

The atmosphere was simply electrifying as players of the newly shaped Croatian side celebrated in and out of the pool in front of a packed and enthusiastic crowd.

In the rematch of the World Championship final, this time for the bronze medal, Spain bettered Italy in an outstanding battle, while Greece grabbed 5th place by beating the event's surprise side France. The French caused the upset of the year, if not the decade when they ousted Serbia in the crossover matches, leaving the Olympic title-holders to play only for the 9th place, their worst-ever finish in history. At the same time, France managed to achieve its best-ever ranks in 70 years – Georgia also wrote history by reaching the top eight, though they fell shy of making the cut for the World Championships as Montenegro grabbed the last remaining berth winning their encounter for the 7th place.

In the women's tournament Spain became the first team since 2010 to retain their European title after a fascinating final where they managed to down Greece, despite their rivals spirited effort to come back from three goals down to 6-6. In the decisive period the Spaniards netted the last three goals of the game, so Greece had to settle for a fourth silver after 2010, 2012 and 2018.

Italy took the upper hand in an action-packed match against the Netherlands to get their first medal since 2016. As a matter of interest, earlier at the World Championships these three nations' male teams stood on the podium in Budapest (Spain won, ahead of Italy, Greece was third) – now the women occupied it at the Europeans.

Men's final: [Hungary v Croatia 9-10](#)

Bronze medal: [Spain v Italy 7-6](#)

For places 5-6th: [Greece v France 10-8](#)

For places 7-8th: [Montenegro v Georgia 14-11](#)

Individual awards

Most Valuable Player: [Szilard Jansik \(HUN\)](#)

Best goalkeeper: [Marko Bijac \(CRO\)](#)

Top scorer: [Tudor-Andrei Fulea \(ROU\) 19 goals.](#)

Final rankings: 1. Croatia, 2. Hungary, 3. Spain, 4. Italy, 5. Greece, 6. France, 7. Montenegro, 8. Georgia, 9. Serbia, 10. Romania, 11. Netherlands, 12. Israel, 13. Germany, 14. Malta, 15. Slovakia, 16. Slovenia

Women's final: Spain v Greece 9-6

Bronze medal: Netherlands v Italy 13-16

For places 5-6th: Hungary v Israel 18-7

For places 7-8th: France v Croatia 13-4

Individual awards

Most Valuable Player: Eleftheria Plevritou (GRE)

Best goalkeeper: Martina Terre (ESP)

Top Scorer: Greta Gurisatti (HUN) 27 goals

Final rankings: 1. Spain, 2. Greece, 3. Italy, 4. Netherlands, 5. Hungary, 6. Israel, 7. France, 8. Croatia, 9. Serbia, 10. Germany, 11. Romania, 12. Slovakia

European Water Polo Club Competitions

Champions League

LEN's premium water polo competition, the Champions League returned to its well-established format – sixteen teams, divided into two groups, contested the main round and the top four ranked sides from both groups made the Final Eight. Especially Group A offered huge excitements before the four advancing sides were determined.

The F8 tournament was held in Belgrade, just like in 2021, but now the event welcomed back the spectators and they turned out in large numbers to cheer for host Novi Beograd. The Serbians had an amazing run but downing the two Italian giants on consecutive days proved to be too much of a challenge to handle. They could beat Brescia in one of the most thrilling matches of the whole season in the semis, but 24 hours later they were unable to close out the final against Recco.

Recco was crowned for the 10th time after the final, decided by penalties for the second time after 2019. The hosts led 11-9 after three periods and Nikola Jaksic's 6th goal 50 seconds from time put the Serbs ahead once more. Still, Recco's Gergo Zalanki hit his 5th in the evening 12 seconds before the buzzer to save the game to a 13-13 tie and a shootout. And there, at 3-3, the two heroes lined up for the last shots – Jaksic hit the crossbar, Zalanki sent the ball home as well as his team-mates to the seventh if not the 10th heaven.

Another 26-goal epic was produced in the bronze medal game, by Ferencvaros and Brescia, and the Hungarians claimed their third medal in a row.

Champions League Final: Novi Beograd (SRB) v Pro Recco (ITA) 13-13, pen: 3-4

Bronze medal match: AN Brescia (ITA) v FTC-Telekom Budapest (HUN) 12-14

For places 5-6th: Waspo 98 Hannover (GER) v Zodiac Athletic Barceloneta (ESP) 10-12

For places 7-8th: CN Marseille (FRA) v Jug Adriatic Osiguranje Dubrovnik (CRO) 15-13

Most Valuable Player: Giacomo Cannella (Recco)

Men's Euro Cup

The male team of Sabadell wrote history by claiming its first-ever European trophy after blowing away Italy's Palermo in the return leg of the final. Goalie Eduardo Llorio was the hero of the game, his 15 stops and 75% saving percentage was instrumental in Sabadell's triumph. The Spanish side, whose women had won the Euro League five times, joined as the 7th member of an elite circle where both the men and women teams from the same club won at least one European cup title. Members of the club have already been Recco (ITA), Olympiacos (GRE), Roma (ITA), Honved (HUN), Vouliagmeni (GRE) and Shturm (RUS).

Also, this was the first Spanish victory in this competition since 2004 – and the first for the Sabadell men who had reached the final ten years ago, then lost to Savona, the team which they managed to oust in a record-breaking 34-shot penalty shootout in the quarters. There they were on the edge, just like against Barcelona in the semis, but on Saturday there was no question that they were the better side.

Euro Cup, final, 2nd leg: Astralpool Sabadell (ESP) v Telimar Palermo (ITA) 11-5

Aggregate score: 18-14

Women's Euro League

In the Final Four, host side Olympiacos retained the Euro League trophy and became the seventh club in the competition's history to win back-to-back titles. The Greeks outplayed 5-time champion Sabadell in the final, jumped to a three-goal lead early on and maintained that gap till the end. This also completed a Greek double – four days after fellow Piraeus side Ethnikos won the LEN Trophy, Olympiacos claimed the Euro League victory, it's the ninth time since 2000 that the winning clubs represent the same nation.

This was the third win for Olympiacos, the second in a row, much to the joy of the home crowd – the local fans created a fantastic atmosphere, so it was not surprising that the Greeks returned to the tradition that the home side kept the trophy in the house. Between 2015 and 2019 it happened at all five editions, and after the Greeks left Budapest triumphantly last May, today they did it again at home, like they had done in 2015, when they had also beaten Sabadell.

Padova snatched the bronze with a magnificent 6-1 rush in the last period against Hungary's UVSE to achieve the best-ever result in the club's history.

Euro League Final: Olympiacos Piraeus (GRE) v Astralpool Sabadell (ESP) 11-7

Bronze medal match: UVSE-Hunguest Hotels (HUN) v Plebiscito Padova (ITA) 6-11

Women's LEN Trophy

Ethnikos left no doubt which was the better side in the final: after beating Dunaujvaros 8-12 in the first leg, the Greeks claimed another big win, this time by five goals. A 4-0 storm at the beginning of the return leg did the damage and secured easy cruising for the home side.

The Greeks could celebrate their second victory in this competition after 2010, while Dunaujvaros lost its third final (won once). It was a fourth win for Greek clubs (the first since 2014) and with 10 appearances in the finals in total, they are now tied with the Russians in the all-time ranks (Italy is still on top with 13 appearances and 10 triumphs).

The final was played on a home-and-away basis as during the quarter-finals LEN had to suspend the two Russian participants – their respective rivals qualified to the Euro League F4, but the two spots were not filled by other teams, instead, the two remaining sides contested the final.

LEN Trophy, 2nd leg: Ethnikos Piraeus (GRE) v Dunaujvarosi Foiskola (HUN) 14-9

Aggregate: 26-17

Junior European Championships

Swimming – Bucharest/Otopeni (ROU)

Thanks to the outstanding performance of David Popovici at the FINA World Championships – he won the 100m and 200m free in Budapest – the junior Europeans in Popovici's hometown Bucharest turned into a giant festival just a week after the global showcase. Junior events rarely enjoy capacity crowds on almost each competition day – but the new Otopeni complex had four out of the six competition days in front of sold-out stands.

And Popovici delivered to entertain the home fans. On the last he completed the expected treble (50-100-200m free), just like Turkey's Merve Tuncel (400-800-1500m free) to repeat their respective feats after 2021, completed the freestyle trebles this time as well. Estonia's Eleni Jefimova joined them by

winning all three breaststroke events and Poland's Ksawery Masiuk by sweeping all titles in backstroke. Hungary finished atop on the medal table, thanks to its two outstanding female swimmers who bagged six medals respectively, Dora Molnar (four golds, two silvers) and Nikoletta Padar (four golds, a silver and a bronze). For the first time among the juniors, Italy clinched the Team Trophy.

Diving – Bucharest/Otopeni (ROU)

The three powerhouses, Germany, Italy, and Great Britain added two more medals to their respective tallies on the last day, finished with 35 medals among them. Italy was ranked first with 6 titles (12 medals in total), Great Britain had the most medals (13) and the Germans also had double-digits at the end (10). With four golds, Ukraine's finished second in the medal table – they claimed 8 in total, so the top four nations bagged 43 altogether, the rest of the field could get 8.

Artistic Swimming – Alicante (ESP)

The Spanish junior team had one of its most successful ^{showings} to date in Alicante. The home team competed in all 12 events, won eight of them, and medalled in the remaining four as well. In the process, Dennis Gonzalez made history by becoming the first European Champion in the male solo, an event added to all LEN competitions this season. Great Britain's Ranjuo Tomblin also took part in the inaugural solo event, although he only competed in free – but there, he claimed a historical silver medal.

While Spain won eight events, Ukraine won the remaining four. 14-year-old phenom Daria Moshynska commanded both solos, scoring three points more than the silver medallists. Although still so young and essentially a complete unknown on the international stage six months ago, Moshynska already performed confidently like a senior athlete.

Besides Spain, Italy was the only other nation entered in all 12 events. Likewise, it medalled across the board. France was outstanding in the technical and free team events, finishing on the podium as a team for the first time since 1999.

Open water swimming – Setubal (POR)

The next generation swimmers of the traditional open water powerhouses delivered once more at the European Junior Open Water Swimming Championships, held in Setubal. However, a new empire rose to the horizon: Turkey swept all but one medals among the youngest ones.

Right on the opening day the Turkish held a demonstration by finishing 1-2-3 in the boys' 5km race and grabbing silver and bronze in the girls' competition. Consequently, they were uncatchable in the U16 relay this Sunday, finishing first by a mile. It's yet to be seen if the emerge of this new empire will be transformed into more medal hauls like this in the coming years – so far, Turkey's dominance was limited to the races for the youngest ones. In the other two categories the 'usual suspects' ruled the field.

In the 7.5km, the French-German-Italian contenders occupied the podium in this same order in both events. Sascha Velly's victory in the men's race was anything but surprising as he had already made the headlines by coming first at the top level when he won the second leg of the LEN Open Water Cup in Piombino.

The 10km events also saw a couple of already well-known prodigies riding the waves. Hungary's David Betlehem retained his title from Paris last year – he already claimed a 'big' European Championship medal last year in the relay event in Budapest. He later anchored the Magyars' U19 relay to another win on Sunday.

France's Madelon Catteau bested the women's field – securing France's top spot on the medal table – that was a bit of surprise as runner-up Mira Szimcsak of Hungary earned a stunning win just three weeks ago in the LEN Open Water Cup in Alghero. In this race, host Portugal managed to land a medal too.

The Team Trophy returned to Italy – though the Italians came short in claiming gold but had six podium finishes altogether and many other valuable placements.

Water polo – women, Netanya (ISR)

Two thrilling matches decided the medals at the U19 championships. Spain retained their title after fending off a spirited comeback from Hungary. Spain led 6-2 at halftime in the final before the Magyars almost caught them but Spain prevailed at the end, winning 9-8.

The bronze medal match was also decided by a single goal, here the Greeks enjoyed an 8-4 advantage before the Netherlands rallied back to 8-8, but Greece still had it at the end with 10-9.

Men, Podgorica (MNE)

This championship is under way at the date of sending out this report. A brief summary will appear in the printed version, available on site during the Congress.

European Masters Championships, Rome (ITA)

Over 5000 athletes from 38 nations competed for medals in 302 events across five sporting disciplines during 12 days of action. In short, the Roma 2022 LEN European Masters Aquatics Championships was an incredible success.

The 18th edition of the masters continental competition, held for the first time in Italy, opened on Wednesday 24 August with the 3km open water swimming event at the Lido di Ostia. The event continued with artistic swimming performances in the Nicola Pietrangeli Stadium and diving as well as swimming events at the Foro Italico as well as Unipol Blustadium Sporting Centre in Pietralata. The competition concluded with water polo finals at the Frecciarossa Sporting Centre in Ostia.

Six world records were set in the pool. Two were achieved by Britain's Amanda Heath, in the 65-69 category, with a time of 1:30.15 in the women's 100m breaststroke and 3:14.05 in the 200m breaststroke. There were world records in the women's 400m breaststroke for Germany's Brigitte Merten who swam in 7:29.06, in the 75-79 category, and for Great Britain's Dave Milburn who won the men's 50m breaststroke in the 60-64 category, stopping the clock at 32.53. There was also a world record for an Italian swimmer, in the 75-79 category. Roberto Ruggeri from Milan won the men's 50m breaststroke with a time of 38.12. The last record came in the men's 100m freestyle, with Turkey's Ahmet Nakkas (cat. 60-64) recording 57.66.

European Athletes at FINA events

European athletes returned to well-known sites in Budapest for the rescheduled FINA Worlds. Both the Duna Arena and the Lupa Lake were the same venues used at the 2021 European Aquatics Championships a year earlier, while Margaret Island hosted a handful of major events in the past.

Although traditional powerhouses, the United States and China topped the overall medal charts (the Americans ruled the swimming meet, while the Chinese did extremely well in diving and artistic swimming), a couple of European nations also enjoyed a great fortnight, above all Italy, which – as a prelude to their record-breaking medal sweep at the home Europeans later in August – produced their best-ever tally, claiming 22 medals (9 of them gold).

In the swimming pool Europe's male stars made a huge impact (11 titles, including – fun fact – all 100m crowns in the four strokes), and three youngsters were outstanding. Romania's David Popovici finally had a breakthrough on the big stage, doubled down the 100m and 200m free titles (set new junior WR in the 100m free, though kept the big bang to the Europeans later) – he became the first one to achieve that double since the inaugural edition in 1973.

France's Leon Marchand broke one of the oldest ERs in the 400m IM, and later added the 200m title too. Concrete evidence of how beneficial it had been to work for a year under the expert eye of Bob Bowman (the mentor of Michael Phelps). And of course, there was the home hero Kristof Milak, who lit up the arena with another blockbuster world record swim in the 200m fly, winning the 100m as well.

The other world record was also set by a European athlete, though while Milak was expected to do something big, Italy's Thomas Ceccon's global mark in the 100m back was a real stunner. And on the last day of meet fellow Italian Gregorio Paltrinieri almost made a miracle while swimming on lane 1, up until the last turn he swam under the WR pace, but the 'red line' escaped him at the end, still, his time was good for a new European record. The same day saw the Italians crowning their march by winning the medley relay for the first time in history.

In the women's events, it was great to see three victories after the European female swimmers had left the Tokyo Games without winning a single gold medal (this never happened before). Sarah Sjostrom made the 50m free-fly double and Benedetta Pilato won the 100m breast – and there were a couple of fine swims good enough for the podium, but Europeans were closed out of the medals in 12 events including all the relays.

The diving meet offered no surprise – although Chinese supremacy seemed more overwhelming than ever. For the first time since 2011, no one was able to break their dominance and the ruling nation finished with a perfect 13/13 golden count. Among the men, Britain's Jack Laugher enjoyed a great week, grabbed two silver and a bronze medal, but among the women no European divers could make the podium in the five events. More medals came in the mixed events, our athletes had five podium finishes.

With the Russians suspended, China took over in artistic swimming, winning the duets and team events while Japan got the solo golds. Still, Ukraine could bag two golds (combo, highlights), and Giorgio Minisini and Lucrezia Ruggeiro came first in both mixed duets. Historical medals went to Greece's Evangelia Platanioti who got two solo bronzes, and to the Alexandri siblings from Austria, as Anna-Maria and Eirini-Marina finished third in the duet events.

Europeans shone in the 'outdoor' activities too. In water polo, the men's tournament saw three European teams on the podium (no team from any other continent has won a world medal since 1973) – but unusually it was the three Mediterranean powerhouses occupying the podium.

It was a 'Go South' scenario with Spain, after losing three finals (2018 and 2020 Euros, 2019 Worlds), finally made it to the gold medal spot, although they had to secure their triumph in the penalty shootout against Italy.

Greece, the Olympic runner-up, ended Croatia's magnificent run of seven straight medal-winning performances at the World Champs to take the bronze.

As for the women, it was no surprise that the US claimed its fourth consecutive title, indeed, no team could win a knockout-match against the Americans since 2014. The host Hungary got closer than any other rival in the past seven years – backed by a roaring crowd of 7,000, the Magyars trailed by only one goal in the fourth period (the usual winning margin for the US was 3-7 goals in grand finals) and lost by two at the end. The Netherlands beat Italy in the bronze medal match.

And Europeans were dominating in open water swimming too, clinching 18 of the 21 medals on offer. In the men events Gregorio Paltrinieri repeated Florian Wellbrock's 2019 feat to make the pool-lake double (1500m free gold, 10km gold) – the German could win the 5km while Dario Verani prevented Axel Reymond's treble in the 25km by passing the French athlete during the last metres of the race.

It was Brazil phenomena Ana-Marcela Cunha who prevented Europe's complete dominance as once again she managed to medal in all three individual events. She won the 5km and 25km, though in the top race, the 10km, Sharon van Rouwendaal of the Netherlands and Leonie Beck of Germany bettered her in the finish.

The relay was a brilliant battle between Germans, Hungarians, and Italians – Wellbrock anchored his team to gold, while a photo finish was needed to confirm a thrilling silver medal for the hosts.

Europe's World Champions

Swimming

MEN

50m free: Ben Proud (GBR)
100m free: David Popovici (ROU), *WJR*
200m free: David Popovici (ROU)
1500m free: Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA), *ER*
100m back: Thomas Ceccon (ITA), *WR*
100m breast: Niccolo Martinenghi (ITA)
100m fly: Kristof Milak (HUN)
200m fly: Kristof Milak (HUN), *WR*
200m IM: Leon Marchand (FRA)
400m IM: Leon Marchand (FRA), *ER*
4x100m medley: Italy

WOMEN

50m free: Sarah Sjöström (SWE)
100m breast: Benedetta Pilato (ITA)
50m fly: Sarah Sjöström (SWE)

Artistic swimming

Free combination: Ukraine
Highlight: Ukraine
Mixed duet, technical: Giorgio Minisini, Lucrezia Ruggeiro (ITA)
Mixed duet, free: Giorgio Minisini, Lucrezia Ruggeiro (ITA)

Open water swimming

Men's 5km: Florian Wellbrock (GER)
Men's 10km: Gregorio Paltrinieri (ITA)
Men's 25km: Dario Verani (ITA)
Women's 10km: Sharon van Rouwendaal (NED)
Relay: Germany

Water polo, men: Spain

FINA Junior Championships

Swimming – Lima (PER)

European athletes dominated at the 2022 Fina World Junior Championships, winning 33 of the 40 titles at the event in Lima, Peru.

100m freestyle world record holder David Popovici was the main draw ahead of the event – and he delivered a series of stunning performances to secure four medals – three gold. However, he was far from the only rising star to emerge victorious during six days of stunning swimming action in the Peruvian capital, which built on the LEN European Junior Championships in Romania in July. Nikolett Pádár of Hungary was the most successful female athlete in Lima with five gold medals, while Poland's Ksawery Masiuk was the male athlete who gained the most honours, claiming four golds and two bronze medals.

Diving – Montreal (CAN)

To be held on 17 November-4 December.

Artistic Swimming – Quebec City (CAN)

With two exceptions, in the Solo Technical and the Highlight, where Italy claimed the silver medal, the first and second steps on each of the twelve podiums belonged to Japan and Spain. The athletes representing Japan competed in all but one event, the Mixed Highlight, in Quebec City. In eight of the eleven events, the Japanese were the best junior artistic Swimmers, while in the other three events, they were surpassed by Spain. Spain did compete in all twelve events that were contested; however, the Spaniards did not medal in the Solo Technical event.

Open water swimming – Seychelles (SEY)

Hungarian open swimmers rounded off a brilliant Fina World Championships for their nation with a fourth gold on the third – and final – day in Seychelles. After respective 10km victories on Saturday Bettina Fabian and David Betlehem teamed-up and were joined by individual bronze medallist Mira Szimcsak as well as countryman Arshak Hambardzumyan for the mixed 4x1500m relay event. Germany were second and Italy finished third.

Hungary and USA each won four gold medals in Seychelles but the European nation topped the overall medal table with a total of seven medals (four gold, and three bronze). USA (four golds) were second, with Italy (two silver and two bronze) third.

Water polo – Belgrade (SRB), Volos, Larisa (GRE)

Four championships were held in the summer and Hungary excelled in all four tournaments. The Magyars won both U16 editions in Greece, beating the hosts in both finals, and came first in the men's U18 event in Belgrade. Here they beat the host team in a thrilling penalty shootout. The Hungarians came off with the bronze in the U18 tournament, while Greece finished runner-up, losing to the US in the final – so the Greeks claimed three silver medals at the FINA age-group competitions this summer.