

European Rowing Annual Report 2021

2021 was a second, very challenging year for European Rowing (ER). Thanks to the positive engagement before, during and after each of the European Rowing Championships between the World Rowing Sport Medicine Commission, World Rowing Event Team, local Organising Committees and ERB members, all planned sports events took place in Europe despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The entire rowing community acted with a great responsibility and discipline. Virtual event management was successfully tested to help reduce costs and travel.

- 1. European Rowing Championships, Varese (ITA),** 9-11 April 2021 attracted the second highest number of participating countries [35] in the history of this championships, with 547 athletes and 209 crews. The balance of male:female crews was approximately 59%:41% which is consistent with other ER events. This event included para-rowing events for the first time in a European championship event and was well-received by the athletes and federations.
- 2. European Rowing Junior Championships, Munich (GER),** 9-10 October 2021, was rescheduled from the original date [22-23 May] due to concerns about Covid-19 and travel restrictions. The experienced OC delivered a well organised and safe event, and it was a good rehearsal for the multisport European Championship event due to take place in 2022. 490 athletes in 151 crews represented 27 MF, again the balance of male:female athletes was approximately 59%/41%.
- 3. European Rowing U23 Championships, Kruszwica (POL),** 4-5 September 2021, was organised for a second time by Gopło Kruszwica Rowing Club. Thanks to the engagement of the local and state authorities the infrastructure of this natural course had been upgraded. 453 athletes in 169 crews from 32 countries competed, with the number of female athletes approximately 41% a statistic that has remained fairly constant since 2017.
- 4. European Rowing Indoor Championships.** Due to Covid-19 restrictions this 2020/2021 event was held in early December 2020 as part of the continental qualification series for the virtual World Rowing Indoor Championships. It was hosted in a virtual format by British Rowing rather than as a stand alone event.
- 5. A second edition of the European Rowing Coastal Challenge** (including Beach Sprints) was held at Marina di Castagneto, Donoratico (ITA) 28-31 October 2021, and was well supported logistically and financially, by David Filippi and by the attendance of local dignitaries. Athletes from 15 European countries competed including a number of Olympic medallists from Tokyo.
- 6. The first European Olympic and Paralympics Qualification Regatta** was held in Varese (ITA) immediately prior to the ERCH to give European MFs an opportunity to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games, offering the following events: PR1M1x, PR1W1x, M1x, W1x, LM2x, LW2x. 67 athletes in 50 crews represented 23 European MFs took part.

7. Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold a Presidents' meeting in 2021 due to ongoing concerns and restrictions around Covid-19 and travel restrictions.
8. The **General Assembly** was held virtually using Lumi to support a secure voting platform. 26 nations attended as well as the ERB members and representatives of World Rowing.

Due to the retirement of Ryszard Stadniuk and the natural rotation of members, elections took place for two Board members. Nominations for 6 candidates were received for the two positions on the ERB, these comprised three male and three female candidates. Annamarie Phelps GBR and Asuncion Lorient ESP were elected to the ERB. Subsequently Annamarie Phelps was unanimously elected Chair of the ERB. The three World Rowing Council Nominated Candidates were individually ratified: Patrick Rombaut BEL; Dušan Macháček CZE; Algirdas Raslanas LTU.

The ERC is very grateful to Ryszard Stadniuk to European Rowing for his enormous commitment to the ERB over 13 years, since the European Rowing Board had been established. As an expression of gratitude the title of Honorary Chair of the ERC was conferred on Ryszard Stadniuk for his long service.

The ERB attributed its first ER Coastal and Beach Sprint Championships to San Sebastian for 2022 and to La Seyne-sur-Mer for 2023.

Three documents relating to Rules and Regulations were reviewed and updated and approved at the General Assembly: ER Rules of Racing, ER Indoor Rowing Rules and Regulations, ER Coastal and Beach Sprint Departures: each was supported unanimously.

9. Goals and Challenges for the Future

- Successful delivery of European Rowing events, including the first ERCBSCH in San Sebastián.
- Organisation of an annual Presidents' Meeting as part of regular consultation with MFs.
- Finding a substitute host for ERU23CH following Duisburg withdrawal.
- Continual improvement of safeguarding and environmental policies aligned with, and in support of, World Rowing.
- Submitting new project applications for EU funding to support Gender Equality and Inclusion ambitions.
- Improving the European Rowing 'brand' identity to add value to European and World Rowing.

ERB 2020-2021:

Ryszard Stadniuk (POL), Chair
Annamarie Phelps (GBR), Deputy Chair
Eva Szanto (HUN), Secretary
Nebojsa Jevremovic (SRB)
Dusan Machacek (CZE)
Algirdas Raslanas (LTU)
Patrick Rombaut (BEL)