AQUATICS
Social
Responsibility

SWIM SAFE EUROPE CONFERENCE

7-8 AUGUST 2026

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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ANTÓNIO JOSÉ SILVA
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN AQUATICS

It is with great pleasure and a strong sense of purpose that I introduce this Information Bulletin for the 2026 Swim Safe Europe Annual Conference, taking place at the Courtyard by Marriott Paris Saint Denis in Paris, France, from 7–8 August.

This annual gathering stands at the heart of our mission. It is where ideas meet action, where experience becomes shared knowledge, and where partnerships are formed to advance Learn to Swim and drowning prevention across Europe. In a hybrid format, the conference will once again unite national federations, academics, practitioners, and stakeholders from across the continent and beyond, both in person and online, creating a dynamic space for exchange, collaboration, and innovation.

I would like to warmly thank our French hosts for welcoming us to Paris, a city that effortlessly blends heritage with forward-looking ambition. It offers an inspiring backdrop for the conversations ahead, as we collectively shape solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in aquatic education and safety. I am confident that all participants, whether present in Paris or joining remotely, will leave enriched, energised, and connected.

My sincere thanks go to the President of the French Swimming Federation, Gilles Sezionale, and to all those whose dedication and commitment have made this conference possible, as a side event of the European Aquatics Championships Paris 2026.

This year's programme reflects both our ambition and our responsibility. Across two days, we will explore critical themes, from capacity building and the power of storytelling to scientific dialogue, strategic partnerships, and practical initiatives. Together, we will address the future of Learn to Swim in Europe, strengthen our efforts in drowning prevention, explore ways to retain young people in aquatics, and embrace innovation in teaching and practice. I would especially like to highlight the Ambassadors' Panel and the Aqua Safe Kids Project roundtable, which promise to inspire new thinking and meaningful action.

I extend my deep appreciation to the many experts, speakers, and contributors who will bring their knowledge and passion to this conference, as well as to the organizers and volunteers whose tireless work makes it all possible. Their commitment reflects the strength and unity of Swim Safe Europe as a community dedicated to making aquatics safer, more inclusive, and accessible to all.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the European Aquatics staff, the members of the Swim Safe Europe sub-commission, and the representatives of our Erasmus+ project, Aqua Safe Kids, for their continued support and vision.

Within this bulletin, you will find all the practical information needed to plan your participation. But beyond logistics, this conference represents something greater: an opportunity to learn from one another, to challenge ourselves, and to strengthen a shared commitment to saving lives through education and collaboration.

I look forward to welcoming you to Paris, and to working together to shape a safer, more inclusive future for aquatic education and water safety across Europe.



GILLES SEZIONALE
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SWIMMING FEDERATION

Dear Participants,

It is a great honor for me, on behalf of the French Swimming Federation, to welcome you to Paris for this conference dedicated to aquatic safety.

This event takes place in an exceptional context, at the very heart of the 2026 European Aquatics Championships. It is a moment rich in symbolism: our continent's premier competition returns to France exactly 39 years after the 1987 edition in Strasbourg. By transitioning from the European capital of that time to our national capital today, we emphasize the continuity of our commitment. Bringing together the elite of our sport and experts in drowning prevention underscores our primary goal: to bridge sporting excellence with the requirement of aquatic safety for all swimmers.

The FFN is honored to host this gathering, which reflects our dedication to promoting swimming in all its forms: as both a competitive sport and a fundamental life skill. This conference serves as a powerful catalyst for building lasting partnerships that will benefit future generations within the great European swimming family.

In recent years, our Federation has intensified its efforts to raise public awareness of aquatic safety issues and to:

- Strengthen coach education and training.
- Combat drowning through the large-scale deployment of our flagship programs: "Aisance Aquatique" (Aquatic Ease) and "J'apprends à nager" (I am learning to swim).
- Train the swimmers of tomorrow through our new French Swimming School (École de Natation Française).

One of the major legacies of this conference will be to provide federations with the means to guarantee safe access to water and to share the joy of swimming with as many people as possible.

I would like to warmly thank all participants for joining us in Paris. I wish you productive discussions and a memorable stay as we celebrate the European Championships!



ABOUT PARIS

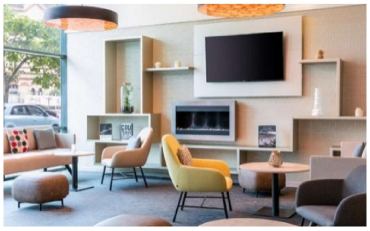
THE CAPITAL OF FRANCE



Paris is a vibrant city where history and modernity intertwine with brilliance. Bordered by the banks of the Seine, a UNESCO World Heritage site, it offers a striking contrast between iconic monuments and rapidly transforming districts. From the majestic Eiffel Tower and the restored Notre-Dame Cathedral to the avant-garde structures of the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Saint-Denis, the Paris skyline tells the story of a city deeply rooted in its heritage yet resolutely driven by innovation.

Renowned for its "art de vivre," legendary gastronomy, and unique cultural scene, Paris invites visitors to explore the charm of its historic streets, bustling boulevards, and riverside quays perfect for a stroll. In 2026, alongside the excitement of the European Aquatics Championships, delegates will discover not only a dynamic setting for this conference but also the incomparable spirit and elegance that make Paris a truly unforgettable destination.

DATE AND VENUE






- 7–8 August 2026

  (arrival from 7 August, departure 8/ 9 August)

- Courtyard by Marriott Paris Saint Denis, Paris, France

  (107 Boulevard de la Libération, 93200 Saint-Denis)

- Format: Hybrid (in-person + online).

  All main sessions will be streamed live via the *European Aquatics Education Digital Platform* if minimum online participation is reached (35).

REGISTRATION

Mandatory Registration:

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

Swim Safe Europe Annual Conference 2026 | Paris France

https://www.eaacademy.eu/lms/courses/swim-safe-europe-conference-2026

Registration Deadline: 30 July 2026

Registration Fees:

- Participants **staying at the official hotel.**

Two-day rate	€95
Friday only rate	€65
Saturday only rate	€65

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

Two-day rate	€145
Friday only rate	€95
Saturday only rate	€95

- Online participation

Flat rate	€165

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

ACCOMMODATION, RATES AND CATERING

Official Hotel

★ ★ ★ ★ Courtyard by Marriott Paris Saint Denis
https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/parsd-courtyard-paris-saint-denis/

Bookings

Participants must complete their booking directly with the French Swim Federation
https://www.helloasso.com/associations/federation-francaise-de-natation/adhesions/swim-safe-europe-annual-conference-2026

Room Rates

Single Room	€258 per night
Double Room	€208 per person per night

Accommodation Package Includes

Breakfast and use of conference facilities (including coffee breaks)

Catering Options (Not Included in Registration Fee)

Friday – Gala Dinner	€57 per person
Saturday – Lunch	€45 per person

Catering is **not included** in the conference registration fee. All participants (with or without accommodation) must book their meals directly with the French Swimming Federation *https://www.helloasso.com/associations/federation-francaise-de-natation/adhesions/swim-safe-europe-annual-conference-2026*

Bookings for accommodation and meals are subject to availability. The final deadline for all reservations is 20 July 2026.

SPEAKERS

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

António Silva	European Aquatics President. World Aquatics Vice President, Full Professor of sports science in UTAD, Vila Real, Portugal
Lotos Vincenc Šparovec	Slovenian actor and reserve military officer
Boro Strumbelj	Professor at University of Ljubljana
Rókur í Jákupsstovu	European Aquatics Bureau Member. AQUA Certified Level 3 Coach
Aisling McKeever	Head of Clubs and Education at Swim Ireland
Aldo Costa	Professor at University of Beira Interior; President of Portuguese Swimming Coaches Association & Vice-President of Portuguese Confederation of Coaches
Laurent Ciubini	General Director, French Swimming Federation
Sharon van Rouwendaal	Most Decorated Open Water Swimmer of All Time | 3-time Olympic Medalist | Founder & CEO SvR Swim Academy | Mentor Bavarian Swimming Federation
Roberto Vezzani (TBC)	Fondazione Nazionale Carlo Collodi
Thorsten Muck	Director Commercial Pool Fluidra
Andras Nemeth/ Gergely Kisgyorgy	VKN Sports Management
Balazs Magyar	Senior Director of Account Management EPAM Systems
International Life Saving Federation	
Flemish Swimming Federation	
Swim England	
LTU Aquatics	
Aquatic Sport Association of Malta	
Hungarian Swimming Federation	
Austrian Swimming Federation	
Croatian Swim Federation	
Estonian Swimming Federation	
Bulgarian Swimming Federation	
Georgia Swim Federation (TBD)	

TENTATIVE PROGRAM	
Day 1 – 7 August 2026 | Capacity Building, Storytelling & Knowledge Sharing	
13:00 – 14:00	Registration & Welcome Coffee (in-person)
14:00 – 14:30	Opening Ceremony
14:30 – 15:00	Keynote Address – Day Inspiration
15:00 – 16:15	Swim Safe Europe Program – The Future of Learn to Swim in Europe
16:15 – 16:45	Coffee Break & Networking
16:45 – 17:00	Storytelling & Learning
17:00 – 17:20	Expanding the Ecosystem
17:20 – 17:40	Booklet "The First WaterAdventure" – Zwemfed & EA
17:40 – 18:00	Ambassadors' Panel – Stories that Inspire
19:30	Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony

Day 2 – 8 August 2026 | Scientific Dialogue, Federations & Partnerships	
09:00 – 10:00	Registration & Coffee
10:00 – 11:00	National Federations & Research Joint Session
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break & Poster Presentations Poster area open
11:30 – 12:00	National Federations & Research Joint Session
12:00 – 12:30	Different Paths, Same Goal: Challenges of Teaching Non-Swimmers
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 14:45	Roundtable: Policy & Funding for SSE Scaling
14:45 – 15:15	Sponsors & Innovation Session
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee Break & Networking
15:45 – 16:30	Round Table: AquaSafe Kids Project
16:30 – 17:00	Closing Session

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – SWIM SAFE EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

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

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

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

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

- Abstracts in English, maximum 500–750 words (depending on practice/research focus)
- Submitted in *.docx format using the official template
- Indicate preferred presentation type: oral, poster, or video
- Email submissions to: *silviacosta@europeanaquatics.org*
- Deadline for submission: 3 July 2026

PEER REVIEW:

All abstracts will undergo peer review by the Scientific Committee. Antonio Silva will chair the committee. The committee members are Boro Štrumbelj, Aldo Costa, Nuno Garrido, Daniel Marinho, Tiago Barbosa and Silvia Costa. Authors will be notified of acceptance, requests for revisions, or rejection by 24 July 2026.

PRESENTATION DETAILS:

- Oral Presentations: 15 minutes + discussion (slides must follow SSE template). Presentations may be delivered onsite or online.
- Poster Presentations: A0 format, in English, readable from 1.5 m, printed (no handwritten posters). Materials for display will be provided onsite.

REGISTRATION AND FEES

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

EXHIBITORS

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

Exhibitor Pass Includes:

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

For inquiries, please contact
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silviacosta@europeanaquatics.org

