



Conclusion of the 30th European Swimming Championships Russia the most successful nation in Budapest

Budapest (pps) The 30th European Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming, and Open Water Swimming Championships concluded on Sunday, August 15th, and will now keep a memorable place in the 84 year-long history of the first and foremost LEN Event. LEN President Nory Kruchten expressed special thanks to Hungary for hosting the event for the fourth time since the premiere in 1926, also in Budapest. The Tamas Szechy Swimming Complex on Margaret Island was the venue for the swimming, diving, and synchronised swimming competitions while the City of Balatonfured on Lake Balaton hosted the open water swimming races. Competitors from 43 LEN Member Federations meant a record participation for European Aquatics right at the start.

As in the past few years, Russia proved the most successful nation with a total of 13 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze medals in all four disciplines. Germany came second (8-9-3) followed by France (8-8-7), Great Britain (6-6-7), Italy (6-5-6), and Hungary (6-4-4).

Swimming:

A few days after the US National Championships in Irvine, California, Europe's swimmers set 16 season's World best times in 34 individual events. 31 Championship Records in a total of 40 competitions certainly prove level of performances achieved. The last European Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands, two years ago were marked by the high-tech swim suits, with 6 World and 18 European Records. And contrary to many sceptics, a young Frenchman set the first international record of the new textile era since the ban on high-tech suits: Camille Lacourt clocked 52.11 seconds in the 100m backstroke, a new European Record.

Lacourt was the most successful male swimmer in Budapest with three gold medals (50m and 100m backstroke, 4x100m medley relay). Lacourt's female counterpart was Hungarian Katinka Hosszu, who also won three gold medals (200m butterfly, 200m individual medley, 4x200m freestyle relay) but also gained an additional silver medal in the 400m individual medley.

Sweden's Therese Alshammar increased her medal collection by five medals (2-1-2) in Budapest to a medal tally of 67 (14 gold) including relays, at Olympic Games, World and European Championships. Alshammar, who will turn 33 on August 26th, is striving to compete in her fifth Olympic Games in London 2012.

France had the most successful swimming team in Budapest, in the medal table as well as in the Championships Trophy classification by points. It is the best French result ever at European Championships – and so is Great Britain's. The top position in Europe was decided in favour of France in a direct duel with Russia in the last event, the men's 4x100m medley relay.



Ligue Européenne
de Natation

74 Grand-Rue
L - 1660 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 27 44 91 64
Fax: +352 27 44 91 64 28
E-mail: lenoffice@len.eu
www.len.eu



Press release

Medal table Swimming:

1. France 8-7-6, 2. Russia 7-4-1, 3. Great Britain 6-6-6, 4. Hungary 6-4-3, 5. Sweden 3-3-4, 6. Germany 2-5-2.

Championships Trophy Swimming: 1. France 616 points, 2. Russia 590, 3. Great Britain 578, 4. Germany 489, 5. Italy 477, 6. Hungary 474.

Diving:

Eight medals, five of them gold, gave Germany an outstanding result after a medal-drought at the 2009 World Championships in Rome. Here too, the very last competition, the men's 10m platform diving, decided the Championships Trophy classification in favour of the Germans with just one point over Russia, when Sascha Klein and Patrick Hausding finished first and second. Hausding competed in all five events – and won five medals, two gold and three silver. A feat never achieved in the history of European Championships. In Helsinki 2000, Russian Dmitry Sautin had gained four medals (3-1-0).

Medal table Diving:

1. Germany 5-3-0, 2. Ukraine 2-2-0, 3. Italy 2-1-0, 4. Russia 1-3-5, 5. Sweden 0-1-0, 6. Belarus 0-0-2.

Championships Trophy Diving:

1. Germany 185 points, 2. Russia 184, 3. Ukraine 150, 4. Italy 140, 5. Great Britain 85, 6. France 57.

Synchronised Swimming:

Russian domination continued in synchronised swimming at these European Championships. In the absence of Spain's Gemma Mengual, who won all four titles two years ago in Eindhoven, Russian Natalia Ischenko equalled that feat now in Budapest, in solo, duet, team, and free combination. Spain gained all four silver medals and Ukraine all bronze. The Ukrainians recorded the greatest progress in Budapest. Natalia Ischenko was the most successful athlete of the 30th European Swimming Championships with four gold medals.

Medal table Synchronised Swimming:

1. Russia 4-0-0, 2. Spain 0-4-0, 3. Ukraine 0-0-4

Championships Trophy Synchronised Swimming:

1. Russia 576 points, 2. Spain 563, 3. Ukraine 550, 4. Italy 533, 5. Hungary 456, 6. Netherlands 421.



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Open Water Swimming:

Italy strengthened its top position in open water swimming with a total of eight medals (two of them gold) in seven events at Lake Balaton and won the Championships Trophy with a clear advantage. Germany's nine-time World Champion Thomas Lurz confirmed his reputation as the most successful open water swimmer of all times, when he successfully defended his European title in the Olympic 10km event. However, the 2008 title holder was not so successful in the 5km event when he remained without a medal in Balatonfured. Ukraine's Olga Beresnyeva's victory in the 25km was the greatest surprise – gold in her first ever race in that event.

Medal table Open Water Swimming:

1. Italy 2-4-2, 2. Greece 1-1-2, 3. Germany 1-1-1, 4. Russia 1-0-2, 5. Netherlands and Ukraine 1-0-0 each.

Championships Trophy Open Water Swimming:

1. Italy 189 points, 2. Germany 137, 3. Russia 130, 4. Greece and France 98 each, 6. Czech Republic 95.

Upcoming LEN European Championships are scheduled in Water Polo (men and women) in Zagreb, Croatia, from August 29th to September 11th, and in Short Course Swimming in Eindhoven, Netherlands, from November 25th to 28th.

2011 European Open Water Swimming Championships in Eilat (ISR)

Budapest (pps) The Bureau of the European Swimming Federation, LEN, has allocated the 2011 European Open Water Swimming Championships to the Israel Swimming Association and the City of Eilat on the Red Sea. Israel will host its first ever European Championships from September 5th to 11th. It is also the first European Championships in Open Water Swimming since the LEN Bureau announced independent continental championships were to be held in odd years. From next year, the open water swimmers will have annual European Championships just like the divers, separate from the "overall" European Championships (held in even years).

The date for the 31st European Championships in Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming and Open Water Swimming has been provisionally fixed for May 16th to 27th of 2012. This date has yet to be coordinated with the international calendar of other major sport events. The dates of the 2014 European Swimming Championships are August 6th to 17th. The host cities for both of these editions have yet to be announced.

The 2012 LEN Congress will be hosted by the Portuguese Swimming Federation in Troia near Setubal in May or June.

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74 Grand-Rue
L - 1660 Luxembourg
Tel: +352 27 44 91 64
Fax: +352 27 44 91 64 28
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