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➤ ECA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Jovana Stanojevic

Members: Michel Letienne, Marika Dognerova

➤ ECA CSP WORKING GROUP

Jovana Stanojevic, Michel Letienne, Marika Dognerova, Ekaitz Saies, Stien Verlinden, Martin Bielik

➤ ACTIVITIES 2023-2024

- COMPETITIONS 2023

Discipline	2023
SENIOR SPRINT	EUROPEAN GAMES POL KRAKOW 21-24 June
SENIOR PARACANOE	POR MONTEMOR O'VELHO
JUNIOR AND U23 SPRINT	27-30 July

Canoe Sprint has made its 3rd appearance at the **2023 Krakow European Games** among 29 sports which continues a very successful exposure of the discipline within European Games format since its beginning. Competition was organised on the Kryspinow Waterway over a 4-day program in 16 events at 200m and 500m distance, with medal events finals over 3 days. All 16 events are recognised as 2023 European Championships.

The venue itself is not a regatta course, and it had its challenges: all facilities were temporary, set up only for the purpose of Canoe Sprint competition. As much as it was challenging to set up all facilities required, all ECA/ICF standards were fulfilled.

35 countries participated with 277 athletes accompanied by supporting staff.

2023 EG website: <https://www.european-games.org/sports/canoe-sprint/>

2023 EG Results:

https://www.canoe-europe.org/preview-file/canoe_sprint_results_book_eg2023-6010.pdf

(Jovana Stanojevic, Technical Delegate)

Since Canoe Sprint was part of the EG2023, ECA Board has decided to join **Paracanoe and Junior&U23** in Montemor-o-Velho POR for the 2023 ECA Paracanoe and Junior&U23 Canoe Sprint European Championships.

Dates were confirmed to end of July, which is not usual for European Championships, were a result of a hard work, communication and compromise with ICF and 2023 Jun&U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships Host organisers.

End of July is high tourist season in Portugal and the World Youth Day 2023 (a Catholic festival) in Lisbon imposed a big challenge to Organising Committee in both accommodation and transport (airport transfer and daily shuttle), however OC delivered according to ECA standards for Jun&U23&Paracanoe with no delay or any complaints from the teams.

Participation of 34 countries with 621 Junior & U23 athletes accompanied by supporting staff in Sprint and Paracanoe together provided exciting and fair races over a 4-day program.

2023 Championships website: <https://www.canoesprintportugal.com/en> and <https://www.canoe-europe.org/calendar/2023-eca-paracanoe-and-junior-u23-canoe-sprint-european-championships-385>

2023 Championships results: <https://www.europecanoeevents.com/events/results?gmt=1&gmt2=-60> and https://www.europecanoeevents.com/uploads/XML_Provas/Resultados/2023/pista/92/pdf/Results/Results.pdf

- COMPETITIONS 2024

Discipline	2024
SENIOR SPRINT	HUN SZEGED 13-16 June
SENIOR PARACANOE	HUN SZEGED 13-16 June
JUNIOR AND U23 SPRINT	SVK BRATISLAVA 27-30 June*

2024 being an Olympic year In the Olympic year, considering PARIS 2024 and ICF World Championships calendar, both 2024 ECA competitions were held in June, as per above dates.

Szeged hosted **Canoe Sprint and Paracanoe** but we also welcomed the 1st ever **Stand Up Paddling European Championships** over a 5 day program. Timetable was coordinated in such a manner to include all 3 disciplines equally in live tv sessions using the momentum of Olympic/Paralympic discipline to introduce new one to European canoe sport scene.

Furthermore, addition of the Intellectual Impairment races as demonstration races showed ECA commitment towards inclusivity and it was received very well.

Almost 800 athletes from 37 countries including the athletes with AIN status in all 3 disciplines set the stage for fair, just and exciting atmosphere and races.

Szeged Championships website: <https://ech.szeged2024.com/> and <https://www.canoe-europe.org/calendar/2024-eca-canoe-sprint-and-paracanoe-european-championships-365>

Szeged Championships results:

<https://timetable.europecanoeevents.com/index.php?gmt=1&gmt2=-60> and

https://timetable.europecanoeevents.com/uploads/XML_Provas/104/pdf/Results/Results.pdf

2024 Canoe Sprint Juniors and U23 teams gathered in Bratislava Slovakia for the first time on the European Championships level.

Zemník Canoeing Sport Centre Bratislava Slovakia is a new venue for European Championships, very secured from wind, with a lot of trees and natural shade, vast space for all areas. But with its challenges: no return channel, no permanent infrastructure, everything is temporary structures, no electricity (generator-based operations), first time OC on this level of organisation even though experienced with international regatta but with amazing willingness to do the best.

Overall impression with all difficulties, limitations and challenges OC had, they delivered well for the first time with amazing effort and dedication.

36 countries with 666 athletes participating over a 4 day program in a fair manner.

Bratislava Championships website: <https://bratislava2024.canoe.sk/> and <https://www.canoe-europe.org/calendar/2024-eca-junior-and-u23-canoe-sprint-european-championships-567>

Bratislava Championships results:

<https://timetable.europecanoeevents.com/index.php?gmt=1&gmt2=-60> and

https://timetable.europecanoeevents.com/uploads/XML_Provas/110/pdf/Results/Results.pdf

More on Participation statistics and other Sprint documents you can find on ECA website:

ECA Canoe Sprint Documents: <https://www.canoe-europe.org/documents#sprint>

(Jovana Stanojevic, Technical Delegate)

- **DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

Development over the 2-year period was presence of European countries in ICF TIP programs and Coaching seminars, also directed to introduce new venues to host European Championships.

- **MEETINGS**

ECA Canoe Sprint Committee meetings were held during the championships in 2023 and 2024, as well as online.

ECA Canoe Sprint Working group was created in October 2023 with a mandate from the ECA President and the Board to produce Canoe Sprint sport program for 2025-2028 to be included to the new ECA Strategic Plan. The group had 6 meetings to reflect on the following: SWOT analysis of the discipline, development, events and calendar, venues and equipment, rules and regulations, human resources and action plan by year. Draft sport program was presented to the ECA Board March 2024.

A survey was sent to NFs with areas to be reflected upon from the above objectives on sport program. All responses were reviewed and included in the draft.

2 meetings with coaches, one in Szeged and one in Bratislava during the Championships, were held to seek their input to the draft sport program so it could be included in the final version.

Online meeting with coaches was held in November 2024 to present the proposal for new competition list of events for a 4-year period providing teams certainty to be able to make their Olympic preparation cycle plan accordingly. Feedback was received and included into the final proposal which was approved by the ECA Board in December 2024.

➤ **ECA KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- **2023 European Games** continued to showcase Canoe Sprint within the multisport format created by EOC in 2015. Our continued presence at European Games puts ECA and Canoe Sprint sport as a high rated one within EOC.

- At Krispinow lake we have achieved and showed how we can also **access the venues that are not build as regatta courses** and serve only to host canoeing competitions.

- **Joining with other disciplines in 2024** showed us how we can integrate more in the future making our events more exciting but also more sustainable.

- Inclusion of Intellectual Impairment and kids races in 2024 opens the discipline more engaging spectators throughout the whole period of competition and attract more audiences.
- **Opening new venues** for Junior and U23 athletes, such was Bratislava in 2024, continues the strategy set many years ago to expand our venue map around the Europe.
- We have started to **strengthen communication with our NFs, teams, coaches** in and out of competition, through in-person and online meetings, survey and their feedback thus including them more in proposal shaping and decision-making process.
- Continued **ITOs education** at competitions by generating balance in recruitment of experienced and new officials enabling transfer of knowledge.
- **Introducing new technologies** to deliver more efficiently our competitions – 2023 testing phase and 2024 with full implementation - real time results system keeps improving, sport presentation, ITOs tools in judging was introduced replacing pen and paper and radio communication for faster results delivery.

➤ **STRATEGIC PLANS FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION**

Within ECA overall strategy and ECA Canoe Sprint sport program, key areas to focus on are:

- Strengthen CSP as an Olympic discipline
- Strengthen our international leaderships
- Strengthen our presence at European Games and other multisport competitions
- Strive for excellence in our competitions and introduce new formats, ranking and prize money
- Integrate with other disciplines to deliver championships together
- Introduce new technology and tools
- Educate, train and promote people - athletes, judges, officials, organizers...
- Advance communication channels and tools with all our stakeholders
- Develop a sport presentation plan to target digital, social platforms and TV broadcast, create, celebrate and give recognition to the stars and ambassadors of the sport

More detailed information and action planning by year can be found in the ECA CSP Sport program document: <https://www.canoe-europe.org/preview-file/eca-sport-program-2025-2028-csp-final-6959.pdf>