



## Press release

### 12<sup>th</sup> European Masters Championships in Swimming, Diving, Open Water Swimming and Synchronized Swimming

#### Europe's Masters enjoy a great celebration in Cadiz

Cadiz (pps) For six days the city of Cadiz in the South of Spain proved to be a real mecca for "veteran" swimmers from all over Europe who participated in the celebration of the 12<sup>th</sup> European Masters Championships in Swimming, Diving, Open Water Swimming and Synchronized Swimming. "It was a great event and the organisers earned a lot of praise" – this is the summary of LEN Bureau Delegate Kurt Mikkola of Finland with regard to the championships in Cadiz and Seville (Diving). Moreover LEN Secretary Sven Egil Folvik of Norway, who paid Cadiz and Seville a short visit, was very impressed with the outstanding atmosphere of the event.

A total of 4049 participants from 34 of the 51 LEN member nations had entered and thus set a new record even before the beginning of the Championships. A total of 11089 individual and 771 relay starts in the 36 swimming events alone were registered.

In swimming, 95 European Masters Records (long course) were set, 25 of these were also World Records. Compared to the previous edition in Kranj in 2007 where 45 records were established, this translates into a doubling of continental records. Germany earned a total of 110 European Championship titles and is thus once again the most successful nation, followed by Italy (50) and Russia (35). Host Spain took 33 European Championship titles. A total of 21 nations have earned at least one gold medal.

The oldest swimmer at the European Masters Championships was Bernarda Angulo who learned to swim at the age of 48 and participated in her first competition at 80! The 97-year-old earned a victory in the 50m (2:07,03), 100m (4:30,50), and 200m backstroke events (9:59,66) in the age group 95-99. Sweden's 92-year-old Nils Fern was the oldest participant in the men's events. Fern took five titles, in the 200m (5:00,12) and 800m freestyle (19:46,94) as well as the 50m (56,96), 100m (2:11,62) and 200m backstroke (European Record in 4:32,63 minutes) in the age group 90-94. Additionally, he earned two relay titles in the 4x50m freestyle and relay mixed events with the team of "Hellas Masters Stockholm".



Ligue Européenne  
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Sergey Fesenko (Ukraine), Olympic Champion in the 200m butterfly at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow for the former Soviet Union and now member of the LEN Masters Committee, won the title in the 200m individual medley (2:24,77) in the age group 50-54. Other past "swimming stars" were, among others, Germany's Peter Nocke (he is nine times European Champion in 1974 and 1977) and Walter Kusch (1978 World Champion in the 100m breaststroke event) as well as Russia's



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Vladimir Selkov (eight-time European Champion between 1991 and 1997). Walter Kusch won the 50m breaststroke event in the age group 55-59, setting a World Record in 31,05 seconds. He also celebrated a victory in the 100m breaststroke in the European Record time of 1:12,85 minutes. Peter Nocke won the 100m butterfly in the age group 50-54 in 1:04,13 minutes while Vladimir Selkov earned the title in the 50m backstroke (27,90) in the age group 35-39.

LEN Honorary Member Bogdan Ciundziewicki of Poland made his mark in the history of the European title event: for the first time a former Member of the LEN Bureau celebrated a victory at the European Masters Championships. Ciundziewicki even achieved a hat-trick by winning the 50m (44,27), 100m (1:42,18) and 200m breaststroke events (3:46,60) in the age group 75-79.

Germany's athletes also dominated the Diving events in Seville with a total of 20 victories, followed by Great Britain (10), Russia and Austria (9 each). Norway earned three titles – all by Grunde Vegard, Member of the LEN Masters Committee. In the age group 75-79 he won the 1m springboard (191,95), 3m springboard (216,15) and the 10m platform event (136,10). Austria's Grete Kugler, Member of the LEN Technical Diving Committee, also achieved a triple victory by winning the 1m springboard (208,15), 3m springboard (213,35) and the platform event (174,75) in the age group 55-59.

In Synchronized Swimming Germans achieved three titles. Slovakia, the Netherlands and Italy celebrated two victories each. Italy's Alessia Ciurnelli delivered the highest score (79,334 points) in the solo routine of age group 25-29.

Due to strong currents and a tidal shift that proved too high on a part of the course, the original Open Water Swimming 5 km race had to be shortened to three kilometres. In the bay of Cadiz, Bianca de Bruijn (NED) in age group 25-29 and Rotislav Vitek (CZE) in age group 30-34 registered the fastest times in 36:55,0 minutes and 33:19,0 minutes respectively. Netherlands was the most successful nation in Open Water Swimming, taking home a total of seven titles, followed by Germany (4), and Czech Republic and Italy with three titles each.

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