



Situation of Drowning and Drowning Prevention in Europe



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Description of the European Situation

DROWNING

in the WHO European Region

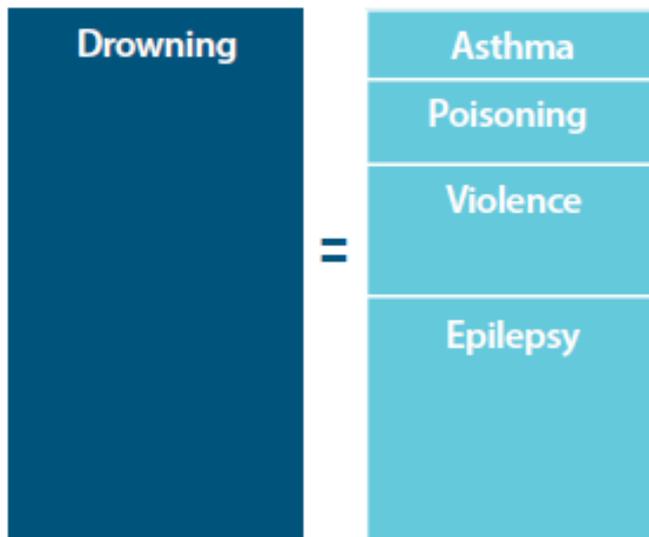
An average of

3.5



people
drown
every
hour

Drowning is the
second leading cause of death
among 5–14-year-olds



5
times

as many
males as
females die
from drowning



source: WHO Europe



Drowning is still a topic

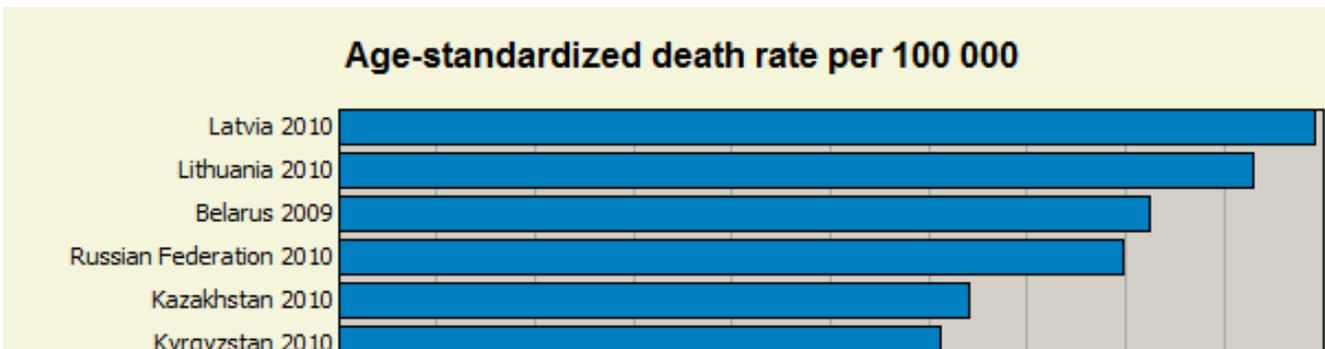
**Drowning is a leading
killer in Europe.**



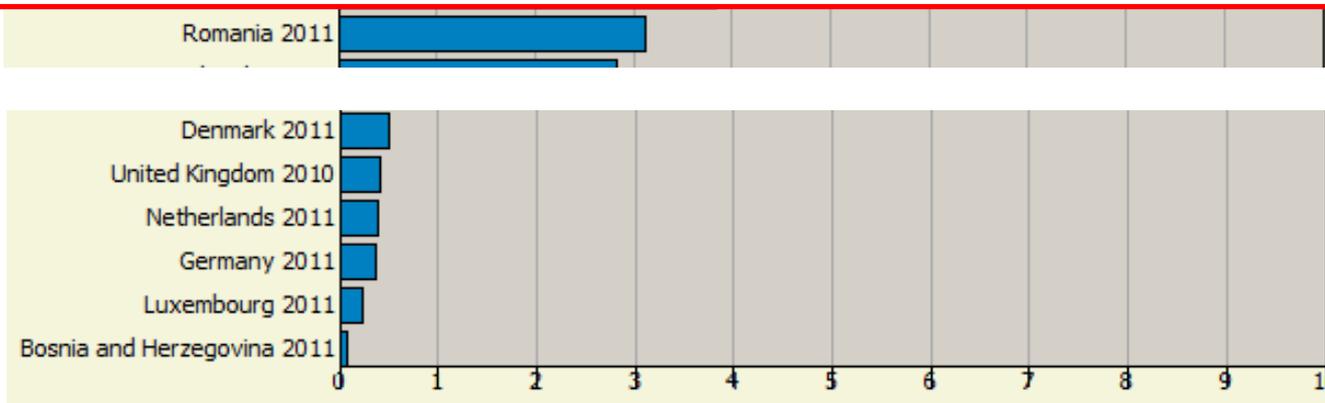
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The Situation in Europe in 2011



Death rates in 3 countries with highest rates (Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus) are **23 times higher** than in the safest 3 countries (Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands)



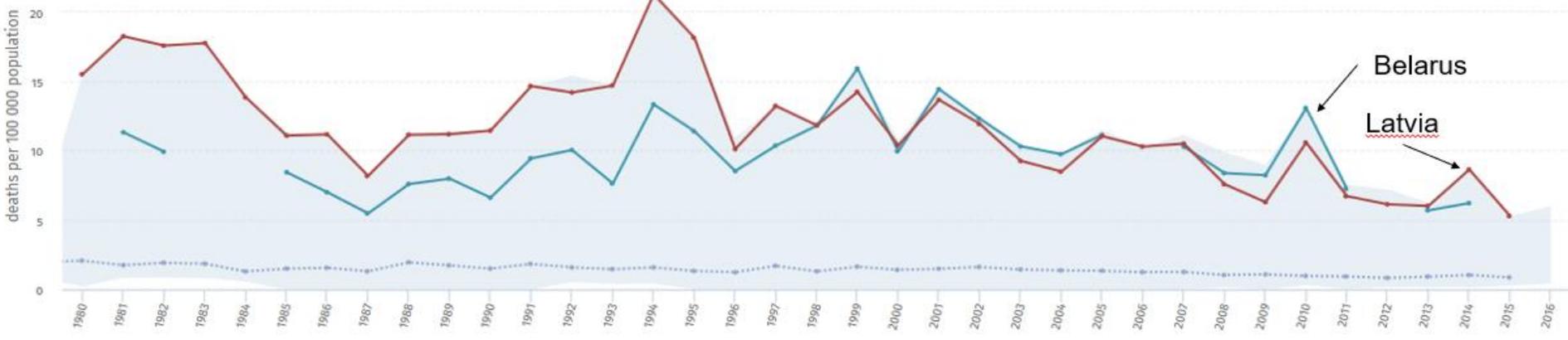
source: WHO Europe



Actual Data of WHO Europe



Accidental drowning and submersion, per 100 000 population (age-standardized death rate)



Highest SDR:

Country	Latest Data
BLR	6,23
LTU	6,01
LVA	5,30
RUS	4,96
MDA	4,81
KAZ	4,45
UKR	4,42

Lowest SDR:

Country	Latest Data
ALB	0,00
SMR	0,00
DNK	0,34
GBR	0,40
ISR	0,40
AUT	0,42
NLD	0,45

source: WHO Europe



Definition of Drowning

Update of the Amsterdam definition after WCDP 2013 in Potsdam:

Drowning is defined as “the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid; outcomes are classified as

- - death, (fatal)
- - morbidity and
- - no morbidity.” } (non-fatal)

The International Lifesaving Federation strongly recommends that all organizations involved in epidemiological research, vital statistical data collection, rescue organizations, the medical community, media, and the lay public should use the definition and nomenclature (terms) as agreed upon by the international community as a basis for useful communication and include it in their glossary.

source: <http://www.ilsf.org/about/position-statements>



Fatal Drowning in ICD-10

W65-W74 accidents with drowning and submersion

- W65** drowning and submersion **in a bathtub**
- W66** drowning and submersion **after a fall into the bathtub**
- W67** drowning and submersion **in a swimming pool**
- W68** drowning and submersion **after a fall into a swimming pool**
- W69** drowning and submersion **in natural waters**
- W70** drowning and submersion **after a fall into natural waters**
- W73** **other specified** drowning and submersion
- W74** **not specified** drowning and submersion

= usually „Drowning“
in the statistics,
but only ≈50% of
all fatal cases

other water related death in the statistics:

- W16** **wounded by under water sport and diving into the water** without drowning and submersion
- V90** **watersport accident** with drowning and submersion
- V92** drowning and submersion in **water traffic without an accident** of a watercraft
- V93** **accident on board of a watercraft** without an accident of the watercraft and without drowning and submersion
- X36, X38, X39** Collapse of dam or man-made structure; flood; other forces of nature
- X71** **suicide** by drowning and submersion
- X92** **assault** by drowning and submersion
- Y21** drowning and submersion, **circumstances unknown**



Main Message:

Key Elements: **Prevention** and **Rescue**

Information (of the public about the hazards)

Training (how to swim and to rescue, how to train this)

Rescue (lifeguard services, disaster operation)



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Good Example: Drowning at Work

- European Law for Occupational Safety and Health
- obligate risk assessment at all workplaces
- obligate risk management by the employers
- ranking of measures:
 - priority of measures for groups
 - technical, organisational, personal measures (TOP)
- programs for individuals under special risks



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Safe Equipment on the European Market

- European Law for Product Safety (Consumer Protection)
- only safe products on the market
 - leisure boats, sport equipment, PFDs
 - inflatable toys
- obligate risk assessment by the manufacturer
- declaration of remaining risks which could not avoided
- CE-signage of products
- market surveillance by governments
- state authorities to enforce the law



European and National Law

- regulations for
 - private landowners have to care for hazards
 - municipalities for places with public access
 - operators of designated bathing areas
 - operators of marinas
 - operators of pools
 - hosts and organisers of public events
- authorities responsible for enforcement of the regulations



Access Management



Install barriers controlling access to water

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What else is necessary to prevent drowning?

1. awake a societal awareness of drowning and its risks
2. integration of NGO's familiar with water safety
3. ability to swim in all parts of the population
4. policies and programs for certain target groups
5. efficient system for information, training and rescue



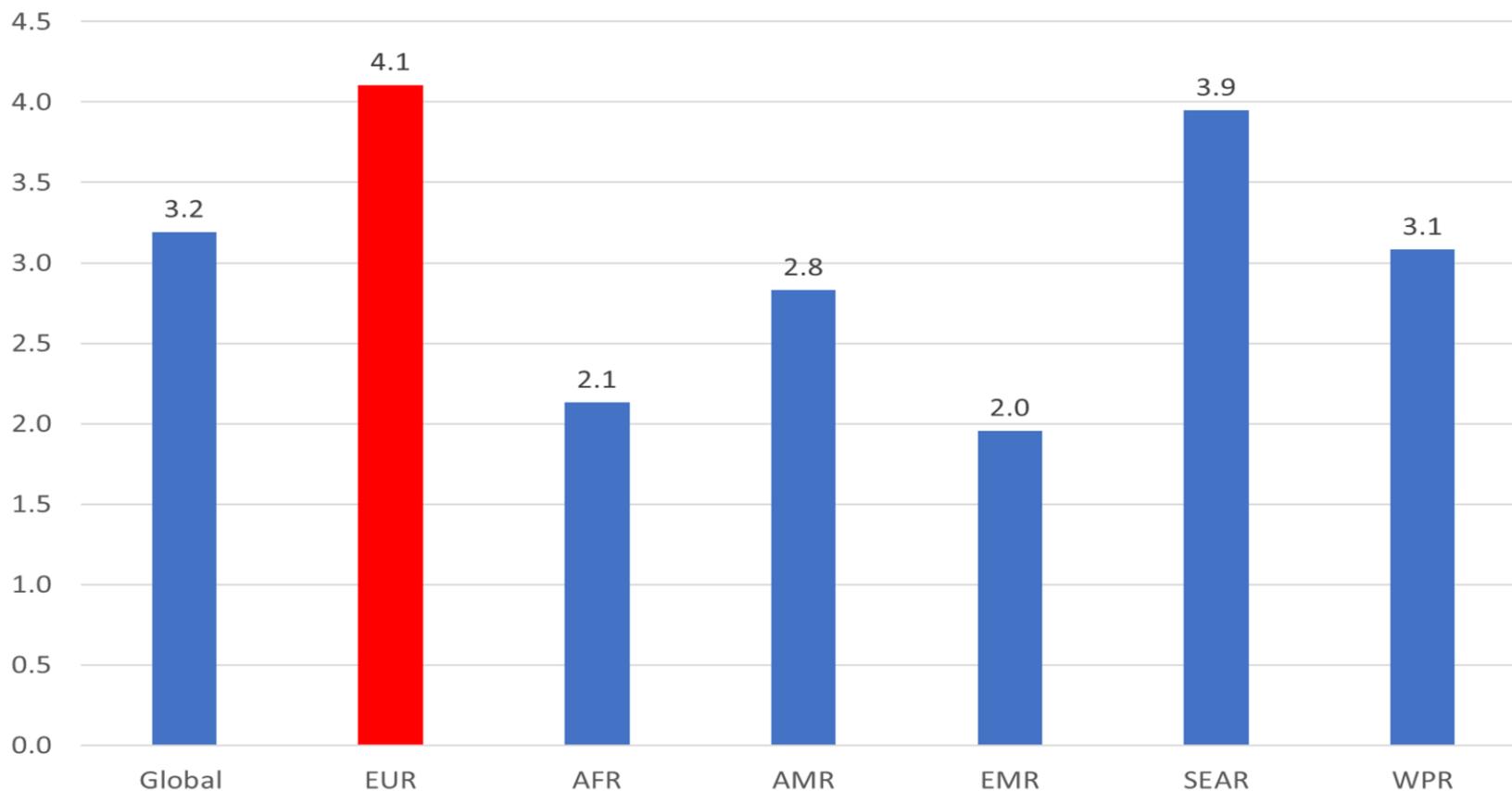
State of the Art Risk Assessments

- **ILSE defined methods for**
 - risk assessments of designated bathing areas
 - risk assessments of marinas
 - risk assessments of pools
 - risk assessments for lifesaving championships
 - risk assessment for water sport events
 - risk assessment for mass events
 - risk management for such events
 - risk management and crowd control near waters
 - **alcohol management**



Description of the European Situation

Drowning mortality by WHO Region, 30-49 years males, 2019



source: WHO Europe



Check your behaviour !





Use Personal Safety Equipment !

**Always wear a life jacket,
when boating or doing
other aquatic activities.**



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Do not swim alone !

A photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, a yellow lifeguard rescue tube lies on the sand. The word 'LIFEGUARD' is printed in large red letters on the side of the tube. A wooden rescue buoy with colorful ropes is also visible. In the background, a lifeguard in a yellow uniform stands near the water's edge. The ocean waves are visible in the distance.

**Always swim at
lifeguarded waterways**



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Drowning in Europe happens in the Spare Time

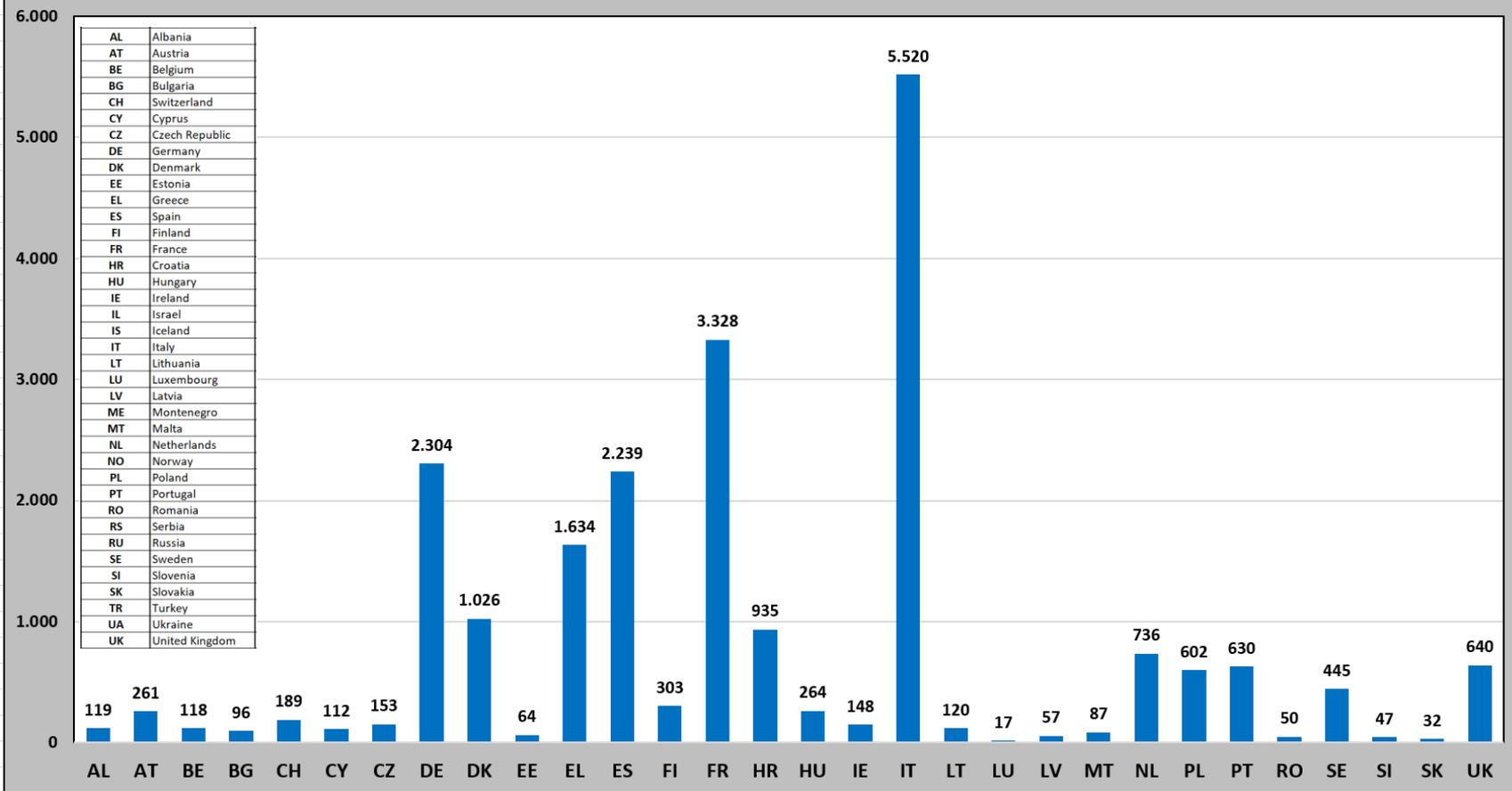
Status of Designated Bathing Areas (DBAs) in European Countries

- European Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the Management of Bathing Water Quality
- **22.276 DBAs** (**14.818 DBAs at the coasts**) notified by the governments of the EU Member States
- all are monitored regarding bathing water quality, but not all are lifeguarded beaches
- **3.766 DBAs = 25 %** are Blue Flag Beaches according the criteria of FEE – these are lifeguarded beaches with a risk assessment



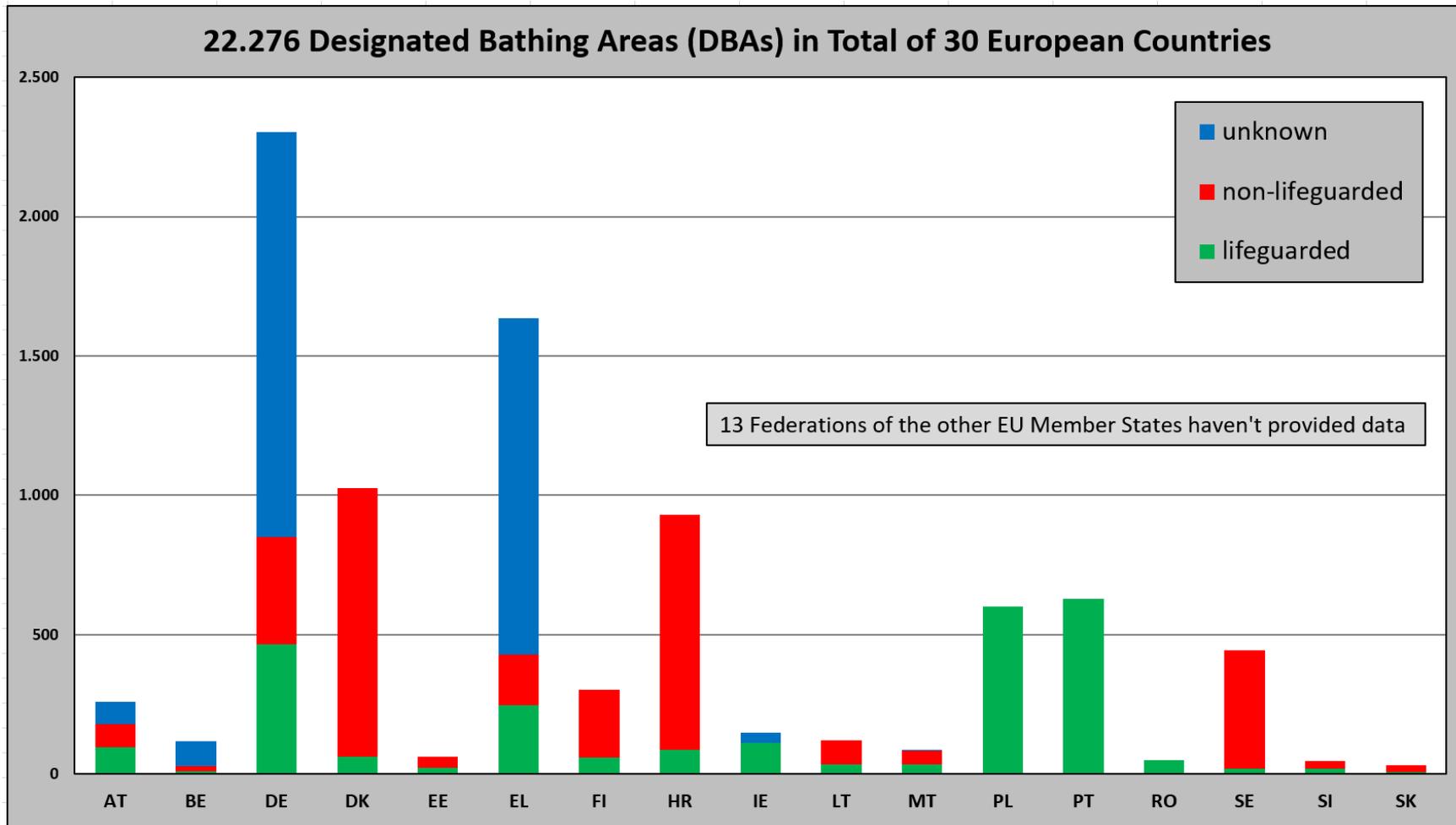
DBAs monitored for Bathing Water Quality

22.276 Designated Bathing Areas (DBAs) in Total of 30 European Countries





DBAs monitored for Bathing Water Quality





Watch your Children !





Ability to Swim – a Human Right !



Every child has the right to learn swimming and water safety skills.

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UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/75/273 of April 28th, 2021 on Global Drowning Prevention



Anyone can drown,
no one should.

Everybody can do something !



How Prevention Works

10 ACTIONS TO PREVENT DROWNING

1



Install barriers controlling access to water

2



Provide safe places away from water for pre-school children

3



Teach children basic swimming, water safety and safe rescue skills

4



Train people in safe rescue and resuscitation

5



Strengthen public awareness and highlight the vulnerability of children



Set and enforce safe boating, shipping and ferry regulations

6



Improve flood risk management locally and nationally

7



Coordinate drowning prevention efforts with other sectors

8



Develop a national water safety plan

9



Address priority research questions with well-designed studies

10

source: WHO



It is a task for all of us !

A photograph showing several hands of different people joined together in a circle, symbolizing unity and collective action. The hands are of various skin tones and are wearing different types of jewelry and clothing. The background is a bright, outdoor setting, possibly a beach or a park.

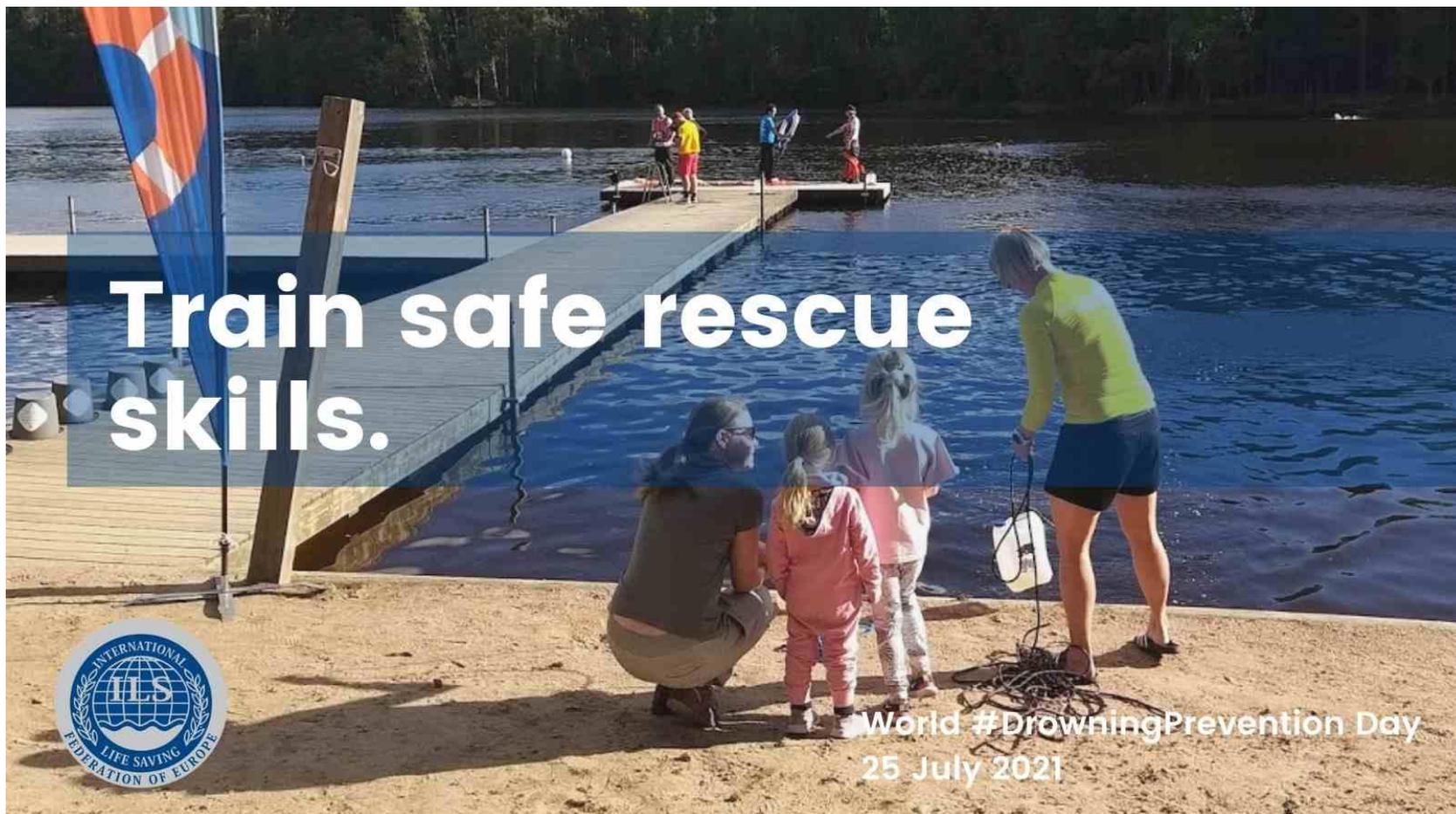
**We can all take action to
end drowning**



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Be able to rescue !



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Lessons learned

Our Message:

Every non-swimmer becomes a swimmer !
Every swimmer becomes a lifesaver !

- **Please support us in our fight against drowning !**
- **Please support us to make Europe safer !**
- **Please support our prevention programs !**

Thank you for your efforts and attention !