The International Life Saving Federation (ILS) is the world's non-profit association of aquatic Lifesavers and aquatic Lifesaving organisations.

The International Life Saving Federation of Europe (ILSE) is the European branch of ILS. ILSE is an effective umbrella organisation, representing federations working in the field of Water Safety in Europe.

Through our own work and that of our member federations, we lead the global effort to reduce injury and death in, on or around the water. We aid in the global exchange of lifesaving information, promote the best lifesaving practices, help to establish lifesaving organisations in areas of Europe where they are needed, act as the European federation for lifesaving sport and work with other international bodies with similar goals.

35.000 people are drowning every year in Europe, nearly one million worldwide – too many!

Objectives of ILSE

ILSE leads, collaborates and partners with national and international organisations to prevent drowning, to promote the provision of lifesaving services and oversee lifesaving sport in Europe with the following specific objectives:

1. Lead the global effort to develop and recommend best practice in drowning prevention, aquatic lifesaving, resuscitation and emergency care.
2. Teach lifesaving and establish educational exchanges of aquatic lifesaving techniques and operations.
3. Exchange medical and scientific experiences in the field of aquatic lifesaving and drowning prevention.
4. Encourage the conduct of training and development of standards available to the whole of the aquatic lifesaving world for drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.
5. Extend the teachings and activities of ILSE to all places in Europe and communicate and act in co-operation with other international humanitarian bodies.
6. Promote uniformity concerning equipment, information, symbols and laws for control and regulation within the aquatic environment.
7. Promote and organise lifesaving sports and regularly organise international aquatic lifesaving competitions in order to stimulate the interest of competitors to improve their ability and willingness to save people who are in danger in the aquatic environment.
8. Encourage and oversee the convening of international congresses for the purpose of creating links of friendship, solidarity and collaboration between Members and other international bodies which pursue the same humanitarian goals.
9. Encourage measures to prevent the pollution of waters and beaches and other elements, which are dangerous to the public and users of the aquatic environment.
10. Take such other actions as ILS considers will advance these Objectives.
Structure

The legislation of ILSE lies within its Constitution. This Constitution is valid together with the ILS Constitution and Bye-Laws. The supreme governing body of ILSE is the General Assembly. It is composed of the representatives from the ILSE Full Member Federations. The ILSE Board and General Assembly are the central institutions for their co-ordination and decision making. ILSE appoints and establishes various specialist commissions and working groups dedicated to the advancement of key life saving objectives within the European Region.

The ILSE has two main operating forces: One is the strategic operating Board of Directors (BOD), the other are the four operational oriented commissions. The members of the Board of Directors are elected during the General Assembly, whereas the commission members are selected by the Board’s decision.

Each commission is lead by a Chairman, supported by a Vice Chairman and a Secretary. All other persons in a commission are called ‘Members’. Our commissions are transnational working parties with experts from all over Europe.

Due to different activity fields, ILSE has four different commissions, three advisors and the auditor’s panel. The commissions derive their tasks from the Strategic Development Plan.

Education Commission

The ILSE Education Commission is dedicated to the promotion and professional development of lifesavers and lifeguards.

Freshwater and ocean diploma courses have been developed for European accreditation. Curriculum development, including the European Diploma, is a core activity of the Commission.
Management & Administration Commission
The ILSE Management and Administration Commission is dedicated to deal with the organisational and administrative affairs of the national federations. The members are the national CEO’s, Secretary Generals and/or other responsible managers.

Rescue Commission
The ILSE Rescue Commission is dedicated to the introduction of new technology and methodology. To improve rescue ability and capability, research and equipment testing are also core development activities. The Rescue Commission of ILSE has developed a strategic approach to Risk Assessments, which will make a significant contribution to the safety of European bathing areas. This model has been developed specifically for ILSE accredited Risk Assessors who will carry out the assessments on the designated bathing areas within the European region.

Sport Commission
The ILSE Sport Commission is dedicated to promoting international lifesaving sport within Europe. The organisation of European Championships for the Open Class, for Juniors, Masters and IRBs, administration of competitive standards and the advancement of sports science are major activities. Other international competitions in the field of still water (pool) and surf are realised in co-operation with the Member Federations.

Competitions improve the fitness and ability of the lifesavers. Further there are many chances for international contacts and friendship as well as an exchange of ideas. This is an important fact, especially for the youth. Lifesaving sports is primarily intended to encourage lifesavers to develop, maintain, and improve the essential physical and mental skills needed to save lives in the aquatic environment.

Through recommendations of the ILS Sport Commission and the ILSE Sport Commission, as adopted by the Board of Directors, ILSE establishes rules and regulations for international lifesaving sports, develops and conducts international lifesaving events (including the European Lifesaving Championships), supports/sanctions the conduct of other lifesaving sporting events, and encourages the advancement of sports science.
Representatives of ILSE

**ILSE President:** Dr. Detlev Mohr (Germany)  
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**ILSE Secretary General:** Joachim Kellermeier (Germany)  
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**ILSE Secretary:** Anette Dreyer (Germany)  
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**ILSE Vice Presidents:**  
- Erik Bech (Denmark)  
- Dr. Todor Popov, MD (Bulgaria)  
- Isabel Garcia (Spain)  
- John Martin (Great Britain Surf), West

**Board of Directors:**  
- Claire Ann P. Alfonso (Norway)  
- Arunas Burksas (Lithuania)  
- Karin Brand (Sweden)  
- Boris Donda (Switzerland)  
- Kristiina Heinonen (Finland)  
- Klaus Laengle (Austria)  
- Luc Landrain (Belgium)  
- Dr. Sanja Mazic MD (Serbia)  
- Robert Markt (Croatia)  
- Peter Moyses (United Kingdom)  
- Martin O’Sullivan (Ireland)  
- Polis Pallikaros (Cyprus)  
- Dr. Giorgio Quintavalle (Italy)  
- Sonja Robben (The Netherlands)  
- Jean Pierre Soubiran (France)  
- Piotr Synowiecz (Poland)

**Commission Chairs:**  
- **Education:** Janet Wilson (United Kingdom)  
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- **Rescue:** Ortwin Kreft (Germany)  
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- **Sport:** Bob Dekkers (The Netherlands)  
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**Development Aid Advisor:** Helmut Stöhr (Germany)

**Juridical Advisor:** Clive Holland (United Kingdom)

**Medical Advisor:** Dr. Sanja Mazic (Serbia)

**Auditors:** Walter Grimm (Austria)  
Pia Holmen (Denmark)

**Honorary Life-President:** Dr. Klaus Wilkens (Germany)

**Honorary Life-Member:** Frank Nolan (Ireland)

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**Partners of ILSE in Europe**

ILSE co-operates with many other organisations and functions all over Europe:

- European Union / European Commissions / European Parliament
- European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (EuroSafe)
- European Child Safety Alliance (ECSA)
- European Committee for Standardisation CEN
- European Network of Sport Science, Education and Employment (ENSSSE)
- European Non-Governmental Sport Organisation (ENGSO)
- European Resuscitation Council (ERC)
- European Sports Conference (ESC)
- Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) European Branch
- International Federation of Swimming Teachers’ Associations Limited (IFSTA)
- International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF)
- International Military Sports Committee (CISM)
- International Olympic Committee Europe
- Trim & Fitness International Sport for all Association
- Corps Touristique e.V.
- Union Sportive des Polices d’Europe (USPE)
- World Health Organisation (WHO), European Branch

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**Bank Account**

Volksbank in Schaumburg  
*(BLZ 255 914 13)*

Acc. No. 73 2501 9 800  
**IBAN:** DE2525591437325019800  
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