



The President

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Press Release on occasion of the World Drowning Prevention Day, July 25th, 2023

Today we celebrate together the third time the World Drowning Prevention Day. It is a day for all of us to think about all these victims of drowning worldwide because drowning is still one of the big burdens of mankind. Drowning is a silent and hidden killer. Drowning is not only a topic for other regions of the world – it is a huge European problem too.

Today I like to thank all our lifesavers in Europe for their activities. Together we are fighting for an Europe free of drowning. In average every hour four European citizens die in the water. 63 victims per day should be a strong reminder to all of us to stop this. In the European Region, drowning causes the loss of 23.000 lives every year, not counting the victims of floods, water transport accidents, those of the refugee crisis and suicide. In addition, thousands – not rescued in time – are suffering disabilities and brain damages lifelong as a result of non-fatal drowning accidents.

But drowning is preventable.

In 2021 the United Nations General Assembly passed its remarkable Resolution 75/273 on Global Drowning Prevention. The International Lifesaving Federation of Europe co-operates together with WHO Europe to assist the European countries in their drowning prevention efforts. In the main focus of ILSE are the high burden countries in Europe.

ILSE encourages all Members to review the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention and the Resolution of the 76th World Health Assembly on accelerating action on global drowning prevention through 2029, draw them to the attention of their members, stakeholders and

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communities, and to implement its recommendations into their plans and efforts for drowning prevention.

People need to be informed that drowning is a serious water safety risk, that can be reduced in particular by improving the swim ability of the population and by more lifeguarded bathing areas. Statistics proves: supervision by lifeguards reduces the risk for drowning extremely.

The governments and administration must act: Drowning as a public health issue needs more attention and proven drowning prevention measures need more resources.

Ask your politicians, if your government has already appointed a Focal Point for Drowning Prevention according to the UN and WHO resolutions they signed?

Ask your politicians, if your country has already a national Water Safety Plan?

Water Safety and Drowning Prevention need more attention from all of us in our human society. We can all act to end drownings – examples at **#DrowningPrevention**

Please help to stop the death and serious injury in the water!

Everybody can do one thing, everybody can improve one thing or everybody can add one thing to end drowning.

Do something for water safety! Do what you can in your own way!

Please support the lifesaving federations in their fight against drowning!

Please engage yourself and others!

Make your country safer! Make Europe safer!

Nobody has to drown! Everybody can do something.

Thank you for all your efforts.

Please support us also in the future!



Dr. Detlev Mohr, PhD