



2023 VP EUROPE REPORT

Just as it seemed that life was getting back to normal after the global pandemic when Europe was rocked to the core with the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The resilience of our Optimist sailors and families persevered throughout the year as a team of young Optimist Sailors, their coach and parents roamed Europe and attended as many Optimist Events as they could – winning a few along the way. We are thankful to many Optimist families who helped the Ukraine Optimist sailors through these turbulent times.

All over the European Optimist community, a lot of Optimist sailing events are taking place. Many of these events show a huge number of participants. Also increased over the last few years is the number of private clinics. These clinics are organized by coaches, all over Europe and very well attended. The European Optimist Community is working hard to have a successful and active Optimist Class.

To achieve this, a lot of hard work is needed. I would like to express a **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to all our members for their help and commitment to this wonderful Class. To all the Coaches for their tireless hard work and patience with all the Optimist Sailors. Please never give up.

Events

2022 European Championship in Sonderburg, Denmark {30.07. - 06.08.2023}

The 2022 Optimist European Championship was hosted by the Sonderborg Yacht Club. 253 sailors, 142 boys and 111 girls, from 43 nations participated at this event. The first days we had some challenges with accommodation. Some teams did not get proper lodging. Together with the Organizer we tried our utmost to find proper accommodation for everyone. I would like to sincerely apologize to the Teams who were affected. With the accommodation issue in Denmark, we learned many lessons and implemented a system which should help us to avoid such kind of problems in the future. We want to congratulate the Organizer for a successful event and their cooperation.

2022 European Team Racing Championship, Lago di Ledro, ITA (23.-28.08.22)

The 2022 Optimist European Team Racing Championship was organized by Associazione Vela Lago di Ledro, ITA. 16 Teams from CRO, DEN, ESP, FIN, FRA, GBR, GER, GRE, ISR, ITA, NED, NOR, POL, SWE, SUI and TUR were invited based on the ranking of the top 16 nations from the 2021 European Championship held in Spain last year.

After 14 years of European Team Racing Championship in Lago di Ledro, Vela Lago di Ledro has decided that the 2022 edition was the last one. Camilla Baruzzi, President of the organizing club, comments on the closing ceremony: "the time has come to let others have fun too, but for us it is a goodbye and not a farewell"!

We want to give a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Camilla Baruzzi, the President of AVLL and her dedicated team of volunteers for the many years of organizing and hosting an outstanding event

2023 Events

The 2023 Optimist European Championship is organized by the Nautical Club Thessaloniki, Kalamaria, GRE. It will take place from 15. - 22. July. Everything is ready to welcome almost 300 sailors to this big event. I am happy that after 1999 & 2007 we have another IODA championship in Greece.

European Team Racing Championship, 25.-30.08.2023 will be hosted by the Royal Loosdrecht Yacht Club in Loosdrecht, NED. All 16 Teams are registered and organizers are excited to welcome everybody. Since 2008 this is the first European Team Racing Championship which will take place in another place than Lago di Ledro. I am looking forward to meeting you all there.

2024 Events

The 2024 Optimist European Championship will take place from 29.06.-07.07.2024 and is organized by Club Nautico Marina di Carrara in Italy. It is a beautiful venue in well-known Tuscany.

The 2024 European Team Racing Championship from 15.-20.10.2024 will be hosted by Yacht Club Monaco, an exciting place which will for sure be another great Optimist event adventure.

Thanks!

Thanks to all the Organizers for their hard work to celebrate wonderful events and get the Optimist family together.

Thanks to everybody, Suppliers, Boat Builders, Volunteers all over the World to make the biggest Sailing Class in the World such a success! Thanks to all the Opti sailors without you all this would not happen!

Finally, a big THANK YOU to my IODA colleagues/friends. Thanks for your commitment, for those thousands of hours you spend voluntarily on the Optimist Class. A big THANK YOU to our two secretaries Fiona & Susan for their hard work and commitment. Thank you!

Kind Regards



Carmen Casco-Canepa
VP Europe