



DOWN SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING ORGANISATION

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

May 2018



Dear Friends,

I have just returned from a truly great competition in Kosovo. Organised by Arjeta Gashi whom many of you will know. Her excellent swimmer, from Kosovo, is Medina Surdulli.

1ST OPEN INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP "KOSOVO 2018"



18-22 May 2018

The purpose of arranging the Competition was to encourage participation within the Balkan region. As an open competition it achieved this and also encouraged a wider entry to total 11 countries overall.



Whilst in Kosovo I was invited to meet the Prime Minister of Kosovo and he was very encouraging. He said he would work towards getting more people with Down syndrome involved in sport and he also committed to ensuring that Medina would be able to go to Canada for the World Championships. He presented an award to Medina in recognition of her success and as a great ambassador for Kosovo. I agree wholeheartedly.

A sincere thank you to all the countries that attended. Your support for Kosovo will have a lasting effect and I anticipate more swimmers joining Medina in the Kosovo team.

For those that didn't go, you missed a great event. I hope we will be able to attend another event in Kosovo in the future. If we do, don't miss an opportunity to visit this great country.

You can find the results on <http://kosovo-asf.org/Data/Results/2018/1st%20Championship%202018/>

Open European Championships 2019

Unfortunately, Spain were finally unable to prepare this Championships and had to withdraw their bid. However, we do have a competition. I am still awaiting the final details but I can tell you it will be in Sardinia, the provisional dates will be September 15th to the 22nd 2019. I will confirm the dates and other details as soon as I can.

The Championships are being organised by FISDIR from Italy. The organisation of the event will be in the safe hands of Dario Della Gatta and his team from Formidabilege. Many of you will recall the excellent way they organised our World Championships and the European Championships in Loano.

WADA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ANTI-DOPING

The World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) has changed the Rules for Organisations wishing to Sign-up to WADA. SUDS, on behalf of all the International Federations of Sport for athletes with Down syndrome (including DSISO), are now pursuing the new process. This will take some time and so, until we have more information, it is not appropriate to use the TUE Forms in preparation for competitions. We will notify everyone as soon as we have completed the process and have been accepted as a Signatory to WADA.

INAS

I believe the question of a Memorandum of Understanding between the SUDS organisations (including DSISO) and INAS is no longer viable. INAS is still offering opportunities for Down syndrome athletes. So, check their website for the new Classification criteria and for future opportunities.

WHERE NEXT?

Of course we know that we have our World Championships to look forward to in Canada and for 2019 the European Championships in Sardinia.

The World Championships for 2020 will be part of the Trisome Games, which will take place in Antalya, Turkey (more details of that Championships as soon as they become available)

However, I would like to plan further ahead if possible. There are a number of countries that regularly take part in our Championships that are still to stage a DSISO Championship. If a small country such as Kosovo can do this then surely some of the larger countries can also do so. Come and talk to any of the DSISO Executive Committee in Truro and we will talk you through the process.



I hope you are now ready for the World Championships in Truro. The Final Entry Form is now available and you can download it from www.DSISO.org or, from www.SU-DS.org

Please download this and complete your Entry. I hope we are going to have a lot of countries and swimmers at what promises to be a super event in Canada. Carla and I made a final visit in February and everything looks great.

The video that the team in Truro brought out to publicise the event has been very popular. If you haven't seen it yet please download and have a look.

<https://vimeo.com/184388734/f18a765876>

Best wishes to you all; see you in Canada.

Geoff Smedley
DSISO President