SAFE
WATER
SPORTS

SAFETY IN THE SEA AND IN WATER SPORTS

Safe Water Sports is a non-profit organization founded in June 2015 with the interest of providing information and raising awareness to the general public on safety matters related to recreational water activities and water sports with great emphasis on safety standards and the prevention of drownings and sea-based accidents. Its primary scope is the information and sensitization of citizens, mostly children, on all matters relating to both water and sea activities (sports and recreation), emphasizing on safety and accident-prevention issues and the implementation of actions in collaboration with the Private and Public sector aiming at the reinforcement of safety issue at the aquatic environment.
Greece is ranked 11th globally in the list of countries with the longest coastline (13,676 kilometers). Each year 50,000 European citizens are injured while doing water sports, whereas in our country, 300 deaths occur each year in the sea. Drowning is considered as the second leading cause of accidental death for children 1-14 years of age.

Education of students at schools

Safe Water Sports created an interdisciplinary educational program in Greece and Cyprus, approved by the Ministry of Education.
• Page 8-9

Safe Water Sports app

Read about Safe Water Sports app for mobiles and tablets and get informed about safety in the sea and in water sports.
• Page 4-5

COAST GUARD-PORT AUTHORITIES

Safe Water Sports has provided the Port Authorities of Greece and Cyprus, at no cost, with an Integrated Pan-Hellenic Control & Inspection Information System regarding a broad range of water activities.

Through this system, which operates across all Port Authorities of the country and the Central Command (Ministry - Port Authority's Headquarters), it is possible for the Authorities to manage online the following activities:

- All licenses granted to water sports centers in Greece and Cyprus
- The mandatory availability of lifeguards at beaches by municipalities
- The sea or shore - side controls and inspections by the Coast Guard
- Any violations and fines imposed
- The efficiency of the Port Authorities and the potential control deficiencies all over the country

All these activities can be carried out in a direct (real-time) and transparent way, without the need of any kind of communication between the Central Command and the regional Port Authorities.

On February 2018, Safe Water Sports signed a cooperation agreement with the Cyprus Port Police to expand its actions. In this way, safety matter regarding the Organization's initiatives extends beyond Greek borders.

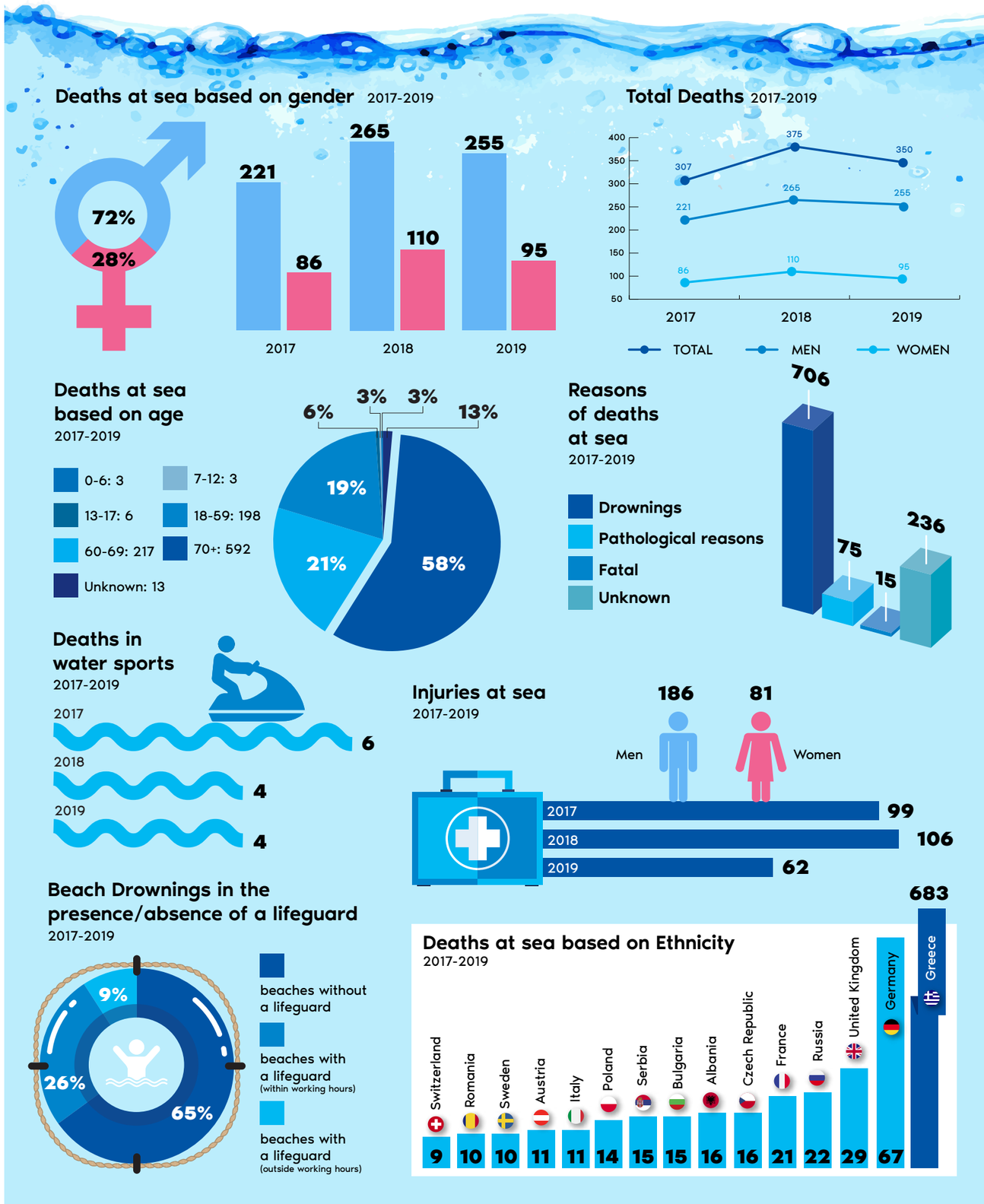
Furthermore, the Information System includes the Observatory of Accidents that presents in details the number of drownings and sea-based accidents since 2017. The Organization has undertaken the study of the given date in order to establish a national prevention policy.

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy, the Organization is involved on issues regarding the reform and modernization of legislation. In 2018, the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy, taking into consideration the Organization's proposals in cooperation with the relevant sectoral authorities, voted the Presidential Decree 31/2018 on lifeguards, the placement of lifeguards on beaches and Regulation No. 20 regarding water sports.

The Organization cooperates closely with the state (such as the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy, Education, Health, Sports etc.) regarding the activities and initiatives that will reinforce safety issue in the aquatic environment. The basic topics of cooperation are the following:

- Expansion and intensification of the use of Information System that Safe Water Sports has donated to the Coast Guard
- Interface with data sources and information managed by other Ministries
-Expansion of the educational program regarding water safety across all schools of the country
-Reform and modernization of existing legislation through cooperation with associated Ministries

OBSERVATORY OF ACCIDENTS



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

In 2018, Safe Water Sports signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port Police of Cyprus in order to cooperate on issues related to safety in the sea. Hence, Safe Water Sports has donated the Information system to the Port Police of Cyprus.

At the same time, in collaboration with the Cyprus Tourism Organization, the Safe Water Sports app has been enriched with information on water sports centers of the island, beaches, marinas etc. for all residents and foreign visitors who visit Cyprus.

In collaboration with the French Embassy and French Institute, Safe Water Sports has developed joint initiatives with the scope to inform French citizens of Greece or tourists who visit Greece but also to create a communication means with organizations that operate in France. The latest version of Safe Water Sports app is in French language, whose translation has been completed by the French Institute.

Safe Water Sports app is officially proposed by the websites of the Ministry of Foreigners of the French and British Embassy accordingly.

Safe Water Sports app

Safe Water Sports has developed an electronic platform for public awareness which is available online via our website **https://safewatersports.gr/** but mainly via mobile phone applications (apps) for free. Through this platform, which is available in Greek, English and French, citizens can easily find information about Greece and Cyprus such as:

- STRICTLY ALL the legitimate water sports rental centers (water ski, scuba diving, tubes, kite surf, etc.) that operate in Greece .
- The 3.000+ accessible for swimming beaches which the Organization has mapped in cooperation with the Port Authorities by recording all safety features for each beach (i.e. if there is a lifeguard, deep/shallow water, the type of the beach - e.g. sandy, rocky etc., -the length of the beach, if it is organized with sun beds and beach umbrellas, if it provides access to PWD, public health services, parking, etc.) and by providing an indicative photo pointing out their map location as well as other useful information.
- All hospitals and health centers with full contact details.
- The Port Authorities throughout the country with their contact details.
- The marines and in general all the mooring places and the services provided there.
- The boat rental center for any type of recreation The applicable safety regulations (legislation) for water sports and water activities
- The weather at the water sports sites
- Any other information that is directly or indirectly connected with sea and water activities.

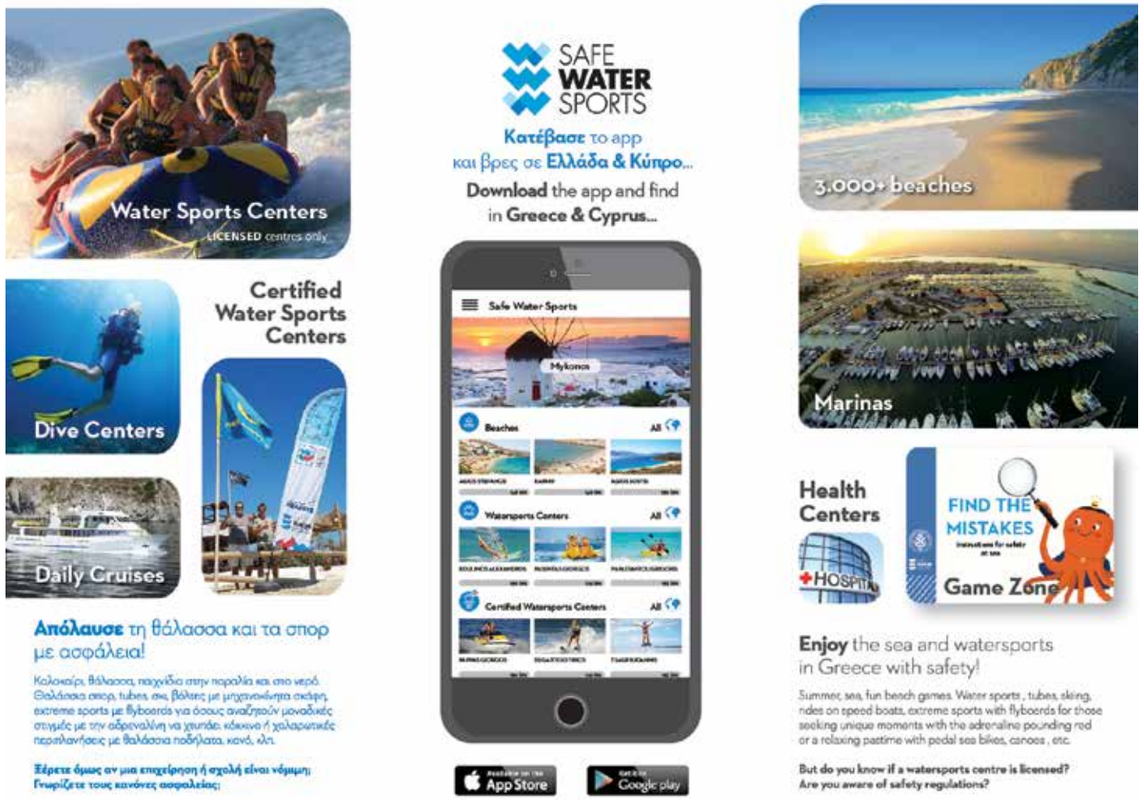
"Moreover through the use of Safe Water Sports app people can":

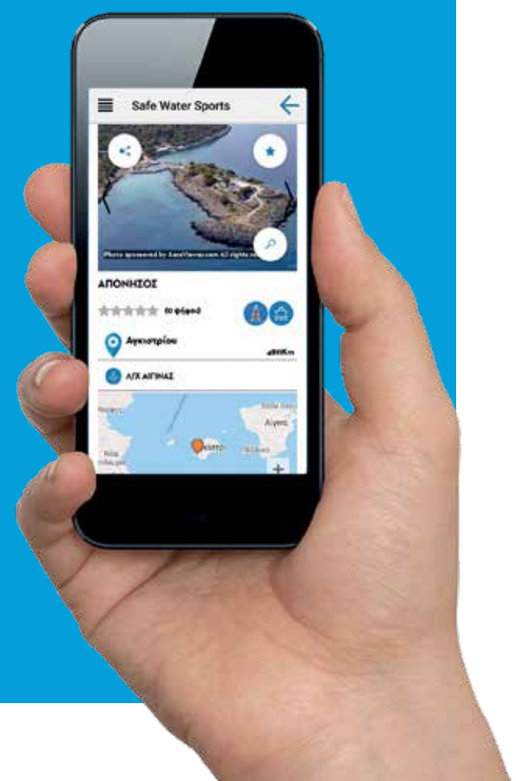
✔ Report any kind of misconduct or illegal activity at sea which puts public safety in danger, as well as use the Organization's e-platform to notify the Port Authorities in order to intervene when necessary

✔ Rate and Comment a water sports - recreation rental center and, by doing so, to reward the best agencies and help the averagely performing agencies to improve and offer better and safer services to the public.

Safe Water Sports mobile app is available online for free on Apple Store and Google Market. To download the mobile application use the following links:

iPhone / iPad: http://apple.co/21rYZyx
Android: http://bit.ly/1UFT4kl





The latest version of Safe Water Sports app includes part of the educational material that has been developed by Stavros Niarchos Foundation donation. The application includes a section (in Greek and English) entitled "LEARN / PLAY" that informs children regarding the safety rules at the beach, in the sea and in water sports, but also a number of quizzes. For the period of June 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019, the total number of users was 68,000 and the number of connection sessions was 100,000.

NIKOS KAKLAMANAKIS
Gold Olympic Winner Windsurfing

SPYROS GIANNIOTIS
Bronze Olympic Winner
10 km open sea swimming

SOFIA PAPADOPOULOU
Bronze Olympic Winner Sailing

CHRISTOS AFROUDAKIS
Silver Olympic Winner Water-polo

ACTIONS FOR CITIZENS' AWARENESS

INSPIRATIONAL VIDEOS OF OLYMPIC WINNER ATHLETES

The Organization has created a series of educational inspirational videos with the support of Neraida Floating Museum by Latsis Foundation and the donation of Stavros Niarchos Foundation in which top Greek Olympic Champions athletes participate.

The videos are part of the educational program of Safe Water Sports, approved by the Ministry of Education. This audiovisual material has gained exceptional results and positive evaluations from both students and teachers who participate in the program.

AWARENESS SIGNS

The awareness signs are a means of informing citizens about the safety code in the sea and in water sports.

Safe Water Sports created the "Code of Conduct at Sea", in order to illustrate in Greek and English the basic safety rules in the sea through signs.

Up to date, the awareness signs are located in:

- 3 beaches in Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni Municipality
- 7 beaches in Saronic, Attica Municipality (A. Nikolaos Lagonissiou, Blue Coast, Saronida, Mavro Litari, Alykes Anavyssos and Palea Fokea)
- 16 beaches in Mykonos Municipality (P. Gialos, Panormos, Elia, Super paradise, Paradise, Paraga, Ornos, Kalafatis, Agia Anna, Psarrou, Agios Ioannis, Agrari, Ftelia, Lia, Agios Sostis, Kalo Livadi) and
- 444 beaches in the prefecture of Central Greece

AWARENESS LEAFLETS

Aegean Airlines

Since August 2019, Safe Water Sports 'flies' with Aegean Airlines. The Organization teams up with Aegean Airlines by giving children the opportunity to be entertained during domestic and international flights, through a specially formed educational leaflet.

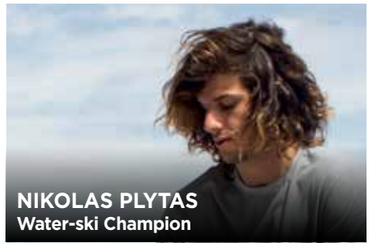
The educational leaflet includes a series of fun games regarding safety in the water and in the sea and it is available in Greek & English. Furthermore, passengers can be informed about the use of the -free to download-Safe Water Sports app from its publication on Aegean's magazine.

Collaboration with Interbus

Collaboration with the outdoor-based advertising company, Interbus, for the promotion of

AGGELIKI KARAPATAKI
Silver Olympic Winner Water-polo

MALKOGEORGOU, TSOLA
PAPAZOGLOU, PLATANIOTI
Synchronized swimming


NIKOLAS PLYTAS
Water-ski Champion

GIORGOS PANAGIOTAKIS
Greek world champion of free diving

IOANNIS DRIMONAKOS
Swimming world champion

ANTONIS TSAPATAKIS
Paralympic winner swimming

awareness posters regarding Safe Water Sports app at the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport

Shipping Companies

Safe Water Sports partners with shipping (ferry) companies such as **Minoan**, **Hellenic Seaways**, **Blue Star Ferries** and **Seajets** through the distribution of informational leaflets regarding Safe Water Sports app on their ships. The activities of the Organization are also presented at the company's magazines in the form of an Advertorial or page cover, social media posts but also through the projection of the Organization's videos on the screens of the ships.

Collaboration with regional roads

Gefyra S.A. (distribution of informational leaflets of Safe Water Sports)

Olympia Odos (distribution of leaflets of Safe Water Sports at 11 Service Stations)

Collaboration with Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport

In 2018, the Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport gave the opportunity to the Organization to inform tourists, prior to their departure, about Safe Water Sports app and its use.

Specially trained volunteers informed tourists on a daily basis through the distribution of leaflets and instantly through the use of a mobile phone that was indicating the app's features.

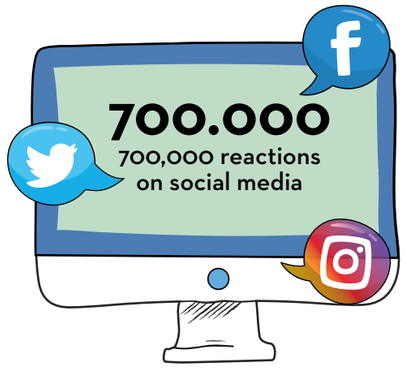
Additionally, the cooperation was reinforced through an online banner of the Organization at the official site of the Airport, social media presence, videos at the screens of the airport and publication of the Organization's activities on 2Board- the official magazine of the airport.

Collaboration with retail stores

Patakis, **DPAM** (through the distribution of Safe Water Sports app at their stores), **Kotsovolos** (Projection of awareness videos of Safe Water Sports where top-Olympic athletes participate, on the screens of the stores), **Arena-Intersport** (distribution of Safe Water Sports products powered by Arena at the stores of Intersport), **Korres** (a special launch line for pharmacies), **Moustakas** (products of Safe Water Sports products powered by Arena at Moustakas stores)

Through awareness campaigns, in 2019 Safe Water Sports managed to inform:

- 40,000 students with the educational program
- 100,000 users through Safe Water Sports app
- children and adults through 2,100 awareness videos on tv and finally
- 200,000 people through the distribution of Safe Water Sports leaflets



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

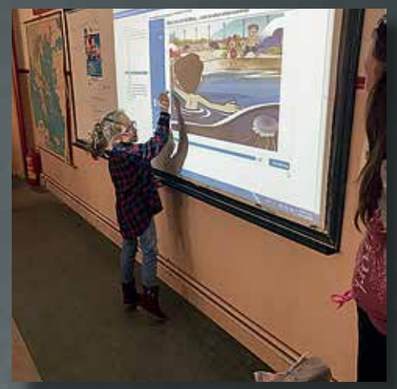
Safe Water Sports Organization has created an educational program for primary schools, that focuses on raising awareness among students of issues related to safety at the beach, in the sea, in water sports and generally in any activities that take place in the water.

The online educational program, that is approved by the Ministry of Education, includes more than 50 activities that combine learning and fun.

The goal of the program is teachers to perform the majority of the program's activities. Only then, is the program's implementation considered complete and successful.

All students participating in the program will receive the 'Sea Musketeer' badge. Safe Water Sports will also award a Certificate of Participation to the children-members of the Group teams and the Volunteer Teachers/ Instructors who supervised the Program.

The program will be completed by all 13 Prefectures in Greece and the regions in Cyprus. Each prefecture that is represented by the school that completed most of the program's activities and the delegation will consist of the Teacher/Instructor and the student leader of the Group accompanied by his/her parents, will participate in the annual 'Conference of the Sea Musketeers' will take place in Athens.



✔ **The program is implemented by a school and is supervised by a teacher/ instructor.**

✔ **It can start at any time during the school year and must be completed by the end of it.**

✔ **It includes more than 50 activities that combine learning and fun.**

✔ **The program offers two sets of activities, depending on the age of the children involved. One is for children aged 6-8 (1st-3rd Grade) and the other for children aged 9-11 (4th – 6th Grade).**

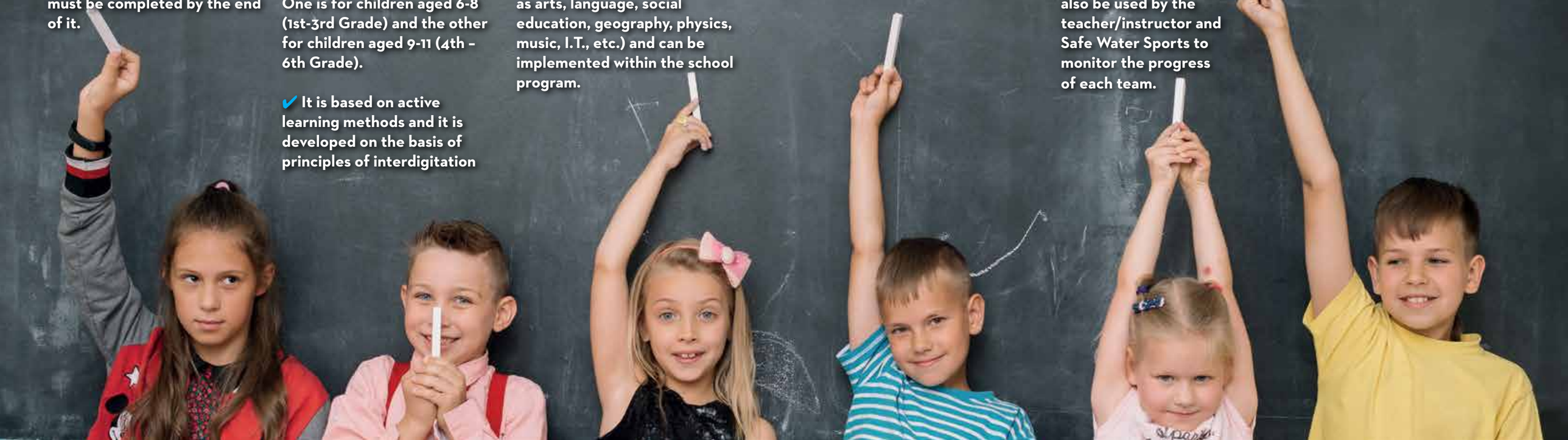
✔ **It is based on active learning methods and it is developed on the basis of principles of interdigitation and the empirical and experiential approach to knowledge.**

✔ **The activities of the program are interdisciplinary combining such disciplines as arts, language, social education, geography, physics, music, I.T., etc.) and can be implemented within the school program.**

✔ **The educational material is structured in a way that allows either the selective development of thematic modules or the implementation of the total material.**

✔ **All the supporting material for teachers / instructors and students is distributed through the e-learning platform of the Safe Water Sports Academy, which can also be used by the teacher/instructor and Safe Water Sports to monitor the progress of each team.**

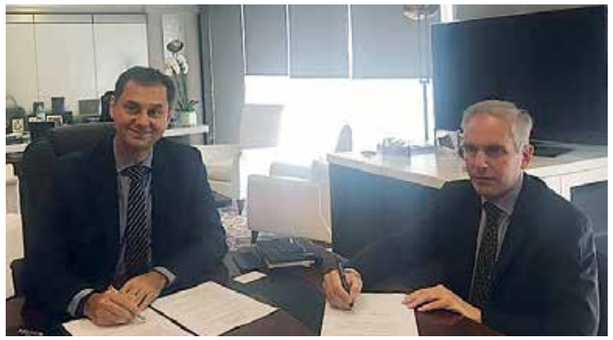
✔ **The program can be implemented throughout the "flexible" school time zone and each group can implement as many activities as it wishes**



Presentation of the educational program of Safe Water Sports under the auspices of the President of the Hellenic Republic

In the presence of the President of the Hellenic Republic, Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, Safe Water Sports presented its educational program about safety in the sea and in water sports at Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center.

During the event, there were speeches by Deputy Ministers, Port Authorities and Olympic winner athletes too.



Memorandum of Cooperation between Ministry of Tourism-Safe Water Sports

On December 19, 2019 a four-year Memorandum of Cooperation was officially signed between the Ministry of Tourism and Safe Water Sports Organization, in order to jointly develop sustainable actions to promote maritime tourism by emphasizing the importance of water safety in the aquatic environment.

Based on the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Haris Theocharis, stated that "The development of special forms of tourism, as the thematic tourism, is of prime importance to us and it is considered as one of the key pillars to our strategy."

1st Conference of the Sea Musketeers of Safe Water Sports

On Saturday, October 5th, 2019, the 1st Conference of Musqueteers of Safe Water Sports, was held at Neraida Floating Museum in Floisvos Marina with the support of John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Education, Mrs. Sophia Zacharaki.

During the Conference, the work of each school that participated in the program was presented. Each school of each Prefecture that was distinguished for completing the online educational program of Safe Water Sports, was honored and awarded with the donation of an educational bag of Safe Water Sports. Each representation was made by the Teacher/Instructor who accomplished the program and the student leader of the Group accompanied by his/her parents.

The children who attended the event participated in an organized guided tour and educational program that was specially designed and implemented by Neraida Floating Museum.

The goal of the ceremony was to award the schools that completed the program successfully with an educational bag and to transform them into representatives-ambassadors of the program in order to ''transmit'' their experiences and pass their knowledge to other schools too.

Athens Academy Award

The Athens Academy Awards of 2019 occurred on Thursday, December 19th, in the context of the annual Festive Meeting of the country's highest spiritual institution.
During the ceremony, the President and Founder of Safe Water Sports, Mr. P. Paschalakis, was awarded regarding the Organization's activities and successes. The honorary award of social contribution was given by the President of Athens Academy, Mr. Vasilis Petrakos.

CHECK -LEARN-CARE

In collaboration with the Hellenic Coast Guard - Directorate of Port Police and the Ministry of Education, Safe Water Sports Organization designed an extended educational program to inform students at schools throughout the country, titled CHECK - LEARN - CARE. This training program, which is based on the consolidation of safety rules in the sea and in water sports, primarily addresses to Primary and Secondary School students and it is carried out during the spring semester of the school year (March - June) throughout Greece. Regarding the redesign of the educational program, the Safe Water Sports team of teachers worked on a voluntary basis in order to provide Port Authorities with safety rules in the sea and in water sports, educational videos, interactive power point presentations and finally animations and quizzes, in order to provide an effective and targeted form of education.

Part of the educational material is formed by a series of inspirational videos that are made with the participation of N. Kaklamanakis, Ch. Afroudakis, S. Papadopoulou, A. Karapataki, N. Plytas, the National Team in Synchronized Swimming (E. Platanioti, S. Malkogeorgou, A. Tsola, E. Papazoglou) and G. Panagiotakis.

In 2019, the Olympic winner athletes-ambassadors of Safe Water Sports visited 11 primary schools in Attica by educating 2.592 children. Throughout Greece, there were 223 visits in primary schools where 26.052 children were educated, 44 visits in High Schools where 4,590 were informed. Totally, in 2019 Safe Water Sports educated 40,000 children, while 250,000 children are educated since 2016.

Educational Bag
Interactive games, especially for young ages, are considered to be the most effective means of education. For this reason, Safe Water Sports has created an educational bag that consists of Playmobil games (a representation of beach and sea activities), activity cards, color books, story cubes (cubes with images stimulating the imagination of children), unscramble the rules, bingo, memory games etc. in order to inform and educate children.
The educational bag is suitable for holiday camps, hotels, swimming pool centers etc.

Safe Water Sports Book & CD for children
Safe Water Sports, whose scope is to reach children from a very young age, collaborates with PATAKIS editions, the author, Mr. Vangelis Iliopoulos and the illustrator Mrs. Vili Karampatzia in order to present a book for children named "The Octopus Safe and the Three Seaguards". The book presents the theme of safety measures in the sea and in water sports through a fairytale story.
Safe Water Sports, in cooperation with MINOS-EMI released its first CD named "dive into blue" that is related to water. The music is composed by D. Sougioul, the lyrics are written by the author V. Iliopoulos, the orchestration - programming is performed by L. Xanthis and the Production's Management is conducted by N. Kokkinos.
MINOS-EMI alongside the artists, Helena Paparizou, Andriana Mpampali, Tamta, Panos Mouzourakis, Thodoris Marantinis, Penny Mpaltatzi and Nandia Kontogeorgi participated in this project voluntarily by supporting the mission of the Organization.

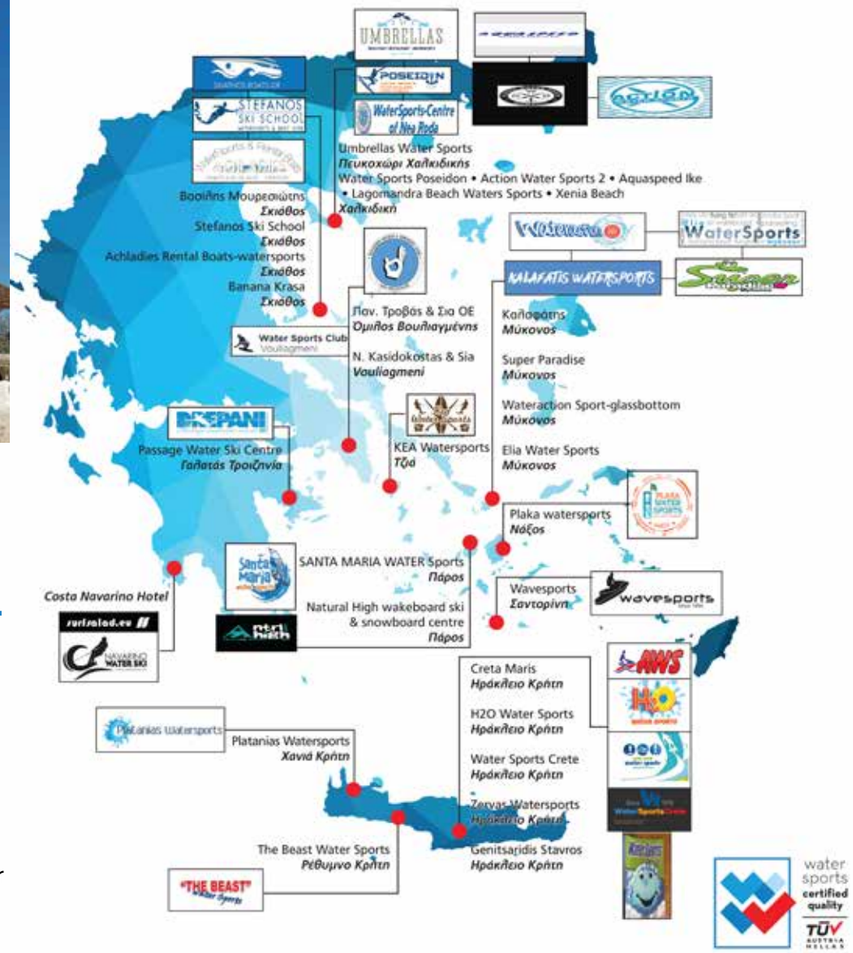
Academy (e-learning)
Safe Water Sports created an online Safe Water Sports created an online distance learning platform that consists of educational games specially formed for students of primary schools. Through this platform, schools can gain access to the educational program of the Organization that is approved by the Ministry of Education but also to a range of other features, such as presentations for summer camps, swimming pools or even for personal use. The aim of the program is the awareness among students on issues related to safety at the beach, in the sea, in the swimming pool and in water sports.
Through this program, children learn to respect, not to be afraid of the water and they gain useful knowledge for the rest of their lives by using the means of technology through the use of this special digital friendly platform that consists of video, quizzes, illustrations etc.
http://e-learning.safewatersports.gr/en/normal/academy

EDUCATIONAL-AWARENESS CENTERS

In 2018, Safe Water Sports in cooperation with Municipalities created three educational & awareness centers with the scope to educate our “little” friends for safety measures in the sea and in water sports through a series of games. The centers are located on the beaches of Vouliagmeni (across Astir)/Kavouri, Plaka in Dilessi and for a third year in a row at Kalo Livadi beach in Mykonos. At these centers, that operate from 11:00 - 18:00 on a daily basis, children have the ability to participate in a range of interesting activities such as: target games, music pillows, constructions, painting, bingo, find the errors games etc. that combine knowledge and fun.

SAFETY CERTIFICATION FOR WATER SPORTS RENTAL CENTERS

TÜV AUSTRIA HELLAS, an independent inspection and certification body, joins forces with Safe Water Sports to improve the safety measures in water sports centers. The two parties have developed a Private Certification Protocol for Licensed Water Sports Centers for the certification of relevant businesses, provided they meet specific safety standards in order to receive the “Water Sports certified quality” Label.
The Water Sports Certified Quality protocol emphasizes on functional requirements for water sports and recreational centers, focusing on safety standards, quality services and customer care.



In total, 39 water sports centers have been certified through this model. These water sports centers are located in: Costa Navarino hotel, Four Seasons Astir Palace, Nautical Association of Vouliagmeni, Naxos, Chalkidiki, Paros, Chania, Irakleio, Rethymno, Galata Troizinia, Perivolos in Santorini, Kea and Skiathos island.
The objective of the protocol is to identify the standards and requirements as key-elements of the Private Protocol in terms of the following points: requirements of the activity space, infrastructure, safety equipment, equipment and water sports and recreation means, education, skills and training of the personnel regarding the use of equipment and the provision of services etc.

The objective of the Private Protocol is to constitute the first and fully dedicated “Private Greek Compliance Control Organization” for the Marking and Promotion of water sports rental centers which are certified and comply with the pertinent requirements.

Additionally, based on a decision made by the Ministry of Tourism, the existence of certification of facilities and equipment regarding water sports centers and recreational activities such as the “water sports certified quality” model issued by TUV Austria Hellas, it participates also in the star rating category for each hotel.

NATIONAL DAY FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEA-BASED ACCIDENTS & DROWNINGS

Collaboration between the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy and Safe Water Sports as Greece is the 1st country that establishes a "National Day for the Prevention of Sea-Based Accidents & Drownings".

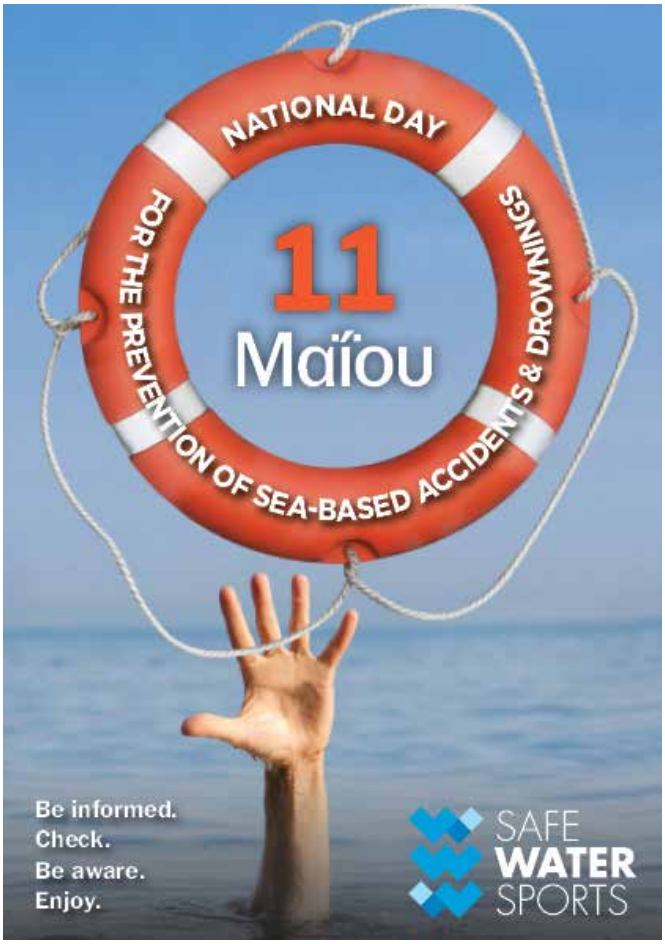
SAFE WATER SPORTS

www.safewatersports.gr

11B Konitsis Str.
Maroussi, Athens

Available on the App Store

Google play



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