

### 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, 344 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. • Pages 12-15



### 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. • Pages 6-7



### 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.

Since 2018, the Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy, taking into consideration the Organization's proposals in cooperation with the relevant sectoral authorities, proceeded with the reform of the General Regulation No. 20 regarding water sports.

In addition, the legislative initiative regarding lifeguard coverage at beaches and lifeguarding schools was completed (PD 71/2020). The Strict fines on new PD includes significant institutions that improvements Improvement do not place in the field of of lifeguard's lifeguards on reinforcing education lifeguard coverage beaches as in our country required such as:



### DIGITAL CONTROLS FOR SUPERVISION OF WATER SPORTS RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES BY THE PORT AUTHORITIES

Safe Water Sports cooperates with the Port Authorities in order to develop joint initiatives to reinforce safety at sea and reduce drownings. The Organization developed and provided a unique software that facilitates the monitoring regarding the digital performance of inspections at lifeguards' positions at beaches, professionals, water sports centers, etc. Through this upgrade, the controls are performed via a tablet and the officers of the Coast Guard have online access to the information they may need, while any violations will be recorded in real time.

The supply of the first required mobile devices was made with the support of the Ministry of Digital Governance. With this upgrade, the bureaucracy is abolished, the controls become more targeted, simpler, faster and more efficient. The vision of the Ministry and Safe Water Sports is to create the best possible practices, capable of becoming a pilot for Europe and around the world in order to protect for human's life at sea.

The upgrade and enrichment of the Information System of the Port Police, that has been developed and donated by Safe Water Sports, has been sponsored by Alpha Bank.



#### LAUNCH OF AN OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF PRECAUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

The office of "Digital Management of Maritime Activities and Safety at Sea", which is located at the Port Police Directorate of the Ministry of Shipping



& Isiland Policy, was created to support the increased operational requirements and support of the Port Information Authority (provided by Safe Water Sports) as well as the awareness actions implemented by the Port Authorities throughout the country (such as at schools, municipalities, etc.) in cooperation with the Organization.

Change of the Change of the **Increase of** examination conditions at the lifeguard's method in order beaches that coverage time by 1 to increase require the hour (10:00-17:00) the number of existence of and possibility of a lifeguard in lifeguards that local committees graduate every order to increase for further increase lifeguard coverage year



### **OBSERVATORY OF ACCIDENTS**







### CAUSE OF DEATH IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES 2017-2019



### DEATHS IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO LOCATION 2017-2019



Sports swimming pool





### INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Since 2018, Safe Water Sports has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port Police of Cyprus in order to cooperate on issues related to safety in the sea. Based on this cooperation, 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 the French Institute, Safe Water Sports has developed joint initiatives with the scope to inform French citizens in 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.

In collaboration with the British Embassy, Safe Water Sports informs British citizens and tourists about water safety through the official social networks of the Embassy. In July 2020, the British Embassy together with Safe Water Sports organized an online event in the presence of the Minister of Shipping and Island Policy, Mr. Ioannis Plakiotakis, where they discussed their joint actions for a safe summer at Greek seas.

Both French and British Embassy, have incorporated Safe Water Sports app at the official website of the Ministry of Foreigners in France and UK accordingly, by advising visitors and tourists to download this application in order to enjoy water sports in a safe way.



# Safe Water Sports mobile 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





#### Απόλαυσε τη θάλασσα και τα σπορ με ασφάλεια!

Καλοκαίρι, θάλασσα, παιχνίδια στην παραλία και στο νερά. Θαλάσσια στορ, tubes, σκι, βόλετς με μηχανοιώητα ακάρη extreme sports με flyboards για όσους αναζητούν μοναδικά στημές με την αδρείναλίνη να χτυπάς, κάκκινο ή χαλαρωτικές περιπλανήσεις με θαλάστια ποδήλατα, κανό, κλη

Ξέρετε όμως αν μια επιχείρηση ή σχολή είναι νόμιμη, FrupiZete toug savoyeg as



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.





και βρες σε Ελλάδα & Κύπρο... Download the app and find

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Beaches	A8 (?
	A.475
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	*
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Enjoy the sea and watersports in Greece with safety!

Summer, sea, fun beach games. Water sports , tubes, skiing, ndes on speed boats, extreme sports with flyboards for those seeking unique moments with the adrenaline pounding red or a relaxing pastime with pedal see bikes, canoes , etc.

But do you know if a watersports centre is licensed? Are you aware of safety regulations?



### AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR ELDER PEOPLE REGARDING THEIR SAFETY AT SEA





1

Always go swimming with someone else and choose a beach monitored by a lifeguard.

2

Always swim parallel to the shore, never vertically and never to the point of exhaustion.

The safest thing is to swim only where you can touch bottom.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy, the Hellenic Coast Guard, the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Health, the Floating Museum Neraida and John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, the new awareness campaign of Safe Water Sports for elder people regarding their safety at sea, consists of a series of safety rules and suggestions such as:

Always use a flotation device in deep water.

I do not float vertically for too long, as I am at risk of hypertension and hypothermia. In the water I am always moving and swimming.

6

5

I never swim right after eating or drinking.

Listen to your heart. Don't overdo it. It is always a good idea to advise your doctor in case of any medical issues.

In case of any medication please advise your doctor first.

If you are diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer or any other neurological disorder, you should always be accompanied by someone else.

Step in and step out into the sea gradually. It is a good idea to have some water to your face first before you get in.

If you feel cramps or dizziness, seek for help and try to get out of the water without panic in slow movements.

9

10







Bronze Olympic Winner 10 km open sea swimming







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.



AGGELIKI KARAPATAKI Silver Olympic Winner Water-polo



GIORGOS PANAGIOTAKIS Greek world champion of free diving



PAPAZOGLOU, PLATANIOTI Synchronized swimming



IOANNIS DRIMONAKOS Swimming world champion









Based on a series of awareness campaigns, Safe Water Sports informs:

> **70.000** Safe Water Sports App downloads

> > 1

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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





#### **Collaboration with Interbus**

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



### 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. Panagiotaki, I. Drimonakos, A. Tsapatakis.



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.



#### 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.

### **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.





### **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

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

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.

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

✓ 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.

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1



### "Safety at sea" included in the official curriculum for elementary schools

In September 2020, the Institute of Educational Policy and the Ministry of Education decided to include the educational program of Safe Water Sports named "Safety at sea, in water sports and in swimming pool" at the official timetable of primary education.

The educational program which is available in the platform of IEP entitled "Platform 21+" in the section: "Live better - Live well-Self-care, Safety and Prevention, Road safety" addresses to students of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th Grade. The program which is accompanied by specially formed books for both students and teachers includes the basic rules of safety in the aquatic environment through educational activities and interactive games.

Like all the rest educational programs included in the platform, Safe Water Sports program, was evaluated by a research team of the IEP, in order to design a curriculum for each thematic cycle / laboratory, graded by age, and to establish an open source e-learning platform to develop digital skill in



the 21st century (21+ Platform).

It is about a substantial attempt to establish the use of multiple sources and media, with the ultimate goal of developing critical thinking and comparative analysis. The teaching will be executed by instructors who have completed the required training first.

Skills Workshops are part of the mandatory, weekly schedule of schools, with the goal of providing students with life skills, mild skills and digital literacy skills.







#### 2nd Conference of the Sea Musketeers

On Friday, October 9th, the 2nd Conference of Musqueteers of Safe Water Sports was held at the Neraida Floating Museum in Floisvos Marina.

The conference was organized with the support of the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation under the online presence of the Deputy Minister of Education, Mrs. Sofia Zacharaki.

For a second year in a row, one school of each Prefecture in Greece and this year one school in Cyprus, were awarded based on their performance of the online educational program of Safe Water Sports during the school year.

During the online conference, each school presented all the work that was completed by the students and at the same time it was highlighted the importance of the educational, interactive games formed by the Organization.

Additionally, teachers had the chance to discuss all together and exchange opinions regarding the content of the educational program and provide any improvements.





## Educational visits at the Premises of the Organization

Safe Water Sports organizes a unique educational, digital-based and entertaining interactive program at its premises (11B Konitsis Str, Maroussi, 15125, Athens) in order to educate-inform primary school students on issues related to safety at sea and in water sports. Students are engaged in using technology through a series of interactive games in order to have a greater understanding of the basic safety guidelines at sea.

The participation of students is at no cost and this initiative is supported by "Young Heroes" (Stoiximan).





SAFE WATER SPORTS









### **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 lliopoulos 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.



SAFETY IN THE SEA AND IN WATER SPORTS

#### 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



## СХОЛЕЮ/ БИЛАДЕЧТИКОЗ ОРГАНИЕМИИ НАЮТНЕ НАЮТНЕ НАЮТНЕ НАЮТНЕ Накотная Винански Винански





### 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.



SAFETY IN THE SEA AND IN WATER SI

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.

### 20 SAFE SPORTS SAFETY IN THE SEA AND IN WATER SPORTS

### **COOPERATION WITH MINISTRIES AND PUBLIC BODIES**



### Event in the presence of PM Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis

The Ministry of Shipping and Island Policy in collaboration with the Municipality of Vari-Voula-Vouliagmeni and Safe Water Sports, organized an event about the "Education-Awareness-Precaution of safety at sea". On Friday, June 12, 2020 the event was organized with great success at the Municipal Theater of Voula "Sofia Vempo" in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Minister of Shipping & Island Policy Minister, Mr. Yiannis Plakiotakis, the Minister of Health, Mr. Vassilis Kikilias, the Minister of Tourism, Mr. Harris Theocharis and the Deputy Minister of Education, Mrs. Sofia Zacharaki.

During the event, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mitsotakis emphasized that "the state is obliged to upgrade the current institutional framework, and will do so. We must treat the sea with respect and the same must be done by businesses related to the sea. Safe seas means upgraded tourist product for Greece."



### Central Union of Greek Municipalities

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Central Union of Greek Municipalities, the National Association of Lifeguards in Greece and Safe Water Sports in order to promote the development of joint actions regarding the reduction of drownings and sea-based accidents.

#### **Ministry of Sports**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Safe Water Sports and the Ministry of Sports in order to raise awareness regarding safety at sea.

Safe Water Sports participates in the awareness campaign named "Live in an athletic way", through which athletes of the wet field are called to inform and give advice on water safety and educational issues to students.

Additionally, Safe Water Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports, agreed on the exchange of information by the General Secretary of Sports to the Ministry of Shipping in order to manage more effective controls regarding the qualification levels of the employed staff at water sports centers. This is the first time, for the last five years, that such a cooperation was achieved.







**Ministry of Tourism** 

Ministry of Tourism in cooperation with Safe Water Sports managed to form a legislative regulation related to lifeguard coverage at hotels (diving tourism legislation) that requires:

> For the first time, the mandatory physical presence of a lifeguard at the swimming pools of hotels that have a depth of more than 1.5 meters.

) Lifeguards at hotels to be graduates of accredited lifeguard schools of the country and have specific training conditions.

## Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of the Citizen Protection

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Civil Protection, Mr. Eleftherios Oikonomou, the Leader of EL.AS., Lieutenant Michael Karamalakis and the President of Safe Water Sports Mr. Panagiotis Paschalakis, regarding the protection of human's life in the inland water environment of our country. The Ministry of Civil Protection collected and registered data regarding drownings in inland waters (such as lakes, rivers, swimming pools, etc.) for the Safe Water Sports Incidents Report. The goal is this action to become a central tool in developing a national strategy for the reduction of drownings and deaths in the aquatic environment.



#### **Ministry of Health**

### Cooperation with the National Public Health Organization

The President of the National Public Health Organization Mr. Panagiotis Arkoumaneas and the founder of the non-profit organization Safe Water Sports Mr. Panagiotis Paschalakis, agreed on a series of initiatives enhancing safety in the sea and the reductions of drownings.

The partnership between the two organizations creates the conditions for a substantial enhancement of safety in the sea that for the first time enters a solid foundation through specific initiatives and multiple actions such as inspections and special signage on beaches, strict rules in water sports centers, awareness of citizens regarding the safety and morphology of all Greek beaches,



epidemiological surveillance of accidents in water activities, as well as an awareness campaign regarding the safety in the sea for elder people, are now priorities not only for "Safe Water Sports" but also for many other bodies such as NPHO, the Ministry of Shipping, the Directorate Port Police of the Coast Guard and the Ministry of Health.

NPHO will support and strengthen information and awareness campaigns, will inform

all Municipalities about the urgent need to develop a series of initiatives, will organize an online training program for the scientific staff of the Friendship Clubs and KAPI that provide services to older people, it will take care of the safety of our children and will make every effort to make it clear that in this life and this summer the most important thing is safety for all.

#### Cooperation with the National Emergency Center

Safe Water Sports collaborated with the scientific committee of the National Emergency Center to confirm the content included in the awareness campaign, launched by Safe Water Sports under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, regarding the protection of the elderly at sea.

### 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".



www.safewatersports.gr 11B Konitsis Str. Maroussi, Athens





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