

Sailors for the Sea Clean Regatta Platinum Level Sustainability Report



EurILCA 6 Youth European Championships and Open European Trophy 2023

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1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations:



The regatta town was equipped with two water dispensers. The water was sourced from the municipal supply, and the faucets had additional filters. Thanks to this, we avoided the need to buy plastic bottles and unnecessary trips to refill the dispensers. All the judges received water bottles as part of their starter packs for refilling.

2. Eliminate Plastic Straws:

As a policy, we do not provide straws. The nearby café situated near our office regatta area exclusively offers biodegradable straws.

3. Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware:



The regatta participants had full access to ecological guidelines provided online and on external posters - right at the entrance to the "chill zone" where meals were served. The tableware was made from biodegradable materials - bowls, plates, and cups were made of paper, while utensils were made from pasta.

4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags:



In this year's edition, we didn't use any bags for distributing starter packs as there was no need for them. In past years, the organizers had provided only reusable bags. Additionally, lunches and sandwiches for judges and staff are now served in paper bags, eliminating the use of plastic packaging.

5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy:



The medals for Gdynia Sailing Days are produced without specifying a date, class, or gender. This way, any unused medals from a particular year are saved for the next edition of the sailing event. During smaller-scale championships, winners receive prizes made from sails that are no longer suitable for sailing. We collaborate with a company that repurposes old sails into backpacks, cosmetic bags, totes, and pouches.

6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts:



The sailing season has begun in a big way on social media. Together with the athletes of the Polish Yachting Association, we created an eco-hashtag contest, in which the main prize was a backpack made from the sail of cadets in the 49er class. The winning hashtag #EarthBound is the slogan for the eco-friendly activities. The Polish Yachting Association is also pushing for the promotion of ecological activities on the Internet and social media, for which reason weekly reports and educational posts have been created under the slogan #ecologicalwednesdays. All activities were promoted equally on websites and social media, but they also gained popularity in Polish newspapers.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CuzW3WHuD_W/

<https://gdyniasailingdays.org/en/news/gdynia-sailing-days-even-more-eco-friendly->

<https://gdyniasailingdays.org/en/news/cleaning-of-the-beach-and-marina-during-gdynia-sailing-days>

<https://expressbiznesu.pl/2023/09/06/polskie-zeglarstwo-z-zielona-misja/>

7. Involve Local Organizations:



During the Sustainable Regatta campaign, Port Gdynia- Local water supplier, contributed by offering reusable metal bottles to participants as rewards for taking part in an educational contest held every Saturday throughout the entire event month. The local food provider also exclusively offered food in

biodegradable containers.

WWF Poland played a central role in the event as the primary partner, operating educational booths for sailors and local tourists every weekend throughout the day. Together with WWF, we organized attractions such as: WWF's Blue Patrol educational booth, marina clean- up, educational panel on pollution.

8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage:



During the organization of the regatta, we paid special attention to the materials we used for assembly. Our primary intention was to use biodegradable, reusable, or low-waste materials. Frequently, we made use of bamboo poles, which are ideal for multiple uses. Our waste segregation markers are built to last for years, boat markings were crafted from natural materials like wood, and the bicycle racks were created from small architectural elements. The eco-instruction poster was crafted from waterproof material, ensuring its longevity for years to come.

9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably:

Daily meals prepared for participants, coaches, and regatta staff were supplied by a local provider who also operated sustainably.

10. Organize a Green Team:



The Green Team encompasses all individuals actively involved in the planning and execution of sustainable regattas. Beyond the Director of the main regatta organizer, the Polish Sailing Association, we also recognize a Green Officer responsible for overseeing all sustainability procedures. Additionally, a journalist from the Media Team creatively promotes and encourages sustainability initiatives. Our regatta staff diligently sought eco-friendly solutions to reduce plastic usage and minimize our environmental impact.

We also received valuable support from representatives of the European association ILCA, specializing in sustainability. Together with the Green Officer, they explored various sustainability options and conducted in-depth sustainability assessments.

The presence of WWF volunteers added a fresh perspective to our team, and their willingness to collaborate in future events reaffirms their membership in the Green Team.

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage:



The waste bins are clearly marked, and the entire assembly is built from environmentally friendly materials such as wood or materials designed for long-term use. The entire structure is intended for future reuse, underlining our commitment to sustainability. Our staff and volunteers diligently inspected and sorted waste on a daily basis to ensure that the final waste disposal process remained environmentally conscious. In the end, we chose not to install a bin for organic waste, considering the daily influx of tourists in the marina. Our aim was to prevent unnecessary items from being disposed of in the biodegradable waste bin. Waste sorting containers were placed in key locations within the marina to ensure they could be easily found and were always within reach.

13. Use Paperless Event Management:

The regatta registration process is online, eliminating the need for unnecessary paper printing and consumption. All communication, announcements, updates and results are accessible through dedicated websites and messaging platforms.

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up:





During the Youth European Championships in the ILCA 6 class, held in the marina of Gdynia and throughout the regatta area, a cleanup took place. Competitors, organizers, officials, and WWF Blue Patrol volunteers made every effort to tidy up the regatta village. Although trash wasn't initially visible, in the end, several bags of waste were collected and promptly sorted for responsible disposal.

15. Promote Alternative Transportation:



The city of Gdynia is highly accommodating to cycling, with bike lanes spanning across the entire city. Despite the absence of dedicated bike rack suppliers, we managed to create them using available urban infrastructure materials. These bicycle racks were ingeniously crafted from barriers and strategically placed in the most popular locations, clearly marked for easy use. They enjoyed significant popularity.

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection:



WWF's Blue Patrol Volunteers share incredible knowledge about marine life and participate in our sustainable project. They regularly assist seals, porpoises, seabirds, and other marine animals in need of support in the Baltic Sea. During the event, they conducted educational panels for regatta participants, but their knowledge was also directed towards tourists. WWF Poland is implementing the GhostDiver app #BałtykBezSieciWidmo, directly aimed at sailors and all water and ocean enthusiasts. Through our collaboration, we aim to promote the app among sailors.

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives:

30% of the food provided was vegetarian, and on specific days, only vegetarian meals were served.

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Throughout the entire regatta, we refrained from distributing stickers. This approach allowed us to save plastic equivalent to 800 stickers for a single event and, looking at the broader picture, more than 3,000 boat stickers for side events! In essence, during the event, no stickers found their way into the Baltic Sea!

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water



In the Sustainable Regatta Guidelines, prominently displayed in key areas such as the race office, measurement area, and the chill-out zone, we've established the principle of "water only washdowns." The café located centrally within the marina, right next to the race office, employs natural chemicals.

20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

As part of our sustainability promotion, we're showcasing backpacks, toiletry bags, and tote bags made from the old sails of our athletes. The Green Officer's backpack serves as daily advertising for "sail-made items," our "EarthBound" program, and the store where you can purchase products crafted from the sails of polish Olympians.

Bonus Opportunities:





As part of our educational efforts, we organized a contest in which a reusable bottle was the prize. The contest involved returning five plastic bottles and answering an environmental question. Participants included all marina users, including children, teenagers, coaches, parents, and staff.