



ALFAC

(Aquatic Literacy for All Children)

Erasmus+ Sport Programme's "Aquatic Literacy For All Children" Project presents Key Findings during the Closing Ceremony in Brussels

The 'Aquatic Literacy For All Children' project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Sport programme, presented its main results during the closing ceremony. The groundbreaking initiative, which involved a large-scale study across 7 European countries and testing the "Can Swim" level of 3,500 children, has provided invaluable insights into the state of aquatic literacy level among young Europeans.

Key Project Results :

- **European benchmarks by age group:** The project successfully developed age groups specific European benchmarks, providing countries with a clear understanding of their strengths and areas for improvement in teaching "Can Swim" to children.
- **High motivation, enjoyment and confidence:** The data revealed that European children exhibit high levels of motivation, enjoyment, and confidence when learning to swim, underlining the positive impact of early aquatic education.
- **Risk perception challenges:** Despite enthusiasm for learning to swim, the project also highlighted that many children struggle to perceive risks in swimming in pools or open water, raising awareness of the need to improve safety education.
- **Desire to explore aquatic activities:** The study confirmed that children across Europe show a strong desire to discover and engage in various aquatic activities, suggesting potential for engaging in aquatic physical activities throughout life.

The project's findings serve as a vital resource for educators, policymakers, and sports professionals, offering a comprehensive understanding of the current state of aquatic literacy level in Europe.

The specific results for France are summarised here:

- French children fall below European standards in all basic aquatic motor skills, which enable them to move safely in, on and around water.
- French children progress from ages 6 to 12 without catching up to European standards.
- French children perceive themselves to be less skilled than their European counterparts.
- French children are less motivated and less confident than their European counterparts when learning to swim.
- Boys perceive themselves to be better than girls and are more confident in deep water.
- Boys are more interested in water activities than girls, with the exception of artistic swimming.

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