

16th EUSA European Universities Rowing Championship Officially Opened in Zagreb

The Opening Ceremony of the 16th EUSA European Universities Rowing Championship was held on August 26, 2026, at Lake Jarun in Zagreb

For the third time, the University of Zagreb is hosting this championship, with the regatta course at the Jarun Sports and Recreation Center gathering over 460 participants from 75 universities across 23 European countries from August 26 to 29, 2026.

During the Opening Ceremony, speeches were delivered to the assembled athletes and distinguished guests by Mrs Jasenka Ostojić, Vice-Rector for Arts, Culture, and Inter-University Cooperation (representing the Rector of the University of Zagreb); Mr Luka Korlaet, Deputy Mayor of the City of Zagreb; Mr Davor Pavlović, President of the Zagreb Academic Sports Association; Krešimir Šamija, Director of the Directorate for Sport at the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia (envoy of Prime Minister Andrej Plenković and the Minister of Sports); Mr Mićo Ljubenko, President of the Zagreb Rowing Federation; Mr Andreas Csonka, Ladies and gentlemen, Chair of the Rowing Technical Committee and Member of the EUSA Executive Committee, and Mr Tomislav Paškvalin, Envoy of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

In his address, Davor Pavlović highlighted Zagreb's extensive experience in hosting rowing and major academic sports events:

"We are thrilled to host you and delighted to see so many student-athletes competing here. I would like to thank the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Zagreb, EUSA, the University of Zagreb, the Zagreb Rowing Federation, and all our partners for their support in organizing this event. I hope you have a wonderful time in Zagreb, and I wish you great sporting success."

Krešimir Šamija welcomed the student-athletes to Croatia and Zagreb, noting that the Croatian Government has supported more than 60 top-tier sporting events this year alone, stressing that academic sport - a source of special pride - enjoys the full backing of the Republic of Croatia.

Andreas Csonka emphasized in his speech that the gathered student-athletes have committed to two demanding disciplines - training the body and training the mind - a choice of which they should be proud:

"I wish you a great and fair competition. I encourage you to respect your competitors on the field of play and let fair play define this championship."



Student crews competing in the championship come from Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the host nation, Croatia.

A distinctive feature of EUSA competitions is that students compete as direct representatives of their higher education institutions, regardless of their country of origin. Croatian colors will be defended on home water by student-athletes and crews from three institutions: the host University of Zagreb, alongside the University of Split and Rochester Institute of Technology Croatia (RIT Croatia).

The final races are scheduled for Saturday, August 29, 2026.

More information is available on the official website: <https://rowing2026.eusa.eu/>

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