

Next Edition :



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DO CASTELO**
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CANDIDATA

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**Atlantic
Games**

The Watersports Festival of European Youth





Atlantic Games

The Watersports Festival of European Youth

At the origin, the Atlantic Watersports Games were born out of a desire of several European celtic Cities and Regions from the Atlantic Arc to promote marine activities through an international competition for young people.

Since 1995, between 300 and 400 young athletes compete each year in sailing, rowing, kayaking, surfing, surf life saving, open waters swimming and finswimming, to place their region or their city on the highest step of the podium.

An international competition supported by Europe

The Games actively showcase traditional and new water sports as well as the main sites where they are practiced in the Atlantic area.

At the first European marine leisure conference that took place at the end of October 2011 in Brest, France, the Atlantic Games were highlighted as a key event in the development of water sports and Atlantic maritime culture.

This competition, supported by the Atlantic Arc Commission, the Atlantic Cities Conference as well as the European Commission, also aims to strenghten every year the network of people involved in water sports thanks to the Erasmus + Sport - D.A.W.N Project.

In 2018, the Atlantic Games won the Atlantic Award for "Accessibility and connectivity" handed by the Atlantic Strategy Group which is composed by representatives of the five Atlantic Members States and the European Institutions (DG Mare).



A high level sport event

The Atlantic Area is one of the world's main marine basins used for water sports. Athletes from this area have regularly reached the Olympic podium.

The Games bring together young people of the highest regional, national and sometimes international level in water sport disciplines recognised by international sports Federations.

Based on its international nature, it's an incredibly rich sporting experience for young people that are aiming for futures on the World and Olympic level.

More open than the selection for the World or European Championships, the Games allow sports federations to send and watch young hopefuls athletes in a rewarding international challenge.



The Spirit of the Games

Beyond the competition, for already 10 000 young people the Atlantic Games embody the daily development of European citizenship. They have also contributed since 1995 to these strong values :

Maritime values :

- Solidarity
- Commitment
- Sharing

Olympic Values:

- Excellence
- Respect
- Friendship

The Atlantic Watersports Committee.



The Committee is in charge of promoting water sports on the Atlantic Coast and contributing more effectively to the emergence of shared watersports projects linked with the Action Plan of Atlantic Strategy.

Its actions aims to contribute to the Atlantic Strategy and, especially, to its first priority « Promote entrepreneurship and innovation» in particular in the field of maritime education, with for example the Erasmus + Education - Atlantic Youth project, as well as to the fourth priority « Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development»