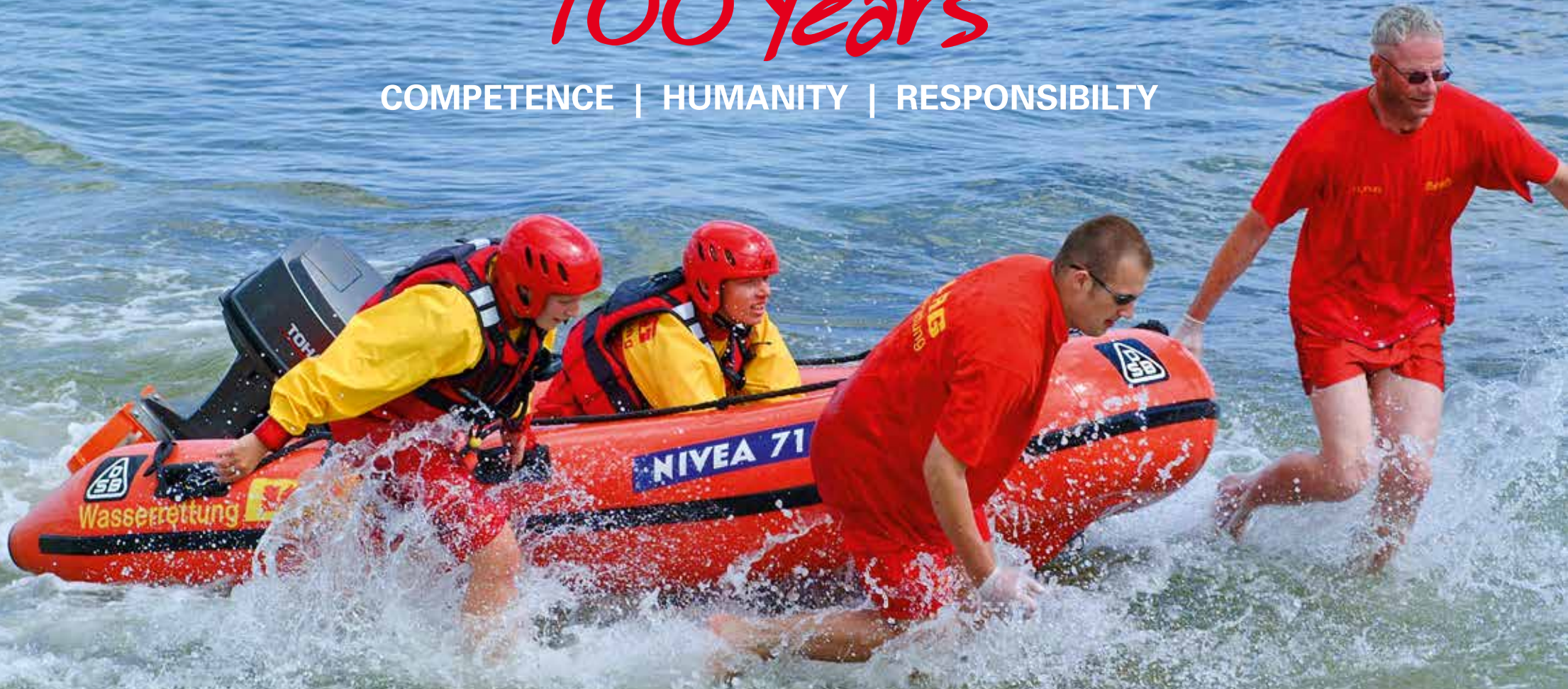


# DLRG

*100 Years*

COMPETENCE | HUMANITY | RESPONSIBILITY





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## 100 YEARS DLRG - INFORMATION - EDUCATION - OPERATION

### Dear Members, Sponsors, Partners & Friends,

In Binz on the island of Rügen in 1912, more than one thousand people were crowded on the Sea Bridge in anticipation of the arrival of a steamer, when suddenly a part of the pier collapsed into the sea and more than one hundred people went in with it. The result was 16 persons drowned, some of which were children. Regretfully, few of the bystanders were able to help, this due to the fact that few among them were able to swim. Nationwide at that time in 1912 the average annual rate of drowning for the country was approximately five thousand people who sadly lost their lives through drowning accidents. This disaster motivated a number of people in the community on 19th of October 1913 to found a Federation to assist in the teaching of swimming, lifesaving and water awareness. Its primary aim was the teaching of swimming to young and old, and to inform them about secure conduct and safety in, on or near water, coupled with the education of lifesavers. The establishment of this Federation was in fact the birthday of the DLRG and the start of a centenary record of success in promoting the aims and goals of the Founding Members of the DLRG one hundred years ago. Unfortunately, only a few documents of record from those early periods remain, but we can thankfully present an impressive statistical record for the years from 1950 up to 2012 inclusive, in which more than 65.000 lifesaving tasks took place and more than 26 million persons were trained in swimming and lifesaving. The drowning death rate in the year 1913 nationwide has decreased by more than 90 per cent, which is a historical fact. The DLRG with more than 1.1 millions of Members and Sponsors is considered as one of the most efficient voluntary Lifesaving Federations worldwide, and this is achieved through the voluntary commitment and dedica-

tion in more than 2.000 Local Clubs, and up to 50.000 honorary lifesavers, who commit approximately 2 million hours of teaching and lifeguarding per year. This commitment over one hundred years, from so many dedicated people has to be appreciated and it is only because of this that our Federation (The DLRG) has grown and become the outstanding and great organisation we know, love and respect today! For many decades we have remained true to the principle tasks as envisaged by the Founding Members of the DLRG, but not alone that, over the years, we have built on and consolidated them throughout the decades since establishment. This resulting in three principle tasks which can be defined as follows:

**Information:** Early and continual safety information about hazards and risks on, in, or near water.

**Education:** Education in swimming and lifesaving, general water safety awareness, first aid and resuscitation, coupled with advanced and further education of lifesavers up to tutors and operation services, which includes white water rescuing, rescue boat drivers, operation divers, radio communication, etc.

**Operation:** Establishing a nationwide coverage of water rescue services both inland and at the coast, coupled with a greater participation in public rescue services and disaster prevention.

Furthermore, we deal with lifesaving sport and youth welfare through encouraging involvement in the many programmes that we have on offer within the DLRG. This brochure presents in the following pages a compact summary of the wide range of activities and educational programmes on offer. The DLRG is a

member of International Life Saving (both World and European Region), Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (a German charitable institution), German Olympic Committee and Deutscher Spendenrat (a German donation institution), thus we are integrated in social affairs both on the national and international scene. The DLRG is prepared to build upon and maintain into the future all that has been achieved over the past 100 years, demonstrating humanity, competency and responsibility towards saving of life from drowning such as happened on the Island of Rügen in 1912.

In the name of our Federation and its great tradition, we say "thank you" to all for supporting the aims, goals and tasks of DLRG by selfless and honorable commitment at all times, we thank the many Benefactors for their material and financial donations given generously to a humanitarian cause.

We need this same commitment that has seen us through these last hundred years and in return be assured that your service and help is highly valued, welcomed and important for a continued strong DLRG for the next hundred years.

Sincerely;

Dr. Klaus Wilkens





EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY EDUCATION LEADS TO SAFETY

Water is life and breathes life, but it also takes it away. Many people have differing views with regard to what water has to offer, but for most of us, it is an essential element offering joy and risk in equal measures at the same time. The oceans, rivers and lakes fascinate and give us great joy when admired or travelling on, and indeed sustain us through the provision of food also. For those of us who have experienced the refreshment when swimming or participated in water sports, they have a special understanding of the joy and fascination that water has to offer to each of us.

However, water is also a destructive power of nature with unrestrained force and unpredictable treacherousness, which has claimed uncountable human lives both in our country and worldwide. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once wrote: "Water is a friendly element – for those who know how to dominate

it." Here the poet is greatly mistaken "Water can't be dominated, but people can learn how to cope with it and how to recognise and avoid risks. That's the task we attend to in the field of information.

Information about safe behavior in, on or near water is a good idea. Jumping into an unknown stretch of water or swimming during a thunderstorm surely cannot be considered as a safe practice. And there are many other behaviors, which can be hazardous also! Our bathing rules advise and help persons to estimate their ability and competence when participating in water related activities and therefore giving good information and sound advice with regard to safety and risk involved. The same is true during winter, the ice rules help enjoying frozen stretches of water safely.

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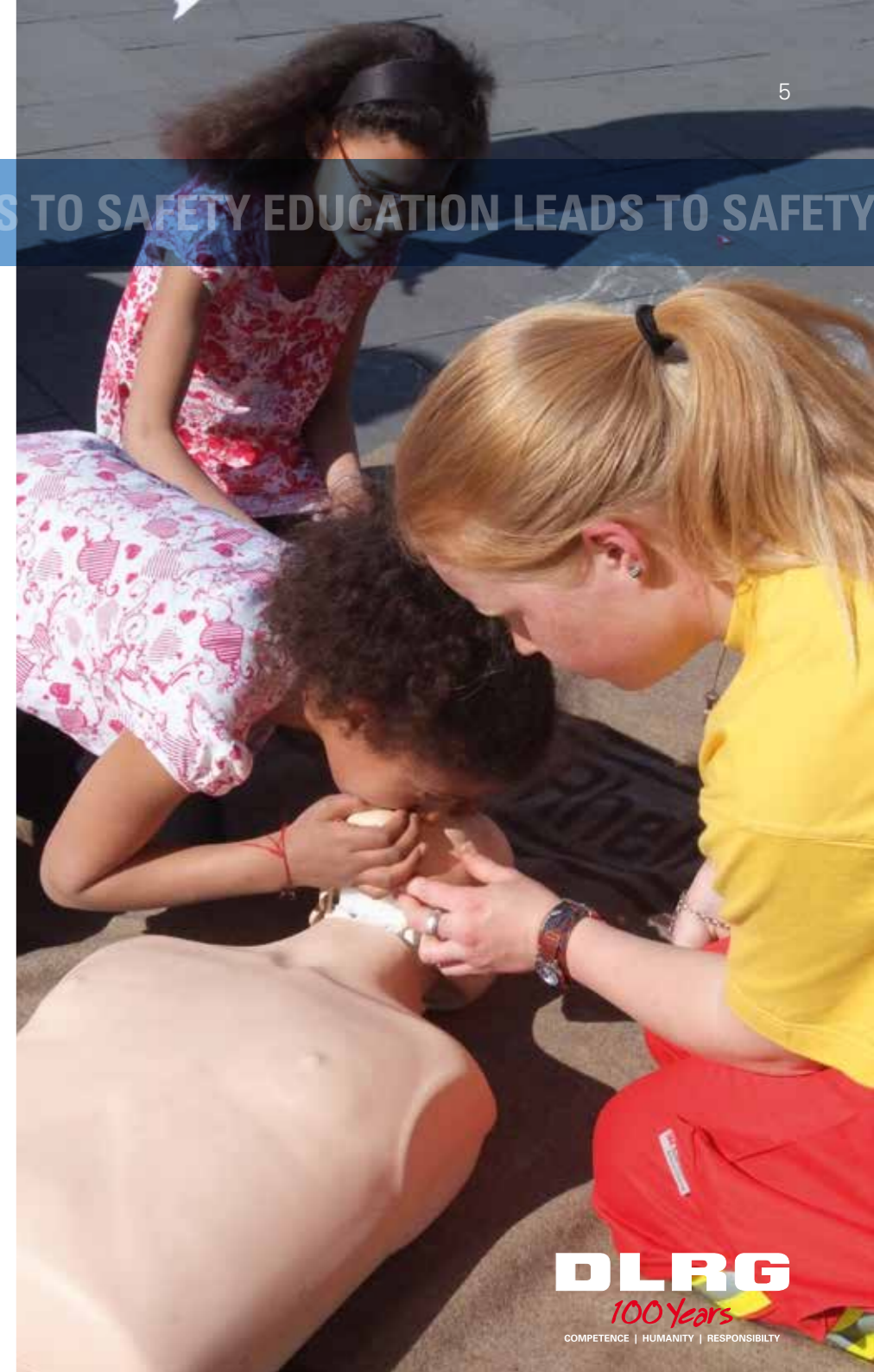
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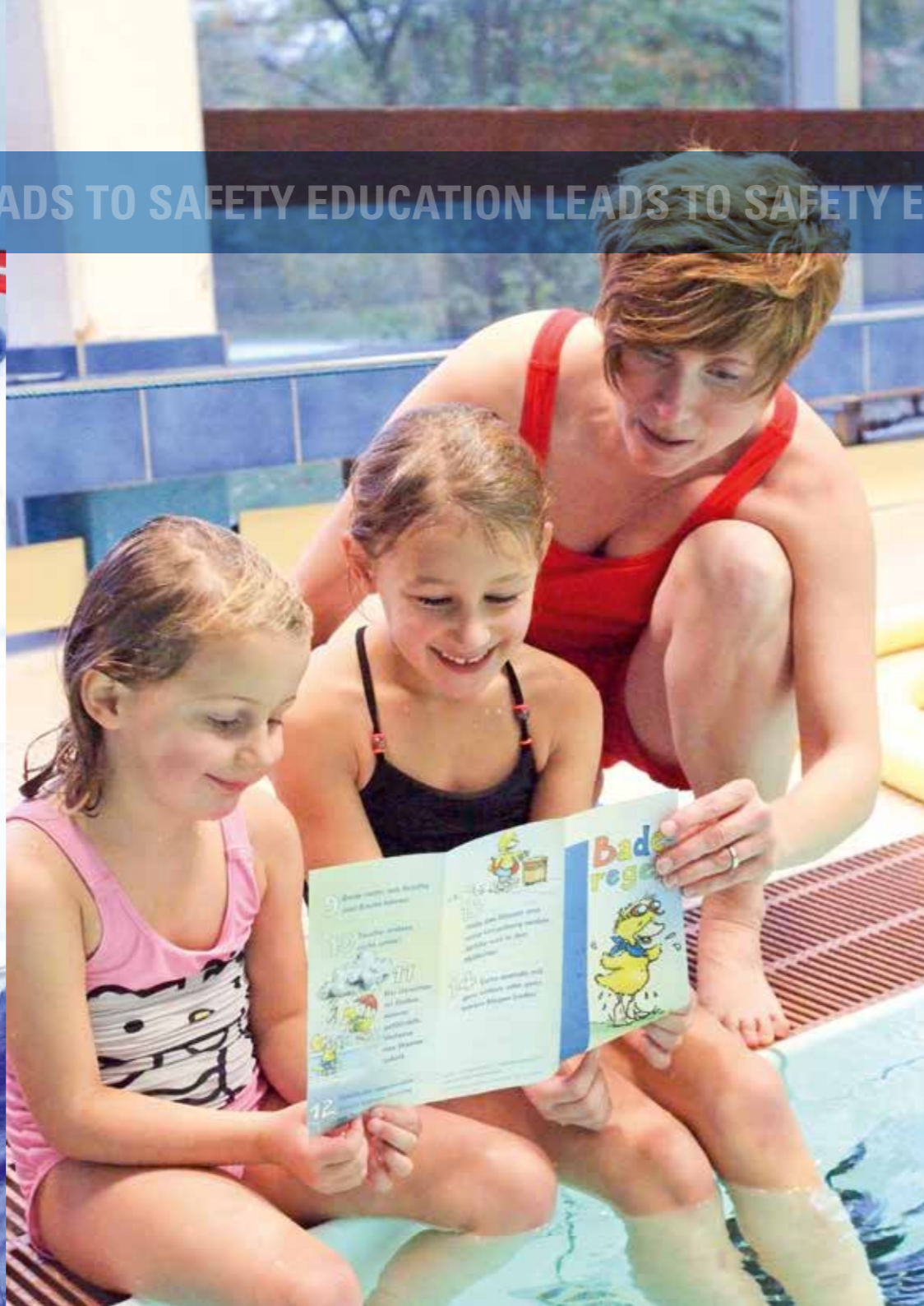
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#### Target Group orientated Information

The more intensive the water activity or the more special the stretch of water is - generally speaking - the higher the risk can be. Therefore this requires higher standards of precaution and security information. That's why we have developed a series of advice, which is coordinated within information literature and training needs for special groups, for example sport divers, sailors and other aquatic sports.

#### Statistics and analysis

Where lurk risks, how can they be recognised and effectively dealt with? This can only be addressed when corresponding data is available for evaluation. Therefore we carry out investigations and maintain statistics about drowning accidents and incidents, together with cause analysis, by means of which prevention and safety concepts can be worked out and refined.

#### Information campaigns

A different approach of information is addressed and presented in running of special events, partly in cooperation with Business Partners. One of these economic partners for more than 60 years has been Beiersdorf AG with the well know and established trademark "NIVEA". With this partner we send more than 2000 specially educated child-minders to nursery schools, where they give information about the risks of water in a playful way of presentation. The success of this special project since inception all those years ago has contributed to this program greatly reducing the drowning rate of children up to 6 years throughout Germany.

One more example of cooperation with a partner is the "Strandfest-Tournee" (Beachparty Tour) along the German coastlines. Under the slogan "Wir machen wasserfest" (We Make Waterproof), these events inspire children and adults to be Water Safety Aware through beach games, beach activities and the giving of valuable safety advice on our beaches.

#### Press and Media

The more people know about water safety the better and the greater chance of reducing risk of drowning accidents. That's why we keep close and intensive contact with press and media, who over the years have been most supportive of us, in reaching as many people as is possible nationwide. Naturally, the primary issue for publication is swimming and lifesaving and the desirability to have "every person a swimmer and every swimmer a lifesaver" throughout Germany. Coupled with this, we strive to promote health issues, rescue incidents, weather related issues, flood relief, just to mention a few!

Taking on more importance daily is the subject of swimming pools policy. Of course, we know that swimming pools are expensive to run and many are in financial difficulty due to the fact that many local authorities are experiencing a shortage of money. However, closed swimming pools mean that swimming and Lifesaving cannot be taught within that particular community, and consequently a decrease in the number of those qualified in swimming and lifesaving within the local population. We regretfully, cannot and will not accept these closures knowing the consequences they have in the medium to long term with regard to the numbers of persons able to swim! Therefore, we have little or no choice, but to inform the public through the media of the long term consequences of Swimming Pool closures and advocate keeping them open, in the long term it is money well spent. Swimming Pools policy is the reason for our membership in "Aktionsbündnis Pro Bad" (action alliance for the pros of swimming pools). It promotes swimming pools as part of local infrastructure and develops own advice and concepts.

#### Contests and honour

Recognition of those that achieve and contribute through presentation of awards and honours is of primary importance to us. It is a vehicle whereby we can acknowledge remarkable achievement of individuals and partners and it gives us an opportunity to draw attention to our ethos and aims towards a humanitarian society. That's why these events are always an excellent venue for communicating important information and honoring the deserved.

Annually, awards for example are given to repay supporting of swimming and lifesaving education within the so called "uniformierte Verbände" (associations in uniform like police and army) or by means of the "NIVEA Prize for Lifesavers" which is awarded to persons who have saved other persons from drowning or to local DLRG clubs who have rendered outstanding lifeguarding services.



# EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP EDUCATION SWIMS AT THE TOP



Many creatures from birth are good swimmers; unfortunately this is not true of human beings. Therefore, the need for our principle competence "education" and the foundation stone of this is the teaching of swimming, which was in fact the primary motive for the foundation of the DLRG 100 years ago!



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Such a great and effective organisation as DLRG, demands by itself the performance of social tasks in multifarious ways in order to do good, and that's what we do within the framework of operational services. In particular demand is our lifesaving competence skills, which are offered by our many thousands of active members.



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**Involvement in Disaster Prevention**

DLRG is integral part of the disaster prevention concepts in all German Federal States. In cooperation with all organisations like THW (German technical relief organisation), fire brigades, security services, DRK (German Red Cross), ASB and others, we play our part in dealing with disasters. Therefore we have quick response water rescue task forces, which include operation divers and rescue boats.

**Water Rescue Service**

At many locations in Germany where water recreational areas are used by people, the red and yellow colors of DLRG are readily recognised as part of our organisations volunteer service. At these locations our members are on duty for water rescue tasks. They also supervise, control and manage the beach and the patrons with courtesy, determination, advice and response action as appropriate.

**Central Coast Water Rescue Service**

In the year 2010, we have organized a special responsibility involving amalgamation and coordination of beaches: That is the maintenance of security along the 2.300 kilometers of coastline between Borkum and Usedom, which at that time was the responsibility of the regional DLRG associations Niedersachsen, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Now our central coast water rescue service fulfils this responsible task under common leadership at our headquarters in Bad Nenndorf.

The regional associations still hold the general operation responsibility for their Federal State, but the DLRG headquarter organizes and coordinates the application, education and the location of the lifeguards. In future also the equipment and running of rescue stations will join the catalogue of tasks

**Medicine and Paramedics**

In tight cooperation with the public rescue service, stands the medical care for saved people. Beyond first-aid, our members can be educated to first-aid attendants, which can in cooperation with resident doctors, guarantee fast and professional care for injured persons. Due to this service many lives have been saved.

**Task Force Dog Branch**

Within our presentation of our principle competence "operation", a small but effective unit must receive recognition that is the Dog Branches. They support fast tracking of victims and are trained and employed especially for area and rubble search. The most important task of course is underwater tracking. Then the dogs are used for supporting divers on underwater search after missing persons. Dogs are able to smell people in a depth of several hundred meters. There are also qualified water rescue dogs, which are able to support swimming lifesavers in rescue tasks.





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- Gläser verboten / No barbeque allowed
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Lifesavers must respond quickly and judiciously in order to save persons in danger. To master this appropriate skills and corporeal fitness are essential, as well as regular training. One of the best and most pleasing ways for young people in particular to achieve high levels of fitness and lifesaving skills is through the medium of Lifesaving Sport.

Out of this idea of rescue sport has come some of the finest motivated and young people who contribute to the philanthropic principal of saving life from drowning. Once a peripheral sport among sports worldwide, it has now become a trend setting sport performed very competitively worldwide. Over the years the DLRG have run and their members have competed to a very high standard in the national and world events. International Life Saving Federation (ILS) has developed a standard framework of rules for lifesaving competitions which is internationally acknowledged by all member Lifesaving Federations.

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**DLRG National Team**

There are single and team disciplines for pool and ocean events to test the lifesaving skills of the competitors, these vary from obstacle swim, manikin rescue and including the king's discipline "oceanman/oceanwoman". In Germany, there are more than 60.000 active athletes already.

The competitive squad of DLRG forms the basis of the national team, which over the years has seen great success and honours being achieved. These include the following; European champion in 2005, 4th place in world championship 2008 and bronze medal in world championship 2010 make it one of the most successful teams worldwide. Furthermore we represent the rescue sport as leading organisation in the German Olympic Sport Committee and are one of the greatest organisations in the International Non-Olympic Committee (INOC).

Rescue sport is versatile, attractive and contrary to some estimation it is also appropriate for elder people. For these, special competition categories are established: the so-called "masters". During German Championships, Master Games, European and World Championships there are many possibilities to meet like-minded people and to match one's skills with others in fair competition. By the way: We also offer education in the field of rescue sport, for example Pool and Ocean Referee or Trainer C (rescue sport).





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