

## 2017 ETU EVENTS REPORT

### 1. European Championships

Number of European Championships events: 13, no differences compared to 2016.

2017 is the first year where the Triathlon European Championships are split in 2 parts, as decided by the ETU Executive Board. Main reason was due to the increase numbers of participations and the increase of Triathlon Championships events.

The Triathlon Mixed Relay Club European Championships included as well a junior Championship.

Below you can find the 13 events, the location, some additional information and the participation at the event.

- a. Winter Triathlon – Otepää (EST)  
Same location as 2017. In total 152 athletes competed which is almost the double of 2016. This increase is due to a significant increase of junior and Age Group athletes in both men and women. ETU to check if it is beneficial to give the same 'small' Championships 2 or 3 times in a row to the same organizer/location as it might increase participation on the second (and third) edition.
- b. Challenge Middle Distance Triathlon – Herning (DEN)  
Cooperation with Challenge for this events started in 2012. Back then every athlete entered at the event could take part at the Championships. Since 2013 only athlete putting forward by their National Federation are eligible to race in the Championships. The amount of athletes competing, 772, was similar as in 2016 in Walchsee but significant better than in 2013, 2014 and 2015. There were more men (elite and AG) and less women (elite and AG).
- c. Powerman Middle Distance Duathlon – Sankt Wendel (GER)  
This is the 6<sup>th</sup> time that this event is organized with the cooperation of Powerman. The first 4 years the event always took place at the same location; Horst (NED). In 2016 the event took place in Copenhagen (DEN) and now in Sankt Wendel (GER). Since 2015 the amount of participants is over 200 with a record high in 2016 of 269 athletes. In 2017 224 athletes participated. In 2017 more elite athletes participated (both men and women) but less Age Group athletes especially in the women division (from 66 to 39 athletes).
- d. Duathlon – Soria (ESP)  
Since 2013 ETU offers for the Age Group athletes the sprint and standard distance duathlon. In 2013 and 2014 the sprint event has been combined with the middle distance, since 2015 with the standard distance. We welcomed a record amount of athletes; 918 compared to 625 in 2016 and 702 in 2015. The sprint distance is more popular than the standard distance and the difference in participation between sprint and standard is higher in women than in men.
- e. Aquathlon European Championships – Bratislava (SVK)  
There have been never before more athletes competing in the Aquathlon Championships than in 2017, 378 in total. Even more, since 2014, each year the participation in aquathlon increased (152 in 2014, 195 in 2015 and 265 in 2016). The reason for the 2017 increase could be that Slovakia is more or less the center of Europe and Bratislava as capital city is easy to reach.

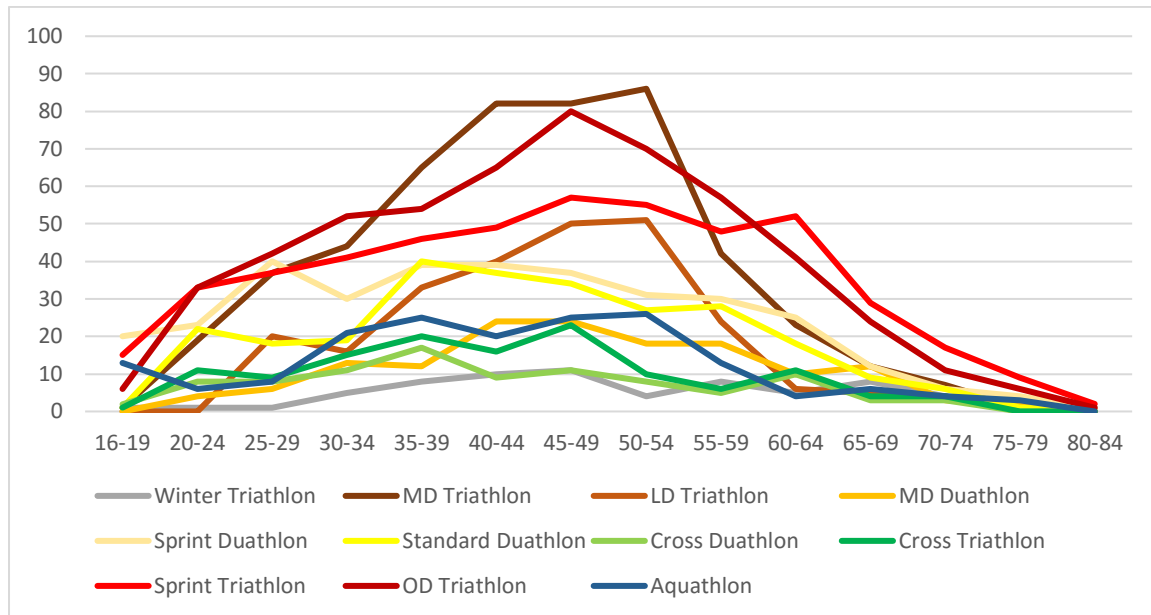
- f. Triathlon Olympic Distance – Kitzbühel (AUT)  
Has been the host of the Triathlon European Championships already in 2014 and has organized several ITU WC events in the past. Record low amount of elite athletes competing. However the amount of elite mixed relays teams did not drop. This means that either junior female athletes compete in the elite relay or Federations bringing additional female athletes to compete in the relay only. At the Age Group division there has been record of female athletes competing at the Olympic Distance Championships while at the men’s side this is the second highest participation level after the Geneva edition on 2015. Reason could be that women stick to one event only and then choose the sprint above the OD while men maybe tend a bit more to combine the 2 events if offered in the same weekend.
- g. Triathlon Sprint Distance – Düsseldorf (GER)  
Second edition of the Sprint Championships for elite. First time that for AG athletes the event is not at the same location as the OD European Championships. The event showed an increase in elite participation compared to the first edition last year in Châteauroux. Also in the AG categories there is an increase in participation. If this trend shows the same within the next year(s) we can be sure that this increase is due to the split of the sprint and OD Championships.
- h. Triathlon Youth Championships Festival – Panevezys (LTU)  
Second time that this Championship is organized. There is a very small increase of participation (+2 in men and +4 in women). Compared with other categories the difference in participation between men and women is very low (89 men and 77 women).
- i. Triathlon Mixed relay Club Championships – Banyoles (ESP)  
The first event should have been taking place in 2015 in Nice but had been cancelled due to the severe weather conditions. In 2016, also in Banyoles, 18 Club teams participated. In 2017 we’ve had 21 club teams and we included a Triathlon Mixed Relay Club Junior European Championships in which 8 clubs participated. The winning club was from Portugal while the winner of the 2016 edition from France came second.
- j. Cross Triathlon and cross Duathlon – Târgu Mures (ROU)  
Organized in the same week(end). The event itself has been promoted as Cross Festival by the LOC.  
In Cross Triathlon there is a decrease in elite and U23 participation with the exception of U23 women that showed an increase. Juniors show a significant increase in men and a status quo in women participation. On AG participation there is a decrease in both men and women participation and the decrease is higher in women. A possible reason could be that last year the event was within an XTerra race (Vallée de Joux).  
On Cross Duathlon, this was only the 3th edition and the second time that this event took place in Târgu Mures. There is an increase in elite, U23 women, junior and AG men and a decrease in U23 men and AG women participation.  
The oldest participant, born in 1944 raced in both the Cross Duathlon as the Cross Triathlon event. Others that combined both events → Enrique???
- k. Triathlon U23 – Velence (HUN)  
One of the biggest fields in the history of the U23 Championships participated in Velence. Especially in the women were never before so many athletes racing. Strange that this did not result in an increase of mixed relay teams (7 in 2017 compared to 12 in 2016). Especially when we know that in 2020 the Mixed Relay will be on the Olympic programme.

I. Challenge Long Distance Triathlon – Almere (NED)

Almere showed the most participants since 2014, when the ETU Challenge long distance triathlon European Championships were in Almere as well. Almere does have a very long tradition in long distance triathlon. This increase is visible in every category but is the smallest in AG women.

Here under you can find several graphs illustrating the evolution in participation at the Triathlon and multisport European Championships at all categories.

**Graph 1:** Participation per Age Group Category in men in triathlon and multisport



In general triathlon and multisport attracts male athletes between the age of 25 and 64. The main category is 45-49 which is the most popular in OD and sprint triathlon, middle distance duathlon, cross triathlon and winter triathlon.

In triathlon in Age group category 45-49 and also in category 35-39, 40-44 and 50-54 Middle Distance is more popular than OD and sprint. Sprint is more popular in the older categories starting 60+. The Long Distance triathlon sees most of the athletes racing in categories 45-49 and 50-54.

In duathlon standard and sprint distance the main group of athletes is a little bit younger (35-39) than in triathlon, while on middle distance they have around the same age. Sprint Duathlon has a little bit more participants than Standard Distance. Specially the younger category (25-29) prefers sprint above standard distance. Like in triathlon the longer distance athletes can be found at the 45-49 category.

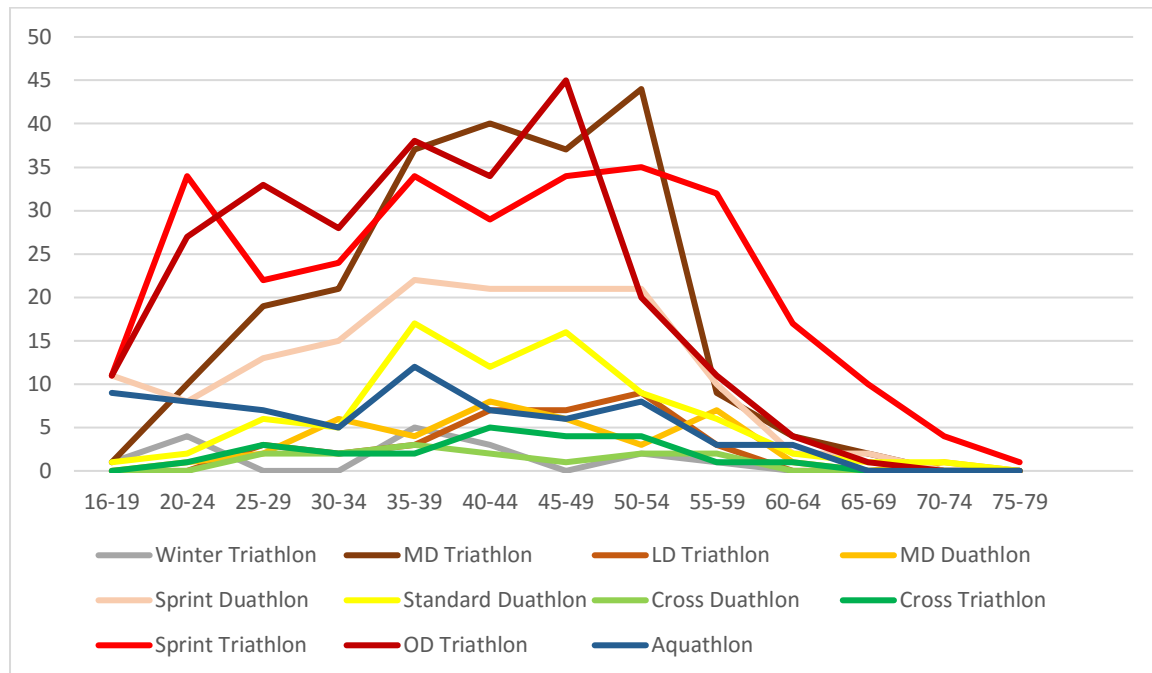
Cross Triathlon is more popular than cross duathlon, which is only since 2015 on the calendar. Most of the AG athletes in triathlon are in category 45-49, while in duathlon this is in category 35-39.

In Aquathlon the main group of AG athletes is slightly older than in triathlon and duathlon (50-54). Popularity is very low starting 60+.

Winter Triathlon does not seem to be popular with athletes under 30. The category with most of the athletes is the category 45-49

One last fact, the oldest athlete competing at a European Championship in 2017 was born in 1936.

**Graph 2:** Participation per Age Group Category women in Triathlon and Multisport



In general triathlon and multisport attracts female athletes between the age of 25 and 54, which is compared by men similar with the exception of the fact that the women are younger finishing doing triathlon and multisport.

Women aged between 35 and 54 are racing in triathlon. Peak category in OD is 45-49, in sprint it's 50-54 closely followed by 20-24 and 35-39. For Middle distance and long distance this is category 50-54. Participation is dropping significant starting 55+ with the exception in sprint distance, that starting 55+ is the most popular distance in women.

In duathlon the sprint distance is over all categories the most popular distance, while middle distance is less popular. As in triathlon in general the women are between 35 and 54 years of age.

Cross triathlon and especially cross duathlon are not very popular in AG women, with only 35% women in cross triathlon and 15% in cross duathlon.

Biggest age group categories in aquathlon are 35-39 and 50-54.

Winter Triathlon does not seem to be popular with athletes under 30. Older women (65+) do not participate at all. In general participation is very low compared to men.

No athletes 80+ are competing in the women division.

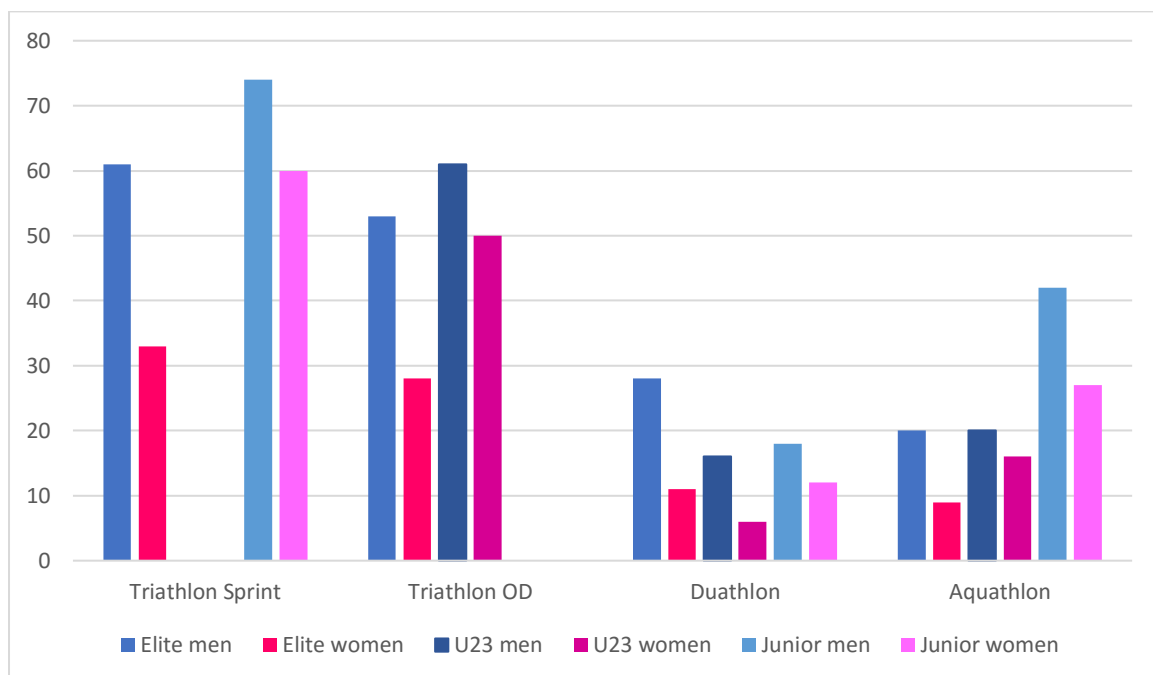
If we compare men to women participation (see table below), ratio varies between 62%-38% and 88%-12% being most popular in women sprint triathlon and being the most unpopular triathlon Long Distance.

**Table 1:** AG men versus women participation in percentages in triathlon and multisport Championships ranked from the event that shows the highest percentage of participation compared to men the lowest percentage of participation between men and women.

Event	Men	Women
Triathlon Sprint	62	38
Duathlon Sprint	67	33
Triathlon Olympic Distance	68	32
Triathlon Middle Distance	69	31
Aquathlon	72	28
Winter Triathlon	75	25
Duathlon Standard Distance	76	24
Duathlon Middle Distance	79	21
Cross Triathlon	85	15
Cross Duathlon	87	13
Triathlon long Distance	88	12

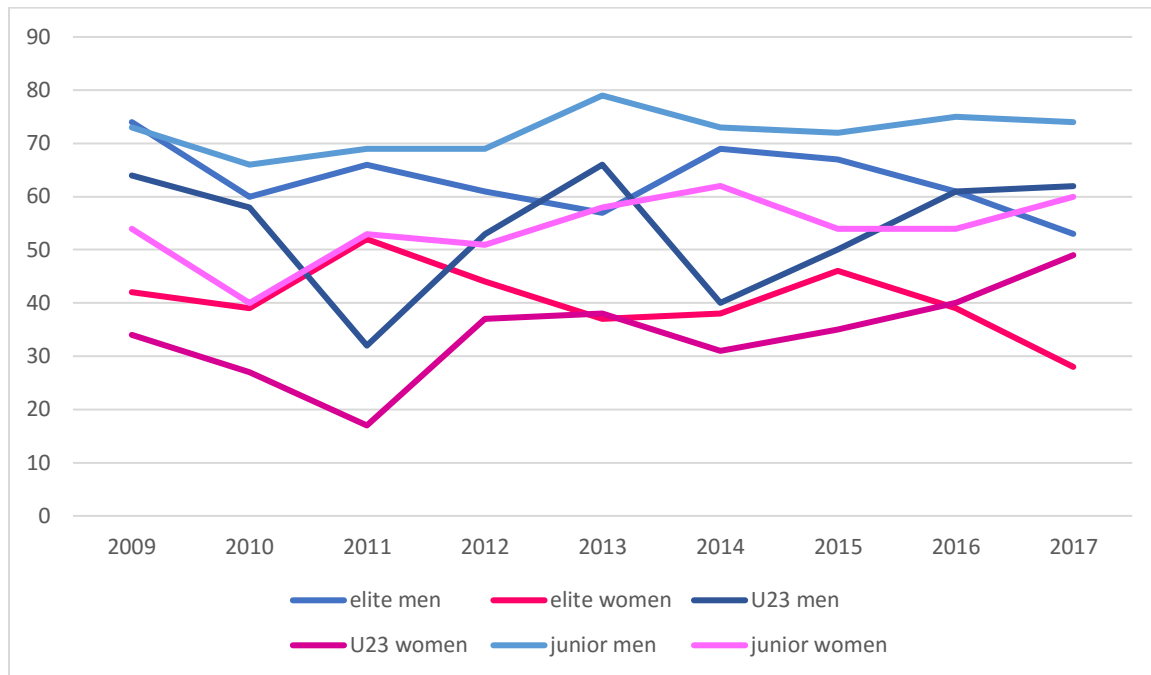
In both triathlon and duathlon, the longer the distance is, the more the difference is between men and women participation. Cross triathlon and duathlon are very unpopular with women as is long distance triathlon.

**Graph 3:** Participation of elite, U23 and juniors at several European Championships



Participation is the highest in the youngest category, juniors, with the exception of duathlon men. In the Olympic Distance significant more U23 athletes participate at their European Championships than elite, especially in women. There is a drop of participation from juniors (sprint) to U23 (OD) and elite (OD) and the drop-out in women is bigger than in men.

**Graph 4:** elite, U23 and junior participation at the Olympic Distance Triathlon European Championships in men and women between 2009 and 2017



Compared with previous years we see that never before so less elite athletes competed at the main European Championships. One of the reasons could be that 2017 is a post-Olympic year as also on 2013 the participation was lower than in the surrounding years but in 2009 this was not the case. Never we saw so many U23 women competed at their main Championships. U23 men participation fluctuate a lot over the years, but 2017 sees one of the most participations. Junior participations stays quite stable over the years with maximum 79 and minimum 66 men and maximum 62 and minimum 40 women.

If we compare men to women participation (see table below) on the elite level ratios varies between 60%-40% and 73%-27% being most popular in women compared to men winter triathlon and most unpopular Cross triathlon and triathlon long distance.

**Table 2:** elite men versus women participation in percentages in triathlon and multisport Championships ranked from the event that shows the highest percentage of participation compared to men the lowest percentage of participation between men and women.

Event	Men	Women
Winter Triathlon	60	40
Triathlon Middle Distance	62	38
Triathlon Sprint Distance	65	35
Triathlon Olympic Distance	65	35
Cross Duathlon	67	33
Duathlon Middle Distance	68	32
Aquathlon	69	31
Duathlon Standard Distance	72	28
Cross Triathlon	73	27
Triathlon long Distance	73	27

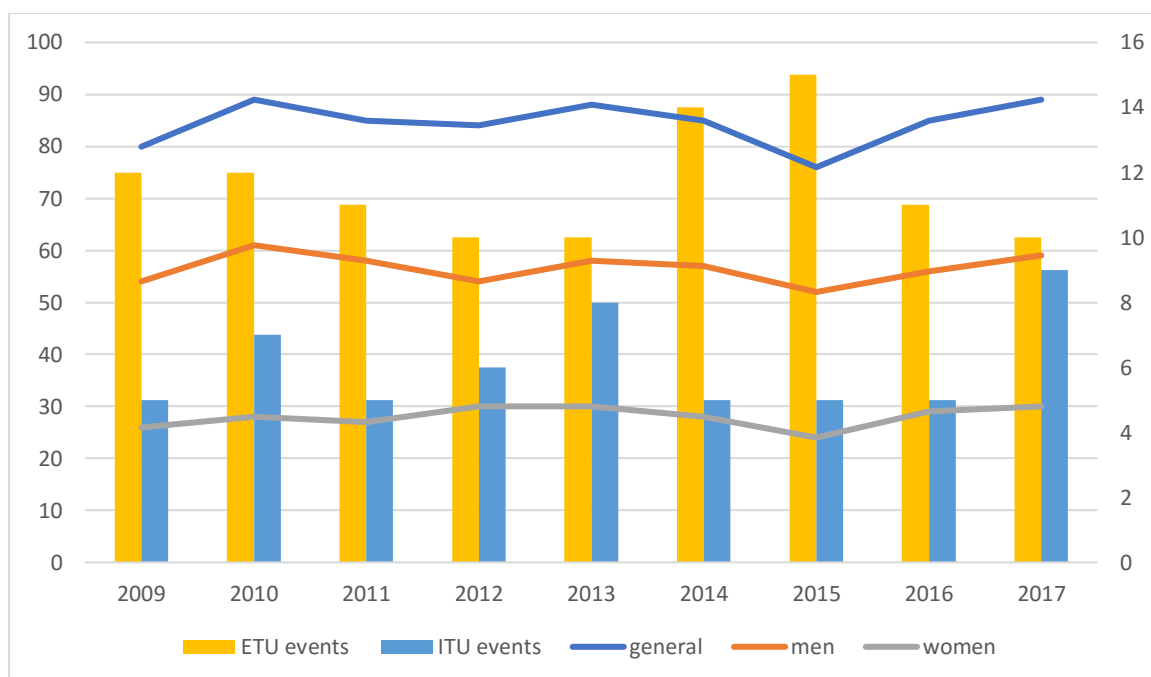
By comparing AG ratio men-women with elite ratio the percentage of women elite participation is always higher than AG with the exception of Triathlon Sprint Distance .

## 2. Elite European Cups

In 2017 11 European Cups were scheduled. Also in 2016 11 European Cups took place. 2015 has the record with 15 European Cups and the minimum has been 10 in 2013 and 2012. The amount of ETU European Cups might be influenced by the amount of ITU sanctioned events (WTS and WC) in Europe. In 2013 for example a record of 8 ITU events took place, with a minimum of 10 ETU cups. Now in 2017, there is a new record of ITU events (9) in Europe with 'only' 11 European Cups. 2 of the 2016 ETU Cups went to an ITU level event. ETU is relying a lot on the income from the event fees and having a lower figure in ETU Cups could influence the service ETU can give to LOCs and NFs. ETU is also investing a lot of money into the European Cup as we have an overall prize money purse of 40.000€ for the top 10 at the ETU European Cup Ranking. Since 2015 the season closes with the European Cup final. To be ranked and have the possibility to gain a part of the additional prize money an athlete need to start at the European Cup final (with double points to gained, as at the European Championships. A maximum of 5 events (4 + final) and minimum of 2 count (1 + final) for the ranking.

Finally only 10 events took place as Alanya was cancelled. 3 of them (Wuustwezel, Funchal and Gran Canaria) did never organize an ETU sanctioned event before or at least not in the last couple of years.

Graph 5: Participation at ETU events (in general, men and women) compared to the amount of ETU cups and ITU sanctioned event in Europe between 2009 and 2017.



Compared to 2016 we see that at events that have taken place as well last year (Quarteira, Weert, Holten, Tartu and Malmö), more or less the same amount of athletes participated but when looking closer we see in 3 events an increase in the men's and a decrease in the women's field. This tendency however cannot be seen at the Malmö event where there is a small decrease in the participation in both men and women and in Tartu, where 150% more female athletes competed compared to 2016. A reason for this huge increase could be that Tartu, in 2018, will host the Sprint Triathlon European Championships as also in the men's field 55% more athletes participated.



Taking in account all 10 events the average participation on ETU Cups topped in 2017. One reason could be that the amount of ETU events in 2017 was the lowest since 2014, while the amount of ITU sanctioned events in Europe was a record high of 9. This increase of ITU level events could be the reason for the decrease in female participation in several events (like Quarteira, Holten, Weert and Malmö) but in general there is an increase in female participation as well however this increase is lower compared to the men.

The biggest field of athletes was in Quarteira and Wuustwezel, with 113 athletes, while Quarteira showed the biggest men field (74 male athletes) and Wuustwezel, as brand new event on the calendar, the biggest women field with 44 athletes on the start line.

In total 35 out of 43 Federations affiliated to ETU had 1 or more elite athletes in one or more 2017 European Cup events. In average 18 different European National Federation competed in a European Cup. Holten and Tartu attracted the most Federations (22) while in Istanbul and Melilla only 12 NFs competed.

Italy and the Netherlands had 1 or more athletes in each of the 10 events! Great Britain entered in total 95 athletes over 10 events. Other top National Federations are Spain (83), France (62), Portugal (60), Italy (50), Belgium (49) and the Netherlands (48).

22 National Federations outside Europe raced with at least 1 athlete in at least one European Cup event with an average of 4 NFs per European Cup. Most of the National Federation are from the Americas (10), followed by Asia (7), Oceania and Africa (2). Most of the athletes entered came from Australia. Record holder in attracting Federations outside Europe was Wuustwezel with 12. Of course, having the Grand Final one month later in Rotterdam could have affected this figure.

### 3. Junior European Cups

ETU started organizing Junior European Cups in 2006. In 2017 11 Junior European Cups were planned but with the cancellation of Alanya only 10 actually took place. Just one 2017 event has not been organizing an ETU sanctioned event in the past years (Lausanne).

In 2016 a record of 13 junior events took place, which was the same amount as in 2011. In 2010 and 2009 we had more or less half of the junior events.

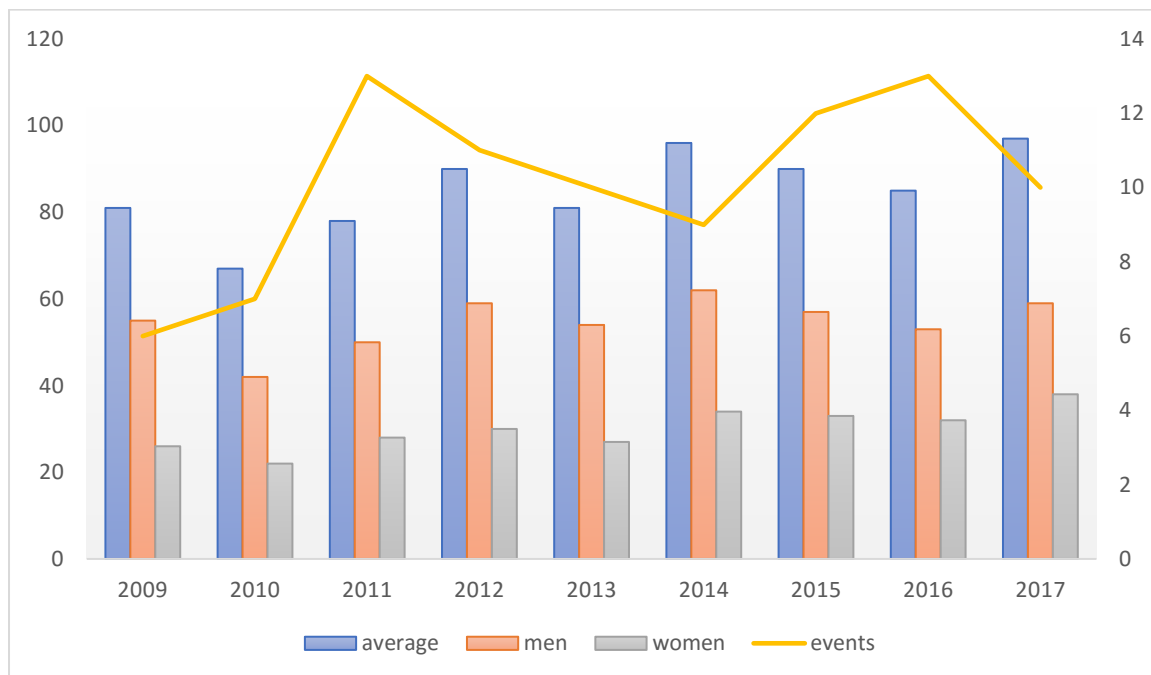
Since 2015 ETU has a National Federation ranking in which the points of the best 2 female and male athletes are counting and were the top 3 National federations gain 5.000€, 3.000€ and 2.000€. Actual standing is: 1<sup>st</sup> Hungary, 2<sup>nd</sup> France, 3<sup>th</sup> Austria. Hungary was also the winner in 2016 and were 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2015.

As shown in graph 6, never before the average participation in junior European Cups has been that high (97, men and women together) competed at the events.

The increase in participation is the highest in women. Also if we compare the junior participation with the elite we see in general more women than men participating. A reason could be that European Junior athletes move from racing junior events immediately to racing ITU World Cup and/or World Triathlon Events while men go from racing junior European Cups to ETU European Cups as pathway to elite top level racing.



**Graph 6:** amount of events and average participation in general, men and women in Junior European Cups between 2009-2017



If we look at the National Federations that are participating in Junior European Cup events we see that in 2017 36 out of 43 European National Federations competed with at least 1 athlete in 1 Junior European Cup event. This is the same amount as in 2016. The average of National Federations participating per event is 16, slightly lower than at elite level. Holten attracted the most federations with 20 and Bled and Melilla the lowest (12). Austria had at least 1 athlete at all events and most of the athletes participating were coming from Hungary, 107 in total, followed by Austria (73), Italy (61), France (49), Spain (47), Switzerland (45) and Czech Republic (43). Hungary won the 2017 Juniors National Federation ranking gaining 5.000€ prize money, followed by Austria and France.

Also the amount of Federations outside Europe is lower at junior level with in total 10 and in average 2 per event. Half of those national Federations are from the American Confederation, followed by 2 from Oceania and Africa and 1 from Asia.

### Summary

ETU had a very good season in 2017 with a participating record in many Championships and as well at the European Cup and Junior European Cup. The increase in participation is mainly due to an increase in participation of men, with the exception of the junior European Cup division where the general increase was mainly to an increase of women participation.

Over the years the women participation always has been much lower than men (over 50% less women than men), but while the amount of men competing is increasing those of women are status quo or going down. We should make our events more attractive for women and need to investigate why in youth the participation in women in comparison with men is almost equal but difference increase when moving up to juniors, U23 and elite level.