International Sailing Schools Association

50TH
1969 - 2019
ANNIVERSARY



medskippers

MedSkippers is co-funded by the European Union under the grant EASME/EMFF/2017/1.2.1.12 Sustainable Blue Economy S3 Blue Networks in the Mediterranean

POMERANIA FLEET
INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

Prevent PLASTIC Pollution

issa.global

ISSA/Hub



A modern online education platform, designed for sailing enthusiasts, from first-time learners to seasoned skippers.

It seamlessly connects users with accredited ISSA instructors and schools, sailing courses and certifications, as well as events and global community.

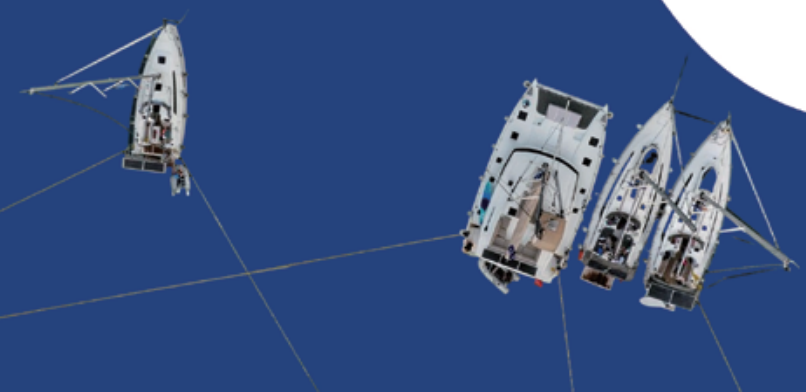
Why ISSA Hub matters

For beginners, ISSA Hub offers free online training courses that provide the essential knowledge you need before stepping onto the water. You can also access free learning materials to review and reinforce what you've learned.

For growing sailors, ISSA Hub gives you access to advanced courses created by ISSA-accredited schools. Once you complete your training, your PDF certification is generated instantly through the platform.

For instructors and schools, ISSA Hub functions as an efficient online workspace, streamlining course management, student tracking, certification issuance, and communication.

Explore
ISSA Hub
at issa.global



International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA)

For more than 50 years we care for the highest level of training standards worldwide

Established in 1969, the ISSA is an international non-governmental organization committed to offering opportunities worldwide for people who dream of learning sailing.

ISSA helps those looking to start their sailing education in schools and also provides an international career pathway for sailing instructors to teach in different countries.



Countries of sailing organizations - Founders of ISSA

ISSA was founded in 1969 in Switzerland under an international agreement, signed in London.

As a non-profit international association, ISSA sets common standards for quality and safety in sailing and windsurfing schools globally. These standards apply universally, ensuring consistent certification for students completing courses at all levels.

ISSA ensures that all its sailing and windsurfing instructors are trained to the same high standards.

Get Global Training Locally



History of ISSA

ISSA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019
Half a century oblige

1969

ISSA was established as a continuation of the French committee for the development of sailing on the initiative of several national federations with a strong position in sailing.

1970s

The Polish Yachting Association as a co-founder of ISSA is gaining recognition in the European sailing community.

Developing the pattern of a seaman's book (Logbook), still widely used in many countries today.

An international sailing patent is created; its largest modification took place in 2014, and on the occasion of the jubilee, in 2019 a new design was introduced.

Organization of the first international conferences devoted to sailing training.

1980s

Obtaining the status of an European Community advisory organization.

Substantive support and close cooperation in the development of a world institution managing the sport of sailing International Sailing Federation (ISAF); currently World Sailing.

1990s

Cooperation with national sailing federations is extended to support individual sailing schools. The implementation of ISSA training standards is taking a new level.

Opening up to the markets of the Middle East, former USSR countries and Australia.



An Historical Overview of the Development and Evolution of the ISSA Logo

2000s

ISSA constantly cooperates with representatives of maritime state authorities of many countries.

Obtaining the status of a member of the International Telecommunication Union - ITU, the UN agency responsible for setting standards in maritime radio communications.

Performing activities under Union of International Associations - promoting the activities of international organizations.

Introduction of ISO 9001: 2008 standards.

Active participation in the work of the working group of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe dealing with the International Certificate of

2010s

The first ISSA Festival of Sails are launched - cyclical events promoting cultural exchange through sailing.

Strengthening ISSA's position on existing markets and entering Asian markets, including signing a partnership agreement with the Chinese authorities.

Implementation of a project financed by the European Commission, aimed at standardizing skipper training in the Mediterranean.

2020+

The first International Marine Environmental Protection Conference was organized in Cyprus, with organizations and institutions from 15 countries participating. The Prevent Plastic Polustion (PPP) project was launched, since then ISSA has incorporated environmental awareness into its training system.

The Inclusive Sailing Project was launched to create opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sailing, along with a dedicated instructor-training category focused on supporting sailors with disabilities, which is so-called Sailing Instructors of Persons with Disabilities (SIPD).

ISSA has partnered with the World Maritime University to strengthen the development of ISSA's international standardization system.

The ISSA Hub online education platform was launched, making it easier for everyone to access ISSA training resources.

The ISSA Logbook

The tradition of ISSA Logbooks dates back to its beginnings

From the very beginning, ISSA was involved in setting standards in teaching sailing school students as well as training instructors. An international team has developed model patterns of seaman books (logbooks) that can still be found in many organizations in Europe and around the word - see photos below.

Also this new logbook in an unprecedented, but extremely convenient to fill in format 'horizontal A5' was created thanks to intonational cooperation.





Partnership with World Maritime University

ISSA has signed an MoU with the UN apecialized agency

The International Sailing Schools Association (ISSA)and the World Maritime University (WMU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim to promote academic, educational, training, consultancy and research exchange between the two institutions in the maritime, oceans and yachting fields.

The MoU was signed by WMU President, Professor Maximo Q. Mejia and ISSA President, Mr. Tomasz Lipski, at WMU headquarters on 1 September. ISSA Vice President, Mr. Assaad Rayess, attended the signing ceremony. The new agreement forms a strategic development as it ushers a collaborative agenda where WMU will advise and assist ISSA in developing curricula for the sailing and yachting industry. It also paves the way for helping ISSA navigate through the international legal and regulatory framework governing pleasure craft, including education and training standards. An action plan will ensue from the signing of the MOU with a view to setting in motion the collaborative work between WMU and ISSA.

ISSA's mission is to promote yachting, educate the wider population about water sports, standardize training worldwide, and facilitate the exchange of cultural experiences, with safety being the main priority. The expertise and networking of WMU have been sought to help ISSA in its efforts to lobby for harmonization of standards pertaining to sailing and yachting education and training, licensing, and operations.



WMU WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

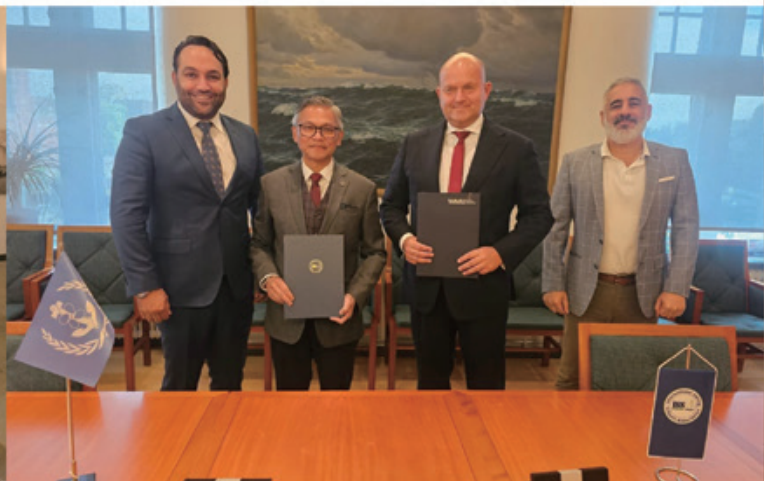
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

About WMU

The World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden is established within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a specialized agency of the United Nations. The mission of WMU is to be the world centre of excellence in postgraduate maritime and oceans education, professional training and research, while building global capacity and promoting sustainable development. WMU's vision is to inspire leadership and innovation for a sustainable maritime and oceans future. WMU is an organization by and for the international maritime community and is committed to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.







Medskippers

On behalf of the European Commission, ISSA is carrying out internaional standardisation of training in the Mediterranean basin.

After more than 3 years of work, including a whole period of struggle with COVID, the MEDSKIPPERS project has come to the end of its first phase funded by the European Union. ISSA was responsible for the area of standardization. Over the course of the project in 18 Mediteranean countries:

1. A study was caried out on the legal situation of skippersof small commercial vessels and their training;
2. A training programme has been developed that coversthe requirements of all countries in the region;
3. Software has been developed and launched to enableeasy job search for skippers;
4. 5 training events were held inviting participants from non-EU countries to EU countries;
5. Activities were organized for 300 primary school children in Lebanon and Tunisia, where young people were introduced to career opportunities in the yachting industry,
6. A number of standardization documents and training materials were produced.

More at www.medskippers.com

medskippers

APEAM dalula marine ORITEK INDIGO MED SMM co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

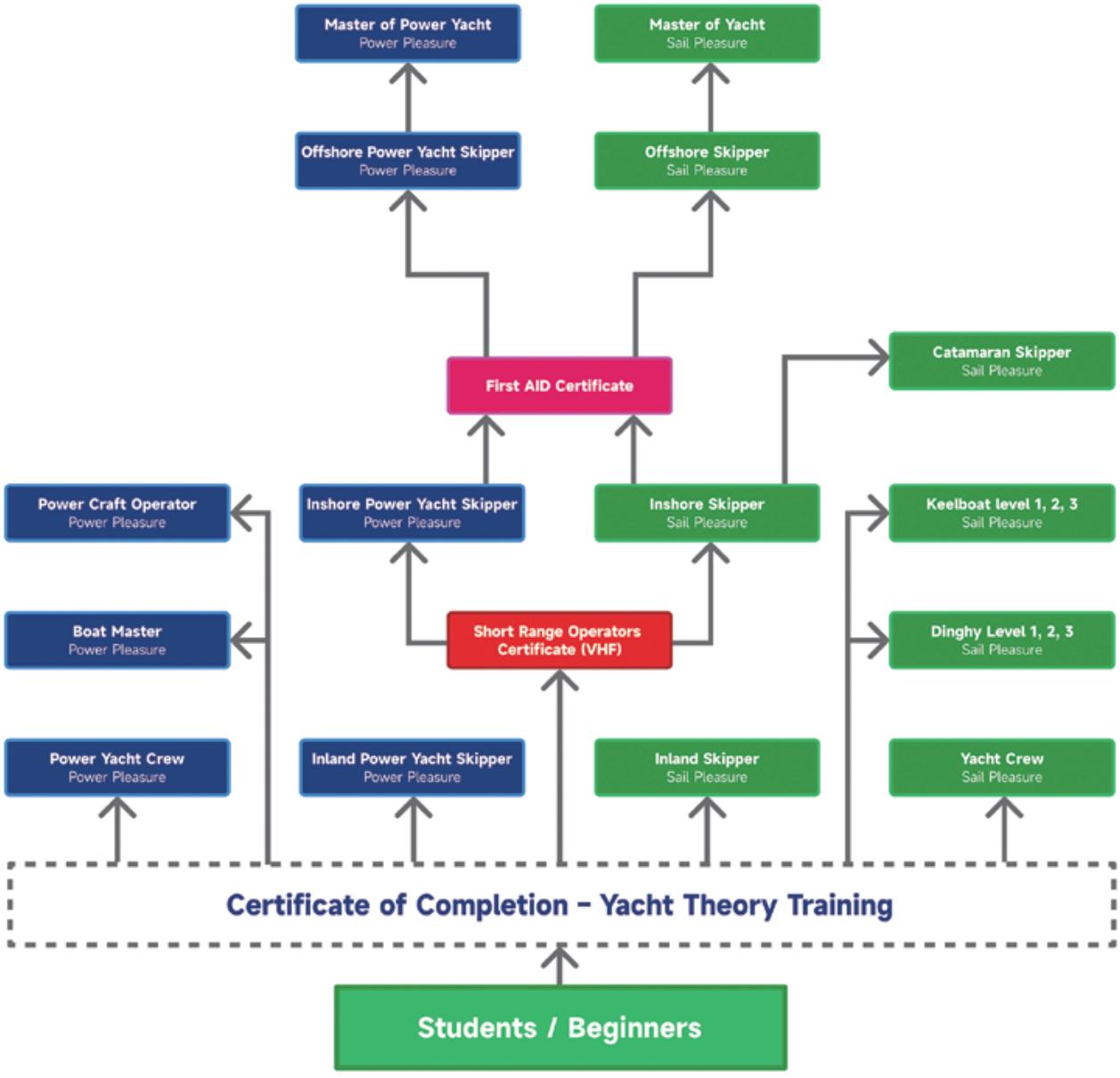






ISSA Competence Tree

Pleasure level



ISSA Level Power Pleasure	Max L.O.A.	Time Of Navigation	Distance From Shelter
Power Yacht Crew	N/A	Daytime	N/A
Inland Power Yacht Skipper	15m	Daytime	3 NM Offshore (Inland Waters)
Boat Master	16m	Daytime	12 NM Offshore
Inshore Power Yacht Skipper	24m	Day + Night	20 NM Offshore
Offshore Power Yacht Skipper	24m	Day + Night	120 NM Offshore
Master Of Power Yacht	24m	Day + Night	No Limitation

ISSA Level Sail Pleasure	Max L.O.A.	Time Of Navigation	Distance From Shelter
Yacht Crew	N/A	Daytime	N/A
Inland Skipper	15m	Daytime	3 NM Offshore (Inland Waters)
Inshore Skipper	24m	Day + Night	20 NM Offshore
Offshore Skipper	24m	Day + Night	120 NM Offshore
Master Of Yacht	24m	Day + Night	No Limitation

ISSA Certificates

The ISSA system philosophy is clear and practical training covering all levels of sailing knowledge. Basic level training is cut to the bare minimum. However, we require that this basic scope of knowledge and practice is mastered so that ISSA certificate holders can independently operate yachts in a safe manner.

In the ISSA system, certificates have the name of the instructor and the name of the school, which emphasizes the responsibility of the instructor and the school for the person to whom the patent is issued.

ISSA training standards are centralized, but take into account cultural differences between different nations as much as possible. They are also updated on a regular basis. We follow trends. Recently, we have included topics such as ecology interpersonal relations and modern technologies to the required knowledge.

Training for individual degrees is caried out only by ISSA authorized schools, and the instructors have the appropriate qualifications and are constantly verified by the ISSĂ instructor training system.

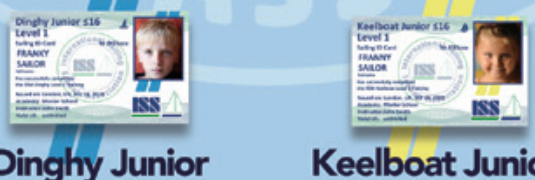
On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of operations in 2019new certificate designs have been introduced with colorful ribbons located under the photo space. The colors depend on the skill level. Selected examples of new certificates below.

Sailing certificates

Powerboat certificates



Certificates for kids



ISSA Instructor Training

Become a Professional Sailing Instructor with Globally Recognized Standards

Being an ISSA instructor is more than a job, it's a rewarding way to share a love of sailing. Instructors guide students as they gain skills and confidence on the water, while enjoying a close connection with nature on the sea or a scenic lake.

The role also builds a strong sense of community among students and fellow instructors. It's a profession that imparts knowledge, forges lasting bonds, and celebrates the exhilarating world of sailing.

ISSA Instructor qualifications have internationally recognized qualifications. These credentials meet global training and safety standards and enable instructors to teach confidently worldwide.

ISSA Instructor licenses provide access to a global network of training centers, and the ISSA instructor can work in any ISSA Accredited School.

In order to participate in the ISSA instructor training, the candidate should have skills and knowledge at the level of Offshore Skipper. Offshore Skipper is a yachtsman with experience from at least two sailing areas as well as more than average skills in boat handling and knowledge of leisure navigation, COLREGs and meteorology.

All of the training takes place onboard a sailing yacht. There can be a maximum of 4 candidates at a time.

For more information about ISSA Instructor and the schedule of instructor's training sessions as well as the instructor's update sessions please go to https://issa.global/join/instructor-careers/

For inquiry, please contact weiding.zhang@issa.global





ISSA Instructor Teaching Scope

Instructor Qaulification	Can train to level
Inland Sailing Instructor	Yacht Crew, Inland Skipper
Inshore Sailing Instructor	Yacht Crew, Inshore Skipper
Catamaran Instructor	Yacht Crew, Inshore Skipper, Catamaran Skipper
Offshore Sailing Instructor	Yacht Crew, Inshore Skipper, Offshore Skipper
Advanced Sailing Instructor	Yacht Crew, Inshore Skipper, Offshore Skipper, Master of Yacht
Inland Power Instructor	Power Yacht Crew, Inland Power Yacht Skipper
Inshore Power Instructor	Power Yacht Crew, Boat Master, Inshore Power Yacht Skipper
Offshore Power Instructor	Power Yacht Crew, Boat Master, Inshore Power Yacht Skipper, Offshore Power Yacht Skipper
Advanced Power Instructor	Power Yacht Crew, Boat Master, Inshore Power Yacht Skipper, Offshore Power Yacht Skipper, Master of Power Yacht
VHF (Short Range Certificate) Instructor	Short Range Operators Certificate (SRC/VHF)
Sailing Instructor of Persons with Disabilities	Power Yacht Crew, Yacht Crew, Inland Sailing Caregiver, Sea Sailing Caregiver
Dinghy Instructor	Dinghy Level 1
Advanced Dinghy Instructor	Dinghy Level 1, Dinghy Level 2, Dinghy Level 3
Keelboat Instructor	Keelboat Crew, Keelboat Level 1
Advanced Keelboat Instructor	Keelboat Crew, Keelboat Level 1, Keelboat Level 2, Keelboat Level 3

Become ISSA-accredited School

ISSA is dedicated to delivering top-quality sailing instruction and supplying accredited schools with modern, up-to-date training programmes and teaching tools.

Accreditation is granted upon successful inspection made by the authorized ISSA inspector.

In order to be able to provide training for ISSA certificates the school needs to have at least one instructor authorized by ISSA. On the next page there is information about ISSA instructor training.

The accreditation has to be renewed every 5 years at the most, or sooner if major modifications were made in the schools' organization or management or due to other justified reasons indicated by ISSA.

Inspection for Accreditation

- In order to apply for inspection, the school should send a request to the ISSA's office address: issa@sailingschools.org
- The office will set the date for the inspection at the school premises.
- The accreditation is granted by ISSA on basis of the Chief Inspectors recommendation.
- In case of a school failing to pass the inspection, it can obtain a maximum 12-month conditional accreditation, after which another inspection will take place.

For more information, please contact us at

issa@sailingschools.org







LEADING THE FUTURE OF SUPERYACHT TRAINING

The international Sailing Schools Association (ISSA) delivers advanced professional training through the **ISSA PRO** framework, a structured and internationally recognized system developed specifically for yacht and superyacht operations.

This framework is aligned with the international Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, with focused applicability to commercial yachts and superyachts operating under international flag-state administrations. ht and superyacht training.

ISSA PRO programs are industry-driven and internationally recognized, combining regulatory alignment with practical, real-world training relevant to onboard yacht operations. The ISSA PRO framework is designed to support flag-state requirements, professional competence, and career progression for personnel working onboard large commercial sailing and motor yachts worldwide.

Through structured, high-quality professional training, ISSA PRO supports the super yacht industry in meeting the growing international demand for competent crew, officers, and captains.

Welcome to a new standard in professional yacht and superyacht training.

For more information or inquiries, please contact us at:
arayess@issapro.com

ISSA Inclusive Sailing Program

Sailing Instructors of Persons with Disabilities (SIPD) Program





Sailing is a passion without boundaries. Since October 2023, the ISSA has taken a significant step forward to ensure that individuals with disabilities can also experience the joy of being on the water. To turn this vision into reality, ISSA has introduced a groundbreaking new category of instructor certification, the **Sailing Instructor of Persons with Disabilities (SIPD)**.

Empowering Instructors:

The SIPD program is designed to empower existing ISSA instructors with the skills and knowledge necessary to support individuals with disabilities in experiencing the thrill of sailing. It's not just about teaching sailing; it's about creating an inclusive and accessible environment for all.

Comprehensive Certificates:

SIPDs will have the authority to issue two distinct categories of certificates, catering to the unique needs of persons with disabilities: **Inland Caregiver of Persons with Disabilities** and **Sea Caregiver of Persons with Disabilities**, as well as two basic certificates Yacht Crew and Power Yacht Crew.

Contact to get more information

michal.stronka@issa.global
anita.marszalek@issa.global







ISSA Training Materials

Learn from modern and user-friendly ISSA Training Materials. Different language versions available. Orders can be placed through:
ramil.bayramov@issa.global



YACHT CREW



INLAND SKIPPER



DINGHY SKIPPER



FUN LEARNING

NEW



INLAND POWER YACHT SKIPPER

NEW



VHF MARINE RADIO

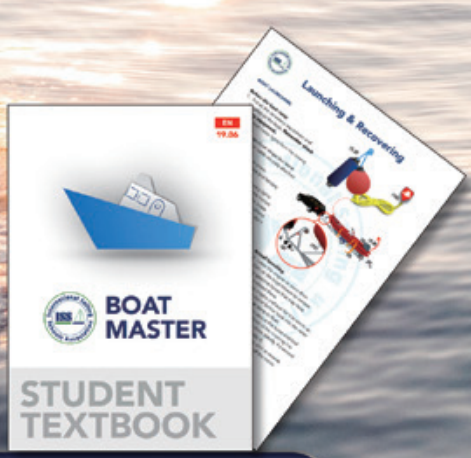
NEW



CEVNI



INSHORE SKIPPER



BOAT MASTER

ISSA eLearning

Online Training freely available at ISSA Hub
Get started through issa.global

ISSA has developed 2 online training courses so far, **CEVNI - European Code for Inland Waterways** and **Basic of VHF Communication**, both **freely available on the ISSA Hub**.

For students enrolled in inland training programmes (**Inland Skipper** and **Inland Power Yacht Skipper**), the **CEVNI online training** can serve either as a preparatory theoretical module or as a tool to review key knowledge after practical training.

Similarly, for students attending the **Short Range Operator Certificate (VHF marine radio)** course, the **VHF online training** can be used both as a pre-course theoretical introduction and as a resource for reinforcing theory after completing the course.

Start learning at ISSA Hub




What should we pay attention to when approaching a ferry terminal?
A ferry is a boat that transports passengers, vehicles and cargo, across a body of water.
Please check all the signs on this section of the waterway.
Monitoring Channel 16.
Maintain continuous watch on channel 16 to ensure you are available to assist or hear others in distress.
Except for distress, urgency, or safety calls, limit your transmissions on all channels to 15 seconds.
Channel Allocation and Usage: Use each channel according to its designated purpose.
You can plan activities with another vessel over VHF on an appropriate channel but keep these communications short and considerate.
Are the IMO (International Maritime Organization) regulations the only ones you need to take into account?
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION
Yes, they are.
No, they are not.
Distress call relay
If you have received a distress signal and it is not acknowledged within 5 minutes by any shore station, coast guard, or vessel offering assistance, and if you are unable to assist directly, you have to acknowledge the receipt of the distress call using VHF voice communication and relay the distress message.

ISSA International Sailing Camp

July/August, 2027, Masurian Lake District, Poland



The **ISSA International Sailing Camp** is designed for young people over 16 years old, and the camp will be with the following features:

- **Highly Skilled ISSA Instructors:**
  Our courses will be conducted by dedicated and highly qualified ISSA instructors.
- **Training on Yacht:**
  All training will be conducted on high quality power-sail yacht of ANTILA 27 or yacht of the same level.
- **ISSA International Certificates:**
  ISSA Yacht Crew certificate will be awarded at the end of the course.
- **International Culture:**
  Young people from various countries will have a wonderful opportunity for friendship and cultural exchange.
- **BBQ night:**
  Experience the magic of unforgettable fire and BBQ nights under the starry Masurian sky. Share stories, laughter, and marshmallows by the crackling fire.
- **Games:**
  It's all about fun, teamwork, and making new friends!

For more information or inquires, contact: weiding.zhang@issa.global







Festival of Sails in Greece



10/2027
An Adventure on the Aegean Sea

ISSA Festival of Sails in Greece is scheduled to take place in October 2027.





A Global Gathering of Sailors on the Aegean Sea, discover the Soul of Sailing Across the Greek Islands. More than just a sailing event, the ISSA Festival of Sails is a celebration of the sea, friendship, and the freedom of the wind.

For inquiriy: michal.stronka@issa.global







ISSA Events









Get Global Training Locally



International Sailing Schools Association

Prodromou 51,
2nd Floor,
Strovolos, 2063,
Nicosia, Cyprus

T. Borowskiego 2/27
03-475 Warsaw
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Germany

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