

LEN European Aquatics Championships  
 Budapest, Hungary, August 4 to August 15, 2010  
 Eurovision Dives In...And Succeeds!

**CONTEXT**

The 30th LEN (Ligue Européenne de Natation) European Aquatics Championships took place this summer in Budapest, Hungary. LEN, the European governing body for aquatic sports, comprises 51 national swimming federations in Europe, and the event itself includes four aquatic disciplines: diving, swimming (long course/50m pool), open water swimming and synchronized swimming. Since 2000, the Championships have been held every two years. This summer marked the fourth time that Hungary played host to the event, reflecting that country's strong interest in aquatic sports; the first time was in 1926.

A total of 184 medals were awarded across the four disciplines. The Russian team led the medal count, with 28 medals in total (13 gold, 7 silver, 8 bronze), followed by teams from Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy. Hungary, the host nation, earned 14 medals, the sixth-highest total posted by any European team.

**EUROVISION**

The Eurovision team was present in Budapest for the entire 12 days of the event, offering more than 85 hours of live coverage of this pan-European sporting competition. This included HD and SD distribution for synchronized swimming in the first week and for swimming events in the second week. We distributed coverage of the open water highlights and live coverage of the diving in SD.

In addition, the Eurovision team provided onsite coordination for and assistance to Members and broadcasters. Our Madrid-based operations team provided an onsite MCR.

**CHALLENGES**

According to Boris Vandel, Eurovision Programme Coordinator, preparations for the event had been particularly challenging in view of the country's recent change of government and the difficult financial situation. As a result, Vandel said, some decisions about production details and formats were made up to the last minute, adding to the excitement of making sure the event went out without any problems. The Eurovision team had to work very flexibly and nimbly to ensure a smooth flow of service to our Members



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and customers. Eurovision's biggest challenge, said Vandel, was balancing that last minute flexibility with highest quality service delivery; in other words, quality control of the simultaneous multilateral and unilateral transmissions.

Throughout the event, Eurovision worked very closely with host broadcaster MTV and that partnership proved invaluable in resolving the issues as they arose and in making sure the event was a success.

**STATISTICS:**

- > Eight dedicated circuits
- > One HD multilaterals
- > Two SD multilaterals
- > Two simultaneous outgoing paths for unilateral transmissions
- > More than 50 multilateral and 55 unilateral transmissions

"It was my first operation on site for Eurovision, and, despite all the challenges, it was a real pleasure. We had a very good team, with several EBU departments working together to solve and serve the Members' and broadcasters' requests, and meet new technical and production requirements.

"When we got there, we worried we might end under water with all the last minute building work! But, it went incredibly well and, at the end, the Eurovision and MTV teams were completing dives off a 7m diving board and celebrating in the diving pool! An amazing and unforgettable event."

— Boris Vandel  
Eurovision Programme Coordinator



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