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Swimming competition from island of S. Stefano to Ventotene**16 JULY, 18:17**[Tweet](#)[Back](#) [Back](#) [Send](#) [Scrivi alla redazione](#) [Suggest](#)[A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

(ANSAMed) - ROME, JULY 16 - A non-competitive swimming race titled "Natalonga per l'Europa" will take place on Saturday, July 17, 2021, covering 1,700 metres from the island of Santo Stefano to Calanave Beach on the island of Ventotene.

The race is aimed at reaffirming the founding values of the European Union and asserting a new Europe based on equality and rights.

The race was organised by the association EuropaNow! with Acmos and the Benvenuti Foundation in Italy, in partnership with the municipality of Ventotene and the European Commission Representation in Italy.

Organisers said in a statement that this third edition is dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the Ventotene Manifesto, a text drafted by Altiero Spinelli, Ernesto Rossi and Eugenio Colorni in 1941 that had the strength to imagine a free, united and supportive Europe in a time in which the continent seemed destined to permanently suffer the yoke of Nazism and Fascism.

"We need to recall to everyone, and especially young people, what happened in the 1900s, who Ventotene's neighbours were and why they were sent there," said Italian-Hungarian writer Edith Bruck, who won the Strega Giovani 2021 prize, in a video to participants in the Natalonga.

"Remembering is the most important thing, because if we do everything we can to forget what we've done, then everything can start over again exactly as it was before," Bruck said.

Eric Jozsef, co-founder of EuropaNow!, spoke about the authors of the Ventotene Manifesto.

"On the occasion of the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) that opened in May, we have to be inspired by the foresight of the authors of the Manifesto," he said, highlighting that "the dark months of the pandemic reminded us how Europe is an essential construction".

"However, we still must finish the dream of the founding fathers, overcome the resistance of national States, to create an even stronger Union, closer to its citizens," he said.

As part of the event, on Friday the European Republican Cafés project (EuReCa) was presented on the island of Ventotene.

The project is a network of cafes that will also be places to discuss the future of the EU, with the goal of opening the way for a Republic of Europe.

In addition to the three associations sponsoring the Natalonga, the EuReCa project is backed by the European Democracy Lab in Berlin; by New Europeans, founded by former British MP Roger Casale; and by the news site Voxeurop, based in Paris.

Natalonga per l'Europa is also sponsored by the Region of Lazio.

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