

# Lifeguard Legislation in Greece

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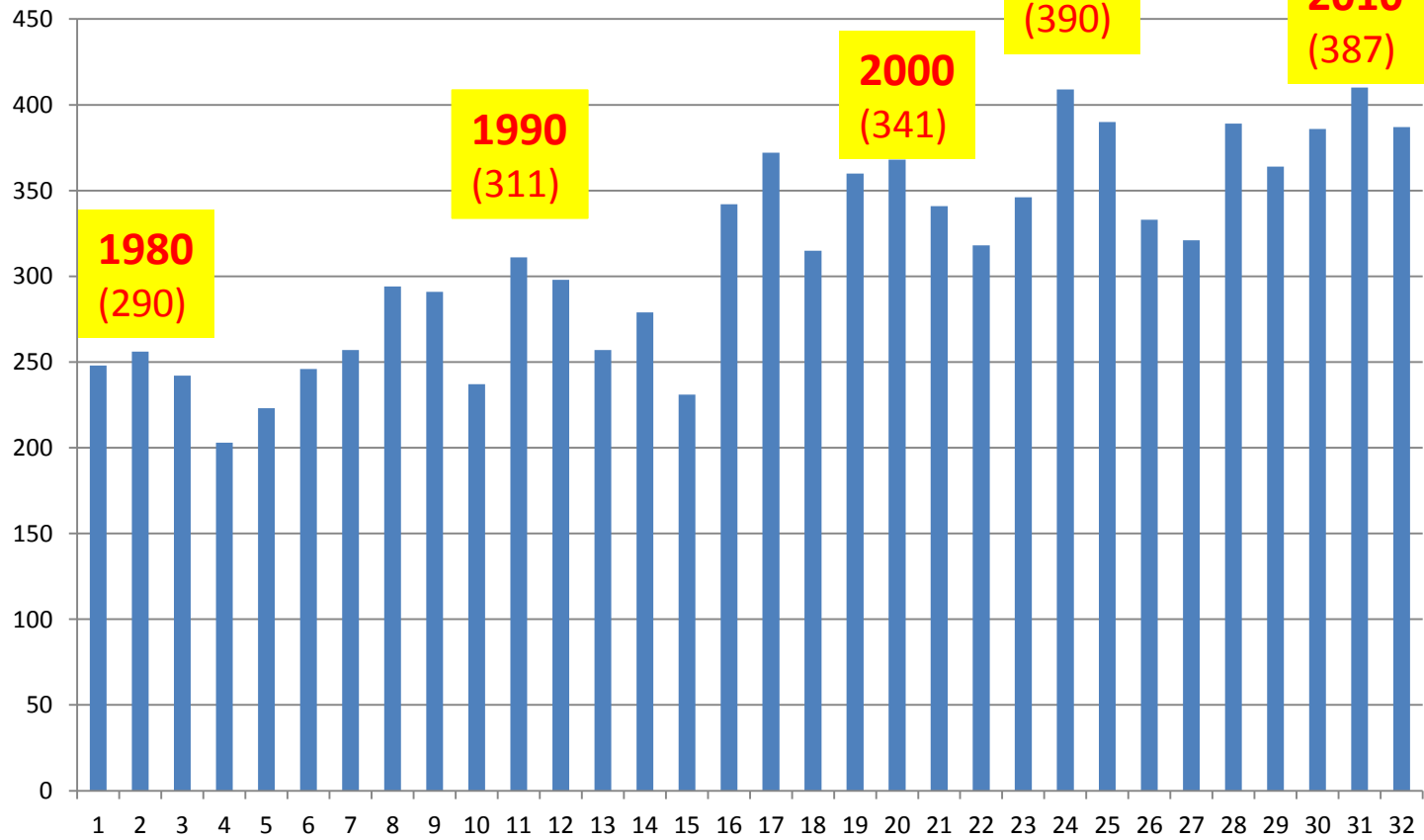
**E.L.A.  
LIFEGUARD**

# The Drowning Problem in Greece

- **More than 1 person/day!**
- 2004: ranked 69<sup>th</sup> in totally 192 countries, having the same rates with Germany that is 8 larger in population (WHO 2009).
- Double drowning rates from the average rate of Europe.
- **1: 20** drowning deaths : non-fatal childhood drownings hospital admissions.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of accidental death for children 0-14 old.



# DROWNING DEATHS



YEARS

# Consequences of the Problem

**High cost:** Ministry of Health



**No fatal drowning** > paralysis > unemployment, sexual problems, obesity, pain, NCDs, sores, lack of socialization, psycho-social problems for the victim and the family.



**Fatal drowning** > social/family problems (divorce of those whose lost a child, legal implications, possible PTSD).

# Questions Raised by the Problem

What is the legislation for agencies that certify pool, water park and lake lifeguards?



Which governing body could act as the head?

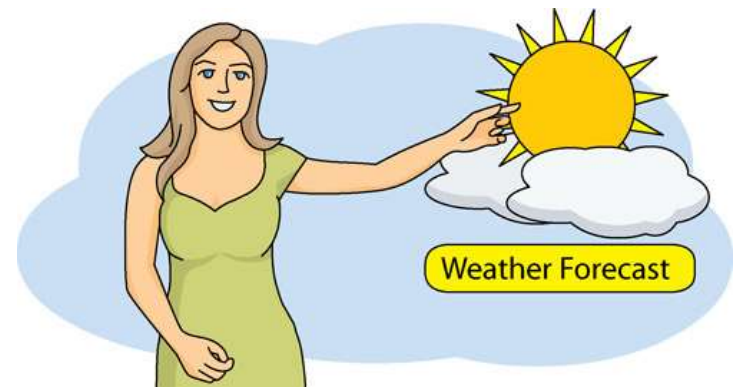
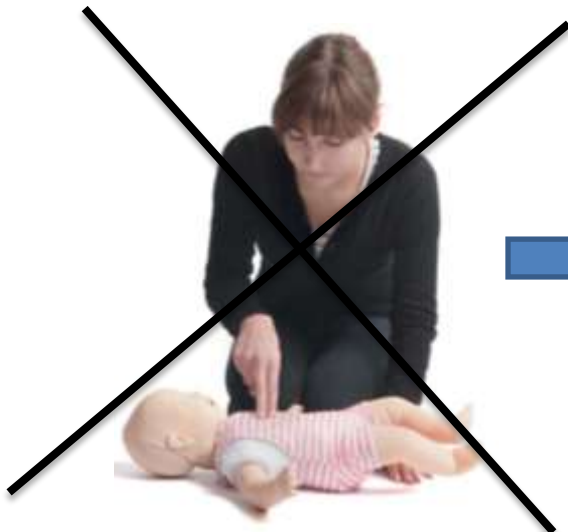
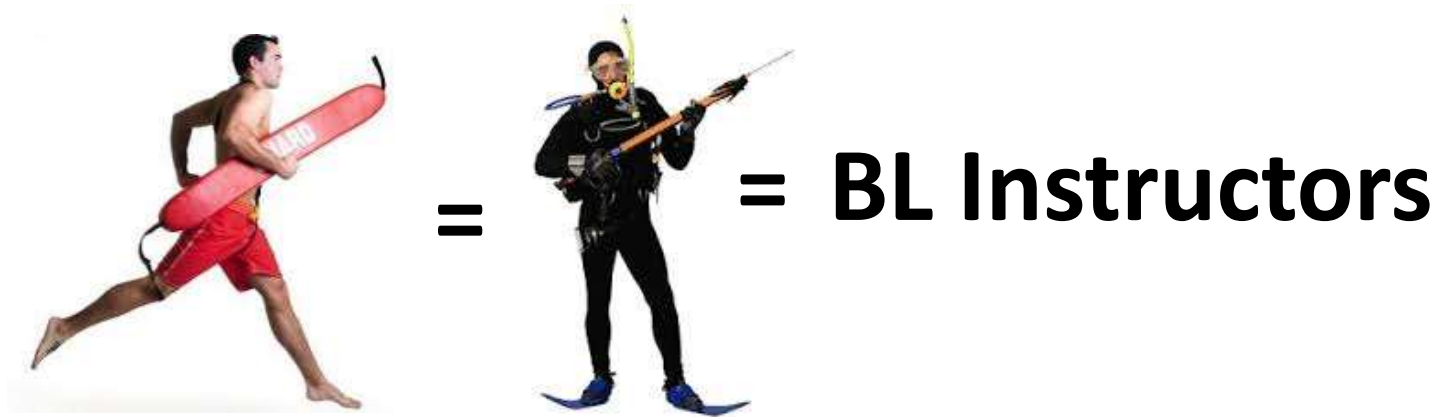


How could the lifeguard agencies operate?



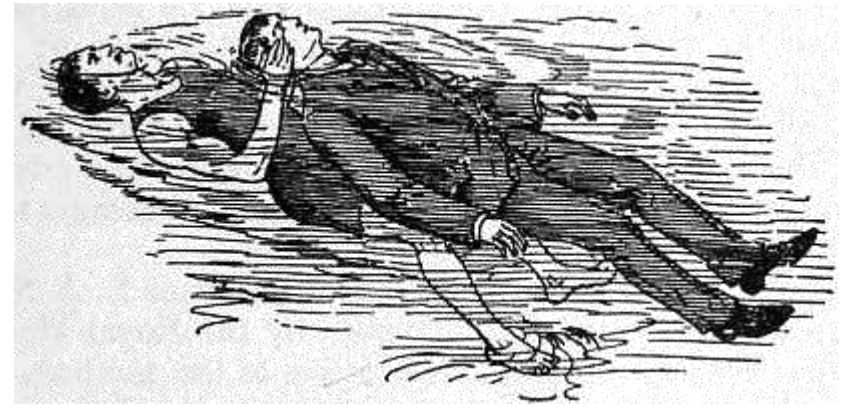
# Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

Sea (Decree Law 23/2000)



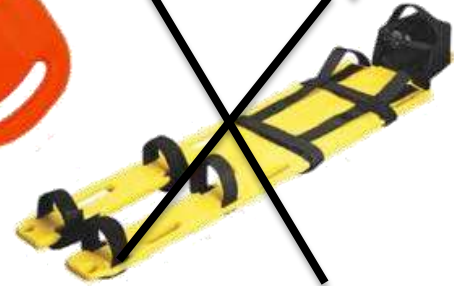
# Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

**Sea (Decree Law 23/2000)**



# Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

**Pools (King Decree 1976)**





# Greek LG Legislation: **Now**

**Pools (King Decree 1976)**

1 : 300 bathers



Few hrs

Full course



**OR**



**=**

**Pool LG  
employment**

# Greek LG Legislation: **Future Chart**



Ministry of Health

Hellenic CDCP

Water Accident Prevention Office

Lifeguard Agencies

Director

Instructor's Instructor

Instructors

Course Candidates

[First Aid, AED, Rescuing Disabled, Lifeguard (Pool, WP, Lake), Head Lifeguard, Spinal Injury Management, Instructor qualification for all the above]

Risk Assessment Officers

# Greek LG Legislation: **Future Innovations**

- Common national syllabus
- Common book
- Certificates: general safety/rescue education
- Diplomas: for employment
- Directors: SSPE graduates specialized (a) in Lifeguarding or (b) Water Polo/Swimming with lifeguard education.
- Instructors: Qualified nationally or abroad (ILS, ILS members)



# Summary

Low quality legislation in Greece is one of the contributing factors of the high drowning rates.



Legislation update: vital to enhance water safety.

The Hellenic CDC proposes to act as the leading organization together with the Ministry of Health in the field of water accident prevention.



*The End*

