

## The Europa Cup Series in Numbers: 2011

### Analysis and Comments

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The main goal of the Laser Europa Cup (EC) series is to increase participation and international exposure of the sailors beyond the national level, and to help them gradually make progress towards the continental and/or world championships. It is a tool for Laser sailors to put their own performance into international perspective, and - through the overall series results – help them to set realistic goals in order to improve and get better.

Below is a brief analysis based on the EC Series data from the last 10 years. Three approaches are taken to give a good overview of the Series: (i) a comparison of the event venues, (ii) overall trends in the 10-years period, and (iii) a comparison of the 3 rigs.

### Participation data for 2011

1554 sailors from 44 countries (50 countries in 2010) participated in the 11 EC events so far in 2011 (CRO still ahead of us). The overall participation<sup>1</sup> for the 3 rigs combined currently is 2116, with the CRO event it is expected to be around 2250. The allover numbers are very similar to last year's, which is an improvement, as there were two events less in the series this year (DEN and BEL), compared to 2010. There are, however, some significant changes in the composition and distributions across events and rigs compared to last year, and, also, some new trends are emerging.

**Table 1: Participation and Headcount<sup>2</sup> in the 2011 EC events<sup>3</sup> - (2010 overall numbers in brackets)**

	Participants Head-count	FRA	ITA	GER	SUI	NED	AUT	NOR	POL	HUN	POR	ESP	CRO*	Overall participation
Std:	318 (387)	82	109	39	23	2	30	40	29	25	10	28	20	437 (541)
Rad:	655 (714)	234	211	120	64	43	31	44	38	38	41	63	55	982 (1082)
L4.7:	565 (435)	148	229	63	74	23	27	8	37	37	28	91	63	828 (606)
<b>total:</b>	<b>1554 (1536)</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>2247 (2229)</b>

\*for CRO last year's data is used as a prediction (*in italics*)  
(The respective 2010 data in brackets for comparison)

The average event number per sailor is 1.35 - that is, each sailor, on average, participated in 1.35 regattas throughout the year (the range is 1-8).

<sup>1</sup> Participation = presence at one event by a sailor; that is, if a particular sailor participates in 3 events across the series, it will count as 3 participation.

<sup>2</sup> Headcount = the number of sailors who participated in at least one regatta in the series; that is, the same sailor who participated in 3 different regattas across the series counts as 1 for the headcount.

<sup>3</sup> Events are labeled by the country of organizing venue regardless of where it is actually taking place. For example FRA means the EC events organized in France (La Rochelle in 2011, Hyeres in 2010, etc)

**(i) Events in the last 10 years (2002-2011)**

14 countries organized events in the last 10-years period, many of them in every year (FRA, ITA, GER, NED, SUI, CRO), some quite regularly, but missed some years (DEN, POL, POR, for example) , while some only in the last few years (ESP, HUN, BEL). Figure 1 represents the relative participation in each event based on the average yearly participation. The numbers in brackets indicate the number of events in each venue in the 10-years period.

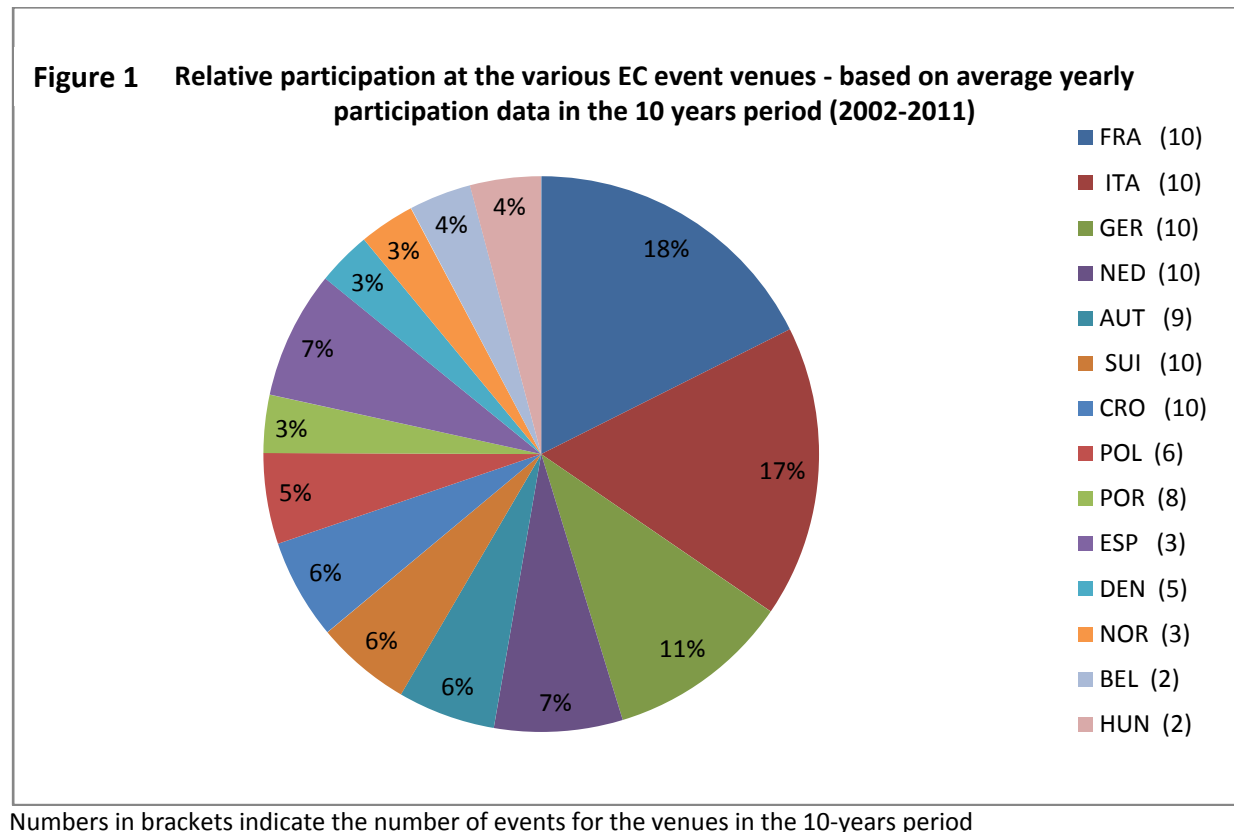
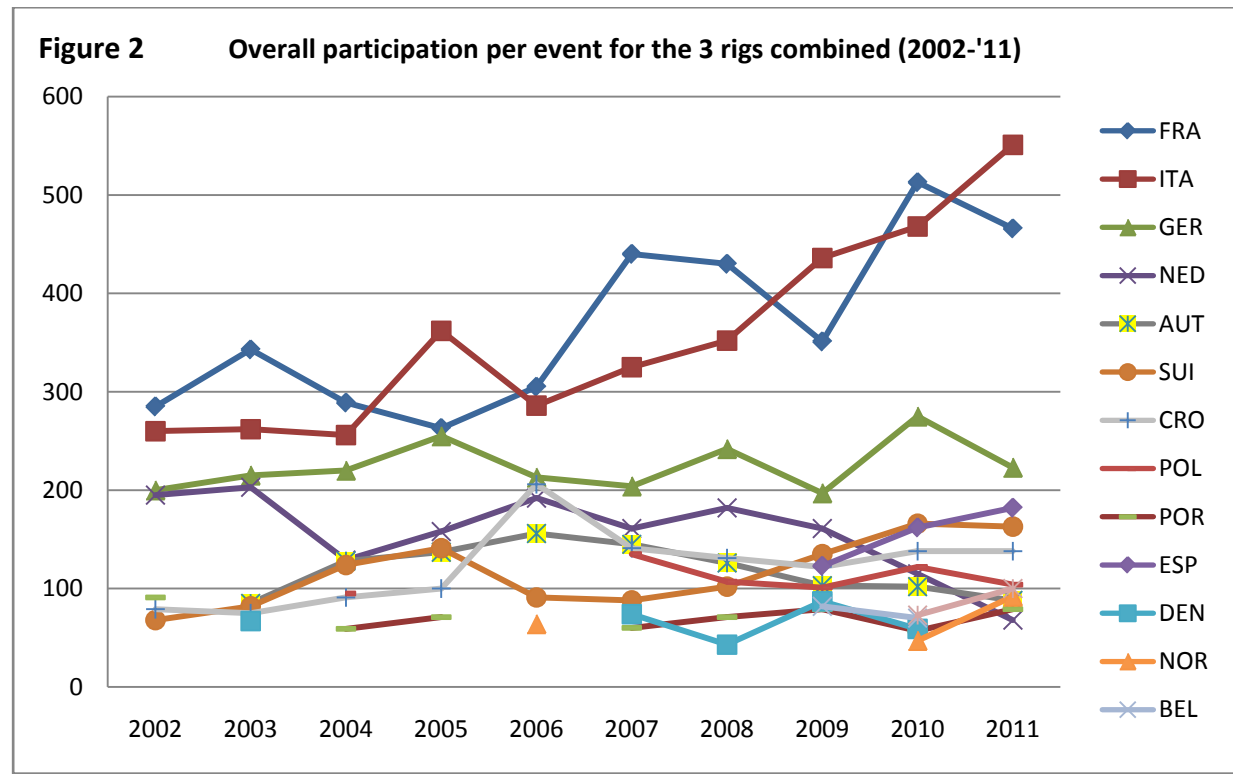
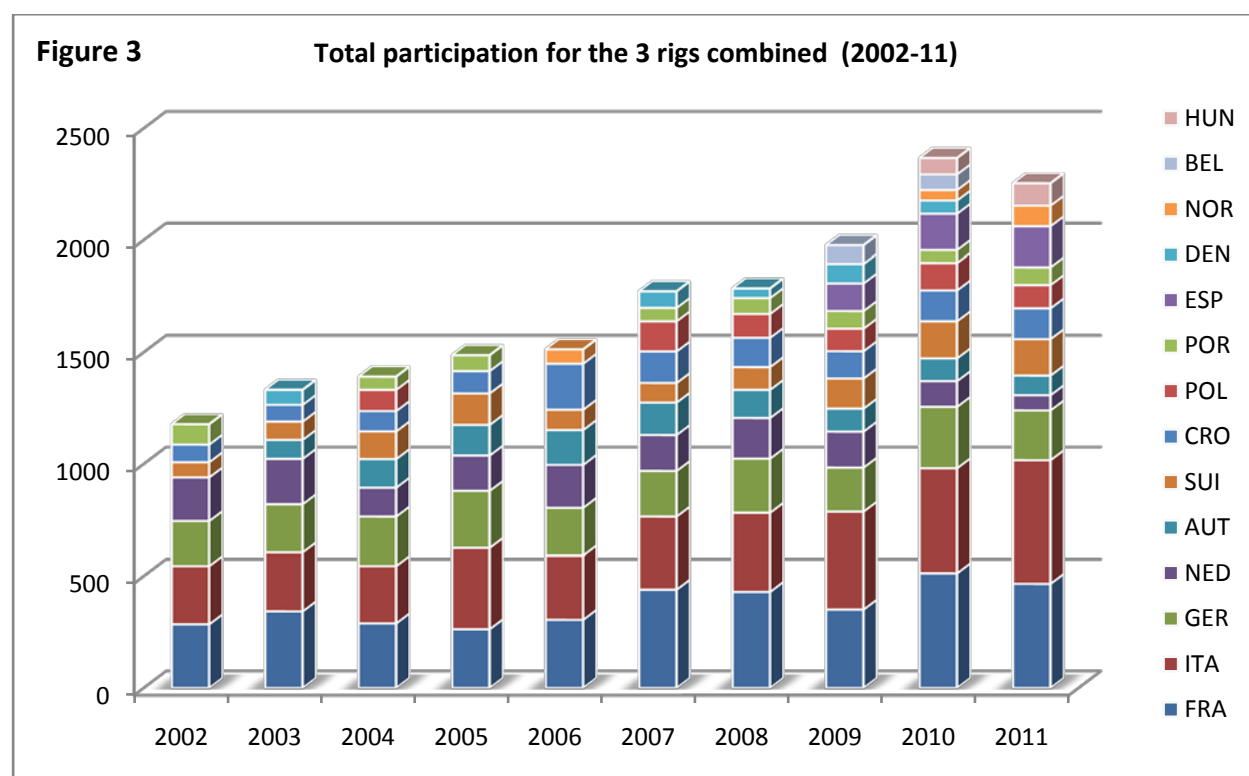


Figure 2 shows the development of the overall participations in the various events across the 10-years period. On both graphs (Figure 1 and 2) it can also be seen that the 'A' scoring events (FRA, ITA and GER) combined represent close to half of the overall participation, and they clearly stand out from amongst all the events.



**(ii) Yearly development trends for the last 10 years (2002-2011)**

Steady participation increase can be seen the from year to year in the last 10-years period. The number of events organized in a year increased from 7-8 to 12-14. Between 2002 and 2011 the overall participation doubled (see Figure 3). Last year's (2010) extreme participation might be explained by the fact, that there was an unusually high number of events (14) compared to the more usual 10-12 events per year. Since the trend is increasing, plus there are 14 events planned for 2012, we may expect further increase in the overall participation.



### (iii) Comparison of the three rigs

The all-over increasing trend is not identical for the three rigs, so it is worth looking at the breakup of the overall data. Table 2 shows the participation data for the 10-years period for Standards, Radials and Laser4.7s.

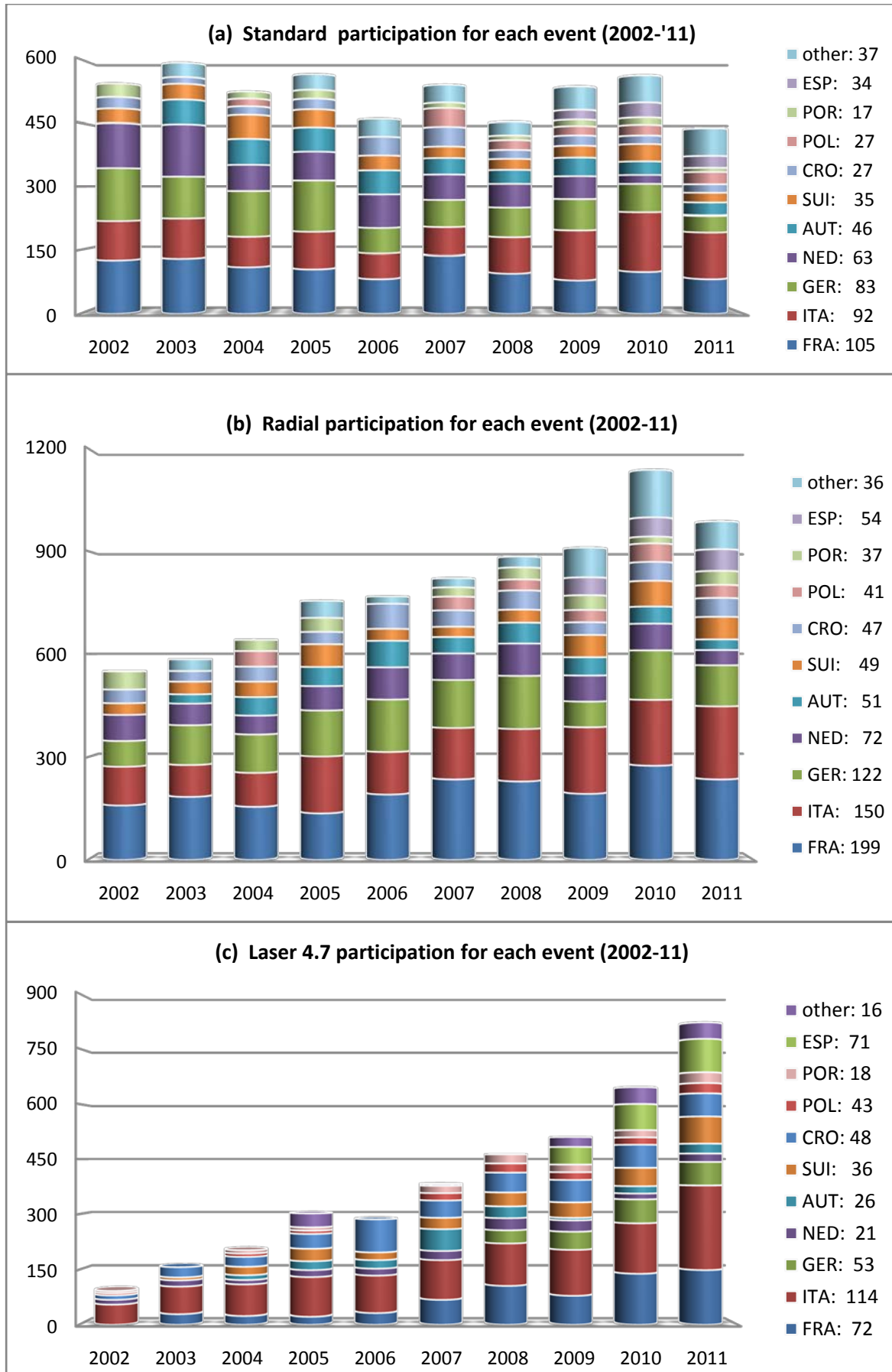
**Table 2: Participation 2002-2011**

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011*
Standard	542	591	523	564	459	539	452	535	561	437
Radial	550	584	641	755	768	821	884	910	1137	987
Laser 4.7	86	157	227	293	286	413	490	532	669	830
3 rigs combined	<b>1178</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>1391</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>1513</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>1826</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>2367</b>	<b>2254</b>
No of EC events	7	8	9	9	8	10	10	12	14	12

\*For CRO 2011 the previous year's (2010) data is used as estimate

Figures 4a, b, and c show the development of the three rigs in the last 10-years period (with the average participation number for each event), and the distinct differences are apparent. The Standards are almost stationary (if not slightly decreasing) in numbers. We have no logical explanation for this year's lower participation (the lowest in 10 years). All in all, the trend suggests that we may not expect significant increase here, since many standard sailors are stepping up to the World Cup series, or winding down their international participation.

**Figures 4a, b, c Standard, Radial and L4.7 participation per event for each year (2002-2011)**



\*Other = BEL, HUN, NOR events

The Radials (the largest, still, in numbers) show a very steady increase from year to year, they roughly doubled their numbers since 2002. The almost predictable trend was only broken in 2010 (outstandingly high participation). This year follows the general steadily increasing 10-year trend, which we may expect to be continued in the next few years. All in all, out of the three rigs it is still the largest, and the 'rule' is (with occasional exceptions) that the Radial is the largest fleet in any event.

The Laser 4.7s are clearly the most dynamically developing rig. Year by year there is a very significant increase in their participation and their bare presence 10 years ago has been increased by a factor of 10! Since it is the stepping stone for the class this is a very promising trend for the upcoming years when hopefully many of these young sailors will eventually progress to the Radial and Standard rigs.

### **Recommendations and Future developments**

1. It looks like we can maintain the number of regattas at around 14 per year with all events having a reasonable attendance.
2. As some new venues are stepping in (like Koper, SLO in 2012), and some would like to do so (SRB), we may introduce in some geographic areas a rotating systems for the organizing countries. We have already started this in Scandinavia, where the numbers do not warrant more than 2 regattas in a year, while we have at least 3 countries willing to organize an Europa Cup event.
3. Recommendation: Delete *the overall Women category for the 4.7 rig from the prize list*. There has always been an almost perfect overlap between this and girls U18 results leading to an unjust, practically automatic double prizing. In the current year, there are 177 L4.7 women who attended at least one EC regatta. Out of them only 4 are 18 years or older, and none of these four is going to appear in the Series results for not fulfilling any of the required criteria (they only attended one regatta, etc). This means that – regardless of the CRO results - the L4.7 women and the L4.7 girls U18 results will again be identical.